



## CANCER COUNCIL OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

VIRTUAL CCPI Meeting 04/21 – 04/23/20, ZOOM



The Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands (CCPI) is composed of representatives from each of the US Affiliated Pacific Island Jurisdictions (USAPIJ). Three of the island jurisdictions are US Territories, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas. Three of the island jurisdiction are sovereign Nations (Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia) which are linked the United States through their respective treaties called Compacts of Free Association.

Established in 2003, the work of the CCPI is to develop, implement, and evaluate sequential 5 -year regional USAPIJ Comprehensive Cancer Plans, and to sustain a quality Pacific regional population based registry. Usually there are two annual in-person 1 week working meetings. During the COVID-19 pandemic the CCPI continued to discuss their regional cancer plan through a virtual ZOOM meeting over 3 half days. The CCPI, as an organized and highly functional health entity, dedicated a half day (4.5 hours) to **COVID-19 prevention and control, through presenting regional COVID-19 data trends, best practices, and sharing the evolving SARS-COV2 science**. At the height of the meeting there were 39 CCPI members and affiliates participating in the virtual meeting.

The CCPI, as a 17-year-old regional comprehensive cancer planning organization, has the capacity to frame the complex and dynamic environment of the Pacific health systems and their evolving health epidemiology. As such, the CCPI and partners were able and ready to include COVID19 discussions and data that were Pacific relevant in their regional planning meeting. As it turns out, **the COVID discussion were an essential and necessary part to continue meaningful comprehensive cancer planning, i.e. adjusting to the cancer planning environment. The ability of the CCPI and its partners to proactively work within the COVID -19 environment is an illustration of how a comprehensive cancer planning organization may be value added, and a natural venue, within Pacific nations and across a region to communicate, share resources, understand new health data /science and , and to develop strategies around pandemics and other rapidly evolving health issues.**