

1 wanted to publish a regular newsletter. She had some problems.
2 I think she might continue to produce that for the Micronesian
3 community (indiscernible) possible (indiscernible) to publish
4 information.

5 The next panelist is a person you all know,
6 Dr. Hilda Heine. I was very disturbed by a presentation she had
7 made in the college of -- no -- the Marshall Islands High School
8 some years ago. It was supposed to go on the Pacific Islands
9 Report.

10 She was speaking to high school graduates. And
11 she said for the last seven years, there had been, like, just a
12 few college graduates from the whole Marshall Islands as a
13 nation. So the efforts of the community and the government is
14 very slow in terms of producing Marshall Islands students who
15 actually finish school and university.

16 So I'm grateful that she distinguished herself
17 and now serves as an example for many of us, and also that she
18 was (audience interruption) continues to work with us in various
19 ways to encourage Marshallese and other Micronesians to proceed
20 in college and finish their education.

21 So I think without further ado, let's hear from
22 Dr. Hilda Heine.

23 Small Island Networks

24 BY DR. HILDA HEINE:

25 Thank you. Good morning, Richard. Thank you for that

1 piece.

2 I, in thinking about my role in talking about
3 increasing effective communication, and I look at the program, I
4 (indiscernible) it under school orientation. So I guess I'll
5 start out by talking about PREL.

6 Most of you know about Pacific Resources Education --
7 that's where I officially work. And I unofficial work for SINET
8 on my own time. But PREL, as you all know, is an educational
9 organization that serves what is known as the
10 American-affiliated Pacific. So that includes all the
11 territories and the Freely Associated States.

12 And in terms of increasing effective communication, we
13 do a number of things to increase communication, primarily in
14 the area of education. And in working with Micro communities
15 here in Hawai`i, we created a web site called Team -- I think
16 it's still on the web site.

17 This is really (indiscernible) others at PREL, we work
18 together to put out information about cultures of Micronesia
19 online as a means to improve understanding and awareness of the
20 cultural groups and (indiscernible) in Micronesia.

21 This was about maybe six or seven years ago that we
22 did this Team web site. And it's still there, and we get a
23 number of requests from different educators about educational
24 materials and about culture information. And that's been very
25 helpful for teachers, and that was the purpose of that, our web

1 site. So it's increasing and providing information for
2 teachers.

3 Also over the years, PREL has also worked on various
4 materials that are in different languages. We created
5 audiotapes, stories that are in different languages that are on
6 audiotapes and share them with the education systems here.

7 These are stories from the islands. They're in both
8 English and, you know, one of the native languages. And they
9 have been used by teachers of (indiscernible) as a way of
10 increasing understanding in the sense of knowing what the
11 information is all about and understanding it.

12 We've also done a number of CD's with -- again, with
13 the stories from the different island groups. Way back we did
14 the palm CD, and I think it's still out there. But it's all
15 kinds of stories in different languages from the different
16 cultural groups that have been burned on to a CD and it's made
17 available again for teachers and as a means of insuring that
18 kids in school from the different island groups get to see their
19 languages and also get to hear it in materials that are
20 available to them.

21 So those are just some of the things that we try to --
22 of course, PREL has a web site that's available for educators
23 and other professionals interested in getting information about
24 various issues in education, from teacher quality to reading,
25 you know, and so on and so forth -- that they're all on the web

1 site. It's www.prel.org. So that information is there for to
2 increase not only understanding, but communication.

3 I will now move on to a Small Island Networks. This
4 is a small nonprofit organization that we started about around
5 2000. This was when there was hardly any nonprofit organization
6 that was working with Micronesians, helping service providers
7 understand the different cultures. And we saw the need after
8 working at PREL and helping schools to -- you know, with
9 translations as well as doing cultural awareness and increasing
10 the understanding of the different cultures.

11 Through my work at PREL, it wasn't enough. So we said
12 we -- you know, there was a need to start a nonprofit
13 organization. Julie (indiscernible) and I cofounded the
14 organization. And since 2005, I think we've done close to 100
15 or so workshops. And this not just through educators, but also
16 to help nurses and doctors and to Hawai'i public safety
17 department, state of (indiscernible) programs social services,
18 courts and judges.

19 And as I said, this was in the early days before -- it
20 was preceding Micronesian Community Network and all the other
21 organizations that are currently taking on, you know, what is --
22 I mean, the -- the word of helping to increase understanding and
23 communication across the state and the service providers.

24 We tried to put together a web site, and we do have a
25 web site, and it's still there, www. SINET dot -- or

1 smallislandnetworks.org. And there are some information that
2 we're trying to put up there, again for increasing understanding
3 and communication.

4 In the future, we're looking to put more or to focus
5 on training for interpreters, working in the area of trying to
6 help with translations, also working on (indiscernible)
7 materials for service providers as well as for Micronesians. So
8 we've seen our role as kind of an intersection between island
9 people as well as service providers so that we would connect the
10 two as a (indiscernible) of seeking information.

11 So we're still working on doing that. Unfortunately,
12 I am now back in the Marshall Islands and Julie's here. And I
13 think we're trying to see how we could move things forward. But
14 it's still a very viable organization. And it's -- as I said,
15 we're looking to focus on print and web resources, to put up on
16 the line, translated, and also doing training for interpreter
17 and for people working in that area.

18 So I guess one final piece about Small Island
19 Networks. We try to build capacities. At this time, a number
20 of training for tutors that have worked in schools, some of the
21 tutors have gone on to become educators in the schools, working
22 with Micronesian kids.

23 So these are some of the things we tried to focus on,
24 again, building capacities of Micronesians here to do more of
25 the work that is needed, realizing that a familiar face, you

1 know, makes it all easier to communicate and to get things done.

2 So with those, I will stop here. Those are the
3 information I wanted to share about the two organizations that I
4 work with currently. Thank you.

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6 (Audience applause.)

7 MR. SALVADOR: Thank you very much, Hilda.

8 I wanted to say something about the inclusiveness
9 of Micronesians on the panel. We were supposed to have the
10 representative of the Micronesians United.

11 For those of you who don't know, here we have two
12 main organizations that are Micronesian organizations.
13 Micronesians United was formed much earlier in 1997, responding
14 to issues of housing and healthcare and other stuff. And they
15 saw their role as now more addressing those (indiscernible).
16 And so they've been in existence for some time.

17 And then, of course, as you heard earlier, in
18 2005, Micronesian Community Network was created. And then ever
19 since, there's been a number of different women's groups and
20 others created by various individuals who are working in their
21 own communities.

22 So if you hear Micronesian Community Network and
23 Micronesians United, Pastor Segal is a Chuukese pastor, pastor
24 of the Mililani Baptist Church, Chuuk congregation, is the
25 president of the Micronesians United. They are supposed to be