



PACIFIC ISLAND HEALTH OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

March 28, 2001

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Donna Knutson
Executive Director
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
2872 Woodcock Blvd.
Suite 303
Atlanta, GA 30341

Re: Support of Resolution Addressing Lymphatic Filariasis in States & US Territories

Dear Ms. Knutson:

The Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA) recently held its 31st Board of Directors Meeting in Guam. At our meeting, we were able to discuss:

- ❖ CSTE Policy Resolution 2001-ID
Committee: Infectious Disease
Title: Addressing Lymphatic Filariasis in States and US
Territories

The PIHOA Board of Directors agrees and recognizes that lymphatic filariasis is still a public health problem in American Samoa and that the prevalence rate is as high as 21% in men and 12% in women.

We also believe that the development and implementation of a successful lymphatic filariasis elimination program would be beneficial not only to American Samoa but to the entire Pacific Island Region. Such a program would require that technical support and operational funding be provided.

Therefore, the Pacific Island Health Officers Association is pleased to endorse the CSTE resolution which encourages support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for addressing lymphatic filariasis in the States and US Territories.

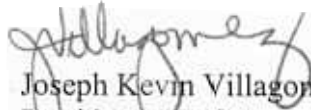
We hope your resolution will be successful in facilitating the needed support be made available to begin operations to reduce the burden of filariasis in American Samoa and other Pacific Islands.

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We welcome this opportunity to endorse and comment on your resolution and look forward to future opportunities for collaboration.

Sincerely,



Joseph Kevin Villagomez, MA
President, PIHOA

xc: PIHOA Board of Directors
Executive Director

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