Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 6, 2013

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you move forward in shaping your administration for your second term, we ask that you retain the position of the Assistant Secretary of Insular Areas under the U.S. Department of Interior. As you know, the position has recently become vacant due to the resignation by Mr. Anthony M. Babauta who served in this capacity since 2009.

Your decision to raise the position to Assistant Secretary status for the first time since 1994 has proven beneficial to the islands for the last four years as it allowed the Assistant Secretary to focus on your administration's policy commitments to the four insular areas—American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands—as well as other U.S. affiliated islands.

These commitments are reflected in the various initiatives put forward by Territorial Delegates and advanced by the Assistant Secretary and the Office of Insular Affairs—from pursuing strategies to foster economic development, measuring gross domestic product of the U.S. territories for the first time, addressing critical health needs, to the adoption of sustainable energy solutions. We urge you to continue this commitment by retaining and quickly filling the position.

Sincerely,

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress

Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress

Eni F. H. Faleomavaega
Member of Congress

Donna M. Christensen
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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