

**MARSHALL ISLANDS SCHOLARSHIP
GRANT AND LOAN BOARD**

**(A GOVERNMENTAL FUND OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS)**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS,
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 AND 2016

**MARSHALL ISLANDS SCHOLARSHIP
GRANT AND LOAN BOARD**

Years Ended September 30, 2017 and 2016
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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Chairman
Marshall Islands Scholarship Grant and Loan Board:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Marshall Islands Scholarship Grant and Loan Board (MISGLB), a governmental fund of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, which comprise the balance sheets as of September 30, 2017 and 2016, and the related statements of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits 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. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Marshall Islands Scholarship Grant and Loan Board as of September 30, 2017 and 2016, and the results of its operations for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Emphasis of Matter - Reporting Entity

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the financial statements referred to above present only the Marshall Islands Scholarship Grant and Loan Board and are not intended to present fairly the financial position and results of operations of the Republic of the Marshall Islands in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

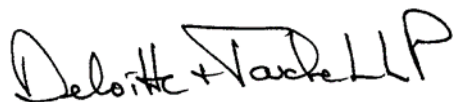
Other Matters

Other Information

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The combining financial statement information on page 11 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of the Marshall Islands Scholarship Grant and Loan Board's management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standard generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the combining financial statement information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 28, 2018, on our consideration of the Marshall Islands Scholarship Grant and Loan Board'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 purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Marshall Islands Scholarship Grant and Loan Board's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Marshall Islands Scholarship Grant and Loan Board's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



June 28, 2018

**MARSHALL ISLANDS SCHOLARSHIP
GRANT AND LOAN BOARD**

Balance Sheets
September 30, 2017 and 2016

| | <u>2017</u> | <u>2016</u> |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| <u>ASSETS</u> | | |
| Cash | \$ 424,728 | \$ 303,577 |
| Time certificate of deposit | <u>570,586</u> | <u>475,930</u> |
| | <u>\$ 995,314</u> | <u>\$ 779,507</u> |
| <u>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</u> | | |
| Liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ <u>1,216</u> | \$ <u>1,016</u> |
| Contingency and commitment | | |
| Fund balance: | | |
| Restricted: | | |
| Scholarships-Compact | 470,225 | 470,225 |
| Scholarships-Byrd Grant | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Scholarships-Nitijela | <u>522,373</u> | <u>306,766</u> |
| Total fund balance | <u>994,098</u> | <u>778,491</u> |
| | <u>\$ 995,314</u> | <u>\$ 779,507</u> |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**MARSHALL ISLANDS SCHOLARSHIP
GRANT AND LOAN BOARD**

Statements of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance
Years Ended September 30, 2017 and 2016

| | <u>2017</u> | <u>2016</u> |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Revenues: | | |
| Compact of Free Association | \$ 792,202 | \$ 792,202 |
| Nitijela appropriation | 740,932 | 683,973 |
| Interest | 25,348 | 15,797 |
| Total revenues | <u>1,558,482</u> | <u>1,491,972</u> |
| Expenditures: | | |
| Scholarship assistance | 1,166,740 | 1,270,019 |
| Salaries and wages | 82,944 | 61,294 |
| Sitting fees | 24,844 | 10,900 |
| Communications | 16,505 | 17,477 |
| Office rental | 15,840 | 15,840 |
| Capital outlays | 10,951 | 2,190 |
| Office supplies | 9,771 | 5,692 |
| Training and travel | 6,209 | 14,514 |
| Miscellaneous | 9,071 | 11,189 |
| Total expenditures | <u>1,342,875</u> | <u>1,409,115</u> |
| Net change in fund balance | 215,607 | 82,857 |
| Fund balance at the beginning of the year | <u>778,491</u> | <u>695,634</u> |
| Fund balance at the end of the year | <u>\$ 994,098</u> | <u>\$ 778,491</u> |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

MARSHALL ISLANDS SCHOLARSHIP GRANT AND LOAN BOARD

Notes to Financial Statements
September 30, 2017 and 2016

(1) Organization

The Marshall Islands Scholarship Grant and Loan Board (MISGLB), a governmental fund of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RepMar), was established pursuant to the Scholarship Assistance Act of 1997 (the Act), as amended. MISGLB was established to develop and administer a financial assistance program for those qualified applicants who cannot pursue educational and training opportunities because of financial inability. In accordance with the Act, RepMar established the Scholarship Fund Account, a governmental fund accounted for within RepMar's Treasury. This Fund accounts for funds appropriated by the Nitijela (the RepMar Legislature) for scholarship assistance, including funding under the Compact of Free Association, as Amended (the Compact).

The accompanying financial statements relate solely to those accounting records maintained by MISGLB, and do not incorporate any accounts related to RepMar's Scholarship Fund Account or any other departments or agencies of RepMar that may be accounted for by RepMar's Treasury. MISGLB is considered to be a blended component unit (a governmental fund) of RepMar and is governed by a nine-member Board appointed by the Cabinet of RepMar.

(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The more significant of MISGLB's accounting policies are described below.

Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

MISGLB reports its financial position and the results of its operations in one special revenue fund. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. They are concerned only with the measurement of financial position and are not involved with measurement of results of operations. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain MISGLB functions or activities.

Governmental funds are used to account for all or most of a government's general activities, including the collection and disbursement of earmarked monies (special revenue funds).

MISGLB's special revenue fund consists of the following:

- i. Compact Scholarship Fund - This fund was established to account for monies received by MISGLB that were appropriated by RepMar under the Compact.
- ii. Byrd Grant Scholarship Fund - This fund was established to account for monies received by MISGLB under the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program sector grant.
- iii. Nitijela Fund - This fund was established to account for monies received by MISGLB that were appropriated by the Nitijela as well as other grants, gifts and donations received for scholarship assistance.

**MARSHALL ISLANDS SCHOLARSHIP
GRANT AND LOAN BOARD**

Notes to Financial Statements
September 30, 2017 and 2016

(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, Continued

Basis of Presentation

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. All governmental funds are accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities generally are included on the balance sheet. Operating statements of these funds present increases (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) in fund balance.

The modified accrual basis of accounting is used by all governmental fund types. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e., when they become both measurable and available). "Measurable" means the amount of the transaction can be determined and "available" means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. Significant revenues susceptible to accrual include federal grants and Nitijela appropriations. Miscellaneous revenues from gifts and donations are recognized when received in cash because they are generally not measurable until actually received. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred.

Budgetary Information

An annual appropriated budget has not been formally adopted on a legal basis or a basis consistent with GAAP. Accordingly, a budget to actual presentation is not required or presented.

Cash and Time Certificate of Deposit

The deposit and investment policies of MISGLB are governed by 3 MIRC 7, *Investments of Public Funds*, and 11 MIRC 1, *Financial Management*. Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, MISGLB's deposits may not be returned to it. Such deposits are not covered by depository insurance and are either uncollateralized or collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution or held by the pledging financial institution but not in the depositor-government's name. MISGLB does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk.

For the purpose of the balance sheets, cash is defined as cash in demand accounts. Deposits maintained in time certificates of deposit with an original maturity date greater than ninety days are separately classified. As of September 30, 2017 and 2016, the carrying amounts of MISGLB's total cash and time certificate of deposit were \$995,314 and \$779,507, respectively, and the corresponding bank balances were \$1,078,825 and \$859,737, respectively. Of the bank balances, \$510,170 and \$393,185, respectively, were maintained in financial institutions subject to Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insurance with the remaining amounts of \$568,655 and \$466,552, respectively, being maintained in a financial institution not subject to depository insurance. As of September 30, 2017 and 2016, bank deposits in the amount of \$437,664 and \$393,185, respectively, were FDIC insured. MISGLB does not require collateralization of its cash deposits; therefore, deposits levels in excess of FDIC insurance coverage are uncollateralized. Accordingly, these deposits are exposed to custodial credit risk.

**MARSHALL ISLANDS SCHOLARSHIP
GRANT AND LOAN BOARD**

Notes to Financial Statements
September 30, 2017 and 2016

(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, Continued

Receivables

MISGLB lends money to students, who are citizens of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, based on meeting certain criteria. These loans are interest free, uncollateralized and have no set repayment terms. These loans may be converted to grants at a later date if the recipients meet a further set of criteria. Loans receivable are stated net of an estimated allowance for uncollectible accounts.

The allowance for uncollectible accounts is established through direct scholarship assistance charged to expenditures. Loans receivable are charged against the allowance for uncollectible accounts when management has determined that the scholarship recipients have met the criteria for conversion to grants.

Fund Balance

Fund balance classifications are based on the extent to which MISGLB is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in those funds can be spent. Restricted fund balance includes amounts that are constrained for specific purposes which are externally imposed by providers, such as creditors or amounts constrained due to constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. A formal minimum fund balance policy has not been adopted.

Taxes

The Government of RepMar imposes a gross receipts tax of 3% on revenues. MISGLB is specifically exempt from this tax.

Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Reclassifications

Certain balances in 2016 presentation have been reclassified to conform to the 2017 presentation.

New Accounting Standards

During the year ended September 30, 2017, MISGLB implemented the following pronouncements:

- GASB Statement No. 73, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions and Related Assets That Are Not Within the Scope of GASB Statement 68, and Amendments to Certain Provisions of GASB Statements 67 and 68*, which aligns the reporting requirements for pensions and pension plans not covered in GASB Statements 67 and 68 with the reporting requirements in Statement 68.

**MARSHALL ISLANDS SCHOLARSHIP
GRANT AND LOAN BOARD**

Notes to Financial Statements
September 30, 2017 and 2016

(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, Continued

New Accounting Standards, Continued

- GASB Statement No. 74, *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans*, which replaces Statements No. 43, *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans, as amended*, and No. 57, *OPEB Measurements by Agent Employers and Agent Multiple-Employer Plans*, and addresses financial reporting requirements for governments whose employees are provided with postemployment benefits other than pensions (other postemployment benefits or OPEB).
- GASB Statement No. 77, *Tax Abatement Disclosures*, which requires governments that enter into tax abatement agreements to disclose certain information about the agreements.
- GASB Statement No. 78, *Pensions Provided through Certain Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Pension Plans*, which addresses a practice issue regarding the scope and applicability of Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*.
- GASB Statement No. 80, *Blending Requirements for Certain Component Units - an amendment of GASB Statement No. 14*, which improves financial reporting by clarifying the financial statement presentation requirements for certain component units.
- GASB Statement No. 82, *Pension Issues - an amendment of GASB Statements No. 67, No. 68, and No. 73*, which addresses issues regarding (1) the presentation of payroll-related measures in required supplementary information, (2) the selection of assumptions and the treatment of deviations from the guidance in an Actuarial Standard of Practice for financial reporting purposes, and (3) the classification of payments made by employers to satisfy employee (plan member) contribution requirements.

The implementation of these statements did not have a material effect on the financial statements of MISGLB.

In June 2015, GASB issued Statement No. 73, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions and Related Assets That Are Not Within the Scope of GASB Statement No. 68, and Amendments to Certain Provisions of GASB Statements No. 67 and No. 68*, which aligns the reporting requirements for pensions and pension plans not covered in GASB Statements No. 67 and No. 68 with the reporting requirements in Statement No. 68. The provisions in Statement No. 73 are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2015, with the exception of the provisions that address employers and governmental nonemployer contribution entities for pension that are not within the scope of Statement 68, which are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2016. Management does not believe that the implementation of this statement will have a material effect on the financial statements.

In June 2015, GASB issued Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*, which replaces the requirements of Statements No. 45, *Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions, as amended*, and No. 57, *OPEB Measurements by Agent Employers and Agent Multiple-Employer Plans*, and provides guidance on reporting by governments that provide OPEB to their employees and for governments that finance OPEB for employees of other governments. The provisions in Statement No. 75 are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2017. Management does not believe that the implementation of this statement will have a material effect on the financial statements.

**MARSHALL ISLANDS SCHOLARSHIP
GRANT AND LOAN BOARD**

Notes to Financial Statements
September 30, 2017 and 2016

(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, Continued

New Accounting Standards, Continued

In March 2016, GASB issued Statement No. 81, *Irrevocable Split-Interest Agreements*, which improves accounting and financial reporting for irrevocable split-interest agreements by providing recognition and measurement guidance for situations in which a government is a beneficiary of the agreement. The provisions in Statement No. 81 are effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2016. Management does not believe that the implementation of this statement will have a material effect on the financial statements.

In November 2016, GASB issued Statement No. 83, *Certain Asset Retirement Obligations*, which addresses accounting and financial reporting for certain asset retirement obligations (AROs) associated with the retirement of a tangible capital asset. The provisions in Statement No. 83 are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2018. Management does not believe that the implementation of this statement will have a material effect on the financial statements.

In January 2017, GASB issued Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities*, which establishes criteria for identifying fiduciary activities of all state and local governments. The provisions in Statement No. 84 are effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018. Management does not believe that the implementation of this statement will have a material effect on the financial statements.

In March 2017, GASB issued Statement No. 85, *Omnibus 2017*, which address practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements including issues related to blending component units, goodwill, fair value measurement and application, and postemployment benefits (pensions and other postemployment benefits). The provisions in Statement No. 85 are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2017. Management does not believe that the implementation of this statement will have a material effect on the financial statements.

In May 2017, GASB issued Statement No. 86, *Certain Debt Extinguishment Issues*, which improves consistency in accounting and financial reporting for in-substance defeasance of debt. The provisions in Statement No. 86 are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2017. Management does not believe that the implementation of this statement will have a material effect on the financial statements.

In June 2017, GASB issued Statement No. 87, *Leases*, which establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. The provisions in Statement No. 87 are effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2019. Management has yet to determine whether the implementation of this statement will have a material effect on the financial statements.

**MARSHALL ISLANDS SCHOLARSHIP
GRANT AND LOAN BOARD**

Notes to Financial Statements
September 30, 2017 and 2016

(3) Risk Management

MISGLB is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. MISGLB has elected to purchase commercial insurance from independent third parties for the risks of loss to which it is exposed with respect to the use of motor vehicles. For other risks of loss to which it is exposed, MISGLB has elected not to purchase commercial insurance. Instead, MISGLB believes it is more economical to manage its risks internally. Claims expenditures and liabilities are reported when it is probable that a loss has occurred and the amount of that loss can be reasonably estimated. These losses include an estimate of claims that have been incurred but not reported. No material losses have resulted from MISGLB's risk management activities for the past three years.

(4) Receivables

Receivables as of September 30, 2017 and 2016, including the applicable allowance for uncollectible accounts, are as follows:

| | <u>2017</u> | <u>2016</u> |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Loans receivable | \$ 17,981,394 | \$ 17,879,184 |
| Less allowance for uncollectible accounts | <u>(17,981,394)</u> | <u>(17,879,184)</u> |
| | \$ _____- | \$ _____- |

During the years ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, MISGLB converted \$1,064,530 and \$281,259, respectively, in loans receivable to grants as the recipients met the criteria for conversion. The effect of the conversion of these loans to grants has been reflected in loans receivable balances as of September 30, 2017 and 2016.

(5) Related Party Transactions

MISGLB is a governmental fund of RepMar and is therefore affiliated with all RepMar-owned and affiliated entities, including all governmental funds of RepMar and the Marshall Islands Development Bank (MIDB). During the years ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, MISGLB recognized certain on-behalf payments as contributions from RepMar, totaling \$82,944 and \$61,294, respectively, representing certain payroll and related expenditures that RepMar paid directly on behalf of MISGLB.

During the years ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, the operations of MISGLB were funded by appropriations from RepMar, totaling \$1,533,134 and \$1,476,175, respectively.

MISGLB entered into an office lease with MIDB for a term of five years commencing February 25, 2010. In 2015, MISGLB renewed the lease for an additional two years with annual rent of \$15,840, payable in quarterly installments of \$3,960.

(6) Contingency

MISGLB receives a substantial amount of its revenue from annual RepMar appropriations. If a significant reduction in the level of budgetary support from RepMar were to occur, MISGLB's scholarship programs and activities may be impacted. For the year ended September 30, 2018, RepMar appropriated funding to MISGLB in the amount of \$1,564,719 for the purpose of funding scholarship activities.

**MARSHALL ISLANDS SCHOLARSHIP
GRANT AND LOAN BOARD**

Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures,
and Changes in Fund Balances
Year Ended September 30, 2017

| | Compact Scholarship Fund | Other Grant Scholarship Fund | Nitijela Fund | Total |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Compact of Free Association | \$ 792,202 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 792,202 |
| Nitijela appropriation | - | - | 740,932 | 740,932 |
| Interest | 25,348 | - | - | 25,348 |
| Total revenues | <u>817,550</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>740,932</u> | <u>1,558,482</u> |
| Expenditures: | | | | |
| Scholarship assistance | 817,550 | - | 349,190 | 1,166,740 |
| Salaries and wages | - | - | 82,944 | 82,944 |
| Sitting fees | - | - | 24,844 | 24,844 |
| Communications | - | - | 16,505 | 16,505 |
| Office rental | - | - | 15,840 | 15,840 |
| Capital outlays | - | - | 10,951 | 10,951 |
| Office supplies | - | - | 9,771 | 9,771 |
| Training and travel | - | - | 6,209 | 6,209 |
| Miscellaneous | - | - | 9,071 | 9,071 |
| Total expenditures | <u>817,550</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>525,325</u> | <u>1,342,875</u> |
| Net change in fund balances | - | - | 215,607 | 215,607 |
| Fund balances at the beginning of the year | <u>470,225</u> | <u>1,500</u> | <u>306,766</u> | <u>778,491</u> |
| Fund balances at the end of the year | <u>\$ 470,225</u> | <u>\$ 1,500</u> | <u>\$ 522,373</u> | <u>\$ 994,098</u> |

See accompanying independent auditors' report.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Chairman
Marshall Islands Scholarship Grant and Loan Board:

We have audited, in accordance with the 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, the financial statements of the Marshall Islands Scholarship Grant and Loan Board (MISGLB), which comprise the balance sheet as of September 30, 2017, and the related statements of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 28, 2018.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered MISGLB's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of MISGLB's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of MISGLB's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control 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 material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified. We did identify certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as item 2017-002, that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

Compliance and Other Matters

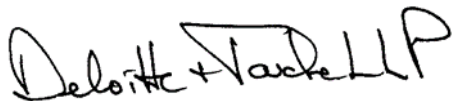
As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether MISGLB's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as item 2017-001.

MISGLB's Responses to Findings

MISGLB's responses to the findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs. MISGLB's responses were not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



June 28, 2018

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM; REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE; AND REPORT ON SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

Chairman
Marshall Islands Scholarship Grant and Loan Board:

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

We have audited the Marshall Islands Scholarship Grant and Loan Board's (MISGLB) compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on MISGLB's major federal program for the year ended September 30, 2017. MISGLB's major federal program is identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs.

Management's Responsibility

Management is responsible for compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of its federal awards applicable to its federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on compliance for MISGLB's major federal program based on our audit of the types of compliance requirements referred to above. We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Those standards and the Uniform Guidance require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether noncompliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program occurred. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about MISGLB's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion on compliance for the major federal program. However, our audit does not provide a legal determination of MISGLB's compliance.

Opinion on the Major Federal Program

In our opinion, MISGLB complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the year ended September 30, 2017.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

Management of MISGLB is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above. In planning and performing our audit of compliance, we considered MISGLB's internal control over compliance with the types of requirements that could have a direct and material effect on the major federal program to determine the auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing an opinion on compliance for the major federal program and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of MISGLB's internal control over compliance.

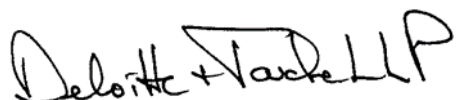
A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. *A material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Report on Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Required by the Uniform Guidance

We have audited the financial statements of MISGLB as of and for the year ended September 30, 2017, and have issued our report thereon dated June 28, 2018, which contained an unmodified opinion on those financial statements. Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by the Uniform Guidance and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of expenditure of federal awards is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.



June 28, 2018

**MARSHALL ISLANDS SCHOLARSHIP
GRANTS AND LOAN BOARD**

Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
Year Ended September 30, 2017

| | <u>Fund Balance Beginning of Year</u> | <u>Federal Funds Received</u> | <u>Other Funds Received</u> | <u>Funds Expended</u> | <u>Fund Balance End of Year</u> |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Funds passed through the Republic of the Marshall Islands: | | | | | |
| <u>U.S. Department of the Interior</u> | | | | | |
| <u>CFDA #15.875</u> | | | | | |
| Economic, Social and Political Development of the Territories: | | | | | |
| Compact of Free Association, As Amended, Sector Grants: | | | | | |
| Section 211(a)(1) | | | | | |
| Education Sector | \$ 470,225 | \$ 592,202 | \$ 25,348 | \$ 624,776 | \$ 462,999 |
| Section 211(b)(1) | | | | | |
| Kwajalein Special Needs | <u> -</u> | <u> 200,000</u> | <u> -</u> | <u> 192,774</u> | <u> 7,226</u> |
| | <u>\$ 470,225</u> | <u>\$ 792,202</u> | <u>\$ 25,348</u> | <u>\$ 817,550</u> | <u>\$ 470,225</u> |

See accompanying notes to schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

**MARSHALL ISLANDS SCHOLARSHIP
GRANT AND LOAN BOARD**

Notes to Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
Year Ended September 30, 2017

(1) Organization and Compact of Free Association

The Marshall Islands Scholarship Grant and Loan Board (MISGLB) is a subrecipient of funds received through Sections 211(a) and 211(b) of the Compact of Free Association, As Amended (the Compact), from the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RepMar). These funds are provided to support the post-secondary education of citizens of the Marshall Islands attending accredited post-secondary institutions.

(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards includes the federal grant activity of MISGLB and is presented on the modified accrual basis of accounting. The information in this schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*. Therefore, some amounts presented in this schedule may differ from amounts presented in, or used in the preparation of, the basic financial statements.

Indirect Cost Rate

MISGLB has not elected to use the 10% de minimis cost rate.

**MARSHALL ISLANDS SCHOLARSHIP
GRANT AND LOAN BOARD**

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
Year Ended September 30, 2017

A. SUMMARY OF AUDITORS' RESULTS

Financial Statements

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1. Type of report the auditors issued on whether the financial statements audited were prepared in accordance with GAAP: | Unmodified |
| Internal control over financial reporting: | |
| 2. Material weakness(es) identified? | No |
| 3. Significant deficiency(ies) identified? | Yes |
| 4. Noncompliance material to financial statements noted? | Yes |

Federal Awards

Internal control over major federal programs:

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 5. Material weakness(es) identified? | No |
| 6. Significant deficiency(ies) identified? | None reported |
| 7. Type of auditors' report issued on compliance for major federal programs | Unmodified |
| 8. Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR 200.516(a)? | No |
| 9. Identification of major federal programs: | |

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| <u>CFDA Numbers</u> | <u>Name of Federal Program or Cluster</u> |
|---------------------|---|

| | |
|--------|---|
| 15.875 | Economic, Social and Political Development of the Territories: Compact of Free Association, as amended, Sector Grants |
|--------|---|

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 10. Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B Programs: | \$ 750,000 |
| 11. Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee? | No |

B. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FINDINGS

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| Reference | |
| <u>Number</u> | <u>Findings</u> |
| 2017-001 | Local Noncompliance |
| 2017-002 | External Financial Reporting |

C. FEDERAL AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

None

**MARSHALL ISLANDS SCHOLARSHIP
GRANT AND LOAN BOARD**

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs, Continued
Year Ended September 30, 2017

Local Noncompliance

Finding No. 2017-001

Criteria: Section 6(e) of the Scholarship Assistance of 1979 (the Act), as amended, requires MISGLB to ensure timely repayment of scholarship assistance loans. MISGLB policies and procedures require the repayment of student loans within one year of completion or cessation of studies. Furthermore, Section 7(h) of the Act authorizes MISGLB to convert scholarship assistance loans to grants.

Condition: During the year ended September 30, 2017, MISGLB converted \$1,064,530 of loans to grants as recipients met conversion criteria. Additionally, as of September 30, 2017, MISGLB recorded outstanding loans receivable of \$17,981,394. Due to the lack of collection of these loans, a corresponding allowance for uncollectable loans has been recorded. Furthermore, MISGLB does not maintain a detailed subsidiary ledger that encompasses all outstanding loans.

Cause: The cause of the above condition is lack of enforcement of MISGLB policies and procedures requiring the repayment of scholarship assistance loans and the lack of a reconciled subsidiary loan ledger.

Effect: The effect of the above condition is the lack of loan repayments and a possibility that converted loans may not be complete.

Recommendation: We recommend that MISGLB enforce established policies and procedures requiring the repayment of scholarship assistance loans. Furthermore, we recommend that MISGLB reconstruct the subsidiary loan ledger to reconcile and agree with the general ledger.

Prior Year Status: The lack of loan repayments and the possibility that converted loans may not be complete was reported as a finding in the Single Audits of MISGLB for fiscal years 1997 through 2016.

Auditee Response and Corrective Action Plan:

See Correction Action Plan on page 21.

**MARSHALL ISLANDS SCHOLARSHIP
GRANT AND LOAN BOARD**

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs, Continued
Year Ended September 30, 2017

External Financial Reporting

Finding No. 2017-002

Criteria: Board minutes are the primary means by which agencies document the administration of MISGLB's operations.

Condition: Not all Board minutes of meetings held during fiscal year 2017 were available and several scholarship awards were not supported by underlying minutes. Further, some Board minutes provided have no signature/approval of the Chairperson of the Board.

Cause: The cause of the above condition is the lack of adherence to established policies and procedures relating to documentation of Board of Director minutes.

Effect: The effect of the above condition is the possibility that directives of the Board are not properly disclosed or recorded in the financial statements and several scholarship awards were not supported by underlying minutes.

Recommendation: We recommend that the Board of Directors require that all minutes of meetings be formally documented by the Secretary and be approved by the Board.

Prior Year Status: The lack of adherence to established policies and procedures relating to documentation of Board of Directors minutes was reported as a finding in the Single Audit of MISGLB for fiscal years 2014 through 2016.

Auditee Response and Corrective Action Plan:

See Correction Action Plan on page 22.



Marshall Islands Scholarship, Grant, and Loan Board
PO Box 1436
Majuro, MH 96960
Ph: (692)625-3108/5770
Fax: (692-625-7325)
Email: misglb@ntamar.net



June 26, 2018

Deloitte & Touche
 Certified Public Accountants
 P.O. Box 1288
 Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

Dear Gentlemen:

Following is the Marshall Islands Scholarship, Grant and Loan Board response to Fiscal Year 2017 findings:

Finding No. 2017-001:

Marshall Islands Scholarship Grant & Loan Board will follow your recommendation, therefore MISGLB had hired a position of a Loan Collector to concentrate on collecting repayment of scholarship assistance loans. Subsidiary loan ledger had reconciled and agreed it with the general ledger. Following is the detail of the reconciled Sub Ledger for Loan Receivable as of 9/30/2017. Noted that the \$2,880,609.47 is from previous year since 2000 and detail of the \$2,880,609.47 cannot be located.

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| PRIOR YEAR BALANCE | 2,880,609.47 |
| STILL IN SCHOOL | 2,626,239.43 |
| JUST GRADUATED | 1,931,955.83 |
| TO BE CONVERTED | 1,975,730.86 |
| TO BE COLLECTED | 8,566,858.03 |
| | 17,981,393.62 |

The Marshall Islands Scholarship Grant, and Loan Board will seek assistance with the Attorney General Office to withholding passport renewals of the students which are on the listing of the amount to be collected **\$8,566,858.03**. The Marshall Islands Scholarship, Grant, and Loan Board will work with MISSA & PSC to find former recipients working in RMI., collaborate with Small Claim Court to Locate the returned graduates whose student loans are still outstanding.

Finding No. 2017-002:

MISGLB will accept your recommendation and ensure that all Board minutes are executed on timely manner. The Board is going to see that previous minute is approved before a new minute takes place.

Sincerely,



Branda Alik Maddison
Chairperson
Marshall Islands Scholarship, Grant and Loan Board



Marshall Islands Scholarship, Grant, and Loan Board
PO Box 1436
Majuro, MH 96960
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MARSHALL ISLANDS SCHOLARSHIP, GRANT AND LOAN BOARD

Schedule of Prior Year Findings and Questioned Costs
Year Ended September 30, 2017

Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings

| <u>Finding Number</u> | <u>Finding</u> | <u>Status as of September 30, 2017</u> |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 2016-001 | Local Noncompliance | Corrective action is on-going. |
| 2016-002 | External Financial Reporting | Corrective action is on-going. |