

## Appendix 13. Letters of Support



### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PACIFIC REGION HEADQUARTERS  
INOUE REGIONAL CENTER  
1845 WASP BLVD., BLDG. 176  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96818

AUG - 5 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,

On behalf of the NOAA National Weather Service (NWS) Pacific Region Headquarters, I wish to express my strong support the 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 the partnership of PacIOOS and NWS to promote a safe, healthy, productive ocean and resilient coastal zone.

The NWS Pacific Region has the largest geographic area of responsibility and includes the only NWS forecast offices in the southern and eastern hemispheres. As we are a region of islands surrounded by the vast Pacific Ocean, standard, land-based observations are extremely limited. Forecasters in the region rely heavily on satellites and ocean based observation platforms to effectively support the NWS mission of saving lives and property.

PacIOOS currently supports the mission of the NOAA NWS by providing valuable real-time and forecast ocean information for Hawai'i, the U.S. territories, and the U.S.-affiliated nations in the Pacific Islands region. Specifically, the real-time wave buoy data and the high-resolution weather and wave forecasts supported and maintained by PacIOOS improve our forecasts and advisories as well as improve the model guidance we use.

The previous IOOS investment in the Pacific Islands region has resulted in the successful development of PacIOOS as an end-to-end network of observations, data management and delivery, data analysis and modeling, research, education and outreach, and organizational structure and management that links the needs of users to ocean observations throughout the region and beyond. Expanding upon this strong foundation makes strategic and economic sense and benefits numerous ocean stakeholders in the region.

I support the commitment of PacIOOS and their Governing Council to address the needs of a diversity of ocean stakeholders, including the NOAA NWS 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 for sustained and enhanced funding.

Please contact me at 808-725-6000 or [raymond.tanabe@noaa.gov](mailto:raymond.tanabe@noaa.gov) should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Raymond Tanabe".

Raymond Tanabe  
Regional Director

