OFFICE OF THE PEOPLE
SENATOR RÉGINE BISCOE LEE

I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
35TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON RULES • COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY AND LABOR

MEMO

09 AUG 2019
35GL-19-0887
Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes

2019 AUG -9 AM 4:42

AUG 09 2019
Time 4:26 ( )AM (X)PM
Received By: Matt

To: The Honorable Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Speaker, 35th Guam Legislature

From: Senator Régine Biscoe Lee RBL

Re: Travel Reports for February 2019 and July 2019, pursuant to Public Law 34-116

Dear Speaker Muña Barnes:

Buenas yan Håfa Adai! In compliance with the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Act—Section 18 of Part II, Chapter XIII, Public Law 34-116, I am submitting my travel reports for February 2019 and July 2019. Please also find attached the agendas for each travel period.

Please be advised of the following information:

	Location	
	Washington, D.C.	**Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands**
Dates Traveled	February 8-19, 2019	July 22-27, 2019
Source of Funds	Legislature Operations Fund—Office of Sen. Régine Biscoe Lee	Legislature Operations Fund—Office of Sen. Régine Biscoe Lee
Purpose of Travel	Meetings with federal partners (USDOI, APAICS, USDOD, USVA, USDOC)	38th General Assembly, Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (as Board Director)
Cost of Travel	$3,233.30	$2,452.89

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office at 472-3455.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!*



0887

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Washington, D.C. 02/19

AGENDA

Sunday, February 10, 2019

1:00 pm Health Policy Lunch with Paulo Paulo Pontemayor, Associate Director, Joint Commission, and Adam Carbullido, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations @ American Son, 1201 K St., NW

- FMAP for the territories, efforts to attach to a funding bill
- Review MACPAC report

Monday, February 11, 2019

10:00 am Meeting with Assistant Secretary Domenech, Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Dept. of Interior, 1849 C St., NW, Rm 3136, Washington, DC – POC: Dwayne J. Peterson, Insular Policy Specialist/Desk Officer

- War claims bill
- Technical assistance grant update; request for consideration of regional health insurance study
- Request to update insular areas economic review
- Veterans affairs, upcoming trip by Secretary of the VA R. Wilke (April/May)

11:30 am Meeting with Madalene Mielke, APAICS, Farragut North, 1001 Connecticut Ave., NW #320

- APAICS programs: opportunities for post graduate fellows & college students
- Leadership initiative
- Women's Collective – highlight 35th Guam Legislature

Tuesday, February 12, 2019

8:00-9:00 am CQ Policy Briefing: Budget, Fiscal Note Headquarters, 1201 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Downstairs Conference Room in Lobby, Washington, DC 20004

9:15am Meeting with Allison Sands, DASD Infrastructure, OASD (Sustainment), Department of Defense

- H2B: PI removed from the list; DHS discussing Guam's unique situation (low overstays, remote location) - potential carve out exemption for Guam/CNMI - national security issue
- Inter-agency working group: potential long-term solution

10:30 am Meeting with His Excellency Gerald M. Zackios, Republic of the Marshall Islands Ambassador to the United States, 2433 Massachusetts Ave., NW

- Micronesian Island Forum - Summit on health
- Compact negotiations
- Climate change: resiliency & mitigation
- Title2, RMI Trust fund - renegotiations prior to 2023

2:00 pm Meeting with Stephen Dillard, Executive Director, Center for Minority Veterans, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue

- Minority Veterans Program coordinators - advisory committee
- Veterans business & economic development outreach
- Filipino veterans
- VSOs, CBOC - suicide prevention coordinator, additional staff, expansion & maintenance
- Compact negotiations

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

11:30am Meeting with Congressman Kilili Sablan & CNMI stakeholders

- Labor - H2B issues
- Regional health
- FMAP for the territories

2:00pm Meeting with Michelle Sylvester-Jose, Department of Commerce

- Trump's IndoPacific strategy
- No USTDA Officer in Guam
- Undersea cables - Guam HUB, expanding opportunities for US Tech, growing local workforce in IT & Telecom

Trip Report – Senator Régine Biscoe Lee

Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) General Assembly

APIL General Assembly 07/19

24 July 2019 / 8:30 AM / Nitijela - RMI Parliament

ATTENDEES

Guam (TMB, RBL, KMT), Hawai'i, Palau, RMI, Kiribati, Yap, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk, NMI

AGENDA

In Memoriam: the late APIL President Fernando Scaliem

- Resolution by Hawai'i, Guam, Yap, Kosrae, Palau

Opening Remarks & Country Reports

- CNMI [Sen Sablan]: Recovery from Yutu, link to climate change
- Chuuk [Sen Aisek]: Chuuk now connected to fiber optic cables, 15th legislature reorganized with new leadership, Pacific partnership - USN Brunswick humanitarian assistance following Typhoon, hosted Micronesian forum for executives. Coconut for life project.
    - Chuuk public utility company: solar panels on schools, renewable energy - currently only 7% access to power, plan to increase to 30% and get to 100% by 2037
- Kosrae [Speaker Palik]: Solar power funded by the World bank, 30% renewables
- Pohnpei [Vice Speaker Edwin]: Supreme court set on fire, some records destroyed
    - Solar energy updates - Pohnpei Utility Corp (autonomous) supported by the world bank, NZ, RUS, ADB & others; Internet services expanding; Asian Development Bank supported - hydroplant; by 2023 - 3MW solar farm; photovoltaic without battery storage
- Yap [Speaker Figir]: Renewable energy master plan includes wind, solar; battery storage to stabilize grid, install solar PV systems in outer islands; current renewables 22% in 2018 - goal 86% in 2037

- Guam [Speaker TMB]: Climate change - coral bleaching events, sustainability & renewable energy solutions being sought; SDGs, Women in Leadership
    - Environmental measures: Used oil, ban on plastic bags, C3PR, protection of marine resources,
    - APIL resolutions: SDGs, Self-determination, CLT
- Kiribati [Speaker Uaai, Hon Schutz]: 2036 vision - sustainability, decrease dependency on imported energy, oil; current fossil fuel based energy is unable to meet demand, solar PV projects to include battery bank; powering desalination plants
- Palau [Del. Ngemaes]: Legislature committed to environmental protection & renewable energy;
    - Paris Accord - 2.6% now, 45% goal, Palau energy authority, Palau public utility corp & leaders in close communication; Metering & housing programs (climate change/sea-level rise, displacement of residents) assisting in hitting target. $50M housing loan from MegaBank in Taiwan must be energy efficient; Plastic bag ban (Effective Nov 2019)
    - Domestic fishing zone: shifted from East to West to ensure food and economic security; able to better monitor IUU activity; 2020 Ocean conference
- Hawaii [Senator English]: SDGs, Popular uprisings - Thousands demonstrating in Hawai'i and across the world - requests statement of support for Native Hawaiians and rights of indigenous peoples; hosting FestPac in June 2020 in coordination with next APIL General Assembly
- RMI [Speaker Kedi]: Climate change, toxic contamination and radiation

Blue Prosperity Coalition [Ted Waitt, Founder of Waitt Institute]

- APIL member states can be a sustainable model for the rest of the world. Climate change forecasts on temperature & sea-level rise are not accurate, actual impact worse and coming sooner.
- Issues: Trash, waste, plastics - stop imports or tax them; Renewable energy - sustainable and affordable; Clean water; Fisheries & Oceans

- Improve environment and economy at the same time; requires political will. [RBL] Banning plastics - biggest challenge education of our community, what are your suggestions in terms of resources to develop local data to better inform our communities and outside entities that could potentially assist? Engaging communities - consistent data, various ideas/solutions also brought to the table.
- Marine spatial planning - ocean conservation through a comprehensive, wholistic plan - protects and creates jobs at the same time; Technical resources
- [Sen English] How do we better communicate this urgency to the US, Europe, developed world? Not optimistic about the developed world, encouraged to take matters into your own hands. Leverage the youth.
- [Pohnpei] How do we hold developed world accountable for their actions? More forums for Pacific leaders to express these concerns on a global stage, be vocal advocates and clearly communicate these issues at every opportunity. Applaud APIL political will.
- [Palau] Advice for sustaining culture in our conservation approach? Use forums like this, tuna cooperatives, share info on best-practices, resources, plans and hold each other accountable.

Energy efforts in the RMI [Angeline C. Heine-Reimers, RMI National Energy Office]

- National Energy Office est. Nov 2018 - supports climate change initiatives
    - Brings sectors together: Petroleum, Data, Finance to implement energy projects
- Access to energy: Only 4 major islands have power generation, Majority of communities with small solar home systems; in order to expand solar, grid needs to be stabilized/strengthened/hardened (energy security), training for staff to integrate renewable mix
- RMI Electricity roadmap: Hardware + Skilled labor + Financing (2050 target)
- Ambitious UNFCCC NDCs (Nationally determined contributions) - in response to a state of emergency 2009: price of fuel increased, 20% renewables by 2020, reduction of supply side loss by MEC by 20% by 2020; solar rooftop on Majuro hospital & water reservoir near the airport; installed wind monitoring towers

to determine capacity prior to investing in research (2 year data gathering), solar match program with ROC. EU assistance - off grid solar PV systems for schools & additional solar home systems in outer islands

- Joint partnerships: NGOs - 2000 smokeless stoves & water filters distributed; energy audit trainings building local capacity

Blue Nature Alliance [Angelo Villagomez, Senior Officer, Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy]

- Political will - APIL for Leaders in climate change, shark sanctuaries, marine protected areas, etc… FAQ & Fact sheet distributed
- Traditional knowledge - conservation in our values
- Protection is key, but needs to be followed by implementation (Marianas marine protected area - still awaiting US Federal Govt to finalize plan)
- Alliance is a partnership btw NGOs, Govt, private sector & other partners seeking to support the creation and management of large-scale ocean conservation areas around the world.

Powering RO water systems in the RMI [Tom Vance, Owner/President, Moana Marine LLC]

- Capacity building, pride in ownership, training program (must remain in RMI for 2 years) - Enewetak RO buildings with DOI funding
- 20,000 gallons/day produced with solar energy - Spectra water-maker partnership with Elon Musk; charge $0.01/gallon - FEMA looking at this for Guam, as a disaster relief hub for the region
- Use the lagoon for floating solar solutions
- Lithium ion phosphate battery: non-flammable
- APIL represents the survival of Pacific peoples; sustainability is key

25 July 2019 / 9:00 AM / Nitijela - RMI Parliament

ATTENDEES

Guam (TMB, RBL, KMT), Palau, RMI, Kiribati, Yap, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk, NMI

AGENDA

Nomination & Election of Officers: APIL 2019-2020 Term

- President: Senator Edgar Lickaneth (Pohnpei) - echoes message of late President Scaliem - bonds of friendship, gratitude for confidence of APIL members
- Vice-President: Senator Nelson Stephen (Chuuk)
- Secretary: Congressman Ivan Blanco (NMI)
- Treasurer: Senator Kaure Bobo (Kiribati)

Lunch presentation: Sun & Sand [Riyah Mucadam, PhD]

- Atoll sand: single-celled animal skeletons, marginopora - often taken for granted, view from nano level to brick & rod and whole structure to inform biomimetics (synthetic methods which mimic biochemical processes)
    - crystals/nano-rods design the structure: Solar power plant also uses this advanced pattern, best mathematical arrangement to maximize use and concentrate light.
    - Algae growth within: Green in glass, allow algae to grow
- Natural production of sand = atoll; artificially used in renewable energy production

COFA Alliance National Network [David Anitok & Lloyd Henion]

- Est 2014 - non-partisan coalition based in Oregon, advocates for social & economic justice for COFA migrants (RMI, FSM, Palau) state advocacy to impact federal policies, as well.

  - OR: 1-year license restrictions from Real ID act, Medical care study, COFA Resolution, COFA Law enforcement jobs, COFA dental study 1 & 2, In-state tuition bill
  - WA: COFA Islander Health care 2019, 2021
  - Advocacy: trained to testify at hearings, build relationships, state visits for island elected officials; relationship with local, national & int'l partners, to include national association of atomic veterans, APAIHF & other advocacy groups; passing legislation: Medicaid, education equity, equitable housing, environmental justice
- Hope to establish CANN Chapters & partnerships in other states

Video presentation: SuperTyphoon Yutu devastation [NMI delegation]

- Storms intensifying with climate change, encourages other member states to learn from their experience, harden systems and prepare. Master preparedness plan
- Devastating effect on NMI economy: tourism impacted – 3-month halt
- [Vice Speaker Edwin] Who names these storms? Using Soudelor, Nam Madol, indigenous names associated with destruction.

Resolution review & discussions

- Res #38-01 Expressing support for the Hawaiian people - Mauna Kea [JKE - Hawai'i]
- Res #38-02 Regional cooperation to combat climate change & commitment to renewable energy [Palau]
- Res #38-03 Regional solution to recycling [Palau]
- Res #38-04 RECA 2019 [TMB]
- Res #38-05 Recognizing PFAS as a public health concern [TMB]
- Res #38-06 Micronesia Challenge [RBL]
- Res #38-07 FAS tools for successful integration, Micronesian Resource Centers [KMT]

- Res #38-08 Comprehensive assessment of various health care and medical facilities available to our Island communities [KMT]
- Res #38-09 encouraging members to ban non-reef safe sunscreens [KMT]
- Res #38-10 Encouraging members to promote the advancement of women in all stages of life, including in leadership and public office
- Res #38-11 Gratitude to RMI & Nitijela for hosting 38th APIL [APIL]
- Res #38-12 Develop a vision for the future of global plastic governance, effectively ban the use of single use plastic bags & other disposable plastic items in the Blue continent within 5 years.
- Res #38-13 Reduce dependence on fossil fuels and decrease carbon dioxide emissions in order to preserve the pristine environments of the APIL's Blue Continent
- Res #38-14 COFA Veterans Review Act of 2019
- Res #38-15 APIL Presenters
- Res #38-16 Encouraging APIL member jurisdictions re: continuing dangers facing Marshallese people & people of downwind islands of APIL - nuclear testing & storage
- Res #38-17 Honoring the life of the late Honorable Fernando Scaliem
- Res #38-18 Appreciation of CANN
- Res #38-19 Congratulations to Aren Palik - election to FSM Congress
- Res #38-20 Requesting United Airlines to extend services to Kosrae & Yap

- CMNI - Veterans
    - Guam: Over 10,000 veterans; Meetings with US VA in WDC Feb 2019, Veterans Townhall teleconference - out of sight, out of mind; push for veterans benefits Retirees US 10.7%, Guam >20% great need, especially to address critical service-connected health issues

- WaPo: 2014; Guam has a small population of about 200,000 residents, but it's home to one of the highest concentrations of military veterans among U.S. states and territories. One in eight adults on the Pacific island have served in the armed forces.

  "Despite those numbers, the island ranked last in the country for per capita medical spending by the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2012, with an average of $822 for each former service member. Virginia had the next lowest rate with a much greater $1,275 per veteran"

NOTES

- **APIL** establishes a relationship of trust and respect
- **RMI environmental policies** include ban of plastic bags, Styrofoam
- **Migration offices** - look at creating media presentations to focus on priority areas of concern; concern shared by Marshallese, Kosraeans, etc… about being lumped in with the bad apples
- **100% renewables**
- **Begin planning for refugees:** Climate (sea-level rise & global climate change) & Economic (if compacts expire without renegotiation 2023, risk of govt struggle or collapse)

UPCOMING Meetings

- **Dec 2019** - Board of Directors meeting, Saipan
- **June 2020** - 39th General Assembly to coincide with FestPac 2020, Hawai'i