

## **V. Working Group – Island Health Officials: Recommendations**

### **SEVENTEEN RECOMMENDATIONS TO DONOR AGENCIES RESULTING FROM THE DOI INSULAR AREA HEALTH SUMMIT SEPTEMBER 2008**

1. Make the three freely-associated states areas eligible for benefits under the Denton Amendment.
2. Increase focus on preventive and primary health care.
3. Develop a coordinated cross-sectored, cross-agency approach to assisting the Insular Areas with transforming their health systems.
4. Work with the Insular Areas to identify and implement minimum standards for health data and health information systems.
5. Make Medicaid reimbursement to the territories equitable; that is, lift the Medicaid cap and adjust the current Medicaid cost-share requirement.
6. Support a new Institute of Medicine report on the Insular Areas and include the U.S. Virgin Islands.
7. Focus on root causes and priority initiatives consistent with the strategic goals of the Insular Areas.
8. Review and revise the DOI OIG standards and policies for reviews related to the Insular Areas.
9. Develop and implement consultation policies that help ensure more responsive, Insular Area-driven technical assistance.
10. Help review and revise the current health professional licensing agreements among the Insular Areas and their US and international partners.
11. Help the Insular Areas assess and strengthen their systems of health care financing.
12. Increase the Insular Areas' access to resources of the US Veterans Health Administration.
13. Support the development of in-country, accredited public health training programs among community colleges in the Insular Areas.

14. Support existing regional and local efforts to develop quality assurance and improvement systems among hospitals, community health centers and public health departments in the Insular Areas
15. Support existing regional and local efforts to strengthen the health workforce in the Insular Areas.
16. Include representatives from the Insular Areas on the task force chartered under the Joint Agreement Interagency Coordination of Assets for Insular Area Health Response (ICAIHR).
17. Help strengthen local and regional institutions by actively using them as key venues for planning, policy development, and decision-making.