

## **TELEHEALTH PROJECT SUMMARY TEMPLATE**

Please provide information on all major projects in the last ten years (1998-2008) and any planned future projects

**SUMMARY WRITER:** COL Suzie Martin

**PROJECT NAME:** Pacific Island Health Care Program

**ORGANIZATION/AGENCY (and primary contact):** Tripler Army Medical Center, Critical Care Medicine

**FUNDING (source and amount):** Current funding through US Army Medical Command; \$3.3 - \$4.6 M annually

**START UP FUNDS:** Initially funded through Congressional Appropriation of \$4.5 M

**REIMBURSEMENT (submitted/not submitted):** N/A

**DURATION (start time and date):** Started 1990

**PURPOSE/INTENT (100 words maximum):**

To provide humanitarian medical care to the underserved Pacific Islanders of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa and Guam; and to provide Tripler resident with a unique patient case mix for education and training in diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic diseases prevalent in the developing world. The Program uses a store and forward, web-based consultation and referral system. Medical providers using 10 telemedicine workstations throughout the remote Pacific send requests to Tripler where they are forwarded to the appropriate specialist for treatment or referral determination.

**MAJOR CRITICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

Since 1998 it is estimated that nearly 3,500 patients have benefited from the program as well as 250 residents. Over 50 abstracts and peer reviewed publication have been published. Over 337 remote providers have benefited from distance education and learning.

**CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS:**

Ability to leverage store and forward technology to bridge distances in excess of 5,000 miles, 5 time zones and the International Date Line.

**CRITICAL BARRIERS (overcome or not):**

Funding of the program must be obtained year to year. The Pacific Islands fall under the Department of the Interior. Although Department of Defense is charged with making medical facilities and services available to the Pacific Island peoples, Tripler is not funded for this mission.

**MAJOR LESSON LEARNED:**

Decreases, adjustments or decrements in funding seriously decreases the number of patients that can be accepted into program. The project is central to Graduate Medical Education and prepares providers for wartime missions

**CURRENT STATUS (active, planned, dormant, completed, other?):**

Active

**PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS:**

US Associated Pacific Islands, Pacific Telehealth and Technology Hui

**IS THERE A CLINICAL CHAMPION OR A COMMITTEE OVERSEEING THE TELEMEDICINE PROGRAM?**

Clinical Champion

**TECHNOLOGY USED:** Web based store and forward