

*Hafa Adai!*

## 23rd Pacific Islands Environment Conference

“Make A Difference”

June 21 - 25, 2004  
Dai-ichi Hotel, Saipan Beach  
CNMI

Sponsored by  
*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX  
Division of Environmental Quality, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
American Samoa EPA, American Samoa and Guam EPA, Guam*



*The Environmental Protection Agency Honors the  
Pacific Island Environmental Heroes*

"The EPA is pleased and honored to acknowledge the innovative and far-reaching environmental work achieved by this impressive group of organizations and individuals." "All of this year's winners — in fact, all of this year's nominees — have made commendable efforts to protect and preserve our air, water and land."

~ Wayne Nastri, EPA Regional Administrator

The EPA Region 9 Environmental Awards program acknowledges commitment and significant contributions to the environment in California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, the Pacific Islands and tribal lands. Thirty six groups and individuals were selected from over 150 nominees received this year from businesses, media, local, state and federal government officials, tribes, environmental organizations and citizen activists. The winners are:

**MOVER  
(Multi-Sectoral Overseas Filipino Workers Movement)  
Saipan, MP**

MOVER, a non-profit group on Saipan, has taken the initiative to clean up stormwater drainages on Saipan's western shores — the first major cleanup project of its kind covering a total of 25 drainages. In 2003, MOVER also actively participated in cleanup projects organized by the Environmental Interagency Cleanup Operation Team. Waking up early in the morning and without pay, its members eagerly pack trash from tourist sites and illegal dumping sites to help maintain Saipan's environment. MOVER tirelessly contributed to the clean up of an illegal dumping site at the old Saipan airport and removed ten trailers of trash from the site. In late 2003, MOVER sought an environmental grant from oil giant Exxon/Mobil to clean up stormwater drainages along Saipan's western shores. With the \$5,000 Exxon/Mobil grant, MOVER began the cleanup of 25 stormwater drainages in January 2004.

**American Samoa Power Authority  
Solid Waste Division  
Pago Pago, American Samoa**

The American Samoa Power Authority's Solid Waste division's mission is to provide quality, safe, economical and sustainable utility services in partnership with its customers, the community of American Samoa and the Pacific region. The utility continues to introduce to the legislature the Beverage Deposit Bill in hopes of reducing the large volume of material entering the sanitary landfill. Without waiting for this bill to pass, the utility launched a program to reduce the landfill growth by purchasing a glass pulverizer, a can densifier and began to collect glass bottles and aluminum cans. Daily advertisements invited the public to bring glass bottles to the power authority and large bins were placed on the island where tons of glass were collected weekly. The glass pulverizer produces glass sand and pebbles for land enhancement, construction projects or decorative purposes. The utility also began an aluminum collection program at the landfill. Together, these efforts extend the life of the existing landfill and moves toward sustainability.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23**

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**7:30 am - 8:30 am**

**REGISTRATION and CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

**8:30 am - 8:45 am**

**Invocation**

Performed by Father Ryan Himinez, Kristo Rai Parish under the  
Diocese of Chalan Kanoa

**CNMI National Anthem**

Performed by Gus M. Kaipat

**8:45 am - 9:45 am**

**Welcoming Remarks**

Speakers:

Juan Babauta, Governor, CNMI  
Jeremy Harris, Mayor, City & County of Honolulu  
Tommy Remengesau, President, Republic of Palau

**9:45 am - 10:00 am**

**“State of the Pacific”**

**EPA Environmental and Service Awards**

John McCarroll, EPA Region 9, Pacific Islands Office

**10:00 am - 10:20 am**

**BREAK**

Asuzena I/II

**10:20 am - 10:30 am Environmental Award Presentation:**

MOVER

American Samoa Power Authority

**Special Recognition Awards:**

Ignacio V. Cabrera  
Antonio I. DeLeon Guerrero

**10:30 am - 11:00 am**

**Keynote Address**

**“Pacific Futures: A Program for Monitoring Island Sustainability.”**

Asterio Takesy, Director, South Pacific Regional Environment  
Programme (SPREP)

**11:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**Leadership Panel**

Speakers:

Juan Babauta, Governor, CNMI  
Felix Camacho, Governor, Guam  
Tommy Remengesau, President, Republic of Palau  
Jeremy Harris, Mayor, City & County of Honolulu

Moderator:

Jon Anderson, President, Sorenson Pacific Broadcasting

**12:00 pm – 1:15 pm**

**Pacific Island Environmental Luncheon (Ticketed Event)**

Claret

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, continued**

**1:30 pm - 3:00 pm**

**Coral Reefs and Watershed Protection**

*Coral Reefs and nearshore waters are under increasing stress globally and in the Pacific. Speakers will focus on coastal zone protection, and lessons from a recent expedition to the far northern Mariana Islands, and Coastal Zone protection in Hawaii.*

Speakers:

Jeremy Harris, Mayor, City and County Honolulu  
Peter Houk & Fran Castro, DEQ, CNMI  
Carl Berg, Ph.D, Hanalei Watershed Hui, Kauai, Hawaii

Facilitator:

Erica Cochrane, CRM, CNMI

**3:00 pm - 3:15 pm**

**“STOMP that Trash”,** Hopwood Junior High

BREAK (Asuzena I/II)

**3:30 pm - 5:00 pm**

**Alternative Energy**

*Session will include a discussion of alternative and renewable energy sources that have potential in the Pacific Islands, and current efforts on the Big Island of Hawaii to integrate large scale wind projects onto the grid.*

Speakers:

Dan Giovanni, Manager, Hawaii Electric Light Co., Inc.  
Jeff Shively, American Samoa Power Authority

Facilitator:

Dave Schaller, USEPA

**6:00 pm – 10:00 pm**

*Hosted by Governor Juan Babauta, CNMI*

Governor’s Residence, Capital Hill

6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Transportation provided, Buses will depart from the main lobby at 5:30 pm

Return shuttle will operate from 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

**THURSDAY, JUNE 24**

**7:30 am - 8:30 am**

**REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

**8:30 am - 10:00 am**

**The Environment and Public Health**

*This session will examine the link between the environment and public health in the Pacific Islands. Pressing concerns include the interrelationship of basic sanitation and disease; raising of livestock and the incidence of leptospirosis; and the consumption of contaminated fish and shellfish in nearshore and harbor waters for many of the Pacific Islands.*

Speakers:

Boz Tucker, MD, Executive Director, Pacific Islands Health Officers Association  
Thomas Clark, MD, MPH, Center for Disease Control  
Mike Gawel, Guam EPA

Facilitator:

Elena Pselio, American Samoa EPA

**THURSDAY, JUNE 24, *continued***

**10:00am - 10:30am**

BREAK

**10:30am - 12:00pm**

**Water Resource Assessment and Management**

*Most Pacific Islands have very limited water resources available as potential sources for drinking water. This session will look at how to assess the drinking water needs for an island, how to assess the quantities and qualities of water resources available, and approaches which can be taken for managing these limited water resources.*

Speakers:

Rob Caruth, United States Geological Survey  
 Lt. Governor Diego Benavente, CNMI  
 Don Smith, Water Task Force, CNMI

Facilitator:

Bill Davis, USEPA

**12:00 pm - 1:15 pm**

**LUNCH - On Own**

**1:30 pm - 3:00 pm**

**Improving Utility Management**

*Pacific Utilities are faced with managerial, operational, and technical challenges in meeting operations and infrastructure needs. The session will focus on territorial utility agencies and their approaches and strategies to improve their efficiency and service delivery.*

Speakers:

Abe Malae, Executive Officer, American Samoa Power Authority  
 Simon Sanchez, Chairman, Guam Consolidated Commission on Utilities  
 Bernard Villagomez, Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, CNMI

Facilitator:

Fred Castro, Guam EPA

**3:00 pm - 3:30 pm**

BREAK

**3:30 pm - 5:00 pm**

**Infrastructure Financing & Public/Private Partnerships**

*This session will continue last year’s discussion of public/private partnerships and will include an update of efforts to improve Islands’ access to affordable financing.*

Speakers:

David Cohen, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs, DOI  
 Steve Hiney, Solid Waste Manager, CNMI

Facilitator:

Ben Machol, USEPA

**6:00 pm – End**

**OPEN MARKET/ STREET FAIR In Garapan**

(on own, walking distance)

## FRIDAY, JUNE 25

7:30 am - 8:30 am

**REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

8:30 am - 10:00 am

**Regional Recycling in the Pacific**

*A regional approach to recycling by Pacific Island nations has long been one of the keys to solving solid waste problems in the Pacific. In the past year, significant developments have opened a new era and opportunities towards making regional recycling in Micronesia and beyond a reality. Panelists will report on these new developments and discuss future plans.*

## Panel Members:

Senator Tina Muna-Barnes, Guam Legislature  
 Steve Hiney, Solid Waste Manager, CNMI  
 Al Lam, President, Ambyth Shipping and Trading, Inc.

## Facilitators:

Dave Schaller, USEPA  
 Ramon Mendoza, USEPA

10:00 am - 10:30 am

## BREAK

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

**Book Em' Dano: Environmental Enforcement**

*Regulatory agencies have to balance scarce resources, assisting the regulated community in complying with environmental requirements, and providing deterrence to potential violators. Examples of creative ways to enforce rules and why credible enforcement is necessary.*

## Speakers:

Michael Schwab, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Guam  
 Nick Torres, Assistant Special Agent In Charge, USEPA, R9  
 Vince Periera, Guam EPA

## Facilitator:

John Castro, CNMI DEQ

12:00 pm - 1:15 pm

**LUNCH - On Own**

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

**Beyond the U.S. Territories: Environmental Coordination in the Pacific**

Panel discussion on how EPA and other organizations can better coordinate environmental protection with other countries in the Pacific, especially the Freely Associated States.

## Panel:

Honorable Tommy Remengasau, President, Republic of Palau  
 David Cohen, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs, DOI  
 Asterio Takesy, Director, SPREP  
 Willie Kostka, The Nature Conservancy, Federated States of Micronesia  
 Fred Castro, Administrator, Guam EPA

## Facilitator:

John McCarroll, USEPA

FRIDAY, JUNE 25 *(continued)*

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm

**BREAK**

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

**Closing Session**

*Reports back from working sessions, and closing ceremonies*

6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

**EVENING RECEPTION**

*Hosted by the CNMI Legislature*

Location to be advised

6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

**Dai-Ichi hotel, Saipan Beach**  
**Department of Public Works, Division of Solid**  
**Waste Management, CNMI, Saipan**  
**Saipan Garment Manufactures Association**  
**Pacific Development Inc. (PDI)**  
**R&M Printers, Saipan**  
**R&A Soundhire**  
**Clarissa Bearden, Mwar Mwar**  
**Continental Airlines**  
**National Car Rental, Saipan**

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