



OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR

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NEWS RELEASE

To: All Media

From: Doris Flores Brooks, CPA, CGFM
Public Auditor

Subject: OPA Management Analyst Theresa Gumataotao Receives National
Recognition from U.S. Department of Interior's Inspector General

For her outstanding work with the DOI IG Abandoned Mine Lands audit team in 2007, OPA Management Analyst II Theresa Gumataotao recently received a plaque of recognition from Inspector General Earl Devaney. The plaque was presented locally by US DOI Pacific Field Liaison Ben Privitt with a personal note from Devaney that read, "Theresa. Thanks for all your fine work on this product. You and your team members deserve this national recognition."

Through a grant from DOI's Office of Insular Affairs, Theresa, a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM), was given the opportunity for on-the-job training with the Abandoned Mine Lands audit team and was assigned to the IG's Central Region Audit Office in Lakewood, Colorado, for 10 weeks, from April-June 2007.

"'Chech,' as we call her, performed so well and learned so much, not only about how the processes and expectations of how the IG's office performs audits, but also about the dangers posed by thousands of old and abandoned mines nationwide," said Public Auditor Doris Flores Brooks.

"I was assigned to the AML audit and our objective was to determine whether DOI's Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and National Park Service (NPS) had effectively remedied the hazards posed by 160,000 abandoned mines scattered across the western U.S.," Theresa said. "I traveled to Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Park, where major public risks were identified. Our audit concluded, and Mr. Devaney reported, that the BLM and NPS failed to clean up or seal off abandoned mine sites and that, as a result, several deaths and injuries occurred. It was fascinating work and I enjoyed working with a strong team of professionals."

In addition to her duties as a management analyst, Theresa also serves as Assistant to the Procurement Appeals Hearing Officer. She graduated from Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA, in May 2003 with Bachelor of Arts degrees in both Political Science and Economics. She joined the staff of the OPA in 2003. Theresa is the daughter of Lulita N. and Balbino C. Gumataotao of Hagatna.

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