

# PacIOOS Regional Representatives

By Marcie Grabowski, Outreach Coordinator, PacIOOS

The intent of the Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS) is to create an effective partnership of data providers and users who will work together to develop, disseminate, evaluate and apply new ocean data and information products designed specifically to address the needs of the communities, businesses, and resources that call the Pacific home. The success of this partnership and its efforts depends largely on the involvement of individuals “on the ground.” For this reason, PacIOOS has recruited regional representatives in Hawai‘i, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Territory of Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The main focus of the regional representatives is to catalog ongoing activities related to ocean observing, determine the need for ocean data and data products among local stakeholders, determine the capacity for maintaining ocean observing programs in the future, and identify where PacIOOS resources can be best utilized. The University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program extension faculty representing PacIOOS throughout the Pacific are also involved in a Sea Grant-led Pacific Islands needs assessment which dovetails well with the development of PacIOOS. These extension agents are key to creating a successful and locally relevant PacIOOS. Each regional representative comes to PacIOOS with unique experiences and expertise and is able to draw on his or her respective expertise in fields such as resource management, science education and outreach, and environmental conservation to liaise effectively with the community.

A collaborative team is currently constructing the data system that will serve oceanographic information from the many Pacific Islands regions. With input from the regional representatives, the goal is to create a data system that will best suit the needs of the Pacific Island nations which PacIOOS serves.



Based in American Samoa, Ephraim Temple is one of seven PacIOOS representatives within the Pacific region. As a science faculty member of the American Samoa Community College and a junior extension agent with the University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program (UH Sea Grant), Temple works to develop local awareness and skills relevant to marine resource management. Temple has been trained in Zoology, Fisheries Science and Marine Resource Management and this variety of educational training has prepared Temple well for working with the many types of oceanographic information that comprise PacIOOS. Additionally, he was the Oregon Sea Grant

Legislative Fellow for the Oregon 2007 regular legislative session. Temple has a combination of science expertise and an awareness of the political process that is advantageous to engaging stakeholders with varied interests. Commenting on the connection between PacIOOS and his goals as a UH Sea Grant extension agent, Temple said, “Part of the Sea Grant mission is to increase understanding and stewardship of the marine environment, and PacIOOS is an excellent avenue to share information about our impact on this environment with resources managers and the community.”