

## 630 zika virus cases across Cook Islands

**RAROTONGA (RNZI)** – There are now 49 newly confirmed cases of zika virus in the Cook Islands and as many as 630 people are believed to have suffered from the mosquito-borne disease.

Last month health authorities first thought they were dealing with dengue fever but the first batch of test results confirmed 18 cases of zika.

The Director of Community Health Services Dr. Rangi Fariu says further results from French Polynesia, where the disease first broke out in the region, take the number to 49.

He says scientists there are still determining the exact nature of the strain.

“Tahiti just asked for those who were already shown positive, they wanted more samples to find out if the zika strain that we have here is similar to the one that they have in Tahiti,” Rangi says. Doctors have reported about 630 cases of suspected zika virus in the Cook Islands, and says the real number would be much higher.

## More talks on illegal fishing

**SUVA (FIJI LIVE)** – The European Union Commission will have more consultations with Fiji before it makes a final decision on action to take regarding illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, or IUU.

The Commission told Fiji it notified Fiji in 2012 of the risk of being identified as non-cooperating in the fight against IUU and they have so far worked closely with Fiji to rectify the identified shortcomings.

“Tailor-made action plans were agreed for this purpose over a period of six months and regular meetings and consultations were held to discuss progress.”

“After this period, the European Commission assessed the situation with Fiji. The European Commission commended the good cooperation and good progress made by Fiji and decided to maintain the dialogue and give more time to complete the actions/rectify shortcomings.”

The commission adds the whole process was still ongoing and confidential (bilateral between each country concerned and the commission).

# US funds dialysis feasibility studies in FAS

By Giff Johnson  
For Variety

**MAJURO** – The United States government is conducting an assessment of whether it is possible to establish dialysis facilities in the three Freely Associated States (FAS). On-site assessments in Palau, Pohnpei, Chuuk, Kosrae and Majuro have already been completed, said Emi Chutaro, executive director of the Pacific Islands Health Officers Association, which is based in Hawaii.

The Department of Interior is funding the feasibility study in response to concern expressed by the U.S. Congress over high costs of U.S. states providing dialysis treatment to patients from the Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands and Palau. A South Pacific-based medical official has conducted the study throughout the Micronesia area. The consultant, Dr. Shyamajataka Mahakalanda, a faculty member from the Fiji National University College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, is a medical doctor with advanced degrees in health economics and healthcare management, and has prior experience conducting feasibility studies of this nature, Chutaro said.

“The primary aim of the project is to assess the feasibility and sustainability of developing dialysis services within the FAS, particularly from a cost-benefit assessment framework,” Chutaro said. Initially, the survey was looking at Koror, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Majuro. As the study progressed, officials in Kosrae asked to be included.

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Several years ago, the Taiwan government donated two dialysis units to Majuro hospital, which were installed but never used. A later feasibility assessment by Taiwan medical officials determined the service was not feasible to operate in Majuro and the equipment was mothballed.

“Currently, several scenarios are being assessed,” Chutaro said. She listed the following options under review:

- ▶ Sites that do not have the necessary equipment and related infrastructure and personnel to conduct services, but in future may wish to provide services as appropriate to their needs and projected caseloads.

- ▶ Sites that currently have the necessary equipment and/or infrastructure and personnel, but where services are not yet available for various reasons.

- ▶ Sites where hemodialysis services are currently being delivered.

One other assessment scenario is to “out-source hemodialysis

related expenses, but it became clear as the study progressed that there also needed to be a review of individual out-of-pocket expenses to give a more comprehensive view of the cost of hemodialysis services on both government and patients, she said. Hemodialysis patients in all the sites were interviewed along with health staff, including some FAS citizens currently accessing dialysis services in Honolulu. Preliminary findings have been shared with health leadership in each of the islands, with final reports due shortly.

services off-island, and see how this compares in terms of total cost and quality versus delivery at country-level,” Chutaro said.

The majority of the cost analysis will factor government-

related expenses, but it became clear as the study progressed that there also needed to be a review of individual out-of-pocket expenses to give a more comprehensive view of the cost of hemodialysis services on both government and patients, she said. Hemodialysis patients in all the sites were interviewed along with health staff, including some FAS citizens currently accessing dialysis services in Honolulu. Preliminary findings have been shared with health leadership in each of the islands, with final reports due shortly.



**GSA General Services Agency**  
(Aghosian Sebbision Hinirat)  
Department of Administration  
Government of Guam  
148 Route 1 Marine Drive, P.O. Box 96913  
Tel: 476-1707-13 Fax: 472-4217/476-1718/476-1727



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## INVITATION FOR BID

**BID NO:** GSA-034-14


**DESCRIPTION:** MYCOBACTERIAL CULTURE ISOLATION AND DRUG SUSCEPTIBILITY SYSTEM

**OPENING DATE:** APRIL 15, 2014      **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.


**PLACE:** GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY, PITI GUAM - CONFERENCE ROOM

INTERESTED PARTY MAY PICK UP  
FORM/SPECIFICATIONS AT SAID PLACE

/s/ CLAUDIA S. ACFALLE  
Chief Procurement Officer



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RFP 14-008

FOR PROFESSIONAL MULTI-DISCIPLINE CONSULTING SERVICES FOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES AND OPPORTUNITIES


The Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA) is soliciting proposals from qualified individuals or firms to provide multi-disciplinary professional services to assist GEDA with the research, development, planning, and implementation of economic initiatives and opportunities on a task order basis. The consultant must possess expertise in diverse disciplines and be readily available to advise, support and collaborate with GEDA and GovGuam in research, planning, program and project management, environmental consulting, DOD and social and economic impact analysis, business planning and studies, federal funding opportunities, and other services as requested. GEDA anticipates the first Task Order will be to complete and update the Hagatfa Master Plan consistent with Governor Eddie Buzza Calvo's policy to revitalize Hagatfa and the Hagatfa Restoration and Redevelopment Act (21 GCA Section 7910) et seq.).

RFP 14-008 is available for public inspection and download from the GEDA website at [www.investguam.com](http://www.investguam.com). A CD copy of the RFP may also be picked up at the GEDA office located on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the ITC Building 590 S. Marine Corps Drive, Tamuning, Guam 96913, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT FORM of this RFP must be completed and submitted to GEDA in order to receive addenda, responses or other related notices.

The deadline for receipt of proposals by GEDA is 4:00 p.m., Friday, April 25, 2014. CST. Proposals submitted in response to this solicitation must comply with the instructions and procedures provided in the RFP. All proposal items and any questions must be submitted to the attention of Mrs. Gloria Molo, Administrative Services Officer at (671) 647-4332 or via email at [gmolo@investguam.com](mailto:gmolo@investguam.com).

/s/ HENRY J. TAITANO  
ADMINISTRATOR

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