

Pohnpei Legislature unanimously adopts articles of impeachment against Chief Justice Rodriguez

By *Bill Jaynes*
 The Kaselehlie Press

August 4, 2017

Pohnpei—The Pohnpei Legislature has taken the unprecedented act of presenting Articles of Impeachment against a Chief Justice of the Pohnpei Supreme Court. After several months of hearings, some open to the public and some closed, on August 4, the general assembly of the Legislature unanimously voted to pass the resolution of impeachment (LR 36-17).

According to Article 13 Section 6 of the Pohnpei Constitution, upon the adoption of a resolution of impeachment, a notice of impeachment should be served upon the official by the Legislature. “Upon service of the notice of impeachment, the official shall be suspended from his duties, but with pay, pending judgment.”

The Constitution calls next for a tribunal of three Justices of the Pohnpei Supreme Court to be convened by the Governor. The tribunal will appoint a special prosecutor with the approval of a majority of the members of the Legislature without regard to vacancies. A conviction of impeachment would require the vote of two-thirds of the members of the tribunal.

According to Chief of Staff Joseph Saimon, the Governor has not yet selected the members of the tribunal. Since Chief Justice Benjamin Rodriguez has resigned effective August 14, the impeachment proceedings may not need to move forward any further than they already have. (See separate press release in this issue).

“Your committee decided that it has received sufficient information and evidence through its investigative hearings to substantiate the allegations presented in L.R. No. 36-17 [the first draft of the impeachment resolution],” the Judiciary and Governmental Operations (J&GO) Standing Committee report on the resolution said.

“The reason that the framers of our Constitution looked to the Legislature to commence the process of the possible impeachment of a high level officer of the government is neither for personal punishment nor for

See “Impeachment” on page 10



Chief Justice Benjamin Rodriguez resigns and extends heartfelt gratitude

By *Marstella Jack*

August 9, 2017

Pohnpei—The Chief Justice of the Pohnpei Supreme Court has resigned from his post, effective August 14, 2017. Although his defense team was prepared to overwhelm the prosecution with the impeachment, the criminal and civil cases, the Chief Justice determined that for the sake of maintaining peace and harmony between and amongst the people of Pohnpei, especially the three branches of the Pohnpei Government, and honoring the sanctity of this pei sarawi, the Chief Justice has decided to make a sacrifice in this matter and voluntarily

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Introducing the first Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge and Sophia University Graduate Scholars in Conservation

The Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) and partners in the Micronesia Challenge are proud to announce the selection of four talented young professionals as the first recipients of two new graduate degree scholarship programs.

The establishment of the Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge Scholarship Fund (BRMC) was inspired by the work of one of Micronesia’s conservation pioneers, William (Bill) Charles Raynor (Feb. 22nd, 1957-Sept. 1st, 2015), former Director of The Nature Conservancy’s Micronesia Program. The Scholarship Fund aims to contribute to the development of effective conservation of Micronesia’s biodiversity and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods across the region. This scholarship provides an opportunity for individuals from Micronesia to undertake either a Master’s or Doctorate degree in any resource management/conservation field. The selected scholars will focus on leadership and technical skills and/or majors that enhance their ability to carry out work in conservation, climate adaptation and sustainable development in Micronesia. In addition to the BRMC, the Association for the Promotion of International Cooperation/ Japan (APIC), Sophia University and MCT have partnered to select current conservation professionals from Micronesia to pursue graduate level degrees in conservation. Sophia University has committed to providing full tuition scholarships, while APIC is covering travel and room and board expenses. Four Micronesian students have been selected for these two opportunities and will begin their programs this fall.

The Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge program scholars:

Elizabeth (Becky) Ada Furey is from island of Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. She works with the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance as a full-time program manager and has a BS in Health Studies, but after finishing her degree at Portland State University, she returned home to the Marianas to pursue her passion for her home, this region, and ensuring we take care of these special places today, so our people can continue to enjoy them in the future.

She is a proud mother of a 17-month old little girl. After she was born, she made the decision to return to school and further her education. Her time with MINA, her concern for our natural environment, and her passion for working with communities to ensure our island way of life, led her to enroll in a Master of Science program in Environmental Policy and Management. She says “As Pacific Islanders we come from a legacy of ocean-faring peoples and it is our responsibility to continue the tradition of caring for this vast resource.”



Nicole Yamase is from the island of Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia. She graduated with her B.S. in Environmental Studies and B.A. in Biology from Chaminade University of Honolulu and she is currently a Ph.D. Candidate in the Marine Biology Graduate Program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Her research focus is on the effects of climate change on the marine plant community. Of her studies, Nicole says, “Understanding how our primary producers respond to these changes will help us predict the future health of our reefs. This is crucial for the livelihood of Pacific Islanders who highly depend on the ocean for food, income and cultural purposes.”



The Sophia University program scholars:

Bradford Mori is from the island of Chuuk in the FSM and has worked for the Chuuk Environmental Protection Agency and the Technical Support Program Manager since 2006. He earned his BA degree in Geography and Certificate of Environmental Physical Science from the University of Hawaii at Hilo in December 2005. He has been accepted to the Sophia University program and says that his objectives in participating and completing his degree include, “To be a part of a University where continuous learning & growth is assured and fulfilling the expectations out of my knowledge, skills and experience. Aspiring to have a good career path with my interest and ability to learn and deliver results.”



Bertha Mochieg Reyuw is from the island of Yap in the FSM and has served as the Environment Program Development Officer for the Yap Community Action Program since 2014. She earned an AS in Business Administration and Third Year Certificate in General Business from the College of Micronesia – FSM in 2011. She also holds a BA in Environmental Studies from the University of the South Pacific in 2014. She has been accepted to further her education at the Sophia University in Japan. She says, “Furthering my education is like continuing to water a seed to grow. The sweetened fruit it bears is what I like to share with those that helped me to be where I am today: my family, friends, colleagues and definitely the communities I serve.”



The Kaselehlie Press

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Bill Jaynes
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Expedition takes youth on educational journey to the Arctic

Students on Ice to launch 2017 Arctic Expedition with youth, leaders, scientists, elders & artists

Students on Ice

July 17, 2017

Gatineau, Quebec - On August 8, more than 120 high school and university students from across Canada and around the world come together in Ottawa to begin a two-week expedition to the Canadian Arctic and Greenland with Students on Ice (SOI). They are led by an expert team made up of more than 80 scientists, artists, Inuit leaders, dignitaries and polar explorers on a life-changing journey of discovery, reconciliation and adventure. Expedition dates are August 8 – August 23, 2017.

A pre-expedition program for Northern students participating in the 2017 expedition will run from August 6 – 8 at Nunavut Sivuniksavut in Ottawa to assist these students in becoming confident ambassadors for their homeland throughout the journey. This year's expedition will involve 44 Inuit youth and 18 Inuit staff from the Canadian Arctic and Greenland – more than ever before.

Using key educational themes including diversity and inclusion, truth and reconciliation, the environment, and youth engagement, participating youth will develop a greater understanding and

appreciation of the Arctic through hands-on learning in science, history, culture, arts, policy and governance.

Beginning in Ottawa, this ship and land-based journey will explore the communities, coasts and fjords of Canada's Eastern Arctic before crossing the Davis Strait to western Greenland. The expedition will involve encounters with Arctic wildlife, including whales and polar bears, zodiac cruises among icebergs and ice floes, visits to UNESCO World Heritage sites, Canadian National Parks, and other Northern communities, paddling traditional Inuit qajaqs (kayaks), and hands-on land and ocean-based research and learning.

The expedition team represents students and staff from around the world, including Canada, U.S.A., Mexico, Greenland, Micronesia, China, Hong Kong, Italy, Germany, Monaco, India, and Malaysia.

SOI's impressive educational team includes Nunavut Education Minister the Honourable Paul Quassa, former U.S. Ambassador to Canada Bruce Heyman, scientists Roger Bull and

"To explore the Arctic with youth and experts from around the world, enables a unique learning opportunity to bridge cultures and allow for passionate, globally-minded and solution-driven conversations and initiatives to flourish," says Expedition Leader Geoff Green. "This expedition will be the beginning of a life-long journey, and a very important step for youth to gain the inspiration, education and motivation needed to become leaders in their communities and around the world."

Kieran Shepherd with the Canadian Museum of Nature, Bronwyn Keatley, Senior Science Advisor at Fisheries at Oceans Canada, Inuit throat singer and beat boxer Nelson Tagoona, Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada president Nancy Karetak-Lindell, Executive Producer of Climate One, Greg Dalton and authors Deborah Webster and James Raffan.

organizations, more than 80 per cent of youth participants are supported to participate in this transformational, life-changing experience. The 2017 Students on Ice Arctic Expedition is made possible through partnerships with the Canadian Museum of Nature, Parks Canada, Canada Goose, Nunavut Sivuniksavut, Makivik Corporation, Kativik Regional Government, Leacross Foundation, WWF-Canada, Canadian Heritage, the U.S. Embassy Ottawa, Adventure Canada, Oceans North Canada, Community Foundations of Canada, The Schad Foundation, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, The Beatrice Snyder Foundation, First Air, the official airline of Student on Ice, and more than 30 other incredible supporters.

To learn more and to follow the journey, visit studentsonice.com

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Perman primes Pohnpei municipal speakers to consider diminishing Compact returns

By **Luan Gilmete**
The Kaselehlie Press

August 4, 2017

Sokehs, Pohnpei—"Ia mwomwatail mwurin 2023" (How will we be after 2023), asked guest speaker Congressman Ferny Perman at the Officers of the Municipal Council Association (OMCA) meeting at the Sokehs Municipal Council Chamber on Friday, August 4.

Congressman Perman discussed the issue of the financial provisions of the Compact of the Free Association that will end in five years' time. He said that US President Donald Trump and his new administration are not currently considering the possibility of renegotiating the Compact. Because of that fact, the FSM government has created the FSM Trust Fund in a hope to meet the FSM's financial needs. This is in addition to the Compact Trust Fund.

He used the issue of the expiration of the financial provisions of the Compact as a reminder for each Municipal Speakers to be good fiscal representatives of their municipal governments and as food for thought for topics for the upcoming municipal speaker's summit that will take place next month.

The Speakers who were present at the OMCA meeting were Speakers from Madolenihmw, Kitti, U, Sokehs, Nett, Kolonia, Mwokiloa, Sapwufik and Nukuoro along with their councilmen and staff.

The Speakers agreed that the summit will be hosted by the Madolenihmw Council and will be held by the end of September. The summit will discuss the topic of the termination of our financial provisions under the Compact of the Free Association between the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States.

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WILL BE RELEASED ON:
August 28, 2017**

**Deadline for submission of articles or
advertisements for this issue is the end
of working hours on:
Wednesday August 23, 2017**

Marine Terrestrial Conservation Enforcement Academy for regional enforcers

Guam Community College is currently hosting an historic, first-ever Marine Terrestrial Conservation Enforcement Academy to enable law enforcement professionals from around the region to study methods of enforcing conservation of precious marine and land resources throughout the Pacific. The Marine Terrestrial Conservation Enforcement Academy covers protection of wildlife, marine life, and efforts to halt human trafficking in the region, according to cadre Lt. Mark Aguon, Officer-in-Charge, Law Enforcement Section, Guam Department of Agriculture.

Eighteen law enforcement officials from police departments, attorneys general offices, and regional Environmental Protection Agency offices on Guam, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk, Palau, and Yap arrived on island in July, and the academy began on July 24th. It will run through October 6, 2017.

"It's all about marine preserves and resource conservation," said Aguon. "Police officers and other law enforcement officials have to know what to look for" when confronting environmental resource violations, Aguon noted.

Funding for this charter academy was obtained through a grant from the Micronesian Conservation Trust supported by the United States Forest Service, the United States Department of the Interior, USAID, and the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, and individual island communities also pitched in, according to Aguon. The academy is being conducted in collaboration with the Guam Department of Agriculture and Guam Community College (GCC). Other main collaborators and partners include the Guam Department of Aquaculture & Wildlife Resources, Division of Enforcement, and the GCC Department of Criminal Justice & Social Sciences.

Aguon noted that the different island members of this first academy are also members of a non-profit organization – the Pacific Islands Managed & Protected Areas Communities, or PIMPAC, "a long term capacity sharing program and social network of site based managers, non-governmental



*Front - Kindred Sablan (Guam DAWR Reserve)
Back: Francis Lenja (MALGOV - RMI), Altrin Ligorio (Pohnpei EPA), Ransell Harold (Palau - APCO), Joab Paul (Pohnpei - AG's Office), Billy Palik (Kosrae State Police), and Keper Joel (Pohnpei Fish & Wildlife)*

organizations, local communities, federal, state, and territorial agencies, and other stakeholders working together to collectively enhance the effective use and management of managed and protected areas in the Pacific Islands," according to www.pimpac.org.

"Instead of just casting individual 'lines' of protection, we have a fishnet-type mentality to protecting the whole region," Aguon said of the concept of PIMPAC.

Aguon said the academy is also highlighting Guam's "ridge to reef" concept.

"What happens on the ridge, such as burning, poaching, and deforestation, affects the reef. No reef, no fish," Aguon warned.

The Marine Terrestrial Conservation Enforcement Academy is one of four law enforcement academies running concurrently on the GCC campus, according to

Col. (ret.) Dennis Santo Tomas, executive director of the Peace Officer Standards Training, or POST, Commission. GCC is also conducting the 8th Police Officer Training Cycle from the Guam Police Department, the 17th Basic Corrections Officer Cycle from the Department of Corrections, and the 15th Criminal Justice Academy.

"Once they complete their respective academy, many of these students will then continue with their coursework to earn certificates and associate degrees, and then join the law enforcement agency they are most interested in. I am especially proud, as POST executive director, to witness their development and growth as they all become better educated, trained and knowledgeable in law enforcement for the protection of Guam and all the Micronesian Islands," said Santo Tomas of members of all of the academies.

Pohnpei Public Library "Build a Better World" program attracts 111 children

Pohnpei Public Library

Pohnpei—The Pohnpei Public Library celebrated the end of its Summer Program 2017 on July 14, 2017. There was a short program that was prepared for the day. The head librarian welcomed everyone to the short program and thanked participants, volunteers and parents for their assistance during the four weeks program. All the participants received certificates and prizes presented by the staff and volunteers.

The Theme for this year's Summer Program was "Build a Better World". A total of 111 (K-5 to 8th grade) participated in the program and received certificates with gifts and prizes. It was a four week program with many stories that were shared by volunteers. The kids also learned to read, made crafts and enjoyed other fun and educational activities provided by the Collaborative Summer



Library Program 2017 (CSLP) manual compiled by the public librarians in 2016 CSLP Annual Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah which Pohnpei Public Library also participated.

The Summer Reading program was very successful with the involvement of the volunteers, parents, participants and

the contributors for this year. Friends of the Pohnpei Public Library would like to thank the following agencies and organization for their valuable contributions and support. Vital, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP), US Embassy, MERIP, Pohnpei Public Safety and Kolonia Town

Police. Our appreciation also goes out to the following individuals for volunteering during the four week program. Ms. Joanne Cummings, Mr. and Mrs. Luke Andrews, Janet Holt, Trudy Jackson, Kenye Rikin, Justleen Alosima, Gary Olter, Darnick Perez, Jessly Ferdinand, Youngleen Tom, Allani Lein Tom and LJ Gamow.

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Micronesia Registration Advisors, Inc. is a corporation established in the FSM in 2005. MRA has a long-term contract to advise the FSM Registrar of Corporations and the national government on developing programs and procedures to attract business executives from Japan and other nations to establish captive insurance companies and overseas investment subsidiaries in the FSM. As part of this role, MRA coordinates the visits to the FSM of business executives every month from Japan and other countries.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT U.S. Mission Kolonia

Vacancy Announcement Number: 2017-003

OPEN TO: All Interested Candidates/All Sources
POSITION: Travel/Procurement/Management Assistant
OPENING DATE: August 14, 2017
CLOSING DATE: August 25, 2017
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: The complete position description listing all of the duties and responsibilities may be obtained by contacting the Embassy Human Resources Office.

Point of Contact: Melina Fermill, Human Resource Assistant
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REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS ADVISER

PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM
40th Anniversary 1971-2011

About the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

The Pacific Islands Forum was founded in August 1971 and currently comprises 18 independent and self-governing states in the Pacific. Forum Leaders meet annually to develop collective responses to regional issues.

The Forum's administrative arm is the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, based in Suva, Fiji. It acts as the Secretariat for Forum-related events, implements decisions by the Leaders, facilitates the delivery of development assistance to member states, and undertakes the political and legal mandates of Forum meetings. The Forum Secretariat is also mandated to coordinate the implementation of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

The Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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There is a vacancy for a Regional & International Partnerships Adviser to join the Secretariat. This job exists to strengthen engagement and build partnerships with strategic stakeholders to advance the Forum's work and its key priority areas

Responsibilities will include (but are not limited to) :

- Analysis and advice on strengthening external and internal engagement to advance the vision of the Forum;
- Coordinating implementation of partnerships to advance the decisions of Forum Leaders;
- Coordinating overall relations between the Forum and its Dialogue Partners;
- Coordinating relations between the Forum and other regional organisations;
- Working with other Advisers across the organisation to oversee effective positioning and representation of the Forums interests in strategic regional and international meetings; and
- Managing staff as may be required.

Applicants should have an advanced university degree in a relevant field with at least 7 years' experience within the required field. Candidates should also have sound knowledge of the international concerns and interests of Forum members and of the regional positions on these concerns and interests. Applicants should have proven ability in monitoring regional and international developments and to conduct comprehensive analysis and providing high quality policy advice. Experience and demonstrated success in the coordination and organisation of high level inter-governmental and non-governmental regional and international meetings would be an advantage in this role.

About the Benefits

The appointment carries a competitive remuneration and benefits package including medical and life insurance. The starting salary will be in the range of SDR41,064 to SDR46,198 per annum. At the 1 July 2017 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to FJD117,426 to FJD132,107. To be eligible for these positions, the applicant must be a national of one of the following Forum member countries*. Applicants must be willing to travel periodically via economy class.

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply through our website: www.forumsec.org where an information package containing the job description and remuneration details is also available. Candidates must include in either their application or Curriculum Vitae the full contact details of three referees.

Deadline for applications is at 5pm (Fiji time), 1 September 2017.

* Member States of the Pacific Islands Forum: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.



REGIONAL SECURITY ADVISER

PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM
40th Anniversary 1971-2011

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About the Benefits

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Interior funds One Stop Centers in Hawai'i and Guam to help lessen impact in jurisdictions of migrants from Micronesia

Encourages Work within FAS Communities in the U.S.; Strengthen NGO's

August 4, 2017

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Interior Acting Assistant Secretary Nikolao Pula made available two technical assistance grants totaling \$467,095 to continue support for the Micronesia Resource Center One Stop Shop on Guam and the We are Oceania Hālau Ola One Stop Center in Hawai'i.

The one stop centers provide information and services to migrants from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Republic of Palau (Palau), also known as the freely associated states (FAS). A third grant for \$63,249 will be used to strengthen organizations providing family services on Guam, and a fourth grant for \$77,349 will support similar efforts in Springdale, Arkansas, which large communities of Marshallese migrants now call home.

"This is a pilot effort which we have supported to help the governments of Guam and Hawaii, in particular as they struggle with high costs related to serving FAS migrants and others," said Pula. "We have partnered with local non-government organizations that have connections and leverage within their communities to strengthen Micronesian families and to help those who are disenfranchised find the information, services and opportunities which they need to thrive, to be successful, and ultimately to reduce their impact on government."

- Micronesia Resource Center One Stop Shop (MRCOSS) - \$217,095 is provided to Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Guam to strengthen the MRCOSS effort to provide training for résumé building and job search, orientation assistance to new migrants, family support initiatives in parenting, financial literacy, health and wellness, youth mentoring, and domestic violence prevention. Since opening in October 2015, MRCOSS has managed well over 1,000 cases and through public outreach has participated in community events, neighborhood gatherings, as well as canvassed door-to-door. They have consulted with Guam government agencies and participated in numerous ad-hoc committees and groups tackling issues such as homelessness, safe neighborhoods, public safety and public health. The MRCOSS, now in its third year of funding from OIA, will continue working on its goal to establish itself independently as its own 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

- BBBS Leadership Collaborative

Project - \$63,249 will be used to provide executive mentoring services to new and fledgling nonprofit organizations on Guam to improve delivery of services, financial management, board development, and volunteer management. The primary groups participating in training to become high-performing organizations include Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guam, Alee Family Violence Shelter, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, Victim Advocates Reaching Out, and others. These groups have been taking more active roles to address the increasing incidences on Guam of family-based social problems and to engage with Guam's disenfranchised youth through outdoor sports, hikes, community gardening and related programs. Education indicators from the 2010 Census show that 75.5% of Chamorro students on Guam complete high school compared to a 53.8% rate among Chuukese on Guam and 96.7% among white students. In 2014, the USDA reported that 70% of children enrolled in Guam schools received free or reduced lunch.

- We are Oceania Hālau Ola - One Stop Center - \$250,000 provided to Partners in Development Foundation (PIDF) in Hawai'i to continue mentorship of the We are Oceania group as it helps to bridge gaps and to address challenges faced by the Micronesian communities in Hawai'i, including homelessness, urgent medical needs, student truancy, lack of job readiness skills, increasing numbers of children in child welfare services, and increasing numbers of juvenile and adult incarcerations. The We are Oceania group has been noted as unique for being the first program where Micronesians are serving and addressing the needs of their own people. Funds will help Micronesians transition successfully and flourish in Hawai'i, while also reducing negative impressions of migrants and encouraging individuals to counsel and guide others from their homelands to achieve success.

Since the opening of We are Oceania Hālau Ola - One Stop Center in 2015, the group has been able to help more than 4,200 FAS nationals seeking assistance in the areas of health, education, employment, child welfare services, legal and public assistance, housing, social security, passport and I-94 replacement, guardianship, and taxes. There has been an overwhelmingly positive response from the Micronesian community as well as the larger community in Hawai'i and back home in the islands.

- "We are grateful for the assistance that

has been provided to assist Micronesians in Guam and Hawai'i, where the impact is greatest," said FSM Ambassador to the U.S. Akillino Susaia. "Our citizens reside all over the United States, and we are proud of the contributions that they make in communities across America and especially in the U.S. military. We have been working closely with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to ensure that FSM citizens across the U.S. are able to obtain driver's licenses and identification cards in a timely manner and in accordance with what is provided for under the Compact of Free Association."

Under the Compacts of Free Association (Compact) first approved in Public Law 99-239 (1986) and Public Law 99-658 (1994), and later amended in Public Law 108-188 (2003), citizens of the FSM, RMI, and Palau are legal nonimmigrants allowed, for indefinite periods of time, to live, work and study in the United States without need for a visa. They also serve in the U.S. military and currently serve in large numbers that are disproportionate to the sizes of their populations. The Compact agreements terminated the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, providing the U.S. with important strategic denial rights to the area in the western Pacific Ocean between Guam and Hawai'i. In 1996, under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, FAS citizens were deemed ineligible for federal public benefits. Thus began what has been a rising concern for Guam and Hawaii governments which have directly borne the cost of public services related to FAS migrants, also referred to as "Compact impact".

A fourth grant in the amount of \$77,349.78 is provided to the Marshallese Educational Initiative in Springdale, Arkansas to:

- Develop a series of seven educational videos to supplement the Marshallese Guide to Northwest Arkansas, which provides information on how to navigate financial systems, health services and higher education. The videos will cover additional topics such as opening bank accounts, purchasing a vehicle, and the pitfalls of high-interest rates and payday loan centers. The videos will be narrated in English and Marshallese with Marshallese actors and posted through social media where they can be available to Marshallese living in the U.S. and in the Marshall Islands.

- Develop a pilot curriculum that includes Marshallese history and culture materials that can be utilized in

middle schools in the Springdale School District. This program will supplement an on-going mentorship program where Marshallese college students tutor younger students to build self-esteem and to inspire academic success as well as goals for higher education. The Springdale School District continues to lament a high dropout rate of their Marshallese students with only 50% of them graduating from high school, a rate far below the U.S. national average.

"The Marshall Islands Government is thankful for the assistance from the Interior Department to support the Marshall Islands community in Arkansas," said RMI Ambassador to the U.S. Gerald M. Zackios. "Every year we see more and more of our people using the privileges of our unique, beneficial relationship with the United States to improve themselves and to strengthen the personal and business ties that unite them. I am proud of the resiliency that my fellow citizens display in navigating new lives as far away as Arkansas and trust that this grant will help enable them to be active and productive members of their communities and thereby ensure their further success."

In a recent U.S. Census Bureau estimate using 2010-2014 data, there are approximately 41,380 citizens from the FSM, RMI and Palau living in the 50 States. The five States with the highest number of FAS citizens are Hawai'i (17,205), Arkansas (3,625), Washington (3,430), Oregon (2,580), and Texas (2,090). These numbers do not incorporate the smaller number of American citizens who are of Micronesian, Marshallese, and Palauan ancestry.

The Secretary of the Interior is responsible for coordinating federal policy with respect to the territories of the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance provided to the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau under the Compacts of Free Association. On behalf of the Secretary, the Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas executes these responsibilities through the Office of Insular Affairs whose mission is to foster economic opportunities, promote government efficiency, and improve the quality of life for the people of the insular areas.

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

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FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

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Support local restaurants that support local food on the menu

Pohnpei REACH project

There's been a lot of work done by Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) to provide good messaging around the "Go Local" campaign which motivates people to eat local foods given their "CHEEF" benefits (culture, health, environment, economy, and food security). There has also been some work done by the national and state governments to try to get local restaurants to serve more local food on their menus so people that eat out and our tourists can enjoy having local food as part of their dining experience. Kudos to the take out stands that nowadays in

Pohnpei you can find a variety of local food for sale every day, but for those that eat out for lunch, there are limited options.

We all know that eating local food is good for us, and for the most part, it is good to eat. New recipes as well as those that have been tried and true over the years are not hard to find, so why do some restaurants choose not to have local food on their menus? Whatever the reason, this short article is about encouraging people, in all four FSM states, to support those local restaurants that support local food on their menu. It's a simple thing to do. Whether you are having a business lunch at the Kaselehlie Diner

in Pohnpei, or dinner at the J2 (J-squared) restaurant in Chuuk, having the option to eat local food with your meal not only supports your health (and culture and environment and food security) but supports the local economy by encouraging local farmers to grow and sell local produce to the restaurants. If enough people go out and put their money where their health is (not just where your mouth is), more restaurants will be encouraged to put local food on their menus. So, as IFCP has been saying all along - "Let's Go Local" and let's go to local restaurants that support local food.



administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities.



at the Kaselehlie Diner REACH is a national program



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...Impeachment

Continued from front page

the recovery of government assets or properties...The purpose of the assigned proposal for a resolution is to look deeply into the activities of the Chief Justice to determine whether the wrongful actions that are alleged in the proposal for a resolution have a factual basis and have been so destructive of the fundamentals of democratic government as to justify his removal from office.”

The first draft of the impeachment resolution contained 28 articles. The final version that was unanimously passed by the Legislature after two drafts contained 19 articles.

In the final version, the first four articles had to do with government payments for a medical referral to the Philippines on behalf of Chief Justice. He allegedly authorized a government per diem of \$2,142 for himself even though the trip was also funded by MiCare. He also allegedly authorized \$1,618.58 of government funds for his wife to accompany him on a trip that was personal in nature. The use of government funds for personal trips is against the law.

Articles five through eight have to do with the alleged issuance of government funds to pay for Rodriguez’s own personal medical bill at Genesis Hospital.

Articles nine and 10 have to do with stipends approved by and drawn by Chief Justice Rodriguez for a trip allegedly paid for by the Pacific Island Education Program. The travel authorization’s stated purpose of the trip was attendance at the NJC (acronym undefined in the resolution) in San Antonio, Texas. However, Rodriguez allegedly also took a side trip to Kansas City with “no satisfactory explanation or justification for the side trip and lengthy stay in Kansas City. Moreover, the days spent in Kansas City were marked ‘personal’ by the Pacific Island Education Program.” The Pohnpei State Government also paid for seven days of travel benefits in Honolulu “though the Chief Justice only spent one day in transit from Honolulu to Texas and four days in Hawaii just prior to his return to Pohnpei,” the resolution alleges. “State documents do not show any official government purpose for his extended stay in Honolulu on his return to Pohnpei.”

Articles 11 through 15 have to do with an account at the Bank of Guam allegedly opened by Chief Justice

Rodriguez outside of the purview of the Pohnpei Department of Treasury and Administration. The resolution alleges that there was a failure to report on the activities and accounting of the outside bank account in a manner consistent with the Financial Management Act of 1987. It claims that Rodriguez did not report the existence and financial activities of the account to the Legislature. Financial activities included direct deposits into that account rather than to the Pohnpei Treasury for judicial trainings and conferences sponsored by non-Pohnpei Government entities. The resolution detailed 10 instances in which those types of deposits were made after which a check was made payable directly to Chief Justice Rodriguez in the same amount.

“The bank records reveal that this practice was carried out for other members of the Pohnpei Judiciary as well,” the resolution said. The cumulative total of checks made payable to individual members of the judiciary from 2012 to 2016 was \$31,910.57. “Such checks were drawn upon the Bank of Guam checking account and paid as per diem reimbursements to individual members of the Pohnpei Judiciary who were in some cases also being paid travel advance stipends...” from the Pohnpei Treasury. The Bank of Guam account payments for travel were not registered with the Treasury, the resolution alleges.

Articles 16 through 19 allege that Chief Justice Rodriguez’s failure to properly administer and manage the financial activities of the Pohnpei Supreme Court resulted in missing revenue collections in the amount of \$123,857.25 and 1400 missing cash receipts. It further alleges that Rodriguez failed to accurately report the revenues received by the Supreme Court and deposited in the Pohnpei Treasury for fiscal years 2009 through 2014. That failure allegedly led to the absence of discovery of the missing collection revenue.

The J&GO report on the impeachment resolution is 18 pages long. It details the chronology and process by which the members came to their conclusions.

On February 7, 2017, the Pohnpei State Legislature received a letter from the Office of the Attorney General. That letter contained several allegations against the Chief Justice of possible violations of Pohnpei laws. On

February 14 the J&GO Committee held its first meeting on the Communication. It was then that they decided to hold public hearings with the Office of the Public Auditor and also with the Attorney General which took place on February 16. After those hearings the Committee became convinced that because of the sensitivity of the matter, the AG’s communication must be sealed and remain confidential until the Committee had made its decision on the matter.

On February 22 the Attorney General informed the Committee that he would be filing criminal and civil charges against Chief Justice Rodriguez and proceeded to do so over the course of the next several weeks. “Thus, with considerable thought, your Committee met on February 24, 2017, and decided that it will fulfill its mandate by introducing a proposal for a resolution citing only data and information provided in the Communication (the AG’s February 7 communication). It was the sense of your Committee, that the Communication and its attached exhibits provide(d) enough information and evidence to substantiate a draft proposal for a resolution that will then be deliberated upon and built onto further in accordance with the legislative process,” the committee reports said.

Knowing that any proposed resolution would undergo a variety of changes, on April 10, 2017, the initial proposal for a resolution to present Articles of Impeachment against the Chief Justice of Pohnpei was presented in the absence of any further fact finding. On May 18 the Committee held an executive meeting and by majority vote agreed to begin investigative hearings which began with a public hearing with the Office of the Public Auditor and support staff.

Following the committee’s first investigative hearing on the resolution on May 26, the Legislature was summoned to the FSM Supreme Court as a defendant to answer a complaint filed by Benjamin Rodriguez. Rodriguez had asked the FSM Supreme Court to stop the Pohnpei Legislature from continuing its investigative hearings on the proposed impeachment resolution. The court ruled against Rodriguez’s motion.

The first closed door investigative hearing happened on May 30 with the Attorney General. All subsequent hearings were also held behind closed doors based on a decision of the committee made on May 25 due to their sensitive nature. The committee also heard testimony from an Assistant Attorney General who is a former Chief Justice of the Pohnpei Supreme Court regarding the origins of a separate and unauthorized Bank of Guam Account.

On June 14 the committee heard testimony from the current Department of Treasury and Administration regarding procedures relating to travel authorizations. It also had a closed door hearing with the former Director of the Department of Treasury and Administration.

All of the hearings and data led the committee to believe that it had sufficient information and evidence to substantiate its allegations.

Though Rodriguez’s resignation effectively puts an end to the impeachment process, he is still facing several other ongoing civil and criminal charges in the court system.

...Gratitude

Continued from front page

resign from the post. He has instructed his legal team to work closely with the Pohnpei Attorney General’s office with a view towards resolving all the pending legal issues as soon as possible. The Chief Justice is prepared to accept and take full responsibility for whatever decision or decisions may come out of the pending matters. In this connection, the Chief Justice and his family conveys their most sincere gratitude to all the Namwarkis and Iso Nahnkens of the Traditional Kingdoms of Pohnpei, the Pohnpei State Legislature, the Governor, all the Associate Justices of the Pohnpei Supreme Court, the entire Pohnpei Supreme Court staff, and the people of Pohnpei for all their support throughout this ordeal. May God continue to bless this wonderful island we all cherish.

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Pohnpei's shrinking reef islands: an impact of climate change?

By Patrick Nunn

August 1, 2017

FSM—Many readers will be familiar with the small beautiful islands, covered with coconut palms and fringed with white-sand beaches, that sit on the edge of the coral reef off the south coast of Pohnpei. From Dawahk in the west, through Nahlap and Laiap in the center, to Nahpali way out east, these islands have been a feature of Pohnpeian geography for hundreds, perhaps thousands of years.



But there are not as many islands as there were once. North of Kehpara, according to Ertin Poll, there was once an island named Kepidau en Pehleng that has now disappeared. And northeast of Penieu, there was a famous island named Nahlapenlohd. This island was so large that in the year 1850 it was the site of a pitched battle; some stories recall that fighters hid behind coconut palms to avoid musket bullets. But today, there is no sign of Nahlapenlohd, not even a mound of sand marking where it once was. Perhaps, as some stories tell, so much blood was spilled during the battle that it washed all the vegetation off the island, leaving it exposed to erosion by the waves. More likely, the rise in the ocean surface (sea level) that has been affecting FSM for several decades is responsible for the disappearance of Nahlapenlohd.

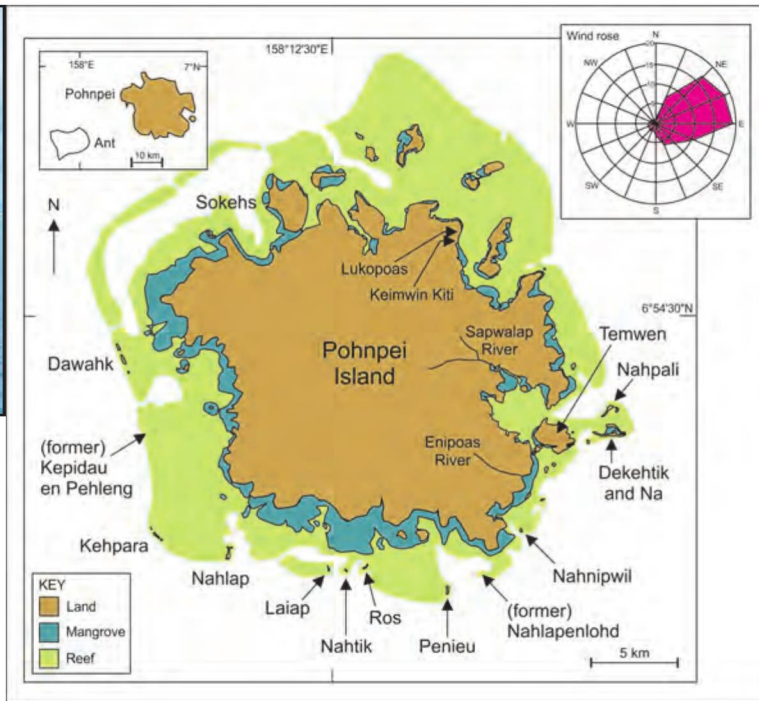
Although there have been minor fluctuations, sea level has been rising in most parts of the Pacific for the last fifty years or more. Over the last twenty years, sea level has been rising faster than the global average in FSM-Palau and in Solomon Islands. To understand the effects of this, a recent study was

conducted by Patrick Nunn and Roselyn Kumar from the University of the Sunshine Coast in Australia with Augustine Kohler from FSM's Department of National Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation. The research team visited ten reef islands off the south coast of Pohnpei and found that some of them – not all – were showing signs of erosion consistent with the effects of rising sea levels.

While islands like Dawahk, Kehpara and Nahlap on the sheltered (leeward) side of Pohnpei showed little sign of erosion, those more exposed to waves and wind from the east did. These include the island of Nahtik, which is estimated to have lost 70% of its 2007 landmass, and Ros which has shrunk by about 60% since 2007. The sand strip that once connected Dekehtik and Na off the southeast coast of Pohnpei seems to have disappeared some time in the last twenty years.

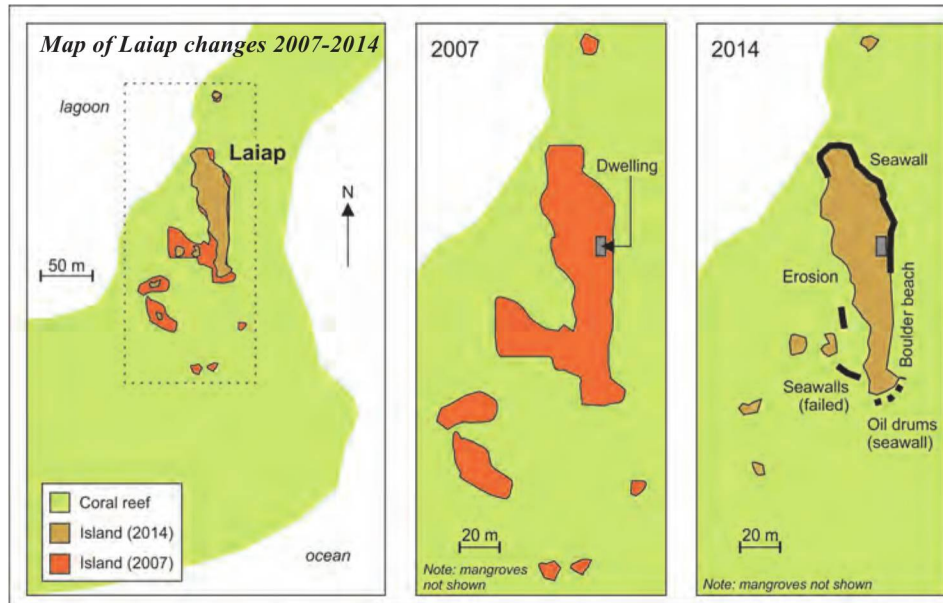
When sea level rises, it forces changes to the shape of sandy beaches. It removes material from their higher parts and dumps it offshore. This is known as the Bruun Effect and is believed to be responsible for most of the shoreline erosion that has been observed over the last few decades on many Pacific Islands. While it is difficult to be certain, the weight of evidence suggests that sea-level rise is behind the disappearance and shrinking of the sand islands off Pohnpei's southern reef barrier.

But there is some better news. Patrick's team found hardly any evidence of shoreline erosion consistent with sea-level rise along the fringes of the main island in Pohnpei. This is hardly surprising considering that most of it is cloaked by mangrove forest



– and it does underline the importance of preserving mangroves. Throughout the Pacific Islands, mangroves have been shown to be the best way to protect shorelines from erosion associated with sea-level rise. The researchers also visited Ant Atoll, where no clear signs of the effects of sea-level rise could be observed.

If you would like an e-copy of the full research report, please email Patrick on pnunn@usc.edu.au and he would be happy to send you one.



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Jasmine Mendiola, COM-FSM Class of 2012

Follow us online for a video interview of Jasmine.    www.kaselehliepress.com



Anniversary

Student Success is our Success!

Jasmine Mendiola is a proud alumna of the College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM) graduating in 2012 with an AS in Marine Science and an AS in Liberal Arts. She was the class Valedictorian and a member of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honors Society. While attending college she served in many capacities in the college's work-study program, and later as an English and Science tutor. This experience lead into her conducting labs in the college's Ichthyology and Zoology courses after graduating, as well as assisting students in those courses with extra help.

Ms. Mendiola has also been a part of regional internship programs. In May to August of 2011 and again in the same months of 2012, she participated in scientific research at the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Undergraduate Research Mentoring Program (URM) in Biological Sciences. From January to February of 2013 she was a Climate Change Project intern for the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

Additionally, she has participated in several key regional and international meetings. She partook in the Pacific-American Climate Fund (PACAM) Regional Workshop & Climate Change Symposium in 2016, and again in 2017 as a co-facilitator. Other important events included the Pacific Islands Forum in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Ocean Conference for Emerging Environmental Leaders, the Micronesia Finance-Administration Operation Network Annual Workshop, and the International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP), Our Ocean Ambassadors.

After college Jasmine worked as a Data Technician at the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, then as a Public Diplomacy and Research Officer for the Australian Embassy based in Pohnpei. She is

now the Assistant Director of the Marine and Environmental Research Institute (MERIP) of Pohnpei.

She was also named Fisheries and Awareness Ambassador for the National Oceanic Resource and Management Authority (NORMA), where she endeavors to promote the importance of fisheries management and conservation. Her dedication to these efforts were recognized in her award winning poem entitled "Teach Your Children"; where she won first prize in the Parties to the Nauru Agreement's (PNA) World Tuna Day Art & Talent Quest.

Ms. Mendiola has become a champion of fisheries conservation and climate change awareness for the Micronesian and Pacific regions. She can be found speaking at large events on the regional stage, or in front of school children in the communities she serves. Her dedication to this endeavor is outlined in her poem where she writes:

*So it is up to us
To take responsibility
Of what we have today
And pass it on with certainty.
So you teach others
As I have taught you today
The importance of conservation
In this very way.*

Ms. Mendiola is the mother of eight year old Harmony and wife of Dwayne J. Hadley. She is also the proud daughter of the late Emirose Elanzo and Francisco Mendiola, and stepdaughter of Lestly Ashby Mendiola.

The college is proud of the successes Jasmine Mendiola has been able to achieve. It is through alumni like Jasmine and many others that COM-FSM takes pride in, as it works towards realizing its mission in the FSM and in the region.

FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE

Investing in student success by donating to the College's Endowment Fund.

Below: Representatives from Moylan's Insurance present COM-FSM with a donation to the Endowment Fund. Left to right: Julie Suzuki, college president Dr. Joseph Daisy, and Melner Isaac.



Above: Owners and operators of JCA Guam, LLC dba McDonalds Guam and Saipan present COM-FSM with a donation to the Endowment Fund. Left to right: Joe Ayuyu, Jr, Joe Ayuyu, Marcia Ayuyu, and former FSM President Manny Mori.



33 FSM students awarded scholarships to study in China

The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in FSM

August 10, 2017

FSM—33 young students will leave the FSM for China to pursue their higher education before September 2017. Sponsored by the full Chinese Scholarship, they don't need to worry about supporting themselves in China. They can devote themselves to whatever academic subject they are interested in. The universities in China offer a wide range of academic programs in Science, Engineering, Agriculture, Medicine, Economics, Legal Studies, Management, Education, History, Literature, Philosophy and Fine Arts for the scholarship recipients for undergraduate and master's degrees. These young boys and girls from the 4 states of the FSM will learn about China and its people, and at the same time, introduce FSM to the Chinese people, thus strengthening the friendship between the two peoples.

Among them, 20 students are granted full Chinese Government Scholarships, 10 are granted Hainan Provincial Government Scholarships. And three students are granted Chinese Scholarship by Liantai Venture FSM. The largest number of Chinese Scholarship students ever! They will go to universities in major Chinese cities like Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, Changchun,

Wuhan, Haikou, Hefei etc. These young talents will join other Chinese Scholarship recipients in China and will make the FSM proud when they finish their study in China in five to six years and return to the FSM to contribute to their home country.

The undergraduates will first spend time in China at a university to learn the Chinese language before transferring to the university where they will study for their major. Master's degree students have already learned Chinese and will directly begin their Master's degree programs.

Congratulations to the following students: Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the FSM scholarships:

Undergraduate students:

Overhoff, Tulaulelei – Pohnpei – Environmental Engineering

Ladore, Mcgregor – Pohnpei – Civil Engineering

Celestine, Ryan – Pohnpei – Marine Science

Ben, Clayton – Pohnpei – Economics and Finance

Peyon, Peyon – Pohnpei – Environmental Engineering

Mitrad, Phadra – Yap – Communication Engineering

Johnny, Brittanya – Pohnpei – Environmental Engineering

Jacob, Denessa – Pohnpei – Nursing

Gilmete, Kae O'Lani – Pohnpei – Economics and Finance

Santos, Aiesha-Laine – Pohnpei – Technology of Computer Application

Lekka, Mary-Ann – Pohnpei – Communication Engineering

Lawiyemel, Amy – Yap – Management Information Systems

Reetnag, Crystal – Pohnpei – Clinical Medicine

Beyan, Evitta – Yap – Computer Science and Technology

Wulom, Bernalyn – Yap – Tourism Management

Kephas, Dwayne – Kosrae – Agriculture

Edmund, Rex – Pohnpei – Marine Science

Apis, Aspen Lyneham – Pohnpei – International Politics

Master's Degree Candidates:

Pigao, Noimilynn Nabetin Fattinag – Yap – International Trade

Tragchaz, Genevieve N. – Pohnpei – International Law

Hainan Government Scholarship Winners (all students will study at Hainan University):

Fainapluw, Stace Yd Delialah – Yap – Veterinary Medicine

Kaborag, Dayline Jelena W. – Yap – Tourism Management

Garanmaw, Benedict – Yap – International Economics and Trade

Gatmer, Samuel – Yap – Business Economics

Simeon, Franson – Pohnpei – Communication Engineering

Abraham, Yolanda – Pohnpei – Civil Engineering

Joab, C. Rogan – Pohnpei – Mechatronic Engineering

Hainrick, Jenny H. – Pohnpei – Criminal Law

James, Lexter – Pohnpei – Business Economics

Henry, Huston Branden – Pohnpei – Accounting.

Liantai Venture Scholarship Winners (All students will study at Quanzhou Normal University):

Sigrah, Dorothy R. – Yap – International Education on Chinese

Jim, Brandenshawn – Kosrae – International Economy and Trade

Edward, Angie – Pohnpei – International Education on Chinese



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- Comply with all BSA/AML, FDIC Regulations and FSM Laws.

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- Master's (M.A.) degree in finance, economics or a related field, or suitable career background.

- Prefer 10 – 20 year experience in senior management position or equivalent combination of education and experience.
- Must be effective in training and mentoring staff; strong finance/accounting background, analysts and exhibit a team-oriented attitude. Compliance background would be helpful.
- Must have strong leadership and people skills.
- Verbal and written communication skills.
- Analytical and organizational skills
- Willingness to travel
- Cultural understanding and flexibility

SALARY Range: USD\$40,000.00 – USD\$60,000.00, depending upon skill sets, plus other benefits: monthly utility allowance, annual vacation leave and sick leave, paid medical, life insurance benefits, Senior Officers Annual Bonus and other seasonal benefits etc.

LOCATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Bank of FSM
Corporate Office
P.O. Box 98
Kolonias, Pohnpei FM 96941
Tel. (691) 320-2724
Fax. (691) 320-5359
Email: bofsmhq@bofsm.fm

OPEN: July 15, 2017 CLOSING DATE: August 15, 2017

Interested candidate may contact information above or email below for detailed information. Interested candidates should send applications to or enquire from:

- Human Relations Manager: Merlihna Y. Weital
- Email: mweital@bofsm.fm or
- Robert De Courteney: President & CEO
- Email: Bdecourt@bofsm.fm

Kosrae Youth Serve as Camp Glow Peer Counselors

By Jasmin Devi Taylor

Late last month in Kosrae, Peace Corps Volunteers alongside the Kosrae Women's Center hosted Camp Glow, a girls empowerment camp, which for the first time was managed by teens who participated in a peer counselor training program funded by the Bank of Guam.

The peer counselor training program was designed by a Kosrae teacher, Coleen Joel and Peace Corps Volunteer, Jasmin Taylor. The goal, to teach youth to lead youth programs in turn creating sustainable youth camps led with local leadership. By completing the peer counselor training, high school girls were given the opportunity to manage the camp schedule, activities and campers of the fourth Camp Glow to take place in Kosrae .

The project was approved for funding in Spring 2017 by Bank of Guam's Vice President, Director of Customer Service, Lesley-Anne Leon Guerrero, as part of the organization's Find Kind program, an initiative that allows the bank to give back to the community through what they call #randomactsofbog.

"Bank of Guam was founded on the very idea of supporting our communities and helping our people succeed. So throwing our sponsorship and support behind Camp Glow and the mission it sets out to achieve was an easy decision," said Leon Guerrero.

Last April, applications for the peer counselor positions were open to high school students that demonstrated leadership



qualities and good academic standing. The final group of four 14 to 16 year-olds were chosen to train as the first Camp Glow Kosrae peer counselors.

The trainees attended a series of workshops during the school year where they learned how to build the summer camp from the ground up. They began by learning how to approach local organizations and government leaders for in-kind and financial donations to support the camp, and voiced their opinions to counterparts regarding issues they face in their communities in order to develop camp sessions on peer pressure, female health and the theme of the camp, "uniting to add value to our traditions and culture."

The final part of the peer counselor training was a two-day overnight intensive program where the group made final preparations for the camp. This included learning to lead a series of teamwork activities, manage the camp schedule and lastly test their new leadership skills in a mock camp setting. At the end of the two-day training the girls received certificates acknowledging their ability to successfully lead Camp Glow Kosrae 2017.

"It's so important to give youth the responsibility of being roles models," said Utwe Elementary School Teacher Coleen Joel, who helped spearhead the project. "The camp has evolved with the peer counselor positions, the campers now have connections with girls close to their age, so when they get to high school they have someone to rely on and help guide them," Joel added.

Camp Glow Kosrae 2017 took place July 24 to 25 and was attended by 25 upcoming ninth grade girls from all four Kosrae municipalities. The campers participated in handicraft sessions and interviewed successful women in business, including Bank of Guam Kosrae Branch Manager Gwendolyn San Nicolas. The girls also toured The Green Banana factory, which makes paper products using banana fiber, along with participating in goal setting, peer pressure and female health workshops.

"The idea of empowering, educating and supporting young ladies through this camp is important to not just supporting our communities as whole but about supporting these individuals who are entering into the next phase of their lives... who hopefully will go on to join us in our efforts to further support their people and the communities they live in," added Leon Guerrero.

First steering committee for JPRISMII on solid waste management held in Solomons



Japan International Cooperation Agency

management of solid waste in FSM.

August 1, 2017

Solomon Islands—The JPRISM Phase II, a 5-year regional project implemented by the Japan International Cooperation (JICA) in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) has officially commenced succeeding the JPRISM Phase I (February 2011-February 2016).

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is fortunate to be one of the member countries of this project. Mr. Jonathan Marmar (Director, DPW&T, Yap), Mr. Tos Nakayama (DT&PW, Director, Chuuk) and Mr. Henry Susaia (Executive Director, EPA Pohnpei) participated in this great collaborative effort to support improvement of roles and responsibilities on sector policy, planning, management, regulation, and service delivery. Representatives were given an opportunity to briefly share activity plans for Phase II. It is assured that these representatives play vital roles and have responsibilities in the

During their visit in Solomon, they had a chance to visit a newly developed land fill, which practices semi-aerobic hygienic landfill (Fukuoka-method) and also equipped with a PET bottle compressor and a crusher for organic waste. In a school which is enthusiastically participating in Clean School Program, they were impressed with artificial flowers reusing PET bottles, segregation of recyclables and a new septic tank that drain system contribute to growing flower garden.

Through these visits and discussions, FSM representatives were inspired and could build networking among the project member countries for tackling waste management. Between June and July 2017, JPRISM2 team conducted to assist to grasp the current situation such as the waste generation volume from households and commercial areas into the landfill at site each state. Along with those surveys, the meeting was off to a good start to accelerate improvement of FSM's waste management.



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On Friday, August 4th, FSM Petroleum Corporation Chuuk Terminal staff participated in a Fire Safety Drill under the supervision of the Terminal Officer In Charge Redley Killion, Jr.



Controlled fires were ignited to test the staff's response skills to the potential hazards of working at a terminal.



In the training exercise "How to Use a Handheld Fire Extinguisher" each employee fought the flames and successfully proved they are



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