

## Mission

PIHOA's mission is to improve the health and well being of the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Island (USAPI) communities by providing, through consensus, a unified credible voice on health issues of regional significance.

The PIHOA Secretariat's assignment is fulfilling PIHOA's mission, with its goals and objectives. Our pursuits include health policy development and advocacy, knowledge dissemination, communication enhancements, health services, research, continuing health professional development, quality assurance, and cooperative networking inside and outside the Pacific Basin.

## History

The idea of forming PIHOA first emerged in the mid-1980s as the region's principal health officials gathered at conferences sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Region IX office, the World Health Organization, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and others. These Pacific Executive Health Officers recognized that while they shared common health interests, problems, concerns, and history, they had no formal mechanism to come together to discuss their commonalities. Working with the above groups gave them the opportunity to come together and work on finding appropriate regional solutions.

The region's health Directors, Ministers, and Secretaries organized PIHOA in 1986. In 1987, the group elected its first officers, drafted its bylaws, and secured its incorporation as a public entity in the CNMI. The body selected its executive director and sought a special relationship with the University of Hawaii, School of Public Health to house its Secretariat. The School of Public Health would highlight the organization's visibility, while providing easier access to concerned educational and philanthropic organizations that could help with needed resources and the concerned policy makers in Washington, DC. Today, PIHOA is an independent, 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to improving health in the region.



## PIHOA Secretariat Headquarters

737 Bishop Street, Suite 2075  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
p. 808.537.3131  
f: 808.537.6868  
website: [www.pihoa.org](http://www.pihoa.org)

## PIHOA Guam Office

414 West Soledad Avenue, Suite 800

Agana, GU 96910  
p. 671.735.3337  
f: 671.735.3341

## PIHOA Palau Office

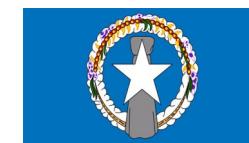
Palau Community College-PIHOA

P.O. Box 8007  
Koror, PW 96940  
p. 680.488.4900



# PIHOA

**“Representing the Collective  
Health Interests of the U.S.  
Affiliated Pacific Islands”**



The Territory of Guam  
The Republic of Palau

The Territory of American Samoa  
The Federated States of Micronesia  
The Republic of the Marshall Islands

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

# About PIHOA

The Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA) is a non-profit organization that is led by and represents the collective interests of the Ministers, Secretaries, and Directors of Health of the U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPIs).

The USAPI include the three U.S. Flag Territories of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa, and the three Freely Associated States (independent nations in a special compact relationship with the United States) of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia (Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk, and Yap).



PIHOA continues to dedicate itself to improving health status in the USAPIs through critical regional health policy dialogue, advocacy with U.S., regional and international donors and technical agencies, and provision of direct technical assistance.

We are governed by an executive board comprised of the Ministers, Directors and Secretaries of health of the six USAPIs. The PIHOA Secretariat maintains executive, administrative and technical staff located in Hawaii, Guam and Palau. PIHOA also has many contracted health professionals providing technical assistance throughout the region.



## What We Do

In our current Strategic Action Framework 2018-22 as endorsed by the USAPI Ministers, Directors and Secretaries of Health, the PIHOA Secretariat provides support and technical assistance in the following areas:

- 1) Policy Development, Advocacy and Health Planning
- 2) Regional Human Resources for Health
- 3) Health Information Management Systems
- 4) Performance Management and Quality Improvement
- 5) Laboratory Strengthening

PIHOA works in close partnership with a number of international and regional technical agencies, including:

**Academic Institutions** – University of Hawaii, University of Guam, Fiji National University and the local USAPI Community Colleges.

**Technical Agencies** – World Health Organization, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, US Centers for Disease Control, US Health and Human Services Region IX, Human Resources and Services Administration and Association of State and Territorial Health Officials.

**Professional Associations** – Pacific Basin Medical Association, Pacific Basin Dental Association, American Pacific Nursing Leaders Council, Pacific Island Primary Care Association, Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands, Pacific Community-SPC, Pacific Chronic Disease Coalition, Pacific Behavioral Health Collaborating Council, Pacific Resources for Education and Learning, Northern Pacific Environmental Health Association, Pacific Partnership for Tobacco Free Islands, Association of USAPI Labs, Association of USAPI Pharmacists, and the Pacific Post-Secondary Education Council.

## PIHOA Board of Directors

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Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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Ministry of Health  
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Ministry of Health  
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Federated States of Micronesia

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