

Basic Historical Facts

Colonization Era 1525 -1970s (Present)

- Spain 1525 -1889 - Religion
- Germany 1889 – 1914 – Commerce & Trade
- Japan 1914 – 1943/45 – Economic
- United States – 1945 – mid 1970s – Political Sovereignty
 - Military Rule
 - Strategic Trusteeship

Micronesia Transitional Self-Rule – Late 1970s-early 1980s

- Strategic Trusteeship transformed into MTSR
- Compact of Free Association Treaty 1986 – Present
- Security and Aid
- Semi-Political Freedom

United Nations Membership - Early 1990s

- Global Recognition of Political Sovereignty

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Basic Facts (cont'd)

COFA People – Micronesians w/Extended Family & Clan Systems

Chuukese – Clan/Kinship Rel'ship/Oppportunistic

Kosraean – Religious (Congregational)

Pohnpeian – Traditional Leadership/Westernized

Yapese – Traditional w/caste system

Marshallse – Westernized/Traditional

Palauan – Progressive/ Traditional

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Basic Facts (cont'd)

Government Structure

- FSM – National/4 States
 - 5 Constitutions
 - Presidential
- Marshalls – Hybrid Presidential/Ministerial
- Palau – National/States
 - Hybrid Presidential/Ministerial

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Basic Facts (cont'd)

Culture - Heterogeneous	Language
• Chuukese	• Chuukese – 2/5 plus SD
• Kosraean	• Kosraean - 1
• Pohnpeian	• Pohnpeian - 7
• Yapese	• Yapese - 3
• Marshallse	• Marshallse - 1
• Palauan	• Palauan 1

Basic Facts (cont'd)

Religion – predominantly Christian

- Roman Catholics (50%)
- Protestant (40%)
- Other (10%)
 - SDA
 - Jehovah Witness
 - LDS
 - Mormon
 - Penticostal

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Homelessness

Definition (what?)

- Having no home or permanent place of residence (Merriam-Webster)
- A temporary situation that people fall in when they cannot afford to pay for a place to live (Suitcase Clinic)
- HUD Definition refer to www.thn.org/continuum_care_docs/HUD_Def_of_homelessness.doc

- Homeless Person (Who?)
An individual who lacks housing (without regard to whether individual is a member of a family), including an individual whose primary residence during the night is a supervised public or private facility (shelter) that provides temporary living accommodation and an individual who is a resident in transitional housing [USDHHS Section 330(h)(5)(A)]
- **A person** without permanent housing who may live on the street, stays in a shelter, mission, single occupancy facility, abandoned building or a vehicle or in any other unstable or non-permanent situation (Section 330 of Public Health Services Act (42 U.S.C.,254b)

COFA Homelessness

<p>Why?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COFA Living arrangement is communal • Rental and Housing policies and eligibility requirements are out of sync with COFA family /communal oriented living arrangements • Cash Economy alienates COFA family cohesion so living together as extended family members is causing inter/intra family hardship • Living as extended family is no longer feasible for COFA migrants 	<p>When and How?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitioning from communal, subsistent living to a cash-based uni-family living environment • Extended family dependency on wage earners • Prevalence of Socio-Cultural norms, values , expectations • Access to services , employment, etc., hamper by limited English proficiency
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Push-Pull Factors to Homelessness

<p>COFA Nations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitual Residence Provision in COFA Treaty • Governance and leadership capacities • Access to basic socio-economic services • Job creation and employment opportunities • People’s Right to development 	<p>Hawaii (Mainland/Guam)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better socio-economic opportunities • Open migration through COFA Treaty • Shared stories of America as land of opportunity • Family reunification • Escape hardship at home • Climate Refugees • Self-Exile
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Responses to COFA Homelessness

Hawaii

- Helping COFA Migrants to access government public housing (state & Federal) through Language Access legislation (i.e., interpretation services)
- Access to Food banks, transitional housing, homeless shelter, health care, Food Stamp, etc.,
- More specific strategies needed to be put into action by the State (i.e., Regular Tripartite COFA Policy Engagement, annual COFA Treaty implementation funding, Land-use access, to cite a few)

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Responses to COFA Homelessness (cont'd)

COFA Governments

- Community Outreach by COFA Leaders to COFA Hawaii Migrants over the years
- Funding IOM to provide Orientation to COFA migrants
- Still remains to be seen

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Responses to COFA Homelessness
(cont'd)

US Federal Government

- Provision of Compact Impact Funding to affected US Jurisdictions
- Policy discussions on COFA Treaty provision on “Habitual Resident” provision

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COFA Empowerment Strategies

COFA Orientation & Processing Initiative

1. Pre Migration Orientation
In-Country Orientation Program –COFA Nations
2. Host Country Intake and Processing Program
Guam – Orientation and Acculturation Program
Hawaii – Orientation and Acculturation Program

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COFA Empowerment Strategies
(cont'd)

1. COFA Treaty Provision on “Habitual Residence” is Key Policy consideration for relieving the compact impact challenges in Hawaii (Guam and US Mainland) and for governance and leadership reform in the COFA nations
2. COFA Treaty Implementation Investment Fund

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COFA Empowerment Strategies
(cont'd)

Hawaii Based COFA NPOs must be capacitated institutionally, administratively and technically in order to effectively carry out their community empowerment mandate for their COFA Migrant Communities:

- Micronesian Community Network (MCN)
- Nations of Micronesia (NOM)
- Micronesian Health Advisory Coalition (MHAC)
- Micronesia United (MU)
- Micronesian Collection (MC)
- We Are Oceania (WAO)
- Freely Associated States Empowerment (FASE)
- Other COFA State NPOs (i.e., CCCH, CPCH, etc)

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COFA Empowerment Strategies
(cont'd)

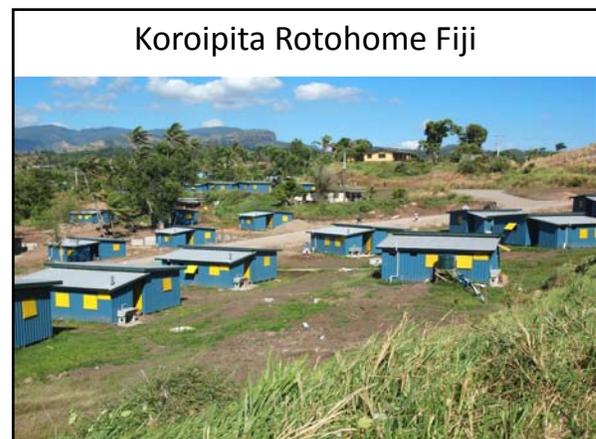
Empowered Community Homesteading Initiative (ECHI) – A Proposal by FASE to solve the COFA homeless situation and to empower COFA migrants for successful productive living in Hawaii (available by request)

- Shipping Container Community Housing
- ULU Community Plantation & Agro-Farming Project
- Cultural Arts, Crafts and Life Skills Training Center

Some Examples of successful culturally appropriate homeless models

- Koroipita Village – Rotohome Homeless Community, Lautoka, Fiji
- Babasiga Housing for the Poor –Fiji
- Singeru Ban Emergency Shelters, Nepal

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THANK YOU

