



REPUBLIC OF PALAU

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM

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Harry R. Fritz
Minister

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Mr. Chris E. Ostrander
Director
Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS)
1680 East-West Road
c/o CMMED, POST 105
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Director Ostrander:

I am writing in support of the Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS) proposal to continue the development of the PacIOOS system under the NOAA Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) program. The work PacIOOS proposes will continue to strengthen efforts within the Republic of Palau to promote a safe, healthy, productive ocean and a resilient coastal zone.

PacIOOS currently provides not only real-time and forecasted ocean information, but also promotes outreach, education, and extension of ocean information by supporting student participation in research and field activities, providing material for the development of K-12 curriculum in public school systems, and extending timely, relevant, and accurate information on the open and coastal ocean to the public of Hawaii, the US territories, and US-affiliated nations in the Pacific Islands region. Such a project has and will continue to improve the health of our ocean resources; assist businesses and developers to minimize adverse environmental impacts of their operations; enhance conservation of protected species, unique habitats, and biological diversity; encourage cutting edge and appropriate ocean science and technology, including alternative energy; and build local ocean observing capacity through training, extension, and the creation of jobs.

I support the commitment of PacIOOS and their Governing Council to the elucidation and distribution of ocean information for the benefit of the community as a whole. In this regard, I wholeheartedly support and strongly recommend favorable consideration of this project for continued and sustained funding.

Sincerely,

Harry R. Fritz
Minister
Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism

cc: PICRC Board of Directors