

Open Hearts, Open Minds

*An Accomplishments Report of the
Pacific Island Task Force*



APRIL 2016



Dozens of federal officials and Pacific Islander leaders convened for the Community Tour and Regional Summit at Guam Community College on April 4, 2014.

An Accomplishments Report of the Pacific Island Task Force:

The Pacific Island Task Force was conceived as a result of the 2014 Guam Community Tour and Regional Summit, co-hosted by the [White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, which is housed within the Department of Education](#), and [Payu-ta Inc.](#) This Pacific Island Task Force Accomplishment Report summarizes the progress made by the U.S. federal government to respond to recommendations from community leaders in Hawaii, the U.S. Pacific Territories and U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands on topics such as housing, veterans' issues, economic development, education, and health equity.

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Membership

The Pacific Island Task Force comprised of officials from the following federal agencies represented at the Guam Regional Summit:

1. U.S. Department of Commerce
2. U.S. Department of Education
3. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
4. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
5. U.S. Department of the Interior
6. U.S. Department of Labor
7. U.S. Department of the Treasury
8. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
9. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
10. U.S. Small Business Administration
11. White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, housed within the U.S. Department of Education

Background and Purpose

President Obama signed [Executive Order 13515](#) on October 14, 2009, re-establishing the White House Initiative (Initiative) and the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs), to improve the quality of life for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders through increased access to federal programs in which they may be underserved. The Initiative and the President’s Advisory Commission are housed within the Department of Education. Over the past seven years, the Initiative has reached countless Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders across the country, working with communities to listen to their most pressing needs and taking action to expand access to federal services.

As a part of these engagement efforts, the Initiative co-hosted the “[2014 Guam Community Tour and Regional Summit](#)” with Payu-ta, Inc., a regional umbrella group of non-governmental organizations serving communities in the Pacific, to address the unique challenges and opportunities facing Pacific Islander communities. Summit attendees included federal officials from a dozen agencies, leaders from national organizations and foundations, and local elected officials. At the Summit, Pacific Islander community leaders and federal officials engaged in plenary sessions and workshops to address the realities and struggles specific to island life such as ocean isolation, limited natural resources, high cost of living, and small economies of scale.

At the conclusion of the Summit, participants agreed to implement a series of recommendations and future steps to address long-standing issues within Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities. To facilitate a coordinated response, the Initiative collaborated with the Office of Insular Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior to [launch a Pacific Island Task Force](#). The Pacific Island Task Force, comprised of officials from each federal agency represented at the Guam Regional Summit and members of the [President's Advisory Commission on AAPIs](#), agreed to meet quarterly for one year from September 2014 until September 2015. The ultimate goal of this Task Force was for federal agencies to work collaboratively with one another to institute regional solutions, and to continue to engage with members of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities to understand how to improve their quality of life.



Federal and nonprofit leaders discuss issues and conditions impacting the Pacific region

Pacific Island Task Force Accomplishments

All of the Pacific Island Task Force member agencies identified measurable activities, specific to the agency's mission and impact on the Pacific region, to achieve the following Task Force goals:

- 1) ***Engaging agency officials around the specific needs of Native Hawaiians and 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) ***Ensuring the inclusion of the Pacific region in grant programs, where possible.***
- 3) ***Developing capacity building and technical assistance support for NGOs in the Pacific region to address specific needs.***
- 4) ***Promoting data disaggregation and generation with federal partners to include Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.***

The following report details the successes of Pacific Island Task Force agencies in accomplishing these goals.

Improving Access to Federal Programs and Resources

The **U.S. Department of the Interior**, [Office of Insular Affairs \(OIA\)](#) granted \$250,000 each to Guam and Hawaii to create Micronesian One Stop Centers. The Technical Assistance funding was awarded to two NGOs, both collaborating with federal, state, and territorial officials on the ground, to establish wrap-around one-stop social services for Compact migrants from the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. We Are Oceania, the center that opened in Hawaii, will initially focus on the areas of health, education, housing, homelessness, and labor, linking the various Micronesian communities living in Hawaii with public services and other resources. In Guam, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guam will use their funding to assist Compact migrants traveling to and living on Guam, providing assistance to new arrivals through orientation services, providing workforce development training and employment services, as well as providing family support initiatives.

The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**, [Health Resources and Services Administration \(HRSA\)](#), awarded six health center grantees, located in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Island jurisdictions of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, over \$1.45 million in expanded service funding to expand primary care medical services, including oral and behavioral health, and pharmacy and vision services. In May 2015, HRSA awarded a New Access Point grant in the amount of \$692,067 to the Department of Health Services in Kosrae, Federated State of Micronesia, to increase access to care for approximately 1,800 new patients. The Administration for Children and Families' Administration for Native Americans awarded five new grants in fiscal year (FY) 2015 to the Pacific Islander-serving organizations totaling \$1.46 million and 18 continuing grants totaling \$5.46 million for an overall total of \$6.92 million. In addition, to improve and increase the capacity of community organizations to apply for and manage federal grants, the Pacific Region Training and Technical Assistance Center – a resource center funded by the Administration for Children and Families' Administration for Native Americans – conducted the following trainings: (1) six project planning and development trainings with 123 registrants; (2) four pre-application development trainings with 125 participants from 97 organizations; and (3) eighteen electronic pre-application workshop sessions for unfunded applicants.

The **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Rural Health (ORH)**, funded four projects using telehealth and home monitoring technologies to provide mental health, geriatric, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other services to approximately 1,800 Veterans in the Pacific Islands. ORH provided \$4.311 million to the VA Pacific Islands Health Care System to support travel for Veterans between the Hawaiian Islands and the Pacific Western Insular Islands to Oahu for necessary medical appointments and treatment at VA supported facilities. In July, 2015, the VA launched its Pacific Islands Health Care System's Guam Rural Health Extension Care program. This rural health extension team expanded access to primary care services for Guam Veterans beyond the VA's community-based outpatient clinic and offered services at both the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services' North and South Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). A similar Rural Health Extension Team was also launched in June, 2015 on American Samoa with outreach to American Samoa Department of Health East and West FQHCs. The VA also plans to expand the Agana Heights Guam outpatient clinic by 2,800 square feet with design underway by FY17.

In addition, effective as of January 2, 2014, [VA Pacific Islands Health Care System](#) (VAPIHCS) has been deeply engaged in collaborative work with TriWest to help build the TriWest Preferred Provider Organization in all VAPIHCS Sub-Markets so that it has the right mix of providers to meet all Non-VA Care needs in all rural communities to the extent that care is available.

Further, the **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Rural Health**, supported two rural caregiver projects that are culturally sensitive to Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Veterans. The intent of the first project was to place a mental health-focused registered nurse at the American Samoa Community-Based Outpatient Clinic to conduct required home visits and provide training for Veteran caregivers in American Samoa. However to date those services have been provided to American Samoa from Oahu. The intent of the second project, which was completed the end of FY15, focused on providing culturally appropriate psychological interventions with a special focus on the needs of Veterans and their support persons living in rural parts of the Pacific Insular regions (i.e. Outer Hawaiian Islands and Guam).

On September 27, 2010, President Obama signed into law the [Small Business Jobs Act of 2010](#) (the "Act") under the **U.S. Department of Treasury**. The Act created the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI), which was funded with \$1.5 billion to strengthen state programs that support lending to small businesses and small manufacturers. Through 2014, states had expended \$990 million, which leveraged over \$6.4 billion of increased capital to local businesses, more than 7.4:1 leverage. The funding is a direct transfer, so states can continue using recycled funds as they receive repayment and returns on loans and investments. The SSBCI has invested in several projects by Pacific Western Insular Islands as an effort to foster job creation. For example, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), the Commonwealth Development Authority invested nearly \$624,768 from SSBCI and other public funds in five transactions, leveraging \$1,130,000 in total financing, providing a leverage ratio of \$1.8 in private financing for each SSBCI dollar. These investments helped to create 15 new jobs and 41 retained jobs. Similarly in Guam, the Guam Economic Development Authority invested nearly \$5 million from SSBCI and other public funds in 30 transactions, leveraging \$5.5 million in total financing, providing a leverage ratio of \$1.10 in private financing for each SSBCI dollar. These investments helped to create 293.5 new jobs and 170 retained jobs. Lastly, the state of Hawaii directed all of its \$13.2 million SSBCI allocation to create the Hawaii Venture Capital Investment Program managed by a state-supported organization, the Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation.

The [U.S. Department of Education](#) has launched several initiatives with the [U.S. Department of Labor](#) to make the open educational resources developed with the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) funds available to any college that wants to use them. This new repository of free TAACCCT materials includes learning materials (e.g., course outlines, case studies, course assignments, hybrid courses, etc.) for programs in a variety of sectors (e.g., Aviation, Information Technology, Health Care, Advanced Manufacturing, etc.). This resource was introduced to the Pacific Postsecondary Education Council, comprised of colleges and universities from the U.S. Territories and outlying areas in the Pacific Region, in June of 2015.

The [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) (HUD) has improved its understanding of Pacific Islander community-specific issues and engaged in conversations to explore how it can better offer and apply assistance to the Pacific Islander community. HUD Secretary Julián Castro and Deputy Secretary Nani Coloretti, as well as other senior HUD officials, held several engagements with federal, state, and local elected officials from Hawaii on Native Hawaiian housing issues and ways HUD can help ensure that resources and technical assistance are provided. In addition, HUD Deputy Secretary Coloretti met with the National Coalition of Asian Pacific American Community Development's fellows to discuss issues impacting the AAPI community across the country, including issues currently faced by the Native Hawaiian and Marshallese communities.



Federal officials participated in site visits and engaged in discussions on the topics specific to the Pacific Islander community

The [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) (OSHA), under the U.S. Department of Labor, has presented to a myriad of employers/employees with large Pacific Islander populations. OSHA also participated in multiple workshops, such as the one in Saipan hosted by the CNMI Department of Labor and CNMI Chamber of Commerce. The presentations were targeted for both employee and employer groups and covered the new OSHA recordkeeping requirements, OSHA jurisdiction, health and safety plans, employer/employee rights and responsibilities, and a demonstration of how to find information on the OSHA Web site. Information and brochures on OSHA's new injury and illness reporting requirements were also provided.

The Hawaii/Pacific Press Officer-Congressional Liaison, under the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA), has regularly outreached to media channels based in Hawaii, Guam, CNMI, and American Samoa,

and done interviews to provide information on environmental issues. Active and regular engagement took place with the Congressional Delegations for both Hawaii and the Pacific Territories. In addition, work was done with local, state, and county elected officials, and other state and county agencies on EPA activities and issues. By June 2014, the agency completed an [EPA policy](#) on environmental justice for federally recognized tribes and indigenous peoples (which includes the Native Hawaiian community).

Increasing Inclusion of the Pacific Region in Grant Opportunities

Led by the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**, the Outer Pacific Committee of the Region IX Federal Regional Council issued the FY 2014 [Grants to the Outer Pacific report](#) in February 2015. This annual report provided comprehensive information on the funded federal programs in the Pacific jurisdictions. The report continued to serve as a valuable resource to inform the Pacific community on the federal government's investments.

The **U.S. Department of Education** is committed to ensuring that educational institutions in the Pacific region are aware of Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISI)-eligible grant opportunities. The Department convened the Pacific Postsecondary Education Council in June of 2015 in order to connect these community colleges and universities to federal resources such as grant programs and technical assistance.

The **Occupational Safety and Health Administration** has met with the Philippine Consulate in Guam and provided an overview to the Consulate of OSHA's Susan Harwood Grant (SHG) program and grant application due dates. The intent was for the Consulate to pass on word about the SHG to interested nonprofit organizations so that they can apply for the training grants. Furthermore in the fiscal year 2015, OSHA has funded local safety and health consultation programs through USDOL OSHA 21(d) Consultation Cooperative Agreement Grants. Within this time frame, OSHA provided 21(d) Consultation Cooperative Agreement Grants to CNMI (\$195,000), Guam (\$277,800), and the State of Hawaii (\$465,000). Hawaii also received the USDOL 23(g) OSHA State Plan Grant, in the amount of \$1,464,000. The expectation of these grants was to increase awareness of OSHA workplace safety and health policies and regulations as well as worker and employer rights and responsibilities in the CNMI, Guam and the State of Hawaii.

Developing Capacity Building and Technical Assistance Resources for the Pacific Region

On January 19, 2015, the **White House Initiative on AAPIs**, which is housed in the U.S. Department of Education, hosted a grant writing training in Mangilao, Guam, for Pacific Islander community leaders. All resources and information shared during the training were uploaded and made publicly available on a new "[Resources for the Pacific Islands](#)" webpage. This easy-to-navigate portal displays grant writing training manuals, tools, and information on federal grants and loan programs available to Hawaii and the Pacific Islands. The portal also links to key federal offices and training opportunities for Pacific Islanders.

The **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development** initiated three technical assistance projects at the request of the Department of Hawaiian Home lands, which will be completed in 2016. This technical assistance was provided to identify ways the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands could increase their efficiency and effectiveness in providing housing to Native Hawaiians in Hawaii.

The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** has focused on developing training and support for health professionals in the Pacific Region. In 2014, the HHS Region IX office compiled a catalog of best practices which address non-communicable diseases, entitled *Catalogue of Promising Practices which Address Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the U.S. -affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI)*. The catalog contains over 300 promising culturally appropriate and sensitive practices and models addressing the major risk factors declared by the Pacific Island Health Officers Association as contributing factors to NCDs in the USAPI: (1) physical inactivity; (2) binge drinking; (3) tobacco use; and (4) unhealthy eating. These promising practices and models are potentially replicable in other USAPI communities and can serve as a resource to consider when planning new and innovative NCD interventions. The catalog has been disseminated at a number of events in 2014 and 2015, such as the White House Summit on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; the Region IX Prevention Strategy Summit on Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Women and Their Families: Healthy Eating, Active Living and Tobacco Free; and the CDC Chronic Disease new grantee meeting.

The **U.S. Department of Education, [Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education](#)** (OCTAE) is establishing communities of practice for colleges that serve large populations of underserved students. Outreach to colleges in the outlying areas is planned in order to recruit colleges to participate in these capacity building groups. In November of 2015, the colleges in the outlying areas were invited to the minority serving institution convening at OCTAE along with the current chair of the Pacific Post-Secondary Education Council.

The **U.S. Department of the Interior** funded 22 mid-level professionals from the Pacific Insular Areas to participate in the Executive Leadership Development Program (ELDP), designed to assist the insular governments with developing and retaining qualified and skilled staff that will become the future leaders of their respective governments. The Department of the Interior also provides opportunities for professional capacity building for AAPI professionals who work as finance officers, public auditors or tax administrators.

The **U.S. Small Business Administration** provided specialized training and technical assistance to Native Hawaiian-owned businesses through eight workshops and two small business roundtables conducted during 2015. The workshops were presented to new and established Native Hawaiian-owned businesses that are positioned to grow and expand and to trainers who are qualified to teach business development to Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHO). The curriculum included operational and leadership strategies and highlighted real world experiences to build capacity, foster growth, and expansion. The training also helped ensure the sustainability of Native Hawaiian-owned businesses. Over 200 attendees attended workshops in Oahu, Maui, Kauai, Molokai, Lanai and Hawaii.

Promoting Data Disaggregation and Generation to Include Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders

The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** established new data collection standards in 2011 in accordance with Section 4302 of the Affordable Care Act. The new standards distinguished Native Hawaiian from Other Pacific Islander category and added *Guamanian or Chamorro* and *Samoan* categories to population-based health surveys conducted by the Department. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Office of Minority Health launched the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) [National Health Interview Survey](#) in 2013 to collect health information on NHPs throughout the country. For the first time, nationally representative data on the health status of the NHPI community are expected to become available in 2016.

The **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development** reviewed and identified several areas for further disaggregation of AAPI data, including the [American Housing Survey](#), which is conducted biennially and will now include the collection of Asian subgroup data in 2015; Subsidized Households Form 50059, which will now mirror the recent expansion of data collection efforts at the Department of Health and Human Services; and the Annual Homelessness Assessment Report, which will now break out “Asian” and “Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander” populations.

The territorial economic accounts project is a joint effort between the **Department of the Interior’s** Office of Insular Affairs and the **Department of Commerce’s** [Bureau of Economic Analysis](#) (BEA) that was created to improve the quality and quantity of economic data for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The statistics included in these accounts help businesses and governments make informed economic and financial planning decisions. Official gross domestic product estimates for the four territories were released for the first time on May 5, 2010, and have been released annually since that time. Since the initial release, BEA and DOI have worked with the territorial governments to accelerate and expand the statistics available. [New statistics for 2014](#), along with revised statistics for 2002-2013, were released in late 2015.

Future and Ongoing Goals

Although the Pacific Island Task Force concluded its collective efforts in September 2015, the need for federal attention to support Pacific Islander communities is ongoing. In their 2016-2017 Agency Plans to the Initiative, members of the Pacific Island Task Force will continue to prioritize their efforts to improve the quality of life for Pacific Islander communities.

This section lists the goals that federal agencies plan to achieve on behalf of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities through Fiscal Year 2017.

Support Economically Self-Sustaining Pacific Islander Communities

The **U.S. Department of Commerce** plans to initiate a comprehensive economic development approach whereby U.S. minority businesses explore contract opportunities with existing and pending economic development projects in Guam and the Pacific Islands, and U.S. minority business leaders engage the boards of non-governmental organizations to provide peer mentorship for community and economic development. In addition, the Department is interested in exploring a collaborative community engagement model to support local non-profit projects, such as workforce development, utilization of local workforce, and small business utilization.

The **U.S. Department of Labor** aims to increase awareness of OSHA workplace safety and health policies and regulations, as well as worker and employer rights and responsibilities in American Samoa, CNMI, Guam and the State of Hawaii.

Increase Access to and Awareness of Federal Programs and Resources

The **U.S. Department of Interior** hopes to improve awareness of and access to federal grants and programs. The Office of Insular Affairs continues to work with the insular area governments and other

federal agencies to improve dissemination of information and access to federal programs to improve the quality of life in the Pacific region.

The **U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs** plans to develop educational strategies to increase access to information on VA grants, including grants for research and development, cemetery grants, homeless Veterans, Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant and the Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) grant, for Pacific Islander Veterans.

The **U.S. Department of Labor** plans to fund local safety and health consultation programs through USDOL-OSHA 21(d) Consultation Cooperative Agreement Grants. The purpose of the consultation programs is to provide free on-site safety and health inspection audits and free employer and employee training. Furthermore, the Department aspires to provide funds to the State of Hawaii OSHA enforcement program through a USDOL 23(g) OSHA State Plan Grant, allowing Hawaii to run an effective OSHA safety and health enforcement program, develop safety and health standards, and provide outreach to increase awareness of OSHA workplace safety and health policies and regulations as well as worker and employer rights and responsibilities.

The **U.S. Department of Treasury** is piloting a web-based knowledge sharing tool which will allow SSBCI State Managers and practitioners to share information and best practices. The tool was developed in response to SSBCI community members, who noted that connections to other state program managers were the single most important knowledge sharing benefit. This online tool was designed to create a collaborative mechanism to communicate, connect the SSBCI community and conduct community activities.

By April 2016, the **U.S. Department of Education**, OCTAE, will collect Government Performance Results Act performance measures data from the Native Hawaiian Career and Technical Education Program (NHCTEP) grantees to be entered into the Department of Education's (ED) Visual Performance Suite database. ED will use the data to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the NHCTEP projects and inform OCTAE of the results. The data is also used for reporting to Congress, OMB, and ED Senior Management and for program assessment.

In addition, OCTAE will conduct a webinar by April 2016 to train NHCTEP grantees on the new Discretionary Grants Reporting System Web Portal in the Perkins Information Management System. OCTAE will complete the evaluation of annual performance reports for the NHCTEP projects by August 2016. OCTAE will also award continuation grants to the NHCTEP projects for a fourth year of funding by September 2016.

Improve the Quality of Life for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Communities

The **U.S. Department of Education** is developing solutions to improve Pacific Islander college completion rates. Pacific Islanders are the only demographic group in which younger people are less educated than their elders. The Department also hopes to ensure that colleges/universities in the region are aware of AANAPISI-eligible grant opportunities across the federal government. Lastly, the Department will continue to review the rate of return of disabilities service funds and improve coordination with government agencies and educational non-profits on implementation of services.

The **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development** will continue to assist the Native Hawaiian community in meeting their housing needs. This will be a continuation of the three technical assistance

projects launched by the Department at the request of the Department of Hawaiian Home lands. The following technical assistance projects are being provided to identify ways the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands can increase their efficiency and effectiveness in providing housing to Native Hawaiians in Hawaii: Department of Hawaiian Home Land's internal capacity, feasibility review of rental projects/demonstrations, and best practices for developing and managing rental housing.

The **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs** plans to identify and conduct outreach to Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Veterans in rural areas throughout the U.S. and the Pacific jurisdictions to increase awareness and access to health services for these Veterans. Furthermore, the Department aims to increase health services for Pacific Islander Veterans through improvements in rural program areas (health clinics, CBOCs, transportation initiatives, etc.), augmenting the collaboration with U.S. Naval Hospital Guam to provide timely access to local care in the Pacific Island territories.

Develop Specialized Community Engagement Efforts

The **U.S. Department of Interior (DOI)** hopes to strengthen the relationship and improve communication and coordination with the Native Hawaiian community. DOI will assist Native Hawaiian community groups and organizations through outreach to community members about a rule to reestablish a government-to-government relationship with the United States. DOI will coordinate with groups to educate the public on rulemaking and notice and comment logistics. Moreover, the Department plans to promote awareness of Native Hawaiian culture, people, and history through public education.

Throughout the year, the Department will continue to provide targeted outreach to the Native Hawaiian community when the federal government engages in actions that specifically affect Native Hawaiian rights, resources, or lands. For example, the Department will consider AAPI historical sites for appropriate National Park Service (NPS) designation. In 2015, the National Park Service consulted with a panel of AAPI scholars on research and scholarship required for an AAPI theme study, and worked with the scholars and NPS practitioners to research and write a popular publication intended to raise awareness of AAPI heritage throughout the general public.

Conclusion

The Pacific Island Task Force was a strong effort to deepen engagement by federal agencies in the Pacific region. By building off the great momentum and dialogue established during the Guam Community Tour and Regional Summit, the Pacific Island Task Force members were encouraged to develop actionable and achievable activities that focused on addressing key needs identified by Pacific Islander leaders. Furthermore, by embedding future and ongoing efforts within the 2016-2017 Agency Plans for engaging with Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities, federal agencies are making a commitment to remain invested in the Pacific region. It is the Initiative's hope that Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities will take advantage of and benefit from the increased transparency these plans offer and opportunities for greater access to federal agencies, programs, and resources.



Participants gather for the final convening at the Guam Regional Summit.

Contact us

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Appendix: Agency Accomplishments and Future Goals Organized by Issue Area

Stakeholder Issues ¹	2014-2015 Agency Accomplishments	2016-2017 Agency Plans
Pacific Islander Quality of Life Priorities		
Behavioral Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug/Alcohol Tx (Residential) • Training/Recruitment of Therapists & Crisis Workers 	See Veterans section.	
Environment & Climate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention & Protection 	<p>The Hawaii/Pacific Press Officer-Congressional Liaison, under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has regularly outreached to media channels based in Hawaii, Guam, CNMI, and American Samoa, and done interviews to provide information on environmental issues. Active and regular engagement took place with the Congressional Delegations for both Hawaii and the Pacific Territories. In addition, work was done with local, state, and county elected officials, and other state and county agencies on EPA activities and issues. By June 2014, the agency completed an EPA policy on environmental justice for federally recognized tribes and indigenous peoples (which includes the Native Hawaiian community).</p> <p>In 2015, EPA selected American Samoa as one of 50 communities in the U.S. to include in its “Making a Visible Difference” initiative. As a result, EPA is focusing additional resources and attention in American Samoa in the areas of groundwater, renewable energy, and rehabilitating</p>	<p>The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will continue to work with local communities to improve water quality in Hawaii and the US Pacific territories. Between 2003 and 2015, the proportion of people in US Pacific island territories receiving safe water increased from 39% to 98%. Health-based violations, common a decade ago, have become a rarity. EPA will continue to use grants, enforcement, and technical assistance, as it has previously done to achieve these improvements, as well as partnership with other federal agencies, local utilities, and the Governors’ offices in order to prioritize additional improvements in water quality.</p>

¹ Stakeholder topic areas summarized from the 2014 and 2015 Micronesia Non Profit Congress Reports, available at www.payu-ta.org/reports.php. Not all topics listed were addressed by PITF activities.

	<p>contaminated land for reuse. For example, EPA, with \$25,000 in support, helped initiate a Sustainable Groundwater Plan in conjunction with American Samoa EPA and the University of Hawaii. EPA also contributed \$42,000 to the American Samoa Power Authority to support a microgrid solar photovoltaic storage system on Ofu in order to reduce emissions from diesel generators. In addition, EPA is spending \$60,000 on a targeted Brownfields assessment on the site of the former Rainmaker Hotel to help the American Samoa government redevelop this desirable property.</p> <p>In 2015, EPA also provided almost \$7.5 million to support the American Samoa EPA, CNMI BECQ, and Guam EPA. U.S. EPA has worked to strengthen the financial and technical capabilities of these agencies who protect the environment and health of their communities by monitoring the safety of drinking water and beaches, overseeing solid waste, reducing land-based impacts to coral reefs, preventing fuel spills, and reducing the risk from air pollution, pesticides, contaminated soil and unexploded ordnance. EPA uses the Omnibus Territories Act to improve grant efficiency at federal and local levels, and to waive matching requirements.</p> <p>Additionally, in FY15, EPA provided nearly \$25 million in water infrastructure funding to the jurisdictions of American Samoa, CNMI, and Guam. Since 2009, EPA has provided more than \$175 million dollars in water and sewer construction funding to these islands, more than in 1972-2008 combined. These funds are being used in all U.S. Pacific territories to improve the availability of safe drinking water, and to extend sewer lines and upgrade sewage treatment plants.</p>	
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<p>Compact migrant support</p>	<p>The U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) granted \$250,000 each to Guam and Hawaii, to create Micronesian One Stop Centers. The Technical Assistance funding was awarded to two NGOs, both collaborating with federal, state, and territorial officials on the ground, to establish wrap-around one-stop social services for Compact migrants from the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.</p>	
<p>Economic Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small business support • Non-profit support 	<p>On September 27, 2010, President Obama signed into law the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (the "Act") under the U.S. Department of Treasury. The Act created the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI), which was funded with \$1.5 billion to strengthen state programs that support lending to small businesses and small manufacturers. Through 2014, states had expended \$990 million, which leveraged over \$6.4 billion of increased capital to local businesses, more than 7.4:1 leverage. The funding is a direct transfer, so states can continue using recycled funds as they receive repayment and returns on loans and investments. The SSBCI has invested in several projects by Pacific Western Insular Islands as an effort to foster job creation. For example, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), the Commonwealth Development Authority invested nearly \$624,768 from SSBCI and other public funds in five transactions, leveraging \$1,130,000 in total financing, providing a leverage ratio of \$1.8 in private financing for each SSBCI dollar. These investments helped to create 15 new jobs and 41 retained jobs. Similarly in Guam, the Guam Economic Development Authority invested nearly \$5 million from SSBCI and other public funds in 30 transactions, leveraging \$5.5 million in total financing, providing a leverage ratio of \$1.10 in private financing for each SSBCI</p>	<p>The U.S. Department of Commerce plans to initiate a comprehensive economic development approach whereby U.S. minority businesses explore contract opportunities with existing and pending economic development projects in Guam and the Pacific Islands, and U.S. minority business leaders engage the boards of non-governmental organizations to provide peer mentorship for community and economic development. In addition, the Department is interested in exploring a collaborative community engagement model to support local non-profit projects, such as workforce development, utilization of local workforce, and small business utilization.</p> <p>The U.S. Department of Treasury is piloting a web-based knowledge sharing tool which will allow SSBCI State Managers and practitioners to share information and best practices. The tool was developed in response to SSBCI community members, who noted that connections to other state program managers were the single most important knowledge sharing benefit. This online tool was designed to create a collaborative</p>

	<p>dollar. These investments helped to create 293.5 new jobs and 170 retained jobs. Lastly, the state of Hawaii directed all of its \$13.2 million SSBCI allocation to create the Hawaii Venture Capital Investment Program managed by a state-supported organization, the Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation.</p> <p>The U.S. Small Business Administration provided specialized training and technical assistance to Native Hawaiian-owned businesses through eight workshops and two small business roundtables conducted during 2015. The workshops were presented to new and established Native Hawaiian-owned businesses that are positioned to grow and expand and to trainers who are qualified to teach business development to Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHO). The curriculum included operational and leadership strategies and highlighted real world experiences to build capacity and foster growth and expansion. The training also helped ensure the sustainability of Native Hawaiian-owned businesses. Over 200 attendees attended workshops in Oahu, Maui, Kauai, Molokai, Lanai and Hawaii.</p>	<p>mechanism to communicate, connect the SSBCI community and conduct community activities.</p>
<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HS and College Completion • Adult Return to School Barriers • AANAPISI eligibility to MSI funding opportunities • Scholarships • Internships 	<p>The U.S. Department of Education has launched several initiatives with the U.S. Department of Labor to make the open educational resources developed with the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCT) funds available to any college that wants to use them. This new repository of free TAACCT materials includes learning materials (e.g., course outlines, case studies, course assignments, hybrid courses, etc.) for programs in a variety of sectors (e.g., Aviation, Information Technology, Health Care, Advanced Manufacturing, etc.). This resource was introduced to the Pacific Postsecondary Education Council, comprised of colleges and universities from the U.S. Territories and outlying areas in the Pacific</p>	<p>The U.S. Department of Education is developing solutions to improve Pacific Islander college completion rates. Pacific Islanders are the only demographic group in which younger people are less educated than their elders. The Department also hopes to ensure that colleges/universities in the region are aware of AANAPISI-eligible grant opportunities across the federal government. Lastly, the Department will continue to review the rate of return of disabilities service funds and improve coordination with government agencies and educational non-profits on implementation of services.</p>

	<p>Region, in June of 2015.</p> <p>The U.S. Department of Education is committed to ensuring that educational institutions in the Pacific region are aware of Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISI)-eligible grant opportunities. The Department convened the Pacific Postsecondary Education Council in June of 2015 in order to connect these community colleges and universities to federal resources such as grant programs and technical assistance.</p> <p>The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Career and Technical Education/Community (OCTAE) Colleges is establishing communities of practice for colleges that serve large populations of underserved students. Outreach to colleges in the outlying areas is planned in order to recruit colleges to participate in these capacity building groups. In November of 2015, the colleges in the outlying areas were invited to the minority serving institution convening at OCTAE along with the current chair of the Pacific Post-Secondary Education Council.</p>	<p>By April 2016, the U.S. Department of Education, OCTAE, will collect Government Performance Results Act performance measures data from the Native Hawaiian Career and Technical Education Program (NHCTEP) grantees to be entered into the Department of Education’s (ED) Visual Performance Suite database. ED will use the data to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the NHCTEP projects and inform OCTAE of the results. The data is also used for reporting to Congress, OMB, and ED Senior Management and for program assessment.</p> <p>In addition, OCTAE will conduct a webinar by April 2016 to train NHCTEP grantees on the new Discretionary Grants Reporting System Web Portal in the Perkins Information Management System. OCTAE will complete the evaluation of annual performance reports for the NHCTEP projects by August 2016. OCTAE will also award continuation grants to the NHCTEP projects for a fourth year of funding by September 2016.</p>
<p>Healthcare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disease prevention/Management • Access & Funding of Benefits (Compact) 	<p>The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded six health center grantees, located in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Island jurisdictions of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, over \$1.45 million in expanded service funding to expand primary care medical services, including oral and behavioral health, and pharmacy and vision services. In May 2015, HRSA awarded a New Access Point grant in the amount of \$692,067 to the Department of Health Services in</p>	

Kosrae, Federated State of Micronesia, to increase access to care for approximately 1,800 new patients. The Administration for Children and Families' Administration for Native Americans awarded five new grants in fiscal year (FY) 2015 to the Pacific Islander-serving organizations totaling \$1.46 million and 18 continuing grants totaling \$5.46 million for an overall total of \$6.92 million. In addition, to improve and increase the capacity of community organizations to apply for and manage federal grants, the Pacific Region Training and Technical Assistance Center – a resource center funded by the Administration for Children and Families' Administration for Native Americans – conducted the following trainings: (1) six project planning and development trainings with 123 registrants; (2) four pre-application development trainings with 125 participants from 97 organizations; and (3) eighteen electronic pre-application workshop sessions for unfunded applicants.

The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** has focused on developing training and support for health professionals in the Pacific Region. In 2014, the HHS Region IX office compiled a catalog of best practices which address non-communicable diseases, entitled *Catalogue of Promising Practices which Address Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI)*. The catalog contains over 300 promising culturally appropriate and sensitive practices and models addressing the major risk factors declared by the Pacific Island Health Officers Association as contributing factors to NCDs in the USAPI: (1) physical inactivity; (2) binge drinking; (3) tobacco use; and (4) unhealthy eating. These promising practices and models are potentially replicable in other USAPI communities and can serve as a resource to consider when planning new and innovative NCD interventions. The catalog

	<p>has been disseminated at a number of events in 2014 and 2015, such as the White House Summit on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; the Region IX Prevention Strategy Summit on Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Women and Their Families: Healthy Eating, Active Living and Tobacco Free; and the CDC Chronic Disease new grantee meeting.</p>	
<p>Veterans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical and Behavioral Health • Homelessness/Housing • Jobs 	<p>The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Rural Health (ORH), funded four projects using telehealth and home monitoring technologies to provide mental health, geriatric, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other services to approximately 1,800 veterans in the Pacific Islands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4.3 million to the VA Pacific Islands Health Care System VA Pacific Islands Health Care System (VAPIHCS) to support health-related travel for veterans between the Hawaiian Islands and the Pacific Western Insular Islands to Oahu. <p>On July 20, 2015, the VA launched its Pacific Islands Health Care System’s Rural Health Extension Care program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding behavioral health and medical services for Guam and American Samoa veterans beyond the VA’s community-based outpatient clinics, accessing services at Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in both locations, • Expanding the Agana Heights, Guam outpatient clinic, • Expanding the available provider mix to meet all non-VA care needs through a collaboration with TriWest in all VAPIHCS Sub-Markets. <p>Finally, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Rural Health, supported two rural caregiver projects that are culturally sensitive to Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Veterans. Focused on the needs of Veterans</p>	<p>The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs plans to identify and conduct outreach to Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Veterans in rural areas throughout the U.S. and the Pacific jurisdictions to increase awareness and access to health services for these Veterans. Furthermore, the Department aims to increase health services for Pacific Islander Veterans through improvements in rural program areas (health clinics, CBOCs, transportation initiatives, etc.), augmenting the collaboration with U.S Naval Hospital Guam to provide timely access to local care in the Pacific Island territories.</p>

	and their support persons living in rural parts of American Samoa and the Pacific Insular regions (i.e. Outer Hawaiian Islands and Guam), the projects seek to provide culturally appropriate mental health support either on site or remotely.	
Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Native Hawaiian Housing 	<p>The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has improved its understanding of Pacific Islander community-specific issues and engaged in conversations to explore how it can better offer and apply assistance to the Pacific Islander community. Deputy Secretary Coloretti met with the National Coalition of Asian Pacific American Community Development’s fellows to discuss issues impacting the AAPI community across the country, including issues currently faced by the Native Hawaiian and Marshallese communities.</p> <p>Native Hawaiian Housing: HUD Secretary Julián Castro and Deputy Secretary Nani Coloretti, as well as other senior HUD officials, held several engagements with federal, state, and local elected officials from Hawaii on Native Hawaiian housing issues and ways HUD can help ensure that resources and technical assistance are provided. HUD initiated three technical assistance projects at the request of the Department of Hawaiian Home lands, which will be completed in 2016. This technical assistance was provided to identify ways the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands could increase their efficiency and effectiveness in providing housing to Native Hawaiians in Hawaii.</p>	<p>The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will continue to assist the Native Hawaiian community in meeting their housing needs. This will be a continuation of the three technical assistance projects launched by the Department at the request of the Department of Hawaiian Home lands. The following technical assistance projects are being provided to identify ways the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands can increase their efficiency and effectiveness in providing housing to Native Hawaiians in Hawaii: Department of Hawaiian Home Land’s internal capacity, feasibility review of rental projects/demonstrations, and best practices for developing and managing rental housing.</p>
Workforce and Workplace Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workplace Safety Veteran/Disability 	<p>The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), under the U.S. Department of Labor, has presented to a myriad of employers/employees with large Pacific Islander populations. OSHA also participated in multiple workshops,</p>	<p>The U.S. Department of Labor aims to increase awareness of OSHA workplace safety and health policies and regulations, as well as worker and employer rights and responsibilities in American</p>

<p>Friendly employers</p>	<p>such as the one in Saipan hosted by the CNMI Department of Labor and CNMI Chamber of Commerce. The presentations were targeted for both employee and employer groups and covered the new OSHA recordkeeping requirements, OSHA jurisdiction, health and safety plans, employer/employee rights and responsibilities, and a demonstration of how to find information on the OSHA Web site. Information and brochures on OSHA’s new injury and illness reporting requirements were also provided.</p> <p>OSHA also met with the Philippine Consulate in Guam and provided an overview to the Consulate of OSHA’s Susan Harwood Grant (SHG) program and grant application due dates. The intent was for the Consulate to pass on word about the SHG to interested nonprofit organizations so that they can apply for the training grants.</p> <p>Furthermore in the fiscal year 2015, OSHA has funded local safety and health consultation programs through USDOL OSHA 21(d) Consultation Cooperative Agreement Grants. The expectation of these grants was to increase awareness of OSHA workplace safety and health policies and regulations as well as worker and employer rights and responsibilities. Grants were awarded in CNMI (\$195,000), Guam (\$277,800), and the State of Hawaii (\$465,000). Hawaii also received the USDOL 23(g) OSHA State Plan Grant, in the amount of \$1,464,000.</p>	<p>Samoa, CNMI, Guam and the State of Hawaii.</p> <p>The U.S. Department of Labor plans to fund local safety and health consultation programs through USDOL-OSHA 21(d) Consultation Cooperative Agreement Grants. The purpose of the consultation programs is to provide free on-site safety and health inspection audits and free employer and employee training. Furthermore, the Department aspires to provide funds to the State of Hawaii OSHA enforcement program through a USDOL 23(g) OSHA State Plan Grant, allowing Hawaii to run an effective OSHA safety and health enforcement program, develop safety and health standards, and provide outreach to increase awareness of OSHA workplace safety and health policies and regulations as well as worker and employer rights and responsibilities.</p>
<p>Pacific Island Non-Profit Capacity Building</p>		
<p>Data Disaggregation</p>	<p>The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services established new data collection standards in 2011 in accordance with Section 4302 of the Affordable Care Act. The new standards distinguished Native Hawaiian from Other Pacific Islander category and added <i>Guamanian or Chamorro</i> and <i>Samoan</i> categories to population-based</p>	<p>The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will be releasing the results of the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander National Health Interview Survey in 2016.</p>

health surveys conducted by the Department. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Office of Minority Health launched the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) [National Health Interview Survey in 2013](#) to collect health information on NHPs throughout the country. For the first time, nationally representative data on the health status of the NHPI community are expected to become available in 2016.

The **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development** reviewed and identified several areas for further disaggregation of AAPI data, including the [American Housing Survey](#), which is conducted biennially and will now include the collection of Asian subgroup data in 2015; Subsidized Households Form 50059, which will now mirror the recent expansion of data collection efforts at the Department of Health and Human Services; and the Annual Homelessness Assessment Report, which will now break out “Asian” and “Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander” populations.

The territorial economic accounts project is a joint effort between the **Department of the Interior’s** Office of Insular Affairs and the **Department of Commerce’s** [Bureau of Economic Analysis](#) (BEA) that was created to improve the quality and quantity of economic data for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The statistics included in these accounts help businesses and governments make informed economic and financial planning decisions. Official gross domestic product estimates for the four territories were released for the first time on May 5, 2010, and have been released annually since that time. Since the initial release, BEA and DOI have worked with the territorial governments to accelerate and expand

	the statistics available. New statistics for 2014 , along with revised statistics for 2002-2013, were released in late 2015.	
Federal Resource Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs/Grants/Funding • Direct partnership with non-profits 	<p>Led by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Outer Pacific Committee of the Region IX Federal Regional Council issued the FY 2014 Grants to the Outer Pacific report in February 2015. This annual report provided comprehensive information on the funded federal programs in the Pacific jurisdictions. The report continued to serve as a valuable resource to inform the Pacific community on the federal government’s investments.</p>	<p>The U.S. Department of Interior hopes to improve awareness of and access to federal grants and programs. The Office of Insular Affairs continues to work with the insular area governments and other federal agencies to improve dissemination of information and access to federal programs to improve the quality of life in the Pacific region.</p> <p>The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs plans to develop educational strategies to increase access to information on VA grants, including grants for research and development, cemetery grants, homeless Veterans, Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant and the Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) grant, for Pacific Islander Veterans.</p>
Regional Governance/Leadership Capacity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Pacific Ideology • Regional Council • Policy Forums • Regional Visit • Native Hawaiian Self-Governance 	<p>The White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and the Office of Insular Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior launched the Pacific Island Task Force (PITF) after the 2014 Guam Community Tour and Regional Summit. PITF members met quarterly for one year from September 2014 – September 2015.</p> <p>The Initiative returned to attend the 2015 Congress in Guam.</p> <p>The U.S. Department of the Interior funded 22 mid-level professionals from the Pacific Insular Areas to participate in the Executive Leadership Development Program (ELDP), designed to assist the insular governments with developing and retaining qualified and skilled staff that will become the future leaders of their respective governments. The Department of the Interior also provides opportunities for</p>	<p>The U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) hopes to strengthen the relationship and improve communication and coordination with the Native Hawaiian community. DOI will assist Native Hawaiian community groups and organizations through outreach to community members about a rule to reestablish a government-to-government relationship with the United States. The DOI will coordinate with groups to educate the public on rulemaking and notice and comment logistics. Moreover, the Department plans to promote awareness of Native Hawaiian culture, people, and history through public education.</p> <p>The U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) will continue to provide targeted outreach to the</p>

	<p>professional capacity building for AAPI professionals who work as finance officers, public auditors or tax administrators.</p>	<p>Native Hawaiian community when the federal government engages in actions that specifically affect Native Hawaiian rights, resources, or lands. For example, the Department will consider AAPI historical sites for appropriate National Park Service (NPS) designation. In 2015, the National Park Service consulted with a panel of AAPI scholars on research and scholarship required for an AAPI theme study, and worked with the scholars and NPS practitioners to research and write a popular publication intended to raise awareness of AAPI heritage throughout the general public.</p>
<p>Training/Technical Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant Success (application, acquisition, performance, termination - “O eligible”) • PI Grant Reviewers 	<p>On January 19, 2015, the White House Initiative on AAPIs, which is housed in the U.S. Department of Education, hosted a grant writing training in Mangilao, Guam, for Pacific Islander community leaders. All resources and information shared during the training were uploaded and made publicly available on a new “Resources for the Pacific Islands” webpage. This easy-to-navigate portal displays grant writing training manuals, tools and information on federal grants and loan programs available to Hawaii and the Pacific Islands. The portal also links to key federal offices and training opportunities for Pacific Islanders.</p>	