Imagine the United States with 536,000 people & 11 patrol trucks

How to span vast Pacific with few people and little money

- Carlotta Leon Guerrero
- Executive Director
- Ayuda Foundation
- CWAG Hawaii March 14-16, 2017
Ayuda Foundation / How Did We Begin?

- Formed in 1995 by:
  - Carlotta Leon Guerrero- then Association Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) Guam member
  - Dr. Mike Cruz- then Medical Director of Guam Memorial Hospital
  - Christine Nielsen-then Sales & Marketing Division of Continental Micronesia

Our mission is to improve delivery of health, education & community development services to APIL members.
Ayuda Foundation Provides Service to Members of Association Pacific Island Legislatures

- Chuuk
- Kosrae,
- Yap
- Pohnpei
- Palau
- Guam
- CNMI
- Marshall Islands
- American Samoa
- Hawaii
- Nauru
- Kiribati
Growing Importance of APIL

- Focus on just 12 Pacific jurisdictions is a big bite, but still narrows the vastness of Pacific
- 36 year history signifies roots
- Training ground for leaders who will tackle issues during years of public service
- Regular meetings allow for timely action on pressing issues
- Lawmakers want cutting edge but can’t afford it and welcome informed voices and research
“We meet regularly to consider matters in areas where regional cooperation, coordination, exchange and assistance may help governments achieve their goals through collective action.

We, as representatives of these Pacific Island Peoples, have joined together in an association structured with sufficient capability and permanence to address in depth, the substantive regional and international issues facing the emerging Pacific governments.”
APIL Develops Environmental Pathway

1. In June 2006 Saipan:
   a. APIL Resolution 25-GA-06, CD1 - “Requesting the members of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) to encourage and support the establishment of a network of interconnected Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) across island jurisdictions to promote, protect, and conserve the fragile and connected coral and marine ecosystems of Pacific Island Nations.”
Goal is to conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020.

In 2006, the Micronesia Challenge was launched, by the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.
APIL Seeks Technical Assistance NGO Partner

In June 2006 Saipan:

APIL Resolution 25-GA-07, CD1 - “Requesting the Officers of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures to identify potential non-governmental organization partners to provide research and technical services for APIL and member legislatures to support goals of protecting the environment, managing our ocean resources, and defending public interest.”

High tide Lekiniocch Atoll, Chuuk 2007
June 2011 Palau: APIL Resolution No. 30-GA-03 - "Requesting all legislative assemblies of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures to adopt legislation prohibiting the possession, selling, offering for sale, trading or distribution of shark fins, rays and ray parts."
MICRONESIA
Regional Shark Sanctuary

Mariana Islands

Marshall Islands

Palau

Federated States of Micronesia
In June 2016, APIL signed Resolution 35-GA-19, “Requesting the Board of Directors of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures to establish a Standing Committee to address illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including the enforcement and implementation of shark sanctuaries in the region.”
cont’d..APIL wants to create a Standing Committee to address illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

- “...the President of the APIL is requested to join together an interim working group of interested individuals of each delegation from within the APIL to prepare a prospectus for the Board of Directors on the opportunities and challenges which will confront this new committee upon its establishment.”

- Once established, the approved entity can seek funding and provide legal, scientific, technical and strategic support to lawmakers of 12 Pacific governments as they grapple with natural resources over vast distances.
Why we do what we do. Thank you