

**Interagency Coordinated Assets for Insular Health Response (ICAIHR)
Task Force under the Interagency Group on Insular Areas (IGIA)**

ISSUE: What can we expect from ICAIHR?

KEY POINTS:

- ICAIHR - organized September 2008 through a Joint Agreement among DOI, HHS, DOD and VA, as a task force under the IGIA, to aid in improving health care for residents of and those eligible for military benefits in the United States-affiliated insular areas.
- To complete by June 2009: 1) an assessment of the health care systems in each insular area by updating the 1998 Institute of Medicine (IOM) health survey and 2) a critical needs plan, individually tailored to each insular area. However, the activities were postponed as additional background work within and among each of the four partner Federal agencies was deemed necessary
- A matrix of health care needs in the insular areas and matching Federal programs was developed. Matrix will serve as the basis for interdepartmental partnership to coordinate response to critical needs using existing resources. Additionally, various projects are ongoing to assist the insular areas to identify immediate needs, upgrade facilities and systems, unify formulas for direct purchase discounts and receive training.

BACKGROUND:

- Island health care systems face the following challenges:
 - critical shortages of qualified personnel, equipment and basic supplies,
 - limits due to aging infrastructure/facilities,
 - lack of access to technology for distance education and medical consultation
 - lack of focus on preventive care
 - outbreaks of diseases such as Tuberculosis, Hepatitis A and Cholera
- In September 2008, DOI convened a Leaders Health Summit for Federal principals, insular area leaders, and non-governmental organizations to discuss how to address the health care needs. See summit report on OIA's website at www.doi.gov/oia
- Long-term partnerships among Federal and island governments and non-governmental organizations are necessary to help ensure that the citizens of the U.S.-affiliated areas receive quality health care. ICAIHR was created to help facilitate these partnerships.

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