



Health Policy and Advocacy for the Pacific— Opportunities and Challenges

76th PIHOA Executive Board Meeting

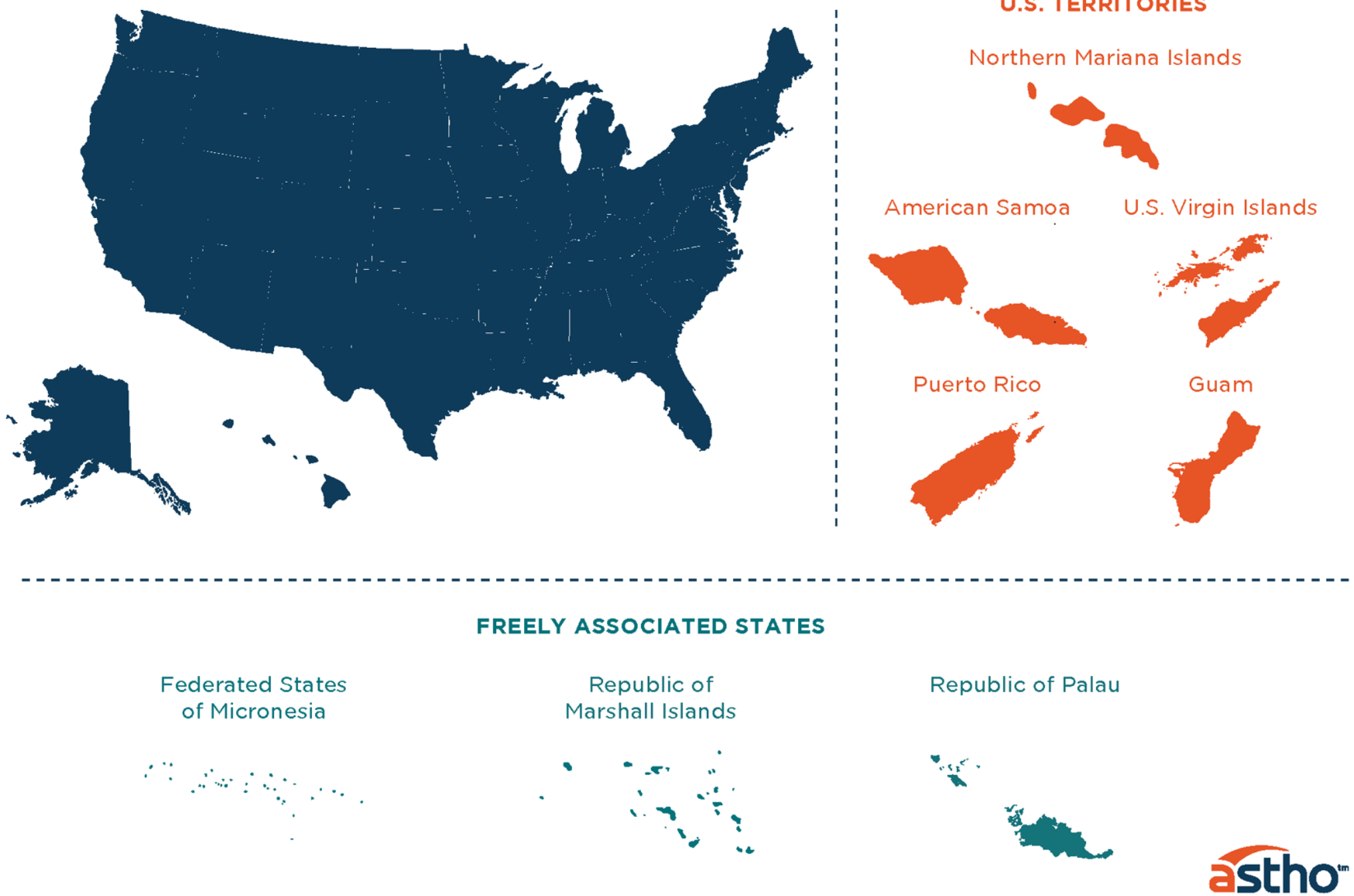
March 2025

Association of State & Territorial Health Officials -- *Who We Are & What We Do*

Represent 59 chief health officials from each of the 50 states, DC, 5 US territories, & 3 Freely Associated States

Core Functions

- Develop strong and effective public health leaders.
- Improve public health through capacity building, technical assistance, and thought leadership.
- Advocate for resources and policies that improve the public's health and well-being.



Serving our Island Members

Island Champion within ASTHO (Island Support Team)

- Help ASTHO teams be "island-smart"
- Lead T/FAS-focused work
- Advocate internally for island needs and priorities

Island Voices at our National Table

- Pacific, Atlantic Director on ASTHO Board
- Insular Affairs Committee to ASTHO Board

Island Champion outside ASTHO (Government Affairs, IST)

- Facilitate discussions with key Congressional Committee staff
- Facilitate discussions with key administration officials

Engage with Regional and National Partners

- PIHOA
- PHIG: NNPHI, PHAB
- Academic community
- NAMD



How ASTHO Supports USAPI Policy Priorities

Insular Affairs Committee

- The Insular Affairs Committee to the ASTHO Board of Directors was formed in 2018 to identify and address the **unique policy needs and priorities** of the Pacific and Atlantic jurisdictions
- Focus: **legislative** policy change
- Responsible for Tier 1 legislative priorities:
 - Medicaid parity for territories
 - Meaningful COFA renegotiation for FAS
 - Improve support to special populations, particularly veterans





- Overview
 - Targets procedures, organizational policies, and programmatic structures surrounding island health programming (“**little p policy**”)
- Structure
 - **Quarterly meetings** with leaders from island jurisdictions, federal agencies, and partner organizations featuring subgroup readouts and **hot topics**
 - Monthly/ad-hoc **subgroup** meetings



Current Priorities and Opportunities

SLF photos/overview



Territorial Medicaid

- ASTHO position statement: *“Territorial Medicaid Funding: Achieving Parity with States”*
- Current situation:
 - Seek to avoid Medicaid cuts (\$880 billion)
 - Lots of learning among new members
- Opportunities:
 - MAHA, prevention, chronic disease, cost efficiency
 - Committees want to hear from us– share stories, statistics, good and bad (1:1s = effective)



COFA Implementation

- ASTHO position statement (update in progress):
“Optimizing the Impact of Renegotiated Compacts of Free Association”
- Current situation:
 - Priorities: VA services, USAID disaster preparedness
 - EOs, federal agency uncertainties
- Opportunities:
 - Geopolitics, cost efficiency, “bipartisan”
 - Committees want to hear from us– share stories, statistics, good and bad (1:1s = effective)



“Little p policy”

- IAW subgroups:
 - Data Capacity
 - Workforce
 - Health Financing
- Current situation:
 - MAHA agenda: chronic disease (youth)
 - Significant uncertainty among federal partners
- Pictured: expanding the table



Upcoming ASTHO Opportunities

On your radar...

ASTHO Profile survey (Feb-May 2025)

T/FAS Health Action Institute 3.0 (April 8-10, 2025 in St Croix, USVI)

ASTHO EHD meeting (June 4-6, 2025 in Minneapolis, MN)

ASTHO Executive Leadership Forum (June 24-26, 2025 in Atlanta, GA)

Island Policy Interest Group (quarterly, virtual)

