



**75th PIHOA
Executive Board Meeting**

**November 18 - 22, 2024
Pohnpei, FSM**

**College of Micronesia National
Campus Gymnasium**



PIHOA Board Members and Pacific Colleagues

Kamorale and welcome to PIHOA’s 75th Executive Board Meeting, which is being held here on the beautiful island of Pohnpei.

We look forward to productive and meaningful dialogue that will advance our region’s strategic and innovative visions to improve the health and well-being of our Pacific Islander communities.

November 18 - 22, 2024
Pohnpei, FSM
College of Micronesia National Campus
Gymnasium



SUMMARY SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

DATE	TIME	SESSION	LOCATION
Day 1 Monday November 18 (CLOSED)	8:00 am – 4:30 pm	PIHOA Board Strategic Planning Retreat	COM-FSM Campus Gymnasium
	6:00 – 7:30 pm	PIHOA-Sponsored PIHOA Board Member-Only Dinner Reception	Riverside Restaurant at 7 Stars Inn
Day 2 Tuesday November 19 (OPEN)	8:00 am – 4:30 pm	Feature Presentations of FSM, Palau, Guam, American Samoa, and RMI Strategic Priorities and Updates	COM-FSM Campus Gymnasium
Day 3 Wednesday November 20 (OPEN)	8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Partnership Engagements Progress and Future Directions on Selected PIHOA Regional Initiatives	COM-FSM Campus Gymnasium
	7:00 – 9:00 pm	PIHOA -Sponsored Dinner Reception for Board Members and Invited Guests (RSVP)	Hideaway Bar and Grill Restaurant
Day 4 Thursday November 21 (CLOSED)	8:00 am – 5:00 pm	PIHOA Board of Directors and Associate Member Business Meeting	COM-FSM Campus Gymnasium
Day 5 Friday November 22 (OPEN/RSVP)	9:30 am – 12:00 pm	Facilitated Tour of Health Facilities in Pohnpei	
	12:00 – 4:00 pm	Nan Madol UNESCO World Heritage Site (pending weather and landowner permissions)	

DETAILED AGENDA

DAY 1 – Monday, November 18 (CLOSED) PIHOA Board Strategic Planning Retreat COM-FSM Campus Gymnasium		
8:00 – 9:00 am	Meeting Registration and Light Breakfast for PIHOA Board of Directors and Associate Members	
9:00 – 9:15 am	Morning Prayer	TBD
	Welcoming Remarks	The Honorable Secretary Marcus Samo, Treasurer, PIHOA Board of Directors and Secretary of Health, FSM National DHSA
	Special Remarks	The Honorable Minister Gaafar Uherbelau, President, PIHOA Board of Directors and Minister, Palau MHHS
9:15 – 10:30 am	Review and approval of the 74 th PIHOA EBM Verbatim and Summary Minutes (<i>PIHOA Doc# 2024-75-01</i>) and 75 th PIHOA EBM Agenda (<i>PIHOA Doc# 2024-75-02</i>)	The Honorable Minister Gaafar Uherbelau
	Implications for CNMI CHCC Withdrawal for Regional Engagements	
	Review of the PIHOA Strategic Action Framework 2018 - 22 Planning Process and Compendium of PIHOA Resolutions and Communiques	Emi Chutaru, Executive Director, PIHOA Secretariat
10:30 – 10:45 am	MORNING BREAK	
10:45 am – 12:00 pm	Strategic Planning Session 1: Mission, Vision, and Key Objectives	The Honorable Minister Gaafar Uherbelau
12:00 – 1:00 pm	LUNCH	
1:00 – 2:30 pm	Strategic Planning Session 2: Priority Interventions and Activities	The Honorable Minister Gaafar Uherbelau
2:30 – 3:00 pm	AFTERNOON BREAK	
3:00 – 4:30 pm	Strategic Planning Session 3: Performance Measures and Evaluation	The Honorable Minister Gaafar Uherbelau
4:30 pm	Meeting Closure	The Honorable Minister Gaafar Uherbelau
	Announcements	FSM DHSA and PIHOA Secretariat Admin Team
6:00 – 7:00 pm	PIHOA-Sponsored Board Member-Only Dinner Reception	Riverside Restaurant, 7 Stars Inn

DAY 2 – Tuesday, November 19 (OPEN)
FSM, Palau, Guam, American Samoa, and RMI
Strategic Priorities and Updates
COM-FSM Campus Gymnasium

Date and Time	Session Title	Presenters/Facilitators
8:00 – 9:00 am	Meeting Registration	
9:00 – 9:30 am	Morning Prayer	TBD
	Welcome Remarks	The Honorable Stevenson A. Joseph, Governor, Pohnpei State, FSM
	Special Remarks	His Excellency Wesley Simina, President, Office of the President, FSM National Government
9:30 – 10:00 am	Group Photo Session / Break	
10:00 – 12:00 pm	FSM Strategic Priorities and Updates	
	Kosrae State DHS	Shiro Sigrah, Deputy Director (<i>designee for Dr. Tholma Alik, Director</i>)
	Pohnpei State DHS	Stuard Penias, Director
	Chuuk State DHS	Dr. Bosco Buliche, Director
	Yap State DHS	Martina Reichhardt, Director, Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (<i>designee for Theopolis Thinnifel, Director</i>) and Dominic Taruwemai, Deputy Director
	FSM National DHSA	The Honorable Marcus Samo, Secretary of Health
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch	

DAY 2 – Tuesday, November 19 (OPEN) – Continued

Date and Time	Session Title	Presenters/Facilitators
1:00 – 1:30 pm	<p>Palau Strategic Priorities and Updates</p> <p>Q&A and General Discussion</p>	<p>The Honorable Gaafar Uherbelau, Minister of Health, Palau MHHS</p> <p>Dr. Ngirachisau Mekoll, Director, Clinical Services, BNH</p> <p>Calvin Johanes, Director, Division of Environmental Health, Palau MHHS (<i>designee for Sherilynn Madraisau, Director, Bureau of Public Health</i>)</p>
1:30 – 2:00 pm	<p>Guam Strategic Priorities and Updates</p> <p>Q&A and General Discussion</p>	<p>Theresa Arriola, Director, Guam DPHSS</p> <p>Lilian Perez-Posadas, CEO, GMHA</p> <p>Dr. James Cooper-Nurse, Deputy Director, GBHWC (<i>designee for Carissa Pangelinan, Director</i>)</p>
2:00 – 2:30 pm	<p>American Samoa Strategic Priorities and Updates</p> <p>Q&A and General Discussion</p>	<p>Ben Sili, Deputy Director, ASDOH (<i>designee for Motusa Tuileama Nua, Director</i>)</p> <p>Tommy Gabriel, Interim Chief Operations Officer/Director Grants, LBJ TMC (<i>designee for Dr. Aitofele Sunia, Acting CEO</i>)</p>
2:30 – 3:00 pm	AFTERNOON BREAK	
3:00 – 3:30 pm	<p>RMI Strategic Priorities and Updates</p> <p>Q&A and General Discussion</p>	<p>Francyne Wase-Jacklick, Secretary of Health, RMI MOHHS (<i>designee for Ota Kisino, Minister of Health</i>)</p>
3:30 – 3:45 pm	Summary Highlights of PIHOA Regional Activities in the FSM	Recorded Video Slide Deck
3:45 – 4:30 pm	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Announcements and Meeting Adjournment</p>	<p>The Honorable Minister Gaafar Uherbelau, President, PIHOA Board of Directors and Minister, Palau MHHS</p> <p>FSM DHSA and PIHOA Secretariat Admin Team</p>

DAY 3 – Wednesday, November 20 (OPEN)
Partnership Engagements
COM-FSM Campus Gymnasium

7:00 – 8:00 am	Registration	
8:00 – 8:10 am	Morning Prayer	TBD
	Opening Remarks and Agenda Overview	Theresa Arriola, Vice President, PIHOA Board of Directors and Director, Guam DPHSS
8:10 – 9:30 am	<p>Profiling of the USAPI Health Workforce</p> <p>HRSA Pacific Basin Primary Care Office Data Collection</p> <p>USAPI Workforce Enumeration Survey and Regional Dashboard</p> <p>Public Health WINS</p> <p>USAPI Health Workforce Development Technical Working Group</p> <p>Q&A and Discussion</p>	<p>Dr. Angela Techur-Pedro, Pacific Basin Primary Care Office Coordinator, PIHOA Secretariat</p> <p>Mindy Sugiyama, Technical Consultant – HR IT, PIHOA Secretariat</p> <p>Dr. Rachel Hare Bork, Director of Research and Impact, and Kay Schaffer, Senior Research Associate, de Beaumont Foundation</p> <p>Emi Chutarro, Executive Director, PIHOA Secretariat</p>
9:30 – 10:30 am	<p>USAPI One Health</p> <p>USAPI One Health Concept Climate Change and Health</p> <p>USAPI Vector Management Improvement Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Surveillance, EWS, and Control ○ Guam DPHSS DEH Mosquito Lab ○ PIVMC ○ PPHSN PVN <p>Q&A and Discussion</p>	<p>Dr. Gillian Dunn, Regional HIS and Health Security Coordinator, PIHOA Secretariat</p> <p>Dr. Limb Hapairai, Regional Medical Entomologist, PIHOA Secretariat</p> <p>Jacquelyn Lefagoyal, Technical Consultant – Program Assistant, PIHOA Secretariat</p> <p>Calvin Johanes, Chief, DEH, Palau MHHS</p> <p>Masatomo Nadeau, NPEHA Member and Chief Environmental Public Health Officer, DEH, Guam DPHSS</p>

DAY 3 – Wednesday, November 20 (OPEN) – Continued

10:30 – 10:45 am	MORNING BREAK	
10:45 – 12:00 pm	<p>Regional USAPI NCD Emergency Declaration Response and HIS Strengthening</p> <p>USAPI NCD Monitoring and Surveillance Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NCD Hybrid Surveys ○ MANA Dashboards ○ Regional Dashboard NCD Profiles <p>USAPI NCD Law and Policy Summit</p> <p>CRVS Strengthening in the USAPIs</p> <p>Q&A and Discussion</p>	<p>Dr. Haley Cash, Regional NCD Epidemiologist, CDC/PIHOA Secretariat</p> <p>Rasmi Davu, Regional NCD Surveillance Officer, PIHOA Secretariat</p> <p>Emi Chutaru, Executive Director, PIHOA Secretariat</p> <p>Dr. Gillian Dunn, Regional HIS and Health Security Coordinator, PIHOA Secretariat</p>
12:00 – 1:00 pm	LUNCH	
1:00 – 2:00 pm	<p>Strengthening CDC Engagements and Coordination in Support of Public Health Development Efforts in the USAPIs</p> <p>Q&A and Discussion</p>	<p>Dr. Hazel Dean, Director, Office of Partnership Support, Public Health Infrastructure Center, CDC</p> <p>Sam Taveras, Director, Office of Insular Areas, Public Health Infrastructure Center, CDC</p>
2:00 – 2:45 pm	<p>FDA Engagement in the USAPIs</p> <p>Q&A and Discussion</p> <p>FDA-PIHOA Partnership Arrangement Virtual Signing Ceremony</p>	<p>Carla Fernandez, DWCI Supervisory Consumer Safety Officer and Jeffrey Brown, Consumer Safety Officer and Pacific Island Project Liaison for the Immediate Officer on behalf of Dan Solis, Assistant Commissioner for Import Operations, Office of Regulatory Affairs, FDA (<i>virtual</i>)</p> <p>Mark Abdoo, Associate Commissioner for Global Policy, FDA (<i>pre-recorded video remarks</i>)</p> <p>The Honorable Gaafar Uherbelau, Minister of Health, Palau MHHS</p>

DAY 3 – Wednesday, November 20 (OPEN) – Continued

2:45 – 3:00 pm	AFTERNOON BREAK	
3:00 – 3:45 pm	FSM National Office of Veterans Affairs, Status of US Veterans Affairs Support for COFA Veterans Q&A and Discussion	Hainrick Panuelo, Director, FSM National VA Office
3:45 – 4:30 pm	Progress and Future Directions of ASTHO Legislative Priorities and CDC PHIG Support to the USAPIs Q&A and Discussion	Alex Wheatley, Director, Island Support, ASTHO Lindsey Myers, Vice President, Public Health Workforce and Infrastructure, ASTHO
4:30 – 5:15 pm	Regional Laboratory Strengthening Initiative: Progress and Future Directions Strengthening Lab Management Towards Accreditation (SLMTA) AMR Risk: Whole Genome Sequencing Project in the Pacific Strengthening Lab-Based AMR Surveillance in the USAPIs and Proposed PIHOA Resolution Q&A and Discussion	Maria Marfel, Technical Consultant – Laboratory Program Specialist, PIHOA Secretariat Dr. Sakiusa Baleivanualala, Faculty, University of Otago (<i>virtual</i>) Dr. Vasiti Uluiviti, Regional Laboratory Strengthening Coordinator, PIHOA Secretariat
5:15 – 5:30 pm	Open Discussion and Closing for Day 3 Announcements	The Honorable Minister Gaafar Uherbelau, President, PIHOA Board of Directors and Minister, Palau MHHS FSM DHSA and PIHOA Secretariat Admin Team
7:00 – 9:30 pm	PIHOA-Sponsored Dinner Reception to All Invited Guests Please RSVP at the Registration Desk.	Hideaway Bar and Grill Restaurant

DAY 4 – Thursday, November 21 (CLOSED)
Business Meeting
COM-FSM Campus Gymnasium

8:00 – 9:00 am	PIHOA Board of Directors and Associate Members Only Light Breakfast	
9:00 – 9:03 am	Morning Prayer	TBD
9:03 – 10:30 am	<p>U.S. Congressional Pacific Healthcare Initiative Concept</p> <p>Consultation: Opportunities for the Development of a USAPI Medical Training Program</p> <p>Q&A and Discussion</p>	<p>Dr. Eileen Natuzzi, Affiliate Center for Australian, New Zealand and Pacific Studies, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, and Advisor to U.S. Congresswoman Amata Radewagen (<i>virtual</i>)</p> <p>Dr. Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, Associate Dean and Professor, UH JABSOM (<i>virtual</i>)</p>
10:30 – 10:45 am	MORNING BREAK	
10:45 am – 12:00 pm	<p>Draft PIHOA Strategic Plan Review and Next Steps continued as needed</p> <p>Review and Finalization of the PIHOA By-Laws as Amended November 2024</p>	<p>The Honorable Minister Gaafar Uherbelau</p> <p>Janet Camacho, Deputy Director of Programs and Operations, PIHOA Secretariat</p>
12:00 – 1:00 pm	LUNCH	
1:00 – 1:45 pm	Pacific Public Health Fellowship Program: Fellowship Living Allowances Policy and Next Steps	<p>Soulmaz Rostami, PPHFP Program Coordinator, PIHOA Secretariat</p> <p>Emi Chutaro, Executive Director, and Janet Camacho, Deputy Director of Programs and Operations, PIHOA Secretariat</p>
1:45 – 2:30 pm	PIHOA Endowment Fund	James Miyashita, Raymond James & Associates, Inc. (<i>virtual</i>)
2:30 – 2:45 pm	AFTERNOON BREAK	

DAY 4 – Thursday, November 21 (CLOSED) – Continued

2:45 – 3:30 pm	<p>Secretariat Reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PIHOA Financial Report (<i>PIHOA Doc #2024-74-03</i>) ○ Jurisdiction Profiles (<i>PIHOA Doc# 2024-74-04</i>) ○ Lab DX Technical Support – Global Strategic Solutions for Health (GSSH) <p>Q&A and Discussion</p>	<p>Elisa Dunlap, Chief Finance Officer, PIHOA Secretariat</p> <p>Janet Camacho, Deputy Director of Programs and Operations, PIHOA Secretariat</p> <p>Emi Chutaro, Executive Director, PIHOA Secretariat</p>
3:30 – 4:00 pm	<p>Review and approval of new Resolutions and Communiques</p> <p>Election of Officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary)</p>	<p>The Honorable Minister Gaafar Uherbelau, President, PIHOA Board of Directors and Minister, Palau MHHS</p>
4:00 – 4:30 pm	<p>Planning for the Spring 76th EBM in Honolulu, HI</p> <p>2026 Pacific Heads of Health Meeting, tentative mid-September 2026; co-hosted by PIHOA and SPC</p> <p>AOB</p>	<p>Board of Directors President-Elect</p> <p>Emi Chutaro, Executive Director, PIHOA Secretariat</p>
4:30 – 5:00 pm	<p>Final Remarks by Host</p> <p>Closing Remarks and Prayer</p> <p>Final Announcements</p>	<p>The Honorable Secretary Marcus Samo, Secretary of Health, FSM National DHSA</p> <p>Board of Directors President-Elect</p> <p>FSM DHSA and PIHOA Secretariat Admin Team</p>

DAY 5 - Friday, November 22
Pohnpei Health Facilities Tour and
Nan Madol UNESCO World Heritage Site Visit

OPEN TO ALL INVITED GUESTS

8:00 – 9:30 am	Breakfast on your own	
9:30 am – 12:00 pm	<p>Facilitated Tour of Health Facilities in Pohnpei</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pohnpei State Hospital and Ancillary Services • Pohnpei State Department of Public Health • Genesis Private Hospital • Pohnpei Federally-Qualified Community Health Center • Pohnpei State Health Dispensary (TBC) 	<p>Must RSVP at the Board Meeting Registration Desk no later than Wednesday, November 20.</p> <p>Tour starts at the Pohnpei State Hospital main entrance; parking is available around the front entrance if you are driving on your own, otherwise shared transport will be arranged from the main meeting hotels; further details to be provided during the meeting</p>
12:00 pm	<p>Reconvene at Pohnpei State Hospital main entrance at the conclusion of the tour; “Grab and Go” bento lunch boxes to be provided for RSVP Guests only; guests may wish to finish the excursion at this time or stay on to go to Nan Madol</p>	
12:00 – 4:00 pm	<p>Round-trip transportation and a short hike to Nan Madol UNESCO World Heritage Site (ancient ruins) pending weather and landowner permissions; dress to hike in jungle conditions, but also OK to get wet as tides may be high (waist level) to get to the main parts of the ruins; change of clothes/towels, mosquito repellent, small umbrella, and sunscreen highly recommended; further details to be provided during the meeting</p>	
4:00 pm	Return to main meeting hotels	

List of Acronyms

AMR – Anti-Microbial Resistance
AOB – Any other business
ASTHO – Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
CDC – U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CEO – Chief Executive Officer
CHCC – Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
CNMI – Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
CRVS – Civil Registry and Vital Statistics
DX – Data Exchange
EWS – Early Warning Systems
FSM – Federated States of Micronesia
DEH – Division of Environmental Health
DHS – Department of Health Services
DWCI – Division of West Coast Imports (FDA)
DPHSS – Department of Public Health and Social Services (Guam)
EBM – Executive Board Meeting
FDA – U.S. Food and Drug Administration
GBHWC – Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center
HIS – Health Information Systems
HR IT – Human Resource Information Technology
LBJ TMC – American Samoa Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center
MANA – Monitoring Alliance for NCD Action
MHHS – Ministry of Health and Human Services (Palau)
MOHHS – Ministry of Health and Human Services (RMI)
NCDs – Non-Communicable Diseases
PHIC – Public Health Infrastructure Center (CDC) Institutes
PIHOA – Pacific Island Health Officers’ Association
PPHFP – Pacific Islands Public Health Fellowship Program (PIHOA)
PIVMC – Pacific Islands Vector Management Council
PVN – Pacific Vector Network
RMI – Republic of the Marshall Islands
SLMTA – Strengthening Medical Labs Towards Accreditation
SPC – Secretariat of the Pacific Community
UH JABSOM – University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine
USAPIs – U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands
VA – Veterans Affairs
VP – Vice-President



ABOUT PIHOA

Established in 1986, the Pacific Island Health Officers' Association (PIHOA) represents the collective health interests of the U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPIs), which include American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Guam, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Republic of Palau (ROP).

Operating as an independent nonprofit organization with headquarters in Honolulu, Hawaii, and a field office in Hagåtña, Guam, PIHOA provides a credible regional voice for health advocacy in and for the Pacific through collective action and decision-making.

MISSION

PIHOA's mission is to improve the health and well-being of USAPI communities by providing a unified, credible voice on health issues of regional significance built through consensus and strong partnership engagements.

MEMBERSHIP

PIHOA's membership is comprised of the ministers, directors, and secretaries of health of the five USAPIs (Executives); their deputies and chief executive officers of local public hospitals and departments of public health and social services (Associates); and Pacific regional professional associations, regional development partners, and Pacific region academic institutions (Affiliates).

SECRETARIAT

PIHOA's Secretariat consists of executive, administrative, and technical staff, as well as short- and long-term technical consultants tasked by the PIHOA Board to provide technical and other support to the USAPI health ministries and departments to strengthen health systems and build capacities. PIHOA currently has 24 full-time staff and over 60 full- and part-time technical consultants, project field assignees, and Public Health Fellows deployed directly to health departments. PIHOA also hosts CDC regional and field staff and consultants in its Honolulu and Guam offices.

