



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
MAJURO • REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS • 96960

August 7, 2015

Mr. Chris E Ostrander
Principal Investigator, Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS)
1680 East-West Road, POST 822, Honolulu, HI 96822

Dear Mr. Ostrander:

I am pleased to express my strong support for your proposal titled, Enhancing and Sustaining the Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS), under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) program. The work PacIOOS proposes will continue to strengthen ongoing efforts in the Republic of the Marshall Islands to promote a safe, healthy, productive ocean and resilient coastal zone.

PacIOOS currently provides valuable real-time and forecasted ocean information in the Marshall Islands and through the Insular Pacific region. Staff at our Embassy check the PacIOOS 6-day Wave Run-Up Forecast tool daily and use it to plan for coastal hazard events. In addition, PacIOOS promotes outreach, education, and extension of ocean information by supporting student participation in research and field activities, providing educational material and opportunities for the students in Hawai'i, the U.S. territories, and the U.S.-affiliated nations in the Pacific Islands region. Continuing and enhancing the efforts and capacity of PacIOOS to deliver timely, relevant, and accurate information on the open and coastal ocean will assist our national efforts to conserve our protected species, unique habitats, and biological diversity; assist businesses and developers to minimize adverse environmental impacts from their operations; encourage cutting edge and appropriate ocean science and technology; and build ocean observing capacity on our island through training and extension.

I support the commitment of PacIOOS and their Governing Council to address the needs of a diversity of ocean stakeholders, including the residents of the Marshall Islands, by collecting and disseminating ocean data and information in a timely fashion and in formats that are easy to access and understand. With this in mind, I wholeheartedly support and strongly recommend favorable consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Autumn K Oakley".

For Tom Armbruster
Ambassador
U.S. Embassy Majuro

Copies to: Mr. Donald Hess, Vice President, College of the Marshall Islands

