

# Pacific Regional Laboratory Network

Proposal

# Why should we do it?

- Improve communication and cooperation among laboratories in the region.
- Assist laboratories in their development (i.e. certification etc.) so they can further support the programs within their own states or territories.
- Technology transfer assistance.
- Cost savings.
  - (IAG \$ 20,000 to R9 laboratory)
- Improve efficiency.
- Initiate a program where laboratories can get the old equipment from R9 laboratory or others as they upgrade.
- R9 Projects can be facilitated in the region, as tasks will be allotted to laboratories as to their capabilities and planning can be done better.
- Overall the network will improve each other's laboratories.

# EPA certified/Island Drinking Water Laboratories in the region

- Guam
- Hawaii
- FSM/RMI
- CNMI
- Palau
- American Samoa
- US EPA region 9 laboratory





# Capabilities

- Survey each state's laboratory and find what capabilities they have.



# Scope of Activities

- Drinking Water parameters in:
  - Inorganic Chemistry
  - Organic Chemistry
  - Microbiology
- Sample load for each laboratory in the region.
  - Example. SDWA stipulated order (Guam) going to increase demand for our laboratory in the coming few years.
- What are we certified for? What are we striving for? – This should be the plan for each laboratory. –Perhaps a regional certification program can be established.
- Provide workshops within the region in whatever laboratory needs there may be. (such as quality data management, Data interpretation, Method development, etc.)

# Guam's Capabilities

- Microbiological Methods
  - Coliforms/E.Coli in drinking Water
  - Enterococci in Beach Water
- Nutrients via Automated Flow Injection Analyzer.
  - $\text{NO}_3^-$ - $\text{NO}_2^-$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+$ , Ortho-  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$ ,  $\text{Cl}^-$
- Trace Metals by Graphite Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy
  - Pb, Cu
- Wet Chemistry
  - Redox titration, Colorimetry, UV-Vis Spectrophotometer
- Others as required and supported.
- Certified for Microbiology methods. Will expand its certification to chemistry methods in the coming year.





# Certification Programs

- Establishment of a regional certification program based on the US EPA 5<sup>th</sup> edition Laboratory Certification Program for Drinking Water Laboratories
- American Samoa has a program for Microbiology –suggest we also do a similar program with Chemistry for the region.