



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **First Regional Sea Grant Forum Held in Micronesia to Address Natural Resource Issues**

Growing island populations and the rapid depletion of natural resources are having a profound impact on coastal communities throughout the Pacific. To address these challenges, representatives from the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) will facilitate three regional forums in an effort to streamline the management of marine and coastal areas.

The first forum will be held in Micronesia beginning on **Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>** in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands. The Sea Grant team will also visit Kosrae, Pohnpei and Guam, with representation from other islands invited to these meetings. The other two forums will be held in Hawai'i and American Samoa at a later date.

The public is encouraged to attend and identify priorities for research related to current environmental conditions, both land and sea, facing the area. This information will then be integrated into a single regional research coordination and planning report for the region.

This is the first time this level of coordination has occurred, and it is expected to result in broad recognition of critical environmental management problems and associated research needs in the region. Similar efforts are being undertaken by Sea Grant programs throughout the U.S.

The first public meetings will be held in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands on **Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at the College of the Marshall Islands Conference Room** between 8:30 AM and noon. The public is invited.

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