

**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Assistant Secretary - Insular and International Affairs**  
**Accomplishments Under President Donald J. Trump**  
**January 2017 – January 2021**



**Assistant Secretary - Insular and International Affairs (ASIIA)**

Office of Insular Affairs  
Office of International Affairs  
Ocean, Great Lakes, and Coastal Program Office

**Presidential and Secretarial Engagement and Outreach**

- **USVI:** March 2017, Department of the Interior (DOI) Secretary Ryan Zinke represented President Trump at the 100<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the purchase of the United States Virgin Islands (USVI). Ceremonies were held in the USVI on St. Croix and St. Thomas.
- **Office Reorganization:** February 2018, under Secretary Zinke's direction and with the concurrence of the U.S. Congress, a new expanded portfolio was established for the Assistant Secretary - Insular Areas with the addition of the Office of International Affairs and the Office of the Ocean, Great Lakes, and Coastal Program Coordinator, officially changing the title to Assistant Secretary - Insular and International Affairs. (<https://www.doi.gov/ASIIA>)
- **Palau Funding:** March 2018, President Donald J. Trump signed the 2018 Omnibus Funding Agreement, which included \$124 million in funding through 2024 for the 2010 Palau Compact Review Agreement, completing the first 15-year review and amendment process as provided for under the Compact between the United States and the Republic of Palau. DOI released \$90 million in payments to Palau, which included \$65 million for the Palau Compact Trust Fund and \$25 million to be used for economic assistance. The remaining \$34 million is to be used through 2024 for infrastructure projects and maintenance.



- **2018 Pacific Islands Forum (PIF):** September 2018, Secretary Zinke led the U.S. delegation to the 30<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Forum Partners Dialogue in Nauru, promoting the President's free and open Indo-Pacific Strategy.

- **Justice Hired in American Samoa:** December 2018, Secretary Zinke filled the long vacant Justice of American Samoa under the Secretary's authority.

- **Critical Minerals Agreement with Australia:** December 2018, Secretary Zinke signed a letter of intent with Australia to reinforce cooperation on critical minerals.

- **2019 Interagency Group on Insular Areas:** February 2019, then-Acting Secretary David L. Bernhardt co-chaired a successful Interagency Group on Insular Areas annual meeting with insular area Governors and Delegates at the White House.



- **MOU with Vietnam:** April 2019, Secretary David Bernhardt signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with General To Lam, Minister of Public Security in Vietnam, to enhance and strengthen cooperation between the two countries to combat wildlife trafficking.





- **Historic meeting between President Donald Trump and the Presidents of the Freely Associated States (FAS):** May 2019, President Donald Trump and the Presidents of the freely associated states (FAS): Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. of the Republic of Palau; Hilda C. Heine of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI); and David W. Panuelo of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) convened a historic meeting at the White House.

This was the first time that the Presidents of these three sovereign Pacific island nations had been invited to the White House by the President of the United States in recognition of their special relationship of free association with the United States. In addition, Secretary David Bernhardt and other members of the President’s Cabinet held individual meetings with the three presidents.

- **Executive Order on Economic Empowerment of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders:** May 2019, President Trump issued an executive order (Executive Order 13872) to empower Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to improve the quality of their lives, raise the standard of living of their families and communities, and more fully participate in the economy. Under the Executive Order, the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) supports the work of the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders on economic development opportunities for the insular areas.



- **Secretary Wilkie Attends Inauguration of FSM President David W. Panuelo:** July 2019, the Office of Insular Affairs supported VA Secretary Robert Wilkie’s delegation trip to the Inauguration of FSM President David W. Panuelo and visits to the U.S. territories in the Pacific.



• **2019 Pacific Islands Forum (PIF):** August 2019, Secretary Bernhardt led the U.S. delegation to the 31st Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Partners Dialogue in Tuvalu to promote the President’s free and open Indo-Pacific Strategy. The high-level U.S. government delegation comprised of senior officials from the White House, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Coast Guard, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

• **Funding RMI Tax and Trade Provision:** After languishing unfulfilled for many years, in December 2019, President Trump signed the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020, Public Law 116-94, which included a \$5 million payment to the Trust Fund for the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) for Tax and Trade compensation provided for under the Compact of Free Association with the United States. President Trump’s FY 2021 Budget Request included an additional \$5 million dollar payment for Tax and Trade Compensation toward the \$20 million impact on the RMI economy.

• **2020 Interagency Group on Insular Areas:** February 2020, Secretary Bernhardt co-chaired a successful Interagency Group on Insular Areas annual meeting with insular area Governors, Lieutenant Governors, and Delegates at the White House.



• **Resolution of Guam War Claims:** March 2020, President Trump signed H.R. 1365 into law (P.L. 116-132), making technical corrections to the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act. This legislation authorized the U.S. Department of the Treasury to issue payments to survivors of Guam’s occupation by Imperial Japanese Forces during World War II. DOI/OIA worked closely with the White House, U.S. Department of the Treasury, Guam Congressman Michael F.Q. San Nicolas, Guam Governor Lourdes “Lou” Leon Guerrero, and others in support of making these fixes and advancing the legislation. Specifically, OIA worked closely with staff at Treasury and the U.S. Department of Justice to determine and recommend the technical correction legislation as well as to calculate and withhold the amounts to be deposited each September into the Guam War Claims Fund. Also, prior to the legislative correction, OIA coordinated with the Government of Guam, Treasury, and Justice on an agreement to enable the Government of Guam to begin making payments directly to victims prior to the legislative fix being enacted.



- **Compact Negotiations with the FAS:** April 2020, Assistant Secretary Douglas W. Domenech and Ambassador Karen B. Stewart were named co-negotiators to lead the U.S. federal government in bilateral discussions on the Compacts of Free Association with the FSM, RMI, and Palau. Negotiations have been held continuously since May 2020 on the expiring provisions of the Compact agreements related to direct economic assistance and access to Federal Programs and Services.



- **MOU with Israel:** August 2020, Secretary Bernhardt signed an MOU with Israel's Nature and Parks Authority. The MOU creates a framework for cooperation on combating wildlife trafficking, protecting ecosystems, and managing parks and cultural sites, and reinforces the strong, long-standing relationship between the United States and Israel.



- **MOU with Norway:** August 2020, Deputy Secretary Katharine MacGregor signed an MOU with the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy of the Kingdom of Norway to strengthen bilateral cooperation in offshore mineral, oil and gas, and wind energy activities.

- **Repatriation of Native Ancestral Remains and Funerary Objects:** September 2020, DOI's Office of International Affairs supported DOI's close coordination with the White House and the State Department to facilitate the historic repatriation from the National Museum of Finland of ancestral remains and funerary objects taken over a century ago from what is now Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado. The repatriation fulfilled an October 2019 agreement between President Trump and President Niinistö to support the return of the ancestral remains to the Associated Tribes of Mesa Verde. The meeting was held in the Oval Office with the President and Secretary Bernhardt.



- **Supported EO on Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth:** May 2020, President Trump signed an Executive Order to increase America’s competitiveness in the seafood industry and protect our seafood supply chain. This order instructs agencies to expand sustainable seafood production in the United States and will help solidify food security, protect American jobs in the seafood industry, and create new jobs in the United States. President Trump also announced the availability of \$300 million to support fishermen and related businesses hurt by the coronavirus. As part of the \$300 million, \$1 million was allocated to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands while \$2.5 million was allocated to American Samoa. Assistant Secretary Domenech worked on this issue as the lead for the Department on the White House Ocean Policy Committee.

### Additional International Engagement

- **El Salvador Wildlife Trafficking Operation:** May 2019, the DOI International Technical Assistance Program facilitated the first ever joint U.S.-Central America counter wildlife trafficking operation in El Salvador.



- **Training Sessions for State Department Foreign Service Officers:** In 2019, the Office of International Affairs (INT) held two training sessions on DOI international activities for a total of 49 State Department Foreign Service Officers who were being deployed to U.S. embassies and consulates across the globe.

- **International Technical Assistance Engagements:** In support of the Administration's foreign policy, from 2017-2020, the DOI International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) sent 44 subject matter experts from across the

Department to 21 countries to provide technical assistance in wildlife trafficking, water management, dam safety, linear infrastructure, and oil and gas development.

Since the pandemic-related halt on travel began, from April through November 2020, DOI-ITAP leveraged more than 80 DOI subject matter experts to work virtually with counterparts in 38 countries. The remote engagement included training on the use of podcasts as a communication tool for conservation in the Philippines; developing an electronic database and related apps to augment CITES enforcement in Jordan and Morocco; online training for Georgian protected area managers; and advising Oman’s Ministry of Environment to discuss implementing pending CITES legislation. This work was funded by the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

- **National Park Training:**

Summer 2020, DOI-ITAP, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Agency for International Development co-hosted a series of international webinars on national park management for managers and staff of natural and cultural



heritage protected areas in the countries of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan.

- **CITES Engagement:** August 2020, DOI-ITAP hosted meetings between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's CITES officials and CITES officials in Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. Participants shared updates on CITES implementation and enforcement efforts and identified areas of mutual interest and concern.
- **Trade Monitoring:** DOI Office of International Affairs staff participated in ongoing bilateral trade negotiations with the United Kingdom and Kenya and monitored interagency U.S. trade enforcement activities with implications for DOI programs.
- **Environmental Crimes Manual:** October 2020, DOI-ITAP finalized a manual to enhance environmental crimes prosecutions and sentencing in Central America. The manual includes a compendium of case examples and practical exercises to be used in training activities throughout the region.
- **U.S. Cultural Property Advisory Committee:** Fall 2020, DOI-ITAP led a team of DOI cultural heritage experts to assess and report on the current status of cultural property protection in Costa Rica and Bolivia. DOI-ITAP's findings were shared with the U.S. Cultural Property Advisory Committee.

### [Additional Support for the U.S. Territories](#)

- **Successful Completion of the Governor Eloy S. Inos Peace Park in the CNMI:** March 2017, the former Puerto Rico Dump in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands was unveiled as the Governor Eloy S. Inos Peace Park. It was opened to the public on April 1, 2017. DOI-OIA funded the closure and conversion utilizing about \$30 million of Capital Improvement Project funding, and the project was completed in 22 months.



- **Completed Assessment of the LBJ Hospital in American Samoa:** May 2019, DOI-OIA delivered a completed assessment report of the LBJ Hospital in American Samoa to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations. OIA contracted with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers via a reimbursable support agreement for \$400,000 to meet the Congressionally mandated deadline.



- **Completed and Submitted to the President the Final 902 Consultation Report on Federal Discretionary Parole Policies in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI):** July 2019, after several meetings in Washington, DC, and in the CNMI, under the Section 902 Consultation process, Assistant Secretary Domenech and CNMI Governor Ralph DLG. Torres submitted to the White House the final 902 Consultation Report on Federal Discretionary Parole Policies recommending several collaborative steps forward to protect economic and security interests for the United States in the CNMI.
- **Supported Medicaid Access:** Successfully advocated for Federal administrative and legislative action that avoided the lapse in Medicaid funded services and the forfeit of millions of dollars in Affordable Care Act funding to the territories that were set to expire in September and December of 2019.
- **Completed Report on CNMI Economic Development and Labor Challenges:** In 2019, the Office of Insular Affairs completed and submitted to Congress a report on the CNMI's economic development and labor challenges in consultation with the Department of Commerce and the Department of Labor.
- **Completed Assessment of Guam Memorial Hospital:** April 2020, the Army Corps of Engineers completed and submitted an OIA-funded assessment of the Guam Memorial Hospital. OIA provided \$450,000 for the assessment at the request of the Governor of Guam.





- **Established Office in Guam:** August 2020, filled a long-vacant, federal position on Guam – the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs Guam Field Representative. The field representative, representing OIA, has an important responsibility to help liaise between the Government of Guam and other federal partners on issues of importance to both the federal government and Guam.
- **Facilitated Land Swap between National Park Service and the USVI:** Provided leadership and support to the partnership between the National Park Service (NPS) and Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands on a preliminary agreement signed in October 2020 that is intended to lead to the culmination of a formal agreement to swap



land for the construction of the first K-12 public school on St. John after over 20 years of effort. Public education on St. John is currently only available through the eighth grade. In order to complete a high school education, students must commute by boat to St. Thomas each day during the school year. OIA provided \$300,000 in funding support to NPS to help fund the pre-requisite NEPA and Sec. 106 compliance.

- **Guam Section 30 Funding:** OIA worked with Guam and the Department of the Treasury/IRS to calculate and process advance payments totaling over \$395 million from fiscal year 2017 to fiscal year 2020 for Guam Section 30 funding.
- **Rum Tax Funding for the USVI:** OIA worked with the U.S. Virgin Islands to calculate and process advance payments totaling over \$1.2 billion from fiscal year 2017 to fiscal year 2020 for rum tax funding.
- **Energy Grants:** With the support of the U.S. Congress, awarded \$20 million in grants, between fiscal years 2017 and 2020, through the OIA Energizing Insular Communities program to support energy initiatives in the U.S. territories. Funds were provided for a range of energy initiatives in the territories that will reduce energy costs and increase energy efficiency by replacing older appliances, analyzing current usage, retrofitting older buildings, and exploring alternative energy options proposed in territorial Energy Action Plans.



- **Environment Related Grant Support:** With the support of the U.S. Congress, awarded \$23 million between fiscal years 2017 and 2020 to territories to protect and preserve the unique environmental resources in the islands by providing assistance to control invasive species and protect coral reefs as well as to make investments in water, wastewater and solid waste management, and infrastructure improvements.
- **Education Grant Support:** With the support of the U.S. Congress, awarded \$109 million between fiscal years 2017 and 2020 to support public school operations, maintain existing facilities, and build new classrooms in the territories.



- **Health Grant Support:** With the support of the U.S. Congress, awarded \$68 million between fiscal years 2017 and 2020 to support the healthcare operations, improve existing health centers and hospital facilities, and build new healthcare facilities in the territories.

### Additional Support for the Freely Associated States

- **Successfully Fulfilled U.S. Economic Assistance Obligations to the Freely Associated States:** In fiscal years 2017 through 2020, OIA disbursed \$968 million in grants and payments to the FSM, RMI, and Palau under the Compacts of Free Association. Assistance was provided to support basic government operations and infrastructure improvements, largely focused on health and education, and deposited funds in the FSM, RMI, and Palau Compact Trust Funds.



- **Funding for Runit Dome Analysis:** In 2019, OIA provided \$1.7 million to the Department of Energy to conduct an analysis of the Runit Dome on Enewetak Atoll in the RMI.

- **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Operation Hailstone:** February 2019, Assistant Secretary Domenech participated in the commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Operation Hailstone in Chuuk, FSM, with a high-level U.S. delegation from Washington, D.C. and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, including Air Force General Charles Q. Brown, Jr. (then-Commander of Pacific Air Forces, Air Component Commander for U.S. Indo-Pacific Command).

- **FAS Assistance on Water Security:** August 2019, DOI, leveraging Bureau of Reclamation expertise and OIA funding, engaged the utilities in each of the freely associated states (FAS) to help improve the management of hydropower in Pohnpei, FSM; enhance the operating efficiency of the Majuro, RMI, utility; and to make Palau more drought resilient through smart water management. These three initiatives will provide technical support to the three FAS to support their water supply and drought management. In October 2020, DOI/OIA announced \$1,786,000 in assistance to extend this collaboration to provide additional technical assistance for water projects and drought resiliency in the FSM, RMI, and Palau.
- **Our Ocean Conference Support:** September 2019, Assistant Secretary Domenech presented \$300,000 to Palau President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. in support of the 7th Our Ocean Conference that Palau is now expected to host in 2021.

- **Compact Listening Tour:** Fall 2019, Deputy Assistant Secretary Sarah Jorgenson participated with representatives from the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) in the Compact Listening Tour with all three Freely Associated States.



- **Operation Christmas Drop:** December 2019, Assistant Secretary Domenech participated in Operation Christmas Drop, the longest-running DOD humanitarian effort in the Pacific. Pictured (left) with FSM President David Panuelo and former Ambassador Robert A. Riley, III.

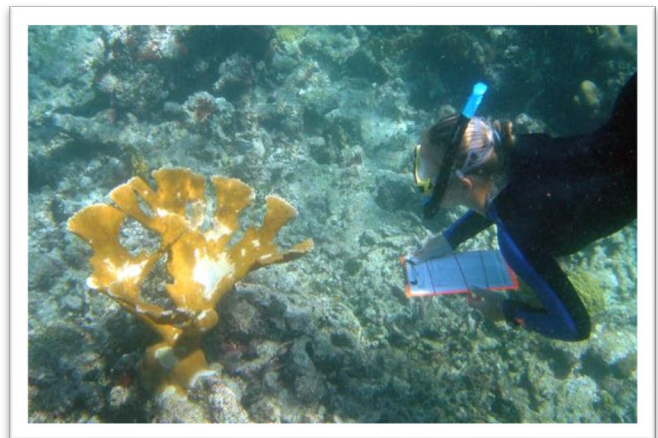
- **Support for the Four Atoll Healthcare Program:** March 2020, DOI/OIA authorized \$1,656,055 in funding to the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Ministry of Health and Human Services under the Four Atoll Healthcare Program. This program is used to provide basic healthcare services for the people of the four nuclear-affected atolls in the RMI: Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utrok.
- **Funded EconMAP Reports:** June 2020, announced the publication of three technical notes from the Graduate School USA's Economic Monitoring and Analysis Program (EconMAP) providing an initial assessment of the pandemic's economic impact on the FSM, RMI, and Palau.



- **Worked with Palau to Support Undersea Cable:** July 2020, approved Palau’s request to use \$7 million in United States grant assistance funding made available under the Palau Compact Review Agreement between the United States and Palau to support a second submarine, fiber-optic cable spur connecting Palau to the ECHO cable network. This funding was combined with support from the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific, and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation - in partnership with the Republic of Palau.
- **Sea Wall Funding:** Awarded \$1,107,654 in fiscal year 2020 grant funding to the RMI provided through the OIA Technical Assistance Program. This funding will support the Kili-Bikini-Ejit (KBE) Local Government’s efforts to build a sea wall on Ejit Island, Majuro Atoll, and provide equipment and supplies for the health clinic on Kili Island.

### Additional Support for all Insular Areas

- **Support for Census Bureau Outreach:** OIA partnered with the U.S. Census Bureau and the Office of Native Hawaiian Relations to promote a series of webinars for the public in an effort to spread the word in the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities about the upcoming United States decennial census.
- **Micronesia Islands Forum (MIF):** July 2018 and 2019, Assistant Secretary Domenech led the U.S. Delegation to the Micronesia Islands Forum held in the CNMI and Chuuk, FSM, respectively.



- **Funding for Coral Reefs and Natural Resources:** From fiscal year 2017 to fiscal year 2020, OIA provided over \$22 million in funds to protect and preserve coral reefs and to combat invasive species in the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, CNMI, and the USVI and to the FAS.



- World Heritage Opportunities Workshop/Historic Preservation Grants Training:** December 2019, hosted a World Heritage Opportunities Workshop and Historic Preservation grants training on Guam for over 75 government officials, historic preservation officers, natural and cultural preservation experts, and non-government representatives from the insular areas.
- Funded the Government Finance Officers Association:** May 2020, the OIA-funded Island Government Finance Officers Association (IGFOA) held its first virtual summer conference, which convened over more than sixty finance ministers and government finance officials from American Samoa, Guam, CNMI, USVI, FSM, RMI, and Palau.



- Funded Association of Pacific Islands Public Auditors Conference:** August 2020, OIA funded the Association of Pacific Islands Public Auditors (APIPA) 31st annual conference, which was held virtually due to challenges imposed by COVID-19 and travel restrictions. The APIPA 2020 virtual conference provided training for auditing and financial accountability officials from the U.S. Pacific territories and the FAS, helping them to meet government auditing standards and maintain professional competency. APIPA 2020 represented a record-high attendance,

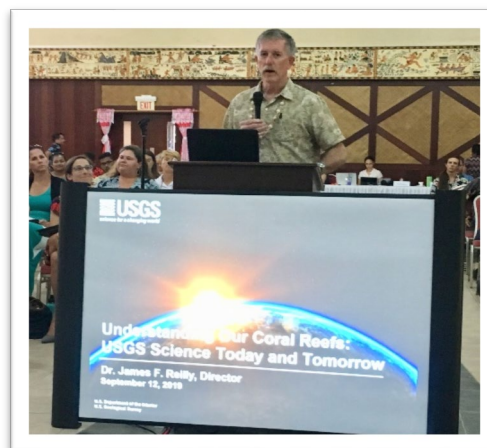
with over 700 participants joining courses. During the sessions, participants expanded their skills in audit report writing, root cause analysis, grants management, leadership, internal controls, and quality assurance. In total, over 4,925 course certificates were awarded for 19,700 CPE credit hours.

- Capacity Training:** From 2017-2020, OIA supported 213 training opportunities on government accountability, project management, auditing, budgeting, powerline training, and leadership development reaching 19,184 professionals in the insular areas.

- **Technical and Maintenance Assistance Funding:** From fiscal year 2017 to fiscal year 2020, OIA provided over \$86 million in Technical Assistance Program (TAP) and Maintenance Assistance Program (MAP) funds to the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, CNMI, and USVI as well as the FAS.

### Additional Ocean, Great Lakes, and Coastal Program Activities

- **U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting in Washington, DC:** April 2019, Assistant Secretary Domenech co-chaired and coordinated the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force biannual business meeting.
- **42nd Annual U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting in Palau:** September 2019, Assistant Secretary Domenech and Rear Admiral Tim Gallaudet of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration co-chaired the meeting accompanied by U.S. Geological Survey Director Jim Reilly, who was a featured speaker.



- **Reviewed Second World Ocean Assessment:** DOI participated in the U.S. Government review of the draft second World Ocean Assessment (WOA). The publication of the second WOA will represent the culmination of a five-year process documenting trends in the state of the marine environment observed since the publication of the first WOA in 2015.
- **Capitol Hill Ocean Week:** The Oceans staff worked with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) to host Capitol Hill Ocean Week 2017-2020 with a focus on ocean biodiversity this year (2020). The annual event includes keynote speeches, panels, and other videos on ocean science, management, and policy-related topics. DOI plays a prominent role in partnering with NMSF to plan the event. The event was online-only in 2020 due to COVID-19. The Ocean, Great Lakes, and Coastal Program Coordinator met with the organizers to help plan sessions and make panelist suggestions.



- **Presidential Memorandum on Ocean Research, Mapping, and Characterization:**

November 2019, President Trump signed a Presidential memorandum (PM) that called for the mapping, exploration, and characterization of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and streamlining of permitting for research activities. The PM directed agencies, through the White House Ocean Policy Committee, to develop three documents: 1) a national strategy for mapping and characterizing the U.S. EEZ (National Strategy), 2) a plan to map the coastline and nearshore Alaska (Alaska Mapping Plan), and 3) a list of recommendations to streamline permitting for ocean exploration and mapping (Permitting Recommendations). Program staff led and/or participated in several progress and drafting meetings, commented on several draft versions, coordinated DOI input through the DOI Senior Ocean Policy Team, and worked with the Office of Science and Technology Policy and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) staff plus members of the Ocean Research Management and Ocean Science and Technology Subcommittees to see these documents to finalization. These documents are posted on the White House's CEQ website.



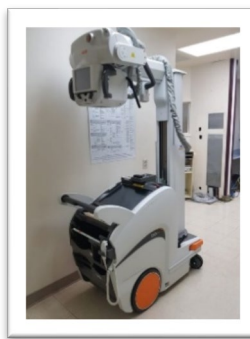
## Disaster Operations



- **Hurricane Recovery:** Following the deadly hurricanes in 2017, OIA worked with the National Park Service to expedite efforts to reopen National Parks in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico ahead of the busy 2017 Christmas tourism season, helping the islands' economic recovery.

- **FEMA RSFLG in the USVI:** Provided critical advocacy through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Recovery Support Function Leadership Group (RSFLG), which has resulted in significant policy and program-related benefits to the USVI.

- **Supplemental Disaster Recovery Funding:** In 2019, OIA provided \$3 million to the USVI and \$2 million to the CNMI in supplemental disaster recovery funding to streamline financial management and coordination of disaster recovery funding. Funding to the VI Office of Disaster Recovery has played a significant role in managing and providing transparency and accountability to the USVI' recovery operations.
- **Emergency COVID Assistance for the CNMI:** March 2020, OIA approved an emergency COVID-19 grant request from the CNMI for \$366,000. The request was for an urgent medical supply order for elderly, high risk citizens to be distributed by CNMI's Department of Aging in advance of COVID-19 hitting the territory.
- **Pacific-wide COVID-19 Assistance:** March 2020, OIA approved a grant application from the Pacific Islands Health Officers' Association (PIHOA) for \$858,924 in emergency Technical Assistance Program funding. The funding was used for regional bulk procurement of the newly developed COVID-19 testing assay using the moderate complexity GenXpert testing platform.



- **CARES Act Funding for Insular Areas:** April 2020, OIA received approval of its spending plan for \$55 million in funding provided by the U.S. Congress under the CARES Act to support the territories and FAS as they work to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding was awarded based upon population as follows: American Samoa \$4.1 million, CNMI \$4.0 million, Guam \$12.0 million, USVI \$7.9 million, FSM \$7.7 million, RMI \$3.9 million, Palau \$1.6 million, and a Reserve for contingencies \$13.8 million.
- **Advised U.S. Department of Education on CARES Act Allocations:** May 2020, Assistant Secretary Domenech applauded the U.S. Department of Education for financial support provided under the CARES Act to the territories and the FAS to prevent, to prepare for, and to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic: over \$172,000,000 was made available through the Education Stabilization Fund and the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund to the territorial and FAS governments, elementary and secondary schools, and post-secondary institutions, including their students.

## Congressional Hearings and Briefings

### Congressional Hearings

- House Committee on Natural Resources (HCNR). Subcommittee oversight hearing on Improving and Expanding Infrastructure in Tribal and Insular Communities. 3/9/2017.
- Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (SENR). Full Committee hearing on H.R. 339 (Sablan), To amend Public Law 94-241 with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands. 3/27/2017. OIA Director Nikolao Pula testified.
- SENR. Full Committee hearing to consider nominations. 7/20/2017. Assistant Secretary Domenech testified.
- SENR. Full Committee hearing on S. 2182 (Murkowski), Bikini Resettlement and Relocation Act, and S. 2325 (Murkowski), Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act. 2/6/2018. Assistant Secretary Domenech testified.
- HCNR. Oversight: Hearing on "Policy Priorities for the Administration's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget for Indian Affairs and Insular Areas." 3/20/2018. Assistant Secretary Domenech testified.
- HCNR. Legislative: Full Committee Legislative Hearing on H.R. 560, Northern Mariana Islands Residents Relief Act. 2/27/2019. OIA Director Pula testified.
- SENR. Full Committee Hearing on the Freely Associated States. 7/23/2019. Assistant Secretary Domenech testified.
- HCNR. Joint Full Committee Hearing: Joint Hearing of the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Foreign Affairs on Sustaining U.S. Pacific Insular Relationships. 9/26/2019. OIA Director Pula testified.

### House and Senate Briefings on the Compacts of Free Association

- Briefing to Foreign Affairs and Natural Resources/Energy Committee staff on listening tours. 11/19/2020.
- SENR. Full Committee Staff Briefing on the Status of Compact Negotiations. 6/5/2020. Assistant Secretary Domenech participated.
- Senate and House Foreign Affairs/Natural Resources/Energy Committee staff on Status of Compact Negotiations. 8/24/2020.
- HCNR. Full Committee Member and Staff Briefing on the Status of Compact Negotiations. 9/9/2020. Assistant Secretary Domenech participated.



## Leadership Engagement

**Leadership Engagement:** From 2017–2020, Assistant Secretary Domenech and Senior Staff traveled multiple times to all four U.S. territories under OIA’s jurisdiction and each of the three FAS. The Assistant Secretary also traveled to Puerto Rico in his role on the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico, and in his role as an official member of U.S. delegations, he visited the nations of Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, and Tuvalu.





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