Welcome to the 2nd Pacific Islands Preparedness and Emergency Response (PIPER) Summit!

We are excited about hosting the 2nd Biennial PIPER Summit here in the Republic of Palau. The Summit theme of RESOLVE TO BE READY, follows this year’s Ready Campaign by FEMA challenging everyone to be prepared in 2014. The three week schedule of events focuses on how we manage and integrate resources to address disaster preparedness and response. It is also an event to gather regional and federal preparedness partners from the US mainland and the Pacific Region to come together and reaffirm strategies, relationships and commitments for a more "prepared" Pacific.

We welcome you to our island home and we hope you enjoy the summit.

Background Information

The Pacific Islands are comprised of the Polynesian, Melanesian, and Micronesian people. These island countries are unique in culture, isolated by history, language and miles, but are connected by sea.

The people of the Pacific Islands have survived natural disasters over centuries. Preparedness skills and knowledge over time have evolved and integrated into traditional practices. Given any Pacific island, there are traditional hierarchical command structures that have been in place to direct roles and responsibilities including resources in times of disasters. Preparedness in the traditional context are expressed and practiced in various forms. For instance, when preparing food, Palauans know what are for everyday consumptions and what to set aside for disasters or hard times.

Today, these islands are in transitional phases facing new issues in urbanization, economical, and environmental development that affect our health. These transitions are changing the islands way of life, which may pose additional issues and challenges to the Pacific Island peoples.

Certain Pacific Islands, specifically Hawaii, American Samoa, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Guam, and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, are awardees of CDC’s Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement and ASPR’s Hospital Preparedness Cooperative Agreement. These islands have banded together to share experiences, best practices and strategies in addressing public health and healthcare capabilities that impact the health and wellbeing of our people.

This summit is the second of its kind, the first was held in Saipan, CNMI, in the fall of 2012. This year the Summit is our privilege to host. Our aim is to confirm commitments, revisit strategies, and build partnerships to advance our efforts on preparedness, response, and recovery from emergency, disaster, and/or terrorist events.

Key areas of focus

The summit will span three weeks with a different focus for each week. The first week will address specifically the Strategic National Stockpile program, including elements of security requirements and measures, warehousing, distribution and dispensing. The second week of the summit will focus on Federal Grants Management training; Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness issues and capabilities; Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication Training; and an ELC meeting. The third week will focus on epidemiology; an Epi-Tech workshop will be presented in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Health Officers Association (PIHOA).

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