



**Passenger Vessel
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May 23, 2011

The Honorable Brian Schatz
Lieutenant Governor
State of Hawai'i
415 South Beretania Street # 5
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

Dear Lt. Governor Schatz:

On behalf of my fellow members of NOAA's Hydrographic Services Review Panel, thank you once again for being part of our meeting in Hawai'i on May 4.

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 people of Hawai'i were extremely hospitable, and we learned a great deal of value from their presentations to us.

It was particularly enlightening to hear from you. As I mentioned, you are the highest ranking state official to be a part of an HSRP meeting. We had no idea of your previous work as with Sea Grant. Frequently, we have to "educate" officials as to what NOAA navigation and hydrographic services are and why they are important, but there was certainly no need for that with you. We appreciated your timely comments about the need to be vocal as to the value of NOAA services in this time of hard budget choices.

As I mentioned, I served as Chief Counsel for a U.S. House of Representatives committee on which Governor Abercrombie served when he first came to Washington. Give him my regards.

Thanks again! If you are ever in Washington and have a few minutes in your schedule, I'd be delighted to host you. And please let me know if I can ever be of service to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Welch".

Edmund B. Welch