



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

December 11, 2012

Dr. Patrick U. Tellei
President
Palau Community College
Post Office Box 9
Koror, Palau 96940

Dear Dr. Tellei:

It is my honor and privilege to invite you to be a member of a soon-to-be-formed Advisory Group on Education Reform for Chuuk State. I know the possibility that such a group might be formed is not news to you; however, I'm pleased to share the good news that we have achieved agreement by the principal parties in attendance at a *High-Level Meeting on Education Reform for Chuuk State* last month to proceed with the formation of the Advisory Group. I have sent you an electronic copy of the Proceedings of that meeting, which includes the *Communique*' and a ten-point Specific Program of Action. You'll note that the tenth item identified in the Program of Action—which, from my perspective as JEMCO Chairman, is the most important—describes the formation of the Advisory Group to which I'm inviting you to be a member.

As someone who has worked diligently for so many years to support improvements in education both in your community and throughout the region, I am particularly pleased to be able to invite you to be a member of this important group. As a member, you would be expected to participate for several days each quarter at meetings to be held in Chuuk. While the specific roles and responsibilities of the Advisory Group remain purposefully informal, the members will, in effect, be serving as adjunct advisers to the Chuuk Board of Education directly, and to all of the stakeholders in the Chuuk School System indirectly. I anticipate three members serving on the Advisory Group, chosen to represent different skill sets, experience, and styles, to further benefit the reform initiatives to be undertaken in Chuuk.

One invited member of the Advisory Group, Mr. Tom Bussanich, is the Budget Director for the Office of Insular Affairs and a member of my staff—hence my confidence in his acceptance of my invitation. Tom began his long career as a Peace Corps volunteer in Chuuk and maintains an abiding interest in supporting reform efforts within the region. All of my nominees will be distinguished by their long track-record of work on behalf of the people of Chuuk.

With this invitation, I also offer my assurance you that you'll have my full attention and support as you fulfill your responsibilities as an Advisory Group member. Logistical support for your participation will be organized by a respected institution with extensive experience in the region, working under contract with the Chuuk State Government and utilizing Compact funds. Specifically, your travel costs to and from Chuuk will be covered, up to and including four quarterly meetings each year. In addition, your lodging and transportation costs will also be covered while on-island for each meeting. As appropriate for your circumstances, I have also recommended that an honorarium or stipend be provided to offset the cost of your involvement in recognition of your many other responsibilities. I will be happy to provide more specific information if, upon seeking clearance to accept my invitation, you run into questions or concerns from your Board of Regents.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this nomination. For the United States government in general, and for me specifically, your endeavor—supporting our endeavors—is among our highest priorities. I look forward to your acceptance; more importantly, I look forward to the contributions I am confident you will make for the benefit of the people of Chuuk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nikolao I Pula".

Nikolao I Pula
Director
Office of Insular Affairs

cc: JEMCO Members
T.H. Johnson Elimo, Governor, Chuuk State
Gardenia Aisek, Director, Chuuk State Department of Education
T.H. Asterio Takesy, FSM Ambassador to the United States
T.H. Dorothea Rosen, US Ambassador to the FSM