

GOVERNOR CAMACHO ATTENDS 10th MICRONESIAN CHIEF EXECUTIVES SUMMIT

Discussions on creating a Pacific Health District and support for Guam's seaport expansion is focus of two-day Summit meetings in Pohnpei

November 19, 2008

(Palikir, Pohnpei FSM) Governor Felix P. Camacho is in attendance at the 10th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit. Governor Camacho is in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) for the bi-annual meetings with FSM President and Chairman Manny Mori, Republic of Palau President Tommy Remengesau Jr., Republic of the Marshall Islands President Litokwa Tomeing and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Governor Benigno Fitial. Also joining the 10th Summit is Yap State Governor Sebastian Anefal, Kosrae State Governor Robert Weilbacher, Pohnpei State Governor John Ehsa and Chuuk State Governor Wesley Simia.

"This is a significant meeting as we finally have all the leaders from all of Micronesia in one room to discuss issues of mutual concern for the peoples of the Northern Pacific," said Governor Camacho.

The two-day meetings at the COM-FSM Conference Facility in Palikir will focus on a number of issues including the formalized creation of the Micronesia Center for Sustainable Future, bulk fuel and pharmaceutical purchase agreements for Micronesia and the establishment of trade policy between the islands and neighboring countries.

The Chief Executives will consider the creation of a Pacific Health District.

"This is an important first step toward bringing our collective resources together," said Governor Camacho. "This will be presented to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of the Interior who earlier this year had promised that a federal task force will be stood up to help our respective governments form a Pacific Health District. A Pacific Health District would prioritize our critical health care needs and help fund some of the issues where disparity exists between the American citizens and the citizens of the Freely Associated States."

In July, A Joint Statement of Resolve was entered into and committed each of the Summit members to work in a collaborative effort to find solutions to strengthen the islands' human resources for health.

Governor Camacho also will be seeking support of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Summit members related to the expansion of the Port Authority of Guam. The Port Modernization Plan calls for \$195 million in improvements to seaport facilities to accommodate the import and export of goods during the height of the Guam Buildup Program and to sustain economic growth beyond the next decade. Ten percent of the planned expenditures, or \$19.5 million, already has been identified.

"We have clear direction on how the \$195 million in improvements under the Guam Port Master Plan will be funded," said Governor Camacho. "An MOU between all the Summit members will be a shining example of the achievements we can make as a Micronesian community by coming together, making our case and involving all stakeholders of the importance of the work at this key transportation hub of the Northern Pacific."

The Micronesian Chief Executives Summit was founded in 2004 by former-CNMI Governor Juan Babauta and Governor Camacho who called for the establishment of the sub-regional meetings to establish closer ties, enhance existing ties, expand future discussions and agree on beneficial initiatives for the benefit of the entire Western Micronesian Region.