

**P**acific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL) is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation that serves the education community in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific islands, the continental United States, and countries throughout the world. PREL bridges the gap between research, theory, and practice in education and works collaboratively with schools and school systems to provide services that range from curriculum development to assessment and evaluation.

Through its mission, *Building Capacity Through Education*, PREL envisions a world where all children and communities are literate and healthy—global participants, grounded in and enriched by their cultures.

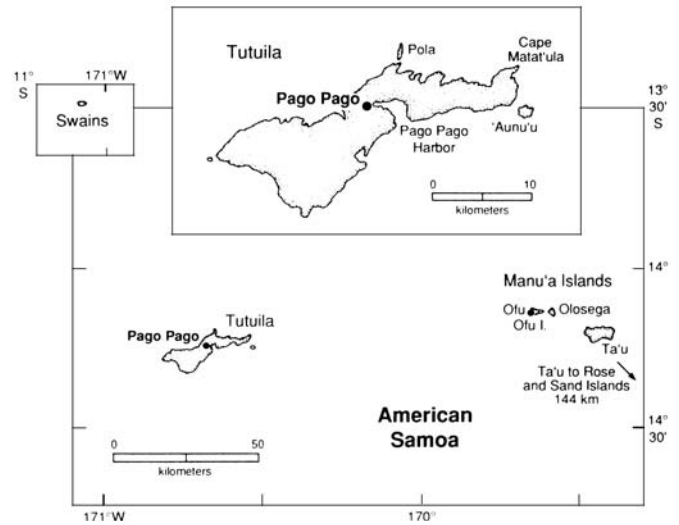
### **PREL's Work**

PREL works collaboratively to provide the best educational opportunities possible, using the latest technological resources. PREL regularly partners with other organizations to provide coordinated educational services and cutting-edge research about effective approaches within multicultural and multilingual environments. These partners include schools, offices of education, institutions of higher education, community groups, and health organizations.

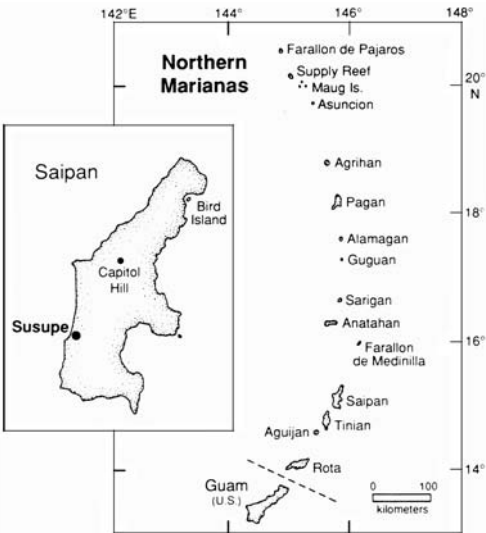
### **Pacific Region Served by PREL**

PREL's main office is located in Honolulu, Hawai'i, with service centers in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap), Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The affiliation of these political entities with the U.S. ranges from statehood to free association. The entities are spread across more than 4.9 million square miles of ocean and hundreds of islands and atolls, many of which are uninhabited. The schools are challenged not only by political and economic diversity, but also by cultural and linguistic differences; at least nine different Pacific cultures are prominent in the region. The main language of instruction, English, is not the home language for most students outside Hawai'i. The 10 entities have about 285,100 students in 658 public schools. The nine entities beyond Hawai'i have about 103,761 students in 373 public schools. For more information on the entities, visit PREL's website, [www.prel.org](http://www.prel.org).

**American Samoa**, a group of islands in the mid-South Pacific, is located about 2,300 miles from Honolulu. American Samoa has a land area of 76 square miles and approximately 57,794 residents (est. 2006), most of whom live on Tutuila. Since American Samoa is an unincorporated territory of the U.S., its people are U.S. nationals who freely enter the U.S. The territory has an important tuna processing industry, and its capital, Pago Pago, has a great natural harbor with dry dock and port facilities. The government is the biggest employer. American Samoa has 31 public schools with an enrollment of over 16,126 students.



The **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)**, a chain of 17 volcanic islands, stretches 375 miles north to south



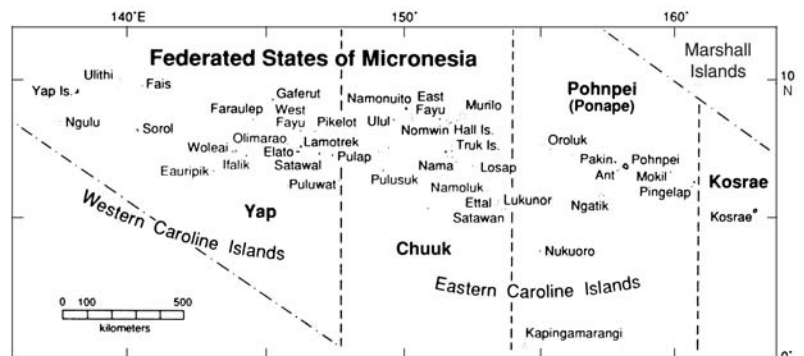
and covers a land area of 181 square miles. Most of the 82,459 people (est. 2006) live on Saipan. Formerly a part of the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the CNMI opted in the 1970s to form closer ties with the U.S., becoming a commonwealth and a permanent part of the U.S. The people of the CNMI are U.S. citizens. Tourism is a major industry; manufacturing is growing rapidly. The CNMI has 32 public schools with an enrollment of 11,601 students.

The **Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)** consists of four states: Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap. These entities were formerly part of the United Nations Trust Territory, but the FSM is now a semi-independent nation under a Compact of Free Association with the U.S. and receives financial benefits in return for providing exclusive free passage to U.S. military vessels through FSM waters.

**Chuuk State** is comprised of the volcanic islands in the Chuuk Lagoon and some 24 outer-island atolls—in all, close to 290 islands. Chuuk, the most populous of the FSM states with 53,381 people (est. 2006) and a land area of 49 square miles, is a world famous spot for divers, with a sunken WWII Japanese fleet to explore. Chuuk has 98 public schools with an enrollment of approximately 13,909 students.

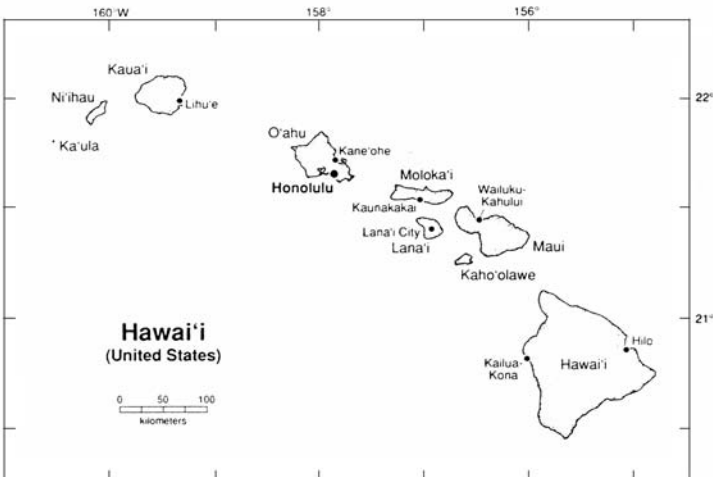
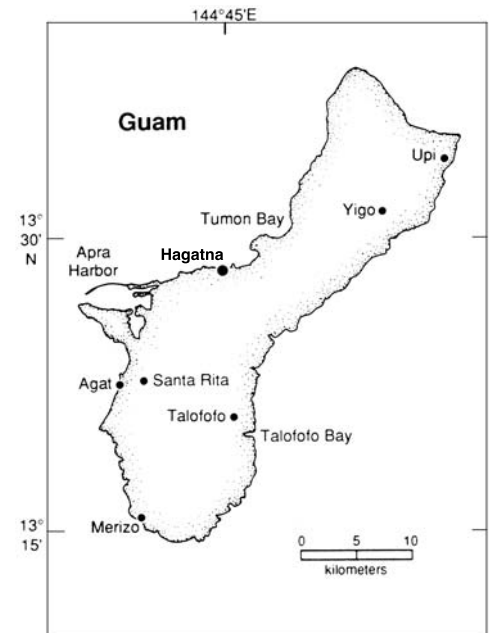
**Kosrae State**, a volcanic island of 43 square miles with 8,048 people (est. 2006), has a wet tropical climate and many rivers and waterfalls. It is almost exclusively rural with a subsistence economy. Kosrae has seven public schools with an enrollment of 2,546 students.

**Pohnpei State** consists of six inhabited atolls and Pohnpei Island, which makes up most of its 133 square miles. With 34,889 people (est. 2006), Pohnpei State is the national capital of the FSM and the site of the College of Micronesia. Agriculture is important to the economy of this beautiful and fertile state. Pohnpei has 34 public schools with an enrollment of 10,990 students.



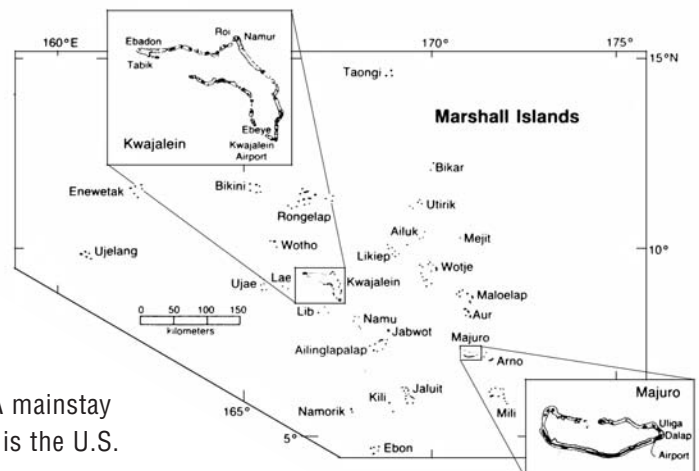
**Yap State** consists of a group of four volcanic islands and 19 inhabited outer islands and atolls, with a total land area of 46 square miles. Two-thirds of its 11,647 people (est. 2006) live on Yap Island. One of the most traditional island groups of the Pacific, Yap has four languages: Yapese, Ulithian, Woleaian, and Satawalese. Yap has 33 public schools with an enrollment of about 2,800 students.

**Guam**, the largest Micronesian island, has a land area of 212 square miles and a population of 171,019 people (est. 2006). Formed by the union of two volcanoes, northern Guam is a flat limestone plateau, while the southern part is mountainous. Guam's population is highly diverse, including residents from locations throughout Asia and the Pacific as well as a large number of U.S. military personnel and their dependents. As residents of an unincorporated territory of the U.S., Guam's people hold U.S. citizenship and are free to live in the U.S. Tourism, especially from Japan, is the major private industry. Guam has 36 public schools with an enrollment of about 31,340 students.

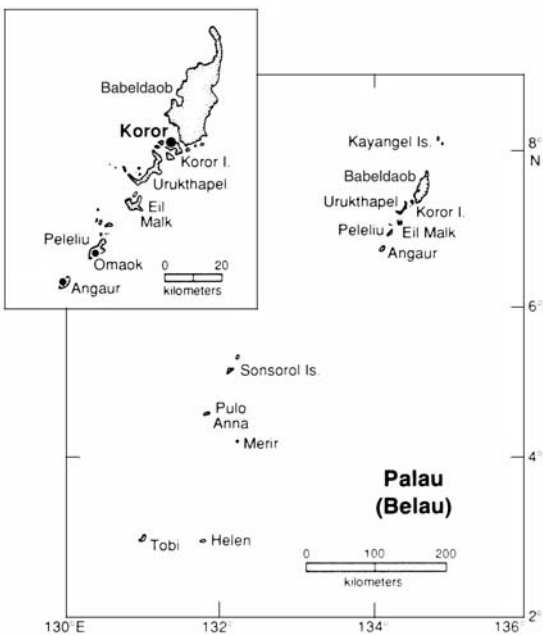


**Hawai'i**, the U.S. Pacific island state, is the largest and most populous area in the region PREL serves, with 6,425 square miles and 1,275,194 people (est. 2005). The volcanic Hawaiian Islands, 2,400 miles from the U.S. West Coast, are the center of much trade, commerce, and industry for the whole Pacific. Indigenous Pacific Islanders constitute a minority within its diverse population, which includes Chinese, Japanese, Filipinos, and Caucasians. Its capital, Honolulu, is a major urban center, but many residents live in rural and remote areas. The economy of Hawai'i is based on tourism, the U.S. military, and agriculture. Hawai'i has 285 public schools with an enrollment of 181,355 students.

The **Republic of the Marshall Islands** consists of two chains of 29 coral atolls and five low islands stretching several hundred miles from north to south, with a total land area of 70 square miles and a population of 61,815 (est. 2007). The republic, formerly a United Nations Trust Territory, entered



into a Compact of Free Association with the U.S. in October 1986. A mainstay of the economy is the U.S. space tracking station on Kwajalein. There are 82 public schools with an enrollment of 11,316 students.



The **Republic of Palau**, the westernmost jurisdiction in Micronesia less than 500 miles east of the Philippines, consists of a few coral atolls and several hundred volcanic islands, nine of which are inhabited. With a land area of 188 square miles, it has 20,579 people (est. 2006). A former United Nations Trust Territory, the Republic of Palau began a Compact of Free Association with the U.S. in October 1994. Its economy is based primarily on tourism. Palau has 20 public schools with an enrollment of 3,177 students.



## PREL's Services

PREL seeks to transform schools and other learning environments to help Pacific Islanders, English language learners, and other students, reach their full potential. PREL provides expertise in all areas of education, as well as in project management, networking, and product development. We offer a variety of professional development services for teachers, both in person and using advanced distance education technologies.

Critical to this approach is a regionwide network of leadership teams and community-based service centers. PREL provides education resources, technical assistance, and training for and about the Pacific community and beyond. These include:

### Content Areas

- Reading and Literacy
- Science and Mathematics Education
- Vocational and Adult Education
- Health Education and Substance Abuse Prevention

### Delivery Mechanisms

- Professional Development
- Educational Technology and Distance Education
- Curriculum/Instructional Design

## Support Systems

- Evaluation
- Assessment and Accountability
- Research
- Culture

PREL's services and products are supported through contracts and grants from many departments of the U.S. government, the National Science Foundation, private foundations, institutions of higher education, state education agencies, and schools.

## Contact Information

For additional information about PREL and its products, services, partners, and programs of work, contact:



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