

December 27, 2018

Mayor Hirata Kabua  
Kwajalein Atoll Local Government  
Republic of the Marshall Islands

Dear Mayor Kabua:

In planning and performing our audit of the statement of net assets of the governmental activities and the governmental funds balance sheet for the general fund of the Kwajalein Atoll Local Government (KALGOV) as of September 30, 2016 and on which we have issued our report dated December 27, 2018, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, we considered KALGOV's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of KALGOV's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of KALGOV's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting. However, in connection with our audit, we identified, and included in the attached Appendix I, deficiencies related to KALGOV's internal control over financial reporting and other matters as of September 30, 2016 that we wish to bring to your attention.

We have also issued a separate report to KALGOV, also dated December 27, 2018 on our consideration of KALGOV's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters.

The definition of a deficiency is also set forth in the attached Appendix I.

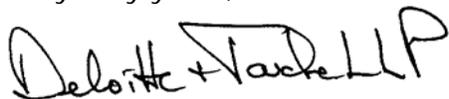
A description of the responsibility of management for establishing and maintaining internal control over financial reporting and of the objectives of and inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, is set forth in the attached Appendix II and should be read in conjunction with this report.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Council, others within the organization, and the Office of the Auditor-General and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We will be pleased to discuss the attached comments with you and, if desired, to assist you in implementing any of the suggestions.

We wish to thank the staff and management of KALGOV for their cooperation and assistance during the course of this engagement.

Very truly yours,



**SECTION I – CONTROL DEFICIENCIES**

We identified, and have included below, control deficiencies involving KALGOV's internal control over financial reporting as of September 30, 2016 that we wish to bring to your attention:

1) Employee Benefits

Check #s 8285 and 8286 with accumulated amount of \$5,500 were disbursed as Christmas bonus for Public Works and Public Safety employees under the name of respective Directors. Documentation supporting acknowledgement of receipt for each individual was not available on file for examination.

We recommend that management document on file acknowledgement of actual cash receipts of each employee.

(2) Expenditures/Disbursements

Our examination of expenditures noted the following exceptions:

1. Check # 8242 in the amount of \$3,000 for cash advance by the Acting Mayor that is subject for liquidation. However, no liquidation report was attached for examination.
2. Check # 9133 in the amount of \$4,000 for partial payment of a vehicle. However, invoice or billing statement from the vendor was not on file.
3. Check # 9232 in the amount of \$1,550 for purchased IDs and vehicle plates evidenced the Finance Director as the check payee. Attached invoice lacked adequate vendor information. Furthermore, the invoice is dated a day prior to purchase requisition form was dated and approved.
4. Check # 8840 in the amount of \$891 for diesel fuel purchase. Vendor invoice was not on file during examination.
5. Check # 9776 included a \$367 reimbursement for supplies. Purchase requisition did not document purpose of this purchase.

We recommend that management establish appropriate internal control policies and procedures governing proper approval and documentation of expenditures.

(3) Cash Receipts

The daily collection report for January 6, 2016 in the amount of \$1,500 was deposited on January 11, 2016, which represents a delay of 3 to 4 working days after receipt was identified.

We recommend that management establish internal controls requiring timely bank deposits.

(4) MISSA Taxes

On March 23, 2016, KALGOV refunded previously deducted MISSA contribution and withholding tax of \$2,886 from City Manager salaries covering March to September 2016 payperiods. City Manager has left KALGOV since February 2016. Documentation supporting remittance of required contribution and taxes was not available on file for examination.

**SECTION II – DEFINITIONS**

The definition of a deficiency that is established in AU 325, *Communicating Internal Control Related Matters Identified in an Audit*, is as follows:

A *deficiency* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A deficiency in design exists when (a) a control necessary to meet the control objective is missing or (b) an existing control is not properly designed so that, even if the control operates as designed, the control objective would not be met. A deficiency in operation exists when (a) a properly designed control does not operate as designed, or (b) the person performing the control does not possess the necessary authority or competence to perform the control effectively.

**MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR, AND THE OBJECTIVES AND LIMITATIONS OF, INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING**

The following comments concerning management's responsibility for internal control over financial reporting and the objectives and inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting are adapted from auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America.

**Management's Responsibility**

KALGOV's management is responsible for the overall accuracy of the financial statements and their conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. In this regard, management is also responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting.

**Objectives of Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

Internal control over financial reporting is a process affected by those charged with governance, management, and other personnel and designed to provide reasonable assurance about the achievement of the entity's objectives with regard to reliability of financial reporting, effectiveness and efficiency of operations, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Internal control over the safeguarding of assets against unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition may include controls related to financial reporting and operations objectives. Generally, controls that are relevant to an audit of financial statements are those that pertain to the entity's objective of reliable financial reporting (i.e., the preparation of reliable financial statements that are fairly presented in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles).

**Inherent Limitations of Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

Because of the inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, including the possibility of collusion or improper management override of controls, material misstatements due to error or fraud may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. Also, projections of any evaluation of the effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.