



# The Council

## Legislative Council Staff Goes to Palau!

A member of the Legislative Council staff recently was invited to present at a conference hosted by the United Nations Development Program. The Regional Workshop for Micronesian Legislative Drafters was held from February 10-13 in Koror, Palau. The workshop focused on providing training and resources to legislative drafters in Micronesia and included attendees from Palau, Fiji, Guam, Vanuatu, Samoa, Pohnpei, Chuuk, Nauru, Tonga, and the Solomon Islands. Presenters included Tobias Dorsey and Kalyani Parthasarathi, Office of the Legislative Counsel U.S. House of Representatives; Kimberly Faith, International Conference on Legislation and Law Reform; Dr. Lalotoa Mulitalo, Legislative Drafting Consultant; William Clark, Program Principal, Center for Legislative Strengthening, National Conference of State Legislatures; Jennifer Jackson, Senior Legislative Counsel, Texas Legislative Council; and Emily Thompson, Legal Division Director, North Dakota Legislative Council. The seminar covered a host of topics, including a legislative drafting overview, how to capture and convey legislative intent, working with policy instructions, interacting with the executive branch, reviewing and harmonizing the laws, and the use of artificial intelligence. The 4-day conference also included helpful breakout sessions in which presenters moderated group legislative drafting exercises.



## Upcoming Meetings

### February

- 25** Emergency Response Services
- 26** Energy Development and Transmission

### March

- 4** Special Education Funding
- 12** Administrative Rules
- 17** Tax Reform and Relief Advisory
- 18** Budget Section  
(including divisions)
- 19** Government Finance  
(including subcommittees)
- 24** Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review
- 25** Legislative Task Force on Government Efficiency
- 26** Water Topics Overview
- 31** Agriculture and Water Management

### April

- 1** Education
- 29** Protection and Victim Services

# Trivia

Q: Which is longer, the United States Constitution or the North Dakota Constitution?

A: The ND Constitution is longer.

It contains 25 sections in the Declaration of Rights and is about three times longer than the U.S. Constitution.

Read ND's constitution on our website: [Constitution | North Dakota Legislative Branch](#)



## Legislative Council Staff Goes to Palau! continued

Will Clark, Jeniffer Jackson, and Emily Thompson embarked on the adventure abroad together, departing for the 24-hour journey from Denver on Sunday, February 8, a day later than planned due to some bad weather in Tokyo and an initial flight cancellation. With a new flight booked and things looking up, the group landed in Tokyo a short 12 hours later, only to face some unforeseen mechanical issues on the next flight to Guam. The group took advantage of some tasty Japanese food on the extended layover and arrived at a hotel in Guam kindly provided by United Airlines. The 4:00 a.m. arrival time in Guam rang true to Guam's national slogan of "where America's day begins." After learning the next flight to Palau would not leave until 7:00 p.m., the group caught a few hours of shut eye and remoted into the 1st day of the conference, delivering two presentations before catching a



cab back to the airport. At long last, the group arrived in Palau at 10:00 p.m. on Tuesday. The group was greeted on day two of the conference by friendly faces and some of the hardest working individuals in Micronesia. The conference demonstrated that legislatures halfway around the globe share the same struggles and accomplishments we see here at home. It also shined a light on the value of reaching out to our counterparts to share knowledge and resources to improve the legislative process. The conference ended with a commitment from all attendees to continue to serve as a resource for one another, develop an ongoing community of practice, and seek support from the United Nations Development Program to continue investing in providing resources to the area.



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