



**White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders  
Pacific Island Task Force  
Launch Date: Week of September 8, 2014**

**Background**

On April 3-4, 2014, the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI), in coordination with Payu-ta Inc. (an umbrella organization of non-governmental organizations in the Pacific region), held its first [Community Tour and Regional Summit](#) outside the contiguous U.S. in Guam with more than 200 community leaders and 25 federal officials, representing approximately 10 agencies. The Community Tour sought to raise awareness and increase understanding of the unique conditions Pacific Islanders face, providing on-the-ground experience for the federal representatives. During the Summit hosted at Guam Community College, community leaders and federal representatives made recommendations regarding next steps on topics such as housing, veterans issues, economic development, education, and health equity, and vowed to tackle those issues upon return to Washington, DC and their respective agencies.

**Purpose and Membership**

To ensure follow-up on the recommendations, WHIAAPI, in collaboration with the Office of Insular Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior, is establishing a Pacific Island Task Force comprised of officials from the following federal agencies represented at the Summit:

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|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Environmental Protection Agency             | 6. Department of the Interior       |
| 2. Department of Commerce                      | 7. Department of Labor              |
| 3. Department of Education                     | 8. Department of Veterans Affairs   |
| 4. Department of Health and Human Services     | 9. Small Business Administration    |
| 5. Department of Housing and Urban Development | 10. White House Initiative on AAPIs |

The PI Task Force aims to:

- 1) Engage agency officials around the specific needs of Pacific Islanders in order to increase opportunity and access to federal programs, with a specific focus on supporting non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the region.
- 2) Ensure the inclusion of the Pacific region in grant programs, where possible.
- 3) Develop capacity building and technical assistance support for NGOs in the Pacific region to address specific needs.
- 4) Promote data disaggregation and generation with federal partners to include Pacific Islanders.

**Logistics**

The PI Task Force will function for at least one year, via quarterly calls, and culminate in a presentation/report at an Administration-wide convening of federal agencies in May 2015. The framework of the PI Task Force will mirror the existing infrastructure of the Initiative's [Regional Interagency Working Group](#) (RIWG), with the goal of promoting effective coordination and engagement efforts across federal offices. The PI Task Force does not seek to replace the [Interagency Group on Insular Affairs](#) (IGIA), but will focus its efforts on increasing the capacity and support of the growing NGO infrastructure in the region.

**WHIAAPI Contact**

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