

50-plus jaki-ed to be on show in annual auction

Over 50 jaki-ed (clothing mats) will be displayed at the Seventh Annual Jaked Exhibit and Silent Auction to be held at the Marshall Islands Resort's Melele Room this Friday evening from 7pm.

This is the largest number of mats to ever be shown at the exhibition, a number that is especially extraordinary given that just weeks before the recent Pacific Islands Forum, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Iroij and Senator Mike Kabua bought nearly 30 jaki-ed from coordinators of the Jaki-Ed Revival Program based at the University of the South Pacific.

Many of these jaki-ed have been made in the outer islands following a series of six weaving apprenticeships that have been held over the past two years.

They were sponsored by the RMI National Training Council and AusAID.

One hundred percent of the money earned from the auction goes directly back to the weavers.

Everyone is welcome to attend the exhibition, which has a cover price of \$5 for those without personal invitations.



Marshallese weavers Moji Kelen, Bonitha Jesse, Betty Lobwij, Patsy Hermon, and Susan Jieta took part in a weaving symposium in Hawaii last week. Weavers from Hawaii and French Polynesia also took part in the event at Oahu's Bishop Museum.

Photo: Tamara Greenstone Alefaio

IDs not enough for United flight to Kwajalein

United Airlines has alerted RMI government officials in Majuro that in the coming weeks the airline will begin requiring all Marshallese traveling between Majuro and Kwajalein use valid RMI passports.

Government-issued identification such as driver's license or RMI ID cards will no longer be accepted, said Deputy Chief Secretary Gary Elaisha.

This developed from an incident when United was enroute to Kwajalein from Majuro and without notice, USAKA directed the flight to overfly Kwajalein because USAKA was closing its airspace due to a missile test mission, said Elaisha.

United decided to fly directly to the next stop instead of returning to Majuro with all the RMI nationals flying to Kwajalein still on board and most of them were using RMI-issued IDs instead of passports because they were on what they thought was a domestic flight.

"When United offloaded passengers at the next stop, most had problems with the immigration of the host country," he said.

As a result, United is changing its current policy for the RMI domestic route and will require all passengers to travel with passports. Effective Date has not been determined yet.

Marshallese top NCD death list

Of all the countries in the world, people in the Marshall Islands have the highest risk of dying from non-communicable diseases, according to a recently published report by the World

Health Organization. A chart issued by the WHO shows that Marshallese have a 70 percent chance of dying from NCDs between the ages of 30 to 70.

All other countries are below the 50 percent mark, and the global average for risk of dying of NCDs is about 23 percent. NCDs include diabetes, high blood pressure and cancer.



The high level meeting in Palau earlier this week.

Loeak meets with Japan Special Envoy

President Loeak met with Minoru Kiuchi, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Japan, on Tuesday, at the Japan Embassy in Koror, Palau. The President was in Palau at the invitation of Palau President Tommy Remengesau, Jr. to celebrate Palau's independence day on October 1. Discussed were projects relating to climate change, a full scale Japan Embassy in Majuro, fisheries, and other issues of mutual interest. Accompanying President Loeak was Minister-in-Assistance Tony deBrum and Foreign Minister Phillip Muller.

Kosrae push for domestic violence legislation

Kosrae State is pushing to become the first state in the Federated States of Micronesia to enact legislation against domestic violence.

According to a recent edition of the Kaselehlie Press, the Kosrae Women's Association received a \$20,000 grant from US Ambassador Doria Rosen towards its efforts against domestic violence.

The grant will help the group raise awareness on domestic violence and pilot a program that promotes domestic peace.

K-Press reports that Pohnpei State also has a domestic violence bill in committee for consideration.

Meanwhile here in the Marshall Islands, through years of advocacy work through the women's umbrella organization Women United Together Marshall Islands, a domestic violence law was passed in recent years.

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