

**PRESIDENT MANNY MORI
GLOBAL ISLAND PARTNERSHIP (GLISPA) SPEECH @ SIDS
APIA, SAMOA - SEPTEMBER 3, 2014**

OPENING

Excellences, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good evening. I am happy to give my support to the Global Island Partnership in promoting biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods. We, the Micronesians, are people of the sea and proud guardians of our islands and ocean. As islanders, every aspect of **our** lives, **our** cultures, and **our** future — **our very heritage** — is defined by the ocean.

Yesterday morning, I took my morning walk and saw two different boats, one very big cruise ship and the Hokulea. To get here, the cruise ship Captain used GPS to navigate while the Hokulea Chief Navigator was guided by the stars. I am proud to acknowledge the contribution of the late traditional navigator Mau Pailung, a Micronesian, who was instrumental in reviving the Pacific Navigation, which allowed the Hokulea to take its epic journey. The Hokulea sailed from Hawaii to Samoa as a visible reminder that our heritage, cultures, and seas bind us together as people of the sea. And, in order to preserve our heritage, we must commit ourselves to protecting the biodiversity of our islands and our oceans.

COMMITMENT

Recognizing the significant contribution of biodiversity while acknowledging the great threat by invasive species to our biodiversity, [my government is investing an initial amount of \\$2.4 Million dollars towards the Micronesia Challenge](#). With this investment we will address several key issues in support of GLISPA, which includes:

1. The expansion of our internal infrastructure and human resource capacity to effectively eradicate and prevent land and marine-based invasive species;
2. The dedication of funds to operationalise the Regional Biosecurity Plan - [the first ever of its kind in the world](#) - in order to maintain the integrity of our natural heritage; and,
3. Support for the Regional Invasive Species Council, which strengthens the spirit of cooperation among our North Pacific islands by giving us a forum to share information and implement the Regional Biosecurity Plan.

CLOSING

I am proud to join my fellow island leaders from Palau, the Marshall Islands, the Territory of Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and now as I understand, the State of Hawaii, in this regional effort to secure and protect the biodiversity of our islands and our oceans. I am also proud to learn that our Micronesia Challenge has catalyzed other initiatives, such as the Coral Triangle Initiative, the Caribbean Challenge, and the newly announced Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge.

I want to thank everyone who has generously contributed to the fight to maintain biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods. I especially want to thank Kate and her Global Island Partnership team for keeping the message of conservation and the challenges that islands face in the forefront. Events such as the voyage of the Hokulea celebrates the spirit, cultures, and heritage of our island people. And, may the voyage of the Hokulea be replicated before the World by sailing it to New York in 2016.

I continue to thank our host, the Leaders and the People of Samoa, for their warm hospitality and gracious hosting of the Third Global Conference of Small Island Developing States. God bless you all.

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