

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF
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**HEARING ON
THE STATUS AND IMPACT OF THE AMERICAN RECOVERY
AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 IN HAWAII**

**BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
UNITED STATES SENATE**

July 7, 2010

My name is William Broglie, and I am the Chief Administrative Officer for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). I appreciate the opportunity today to offer a few perspectives on the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 in the context of the NOAA Pacific Regional Center.

NOAA has a significant presence not only in Hawaii, with approximately 600 employees and associates working here, but also in the larger Pacific Region, with offices in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, American Samoa, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The programs NOAA manages in the Pacific are large and diverse, spanning a geographic area covering over 30 million square miles, spanning 5 time zones and encompassing nearly one-half of U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. NOAA's responsibilities, including international, fall broadly into the following areas:

- Tsunami, climate and weather prediction (the latter encompassing both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, and ranging from tropical to sub-polar)
 - Tsunami information and warnings
 - Severe weather warnings (hurricanes, typhoons, flash floods, high surf, high winds, and even snow)
 - El Niño/La Niña predictions and climate change impacts
- Fisheries management and stock assessments; including tuna, swordfish, snappers, lobsters
- Marine mammal and endangered species protection (monk seals, Pacific sea turtles, whales), research, and recovery
- Coral reef conservation, including marine debris removal
- National Marine Sanctuary management and operation including the Hawaii Humpback Whale Sanctuary and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
- Hazard resilient communities

NOAA operates three ocean-going research and survey vessels that are permanently homeported in Hawaii, but operate throughout the Pacific. Other NOAA vessels have missions that take them into the

Pacific. NOAA's total FY 2010 investment in programs and operations in Hawaii is more than \$126 million, much of which is brought directly into the local economy through federal jobs, contracts for services, and cooperative research projects conducted in Hawaii.

As NOAA's program and mission responsibilities in the Pacific grew, it established a presence in nearly 18 different sites across Oahu. For almost a decade, NOAA has had a vision for a Pacific Regional Center, a centralized location that would allow NOAA to better integrate its research, products and services.

Approximately 6 years ago, NOAA entered into a very productive partnership with the U.S. Navy in Hawaii to begin developing the new Pacific Regional Center on historic Ford Island, at Pearl Harbor. Undergoing its own revitalization plan, Ford Island provided the ideal location for NOAA's new Pacific Region headquarters: deep-water berthing for vessels, seawater for scientific research, and space that could support over 700 people in the future. NOAA's development of the Pacific Regional Center (PRC) proceeded in three phases. First, a new Ship Operations Facility supporting our research and survey vessels opened the fall of 2007. A new marine science and storage facility is currently under construction and is scheduled to be completed in 2011. The third phase – development of the PRC Main Facility - received critical capital investment from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding

The PRC main facility will encompass over 300,000 square feet of lab and office space in two renovated World War II era hangers and a third, new building that together will realize NOAA's goal of an integrated facility.

Later this summer on NOAA's behalf, the Navy will award the construction award for the Pacific Regional Center's Main Facility, with projected completion and occupancy in early 2013. The ARRA funding allowed NOAA to move forward with the Main Facility construction, and has therefore significantly reduced the time to completion of the project and the overall consolidation at Ford Island. The impact of ARRA funding in the context of the Pacific Regional Center can be measured at multiple levels. In the short term, from a jobs perspective, we expect the award of the construction contract to bring over \$140 million in construction jobs to the labor market in Hawaii. Over the long-term, having a world-class science and research facility located in Hawaii is expected to further promote international scientific and local educational partnerships. From a historical perspective, the ARRA funds allow us to restore and adaptively re-use World War II era buildings in a manner that preserves many of the structural components of the buildings, consistent with interests of Historic Preservation Partners with whom we have collaborated on the project.

This world class facility is expected to aide in recruiting the next generation of scientists and researchers to work on the critical science issues facing the Nation and the Pacific region in the future. NOAA also expects the project to promote further partnership opportunities on common operational and research issues with the Navy, given our joint presence at Pearl Harbor. The new facility will promote NOAA's continued commitment to sustainable design, achieving at least a LEED Silver status, and will allow NOAA to partner with the Navy in its deployment of solar energy/photovoltaic cell systems on Navy buildings in the near future.

We were very fortunate that the Pacific Regional Center Main Facility was well into the design process when the ARRA funding became available, which ensured that we could award the necessary contracts by September 30, 2010 – the expiration date for the ARRA funding. We are also fortunate that funding required for other non-construction costs, such as funding to begin work on the information technology required for the building, and normal project-contingency funds had been separately appropriated; since such funding will be obligated after the expiration of the ARRA funds. The Administration's FY 2011 budget request includes funding to support remaining project requirements, such as outfitting the building with information technology and furniture, and funding for the inevitable contingencies that do not occur until after the construction is already underway. We appreciate your continued support of this project, and look forward to its completion in 2013.

NOAA's Pacific Regional Center Main Facility is expected to bring benefits to the local economy here in Hawaii both in the short-term, through the creation or sustainment of construction-related jobs, and in the long-term, by creating a modern, state-of-the-art laboratory and office facility that promotes science and educational partnerships and attracts the next generation of scientists and researchers. The funding also allows NOAA to realize the programmatic vision of establishing a NOAA facility that consolidates most of the programs that serve Hawaii and the broader Pacific Region. One program that would not be consolidated is the Weather Forecast Office that is co-located on the University of Hawaii, Manoa campus.

Thanks you for inviting me to provide this testimony, I am happy to answer any questions you might have.