

**Historic Preservation Fund Grants, Cultural Partnership Programs, Pacific West Region
National Park Service, Department of the Interior
2011 Senior Plenary Session of the Interagency Group on Insular Areas**

Key Points:

- FY 2010 – Award grants to three Pacific Area Territories totaling \$1,213,896.
- FY 2010 – Award grants to the Freely Associated States of Micronesia (Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia (including Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae) totaling \$881,838.

Background:

The Pacific Area Territories and the Freely Associated States (FAS) of Micronesia Historic Preservation Offices (HPO) are annually appropriated Historic Preservation Fund grants pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for protection and preservation of National Register eligible historic properties and National Historic Landmarks (NHL).

- Sections 106 and 110 of the NHPA, PL 89-665, amended 1992 (16 USC 470), specify processes to be followed in the management of historic properties by Federal agencies in order to take into account the effects of planned projects on historic properties.
- Federal Agencies grant millions of dollars annually to entities in the Micronesia region and American Samoa for construction of buildings, roads, sewers, water systems, and other infrastructure. Federal agencies and entities throughout Micronesia have responsibilities to take into account the effects of an undertaking on National Register eligible properties. If a National Historic Landmark is directly or adversely affected by an undertaking, Federal agencies or entities must to the maximum extent possible minimize harm (Sec 110(f)).

The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) provides grants to the Pacific Area Territories and Freely Associated States of Micronesia Historic Preservation Offices (HPO) for the identification, evaluation, and protection of historic properties by funding activities such as, planning, survey and inventory, registration, local and federal project review, acquisition, development, and public education. Additionally, the HPO's provide project grants to nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and private individuals in carrying out historic preservation activities to preserve their cultural heritage.

The HPF appropriation is derived from the proceeds of the sale of leases of Outer Continental Shelf lands.

Financial assistance provided to the Territories and the Freely Associated States does not require matching share.

Current Challenges:

(1) The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Historic Preservation Office (HPO) continues to face challenges in complying with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106, Public Law 89-665, amended 1992 (16 USC 470) requirements, and coping with austerity measures pursuant to CNMI Public Law 17-21.

- CNMI HPO archaeological field surveyors are non-critical employees and are operating on reduced hours.
- The CNMI HPO staff provides an essential role by reviewing and commenting on all development permits issued in the CNMI. As a result of the austerity measure, CNMI HPO may impede locally and federally funded construction projects because the CNMI HPO has not been exempted as a regulatory agency.

- The CNMI Division of Environmental Quality is the environmental arm of the CNMI Government and cannot legally issue construction permits (earthmoving permit) without HPO comment and approval pursuant to CR Vol. 15, No. 10, October 15, 1993 (CNMI Environmental Protection Act, Public Law 3-23, 2 CMC §§ 3101 to 3134, and 1 CMC §§ 2601 to 2605).
- This could cause a delay or disruption of U.S. Federal undertakings and local infrastructure projects, and the potential loss of local revenue generated from construction projects.

(2) The National Park Service HPF grant program oversight team instituted a Corrective Action Plan for the Guam Historic Preservation Office (HPO) for noncompliance in the areas of inventory, grant, and project management.

- The NPS is currently reviewing the proposed Corrective Action Plan. Review comments will be sent to Guam HPO by March 1, 2011.

(3) The United States Army Base at Kwajalein Atoll (USAKA) in the Republic of the Marshall Islands is evaluating the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the Compact of Free Association (COFA) to determine if the NHPA is applicable to the military installation.

- USAKA's historic preservation program could be governed by the U.S. NHPA or the Republic of the Marshall Islands Historic Preservation legislation.
- USAKA's cultural resources consist of Kwajalein and Roi Namur World War II U.S. National Historic Landmarks, numerous U.S. National Register eligible properties, and Marshall Islands Register eligible properties.

(4) Technical Assistance has been requested by the Governor of Peleliu, Republic of Palau for preservation and protection of the special heritage that both countries share with the Peleliu World War II U.S. National Historic Landmark (NHL).

- An NPS team is in the process of formulating the Peleliu WWII NHL Technical Assistance Plan to provide support and training in various areas identified by the Peleliu State Governor and the Peleliu Historical Commission.
- The Historic Preservation Fund grant recently funded archaeological and ethnographic surveys in Peleliu to further preservation efforts.
- A Special Resources Study is being sought by the Peleliu State Government to determine the best sustainable preservation option for the Peleliu WWII NHL.

(5) The Chuuk Historic Preservation Office (HPO) has not submitted accurate and complete annual performance reports for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) Grants from FY 05 to FY 09.

- The NPS met with the Chuuk HPO in July 2010 at the Annual Meeting and established a Correction Action Plan with Chuuk HPO and FSM National HPO.
- The Chuuk HPO was not able to account for grant, project, or activities. The NPS has withdrawn the FY 2010 HPF grant from Chuuk HPO and temporarily suspended Chuuk HPO until Chuuk HPO meets the HPF grant reporting requirements.
- The FY 2010 HPF grant funds will be reassigned to other FSM States (Yap, Pohnpei, and Kosrae will divide Chuuk's portion and utilize funds for projects).
- The NPS is affording Chuuk HPO approximately three months to submit grant reports in order to be eligible for the HPF FY 2011 apportionment.

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