



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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March 3, 2016

Ms. Melissa Iwamoto
Director
Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS)
1680 East-West Road, POST 815
Honolulu, HI 96822

Dear Ms. Iwamoto,

On behalf of the State of Hawai'i Office of Planning, I am pleased to express my strong support for the Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS), under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). The coastal and ocean data and information that PacIOOS provides supports the mission of the Office of Planning, especially the State of Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program, which is mandated to provide for the effective management, beneficial use, protection, and development of the coastal zone.

PacIOOS currently provides real-time and forecast ocean information, as well as outreach, education, and extension of ocean information through student participation in research, field studies, and school curriculum. Continuing and enhancing the efforts and capacity of PacIOOS to deliver timely, relevant, and accurate information on the coastal ocean will assist our local efforts to conserve our protected species, unique habitats, and biological diversity; assist businesses and developers to minimize adverse environmental impacts from their operations; and encourage cutting edge and appropriate ocean science and technology.

These efforts support state efforts as well as our county counterparts, who are implementing the Coastal Zone Management Act locally through the administration of the Special Management Area permitting process. Specifically, PacIOOS collaborates with county CZM planners and researchers at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to develop mapping tools with locally-produced data for planners to consult in order to get a comprehensive overview of the past erosion rates and potential future impacts from sea level rise. I also commend PacIOOS's recent efforts to support community stewardship efforts by providing data to evaluate the efficacy of land-based stewardship efforts above priority coral reefs in Hawai'i. These are just couple of examples of PacIOOS's dedication to helping address local stakeholder needs in the islands.

I fully support the commitment, of PacIOOS, to collect and disseminate ocean data and information that are easy to access and understand in order to address the needs of a diversity of ocean stakeholders, including the State of Hawai'i Office of Planning and our County Planning

Ms. Melissa Iwamoto
March 3, 2016
Page 2

counterparts. I wish you the best of luck on your continued efforts and look forward to continued collaboration and partnership. Please contact me at (808) 587-2833 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Leo Asuncion', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Leo Asuncion
Director
State of Hawai'i Office of Planning