



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

September 11, 2012

The Honorable Evelyn Adolph  
Director  
Office of SBOC  
Government of the FSM

Dear Evelyn:

Thank you for your letter of September 6, 2012 in which you forwarded one of the resolutions from the recent Chuuk Leadership Conference and simultaneously proposed a delay in the timing of a high-level meeting to discuss the matter of Chuuk State Education Reform and requested an allocation for Chuuk State Education starting on October 1, 2012. We are in agreement that the timing of that meeting needs to be delayed, though we should make every attempt to schedule the meeting at the earliest date. Similarly, we are in agreement that an allocation for Chuuk State Compact Education Sector grant should be in place so that our meeting in October does not take place during a period of suspended funding.

As such, OIA will recommend a limited allocation for Chuuk State Education from FY2013 Compact Sector Grant funds be approved by the full JEMCO in our upcoming meeting. The limitations on such an allocation would be in terms of time, allowing for only the first quarter of FY2013, and in terms of discretionary spending, allowing only for what we can mutually agree are the essential expenditures to enable the Chuuk State School System to operate during that first quarter. I trust you will agree that we want to ensure that any discretionary spending will occur in the context of a mutually agreed way forward towards implementation of sensible education reforms in Chuuk State. Since that mutual agreement is the desired outcome of our pending meeting, my intention is to reserve as much funding as possible at this time.

If, as we both hope, the outcomes of our meeting are positive, I anticipate calling for a virtual JEMCO meeting to allocate a revised budget for the entire fiscal year for the Chuuk State Education Sector Grant. Referring back to my letter to President Mori, dated August 2, 2012, I described what I consider to be a truly positive outcome as follows:

“At a minimum, we need to have commitment on several specific reform measures, and we need to create an oversight mechanism which will ensure credible and timely implementation of reforms.”

Since we're clearly in agreement in moving forward with the meeting at the earliest agreeable date, I would like to propose having the Graduate School USA, acting in the third-party role previously discussed, take the lead in identifying dates and to work with all parties to propose an agenda for our meeting and the key steps in the process for achieving the mutual agreement needed at this time. I have confidence that all three parties—the US, the FSM, and Chuuk State— will be well-served by the facilitative role of the Graduate School USA.

I hope that by the time we meet next week we will have settled on dates for this important meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikolao Pula". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nikolao I. Pula  
Chairman, JEMCO

cc: T.H. Lorin Robert, Vice Chairman, JEMCO  
Mr. Bill Gallo, JEMCO Member  
Ms. Anusha Seneviratne, Alternate JEMCO Member