

**President's Fiscal Year 2011 budget requests for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the United States Office of Insular Affairs, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service**

Testimony presented to the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, U.S. House of Representatives

by

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Governor of Guahan

Madam Chairwoman and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to participate in his hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2011 budget requests for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the United States Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

I support more funding to Guahan and further consultation of the spend plan of the coral reef conservation, however funds to the U.S. Department of the Interior for coral reef conservation needs to be identified. DOI has been a strong supporter of many of the local coral reef projects including the Micronesian Challenge.

The Micronesia Challenge is not merely about preserving our coral reefs and our land resources – it is about preserving the livelihoods of our families. To date, all of the islands that signed on have set aside protected marine and terrestrial areas. We have aggressively pursued funding to support conservation goals and are working to find the best ways to achieve “effective conservation” in our very different homelands. This quest to find a balance between human needs and the long-term health of our environment is usually seen as a problem of science and technology. The initiative has so far provided access to new funding sources, in-kind assistance, and the ability to bring new skills and resources to isolated communities with limited finances. I am confident this initiative will continue to offer great benefits to our people in the future as we seek to adapt to the challenges of climate change.

Also, I request that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or NOAA consult with Guahan's representative and other local jurisdiction's when NOAA is developing their spend plan for the Coral Reef Conservation Program as the reef resources are within the local jurisdiction.

Additionally, NOAA, the Fish and Wildlife Service and OIA identify funds in their budget to support the needs of the local agencies in the preparation and permitting process of the U.S. Department of Defense led Guam Military Buildup Program. Increase funding to DOI to support

needed technical assistance and capacity building is essential. It is line with my recent submission of comments to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement that ask that the length of the Guam Military Buildup Program be extended as it is not feasible to complete what is planned in the timeframe prescribed in the Guam International Agreement. I have requested the Secretary of the Navy to extend the period of construction to make sure we reduce the congestion and disruption the plan, as written, will likely create. There is no need to force so much so quickly that we create problems that need not exist. An extension of the relocation of the III Marine Expeditionary Force to Guahan from Okinawa beyond 2014 as outlined in the Guam International Agreement signed in February 2009 ensures plans and financing are in place to fund port, highway and worker and military housing needs and prevents building or hiring to over capacity to avoid the “Boom/Bust” affect. Additionally, an extension of the Marine move beyond 2014; reduces the number of off-island workers needed at a given time to address the military buildup requirements as set in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009; reduces the severity of the impact on current power, water, and waste water resources; and levels the competition for construction manpower and materials (aggregate, concrete, rebar, lumbar, etc.) that would compete for private and public sector capital improvement projects associated with regular organic growth of the island population.

Finally, Guahan is struggling with the lack of capacity in the local regulatory agencies. I recommend that NOAA, DOI and FWA provide technical assistance in the form of Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) directly to the local regulatory agencies. Funds for the IPA should not come out of the existing local agency grant. There is a crucial need as Guahan prepares for the next phase of the DOD build up.

For these reasons and many others, I ask you to continue to support our island and to pass this legislation quickly.

Thank you and Si Yu’os Ma ase.