The University of Hawaii

The University of Hawaii has been a UCAR member since 1965 and since then has continued to be an active participant and contributor to the atmospheric and related sciences fields via its Departments of Meteorology and Oceanography and their programs of study.

Both departments are part of the University of Hawaii School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST). The Meteorology Department (which is co-located with the NWS Honolulu Forecast Office and Hawaii State Climatologist Office) offers B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. programs in Meteorology. It has 11 tenured faculty members (and two more that will be joining this year for a total of 13) and one faculty member in a non-tenure track position as well as contributing faculty members from other departments. Currently, there are 20 undergraduate and 26 graduate (9 M.S. and 17 Ph.D.) students completing their degrees and during the past years 28 students have graduated with a B.S., 24 with an M.S. and 13 with a Ph.D. The Department of Oceanography consists of four divisions (Physical, Chemical and Biological Oceanography and Marine Geology, with the Physical Oceanography Division being the most directly related to UCAR) and offers M.S. and Ph.D. programs. Of the 32 tenured and tenure track faculty members, 14 are in the Physical Oceanography specialty. The current enrollment for the entire department is 15 students in the M.S. and 53 in the Ph.D. program and out of the 46 M.S. and 22 Ph.D. degrees awarded during the last five years, 14 M.S. and 9 Ph.D. were in the Physical Oceanography specialty.

The faculty, researchers and students of the University of Hawaii have been extremely active in their contributions to progress in the atmospheric sciences with research in many subfields, but especially in topics related to the weather and climate of the tropical Pacific and Asian-Pacific regions. During the five years from 2007 to 2011, Meteorology Department faculty members published 273 refereed journal articles and have obtained over $20 million in external research support. Faculty and students have also participated in various field studies over the years.

The Meteorology Department continues to be active in UCAR membership activities, attending the Members and the Heads and Chairs meetings and serving in and chairing various committees (UNIDATA Policy Committee, NSF-NCAR Facilities Advisory Panel and various External Advisory Panels). There have also been various collaborations with NCAR and UCAR researchers. Additionally, faculty and students have taken advantage of various workshops and tutorials (WRF, McIDAS) and of using NCAR computing facilities and software resources. The faculty has been especially active in WRF development contributions.

In summary, the University of Hawaii hosts well-established departments and programs in meteorology and oceanography, very actively participates in a wide range of research activities that promote progress in the atmospheric sciences and participates in various UCAR activities, both serving in committees and taking advantage of resources.
The UCAR Membership Committee concludes that the membership criteria are fulfilled and recommends to the Members’ Representatives that the membership of the University of Hawai‘i continued as provided by the bylaws.