



University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program

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School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

January 19, 2016

To whom it may concern:

One of your teachers has been accepted through a competitive application process into our professional development program called “Teaching Science as Inquiry: Our Project In Hawaii’s Intertidal (TSI: OPIHI)”. OPIHI is a citizen science program for middle and high school teachers and students to survey rocky intertidal areas in Hawai‘i. The program, named after a culturally important limpet (*Cellana spp.*), was formed to describe ecological patterns, inform conservation efforts, and engage students in science. From 2004–2007, students monitored intertidal sites around the Hawaiian islands, resulting in the first description of community-level patterns of this ecosystem.

TSI: OPIHI PD will provide teachers with background content knowledge, science teaching pedagogy, curriculum, classroom materials, and authentic field-based citizen science research experience in their local watershed. The educational purpose of the PD is to prepare and equip teachers to engage students in actively studying aquatic science in Hawai‘i—a place-based, problem-based approach to learning ecological science through inquiry. The scientific purpose of the proposed PD is for teachers and students to rigorously monitor Hawai‘i’s intertidal to determine if and how the species composition has changed since the original OPIHI surveys 10 years ago.

Activities in this professional development are aligned to both the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards III and the Next Generation Science Standards. This project has been approved the by HODOE Data Governance and Analysis Branch.

An important component of this project is for students and teachers to go on a field trip to the intertidal to collect OPIHI scientific data. The intertidal field trips are during low tide. Students do not get wet above their knees.

Should you have any questions about this project, please contact me at philippo@hawaii.edu or call 808-956-4951. Thank you for your support of this project. We look forward to working with your school on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanna Philippoff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "P".

Joanna Philippoff

The University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program supports an innovative program of research, education, and extension services directed to the improved understanding and stewardship of coastal and marine resources of the state, region, and nation. Science serving Hawai‘i and the Pacific for over 40 years.

