



**Passenger Vessel  
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May 26, 2011

Captain Robert (Bob) Lamb  
Manager – Vessel Operations  
Matson Navigation Company, Inc.  
1411 Sand Island Parkway  
Honolulu, HI 96819

Dear Captain Lamb:

On behalf of my fellow members of NOAA's Hydrographic Services Review Panel, thanks again to you and your colleagues at Matson Navigation for hosting us during our meeting in Honolulu on May 5.

The Panel's mission is to provide comments and suggestions to NOAA on its hydrographic functions, including nautical charting, bathymetry, shoreline mapping, measurement of land elevations, and study of coastal inundation and sea level rise.

We have been conducting HSRP meetings in various parts of the nation so that those who rely on these NOAA activities can report to us as to how they use the information and products generated by the agency. This was our first meeting at a location in the central and western Pacific region.

The visit to Matson Navigation's container facility and the *M/V Mahi Mahi* was a highlight of our three days in Hawai'i. For a number of the HSRP members, it was their first exposure to the container shipping industry. The visit imparted to all of us how dependent is the Hawaiian economy on "just in time" ocean transportation, Matson's essential role in that system, and how NOAA's navigation and other services contribute. It was instructive to hear how currents in the open ocean as well as in the approaches to the Hawaiian islands affect vessel speeds and schedules.

To all of you at Matson Navigation, thanks again! The folks at NOAA, especially Pacific Islands Navigation Manager Lt. Kyle Ryan at the NOAA Pacific Services Center in Honolulu, stand ready to work with you.

Sincerely,

Edmund B. Welch  
Chairman  
Hydrographic Services Review Panel