

# 2024 Centric Report



## WHO WE ARE

The Women's Affairs Office (WAO) was established by Article III Section 22 of the CNMI Constitution on November 03, 1985.

The Women's Affairs Office under the Office of the Governor's main focus is to implement the interests of women in organizing to plan and implement programs and services for women, monitor compliance of laws and regulations, organizing of community education strategies regarding the roles of women and to recommend to the Governor and the Legislators for consideration legislation to benefit women of all nations.

The Women's Affairs Office affirms actions in both government and private sectors in assisting women to achieve social, political and economic parity by such conduction as outreach and crises programs to meet the needs of disadvantage women, victims of domestic abuse, women in need of emotional, social and economic support as well as recognition of praise and continued support for women in leadership.

## WHAT WE DO

- Formulate and implement a policy of affirmative action in the government and private section to assist women achieve social, political and economic parity.
- Promote and support the interest of women in the CNMI
- Assist government agencies and private organizations to plan and implement programs and services for women.
- Monitor compliance of laws and regulations by government agencies and private organizations.
- Organize community education strategies regarding the roles of women, and recommend to the governor and the legislature for consideration of legislation of benefit to women.

## CONTACT US

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## OUR

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## OUR WORK

### WOMEN'S MONTH (MARCH 2024)

WAO in collaboration with other government and non-government agencies has coordinated the Women's Month event annually to celebrate their contributions and achievements and commemorate the history of women in the CNMI while raising awareness of women issues. This event coincided with the International Women's Day celebrated every March 8th. A time of celebration and recognition of women's rights and gender equality as well as highlighting the empowerment of women in society throughout the world.

### Proclamation Signing - March 1, 2024



WAO and First Lady Wella Palacios Foundation remain the beacon to promote the interests of women, assists agencies of government and private organizations to plan and implement programs and services, and further commit to advocate, guide, and light the way for the continued progress and prosperity of the CNMI. Theme is WE: Women & Everyone for Gender Equality, Inclusion, and Resiliency and Int'l Women's Day Theme is Inspire Inclusion.

## International Women's Day - March 8, 2024



On this specific day, March 8, 2024, International Women's Day was proclaimed. All the women from all the cultures that reside in the CNMI, came out and showcased their culture to the community as apart of International Women's Day.

From the local cultures of Chamorro and Carolinian, to our sister islands of Chuuk, Palau, FSM: Yap & Pohnpei, Marshall Islands, and our neighboring islands in Asian side that include Philippines, China, and Korea, and lastly Russia coming in from the European side. It was a whole day event to celebrate all the women of all these wonderful and amazing cultures that they are proudly apart of and from.

## JKPL Women's Night - March 15



CNMI Women's Affairs Office in partnership with Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Office of the Governor, First Lady Wella Foundation & Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, and various community partners hosted and celebrated CNMI Women's Month @ Your Library. Women's Night Activities included the following: Button-Making, Cri-cut Making, Cultural Food, Beauty & Fashion Corner, Community Partner Info booth, Cultural Floral Arrangement, Business Card Making, Music, Food, Drinks, Vendor Booths, and so much more! The following vendors and community partners will be featured: Ya Ya's Catering, Event Swag Solutions, Pualani Crown, Local Lemonada Girls, Cat's Creation, the Liberation Day Queen, Youth Congress senators, the Northern Marianas College Nursing Club and many more.

## Mes Manamko & Mother's Day - May 14, 2024



To kick off the month of May, The Women's Affairs Office had put together Mes Manamko and Mother's Day as one celebration.

## 10th Annual Women's Summit - May 17, 2024



### 23rd CNMI Legislature - House Commemorative Resolution 23-9 - May 2024

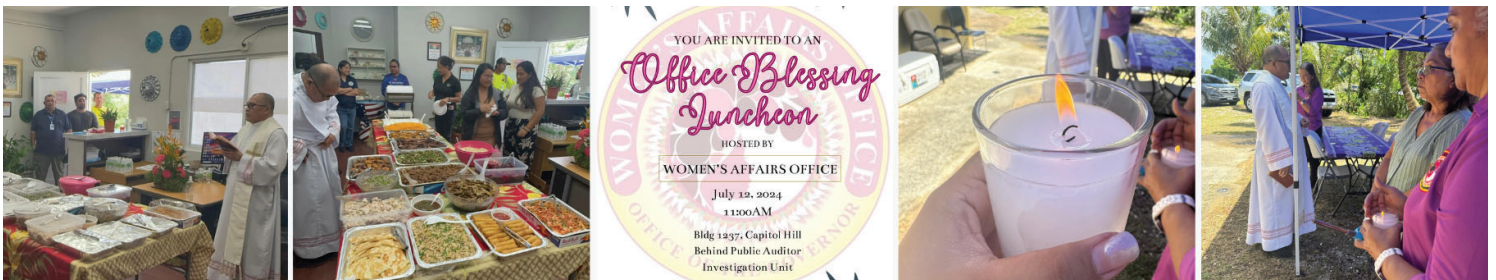
On May 10, 2024, Representative Denita Yangetmai with other reps including woman House of Representative Marissa Flores and other House Members introduced this Comm. Res. 23-9 to congratulate and honor all the women in the Commonwealth as we celebrate their contributions and achievements during the months of March 2024, proclaimed as CNMI Women's Month and March 8th as International Women's Day.

### OFGRA Awards - May 2024



Annually, The Women's Affairs office gives an award to a female senior graduate who is nominated by her school faculty/staff that receives the award for the Outstanding Female Graduate Recipient Award (OFGRA Award). For SY 2023-2024, there were 5 female senior graduate recipients of the OFGRA award.

### WOMEN'S AFFAIRS OFFICE WARMING & BLESSING - JULY 12, 2024



On July 12, 2024, The Women's Affairs Office had our new office blessed with a luncheon to follow along. This was the highlight of the month of July.

### WIC Health Bash & 50th World Breastfeeding Week - August 2024



Partnering with Women’s Infant Children Program at CHCC Hospital. We conducted a Health Bash that included health screenings, info stations, mini games, Zumba by Xtreme Fitness670 with Zin Mitch and prizes were given away to the community.

**Rota Coconut Festival and Women’s Outreach - October 2023**



**7th Annual Toys for Tots - October 2023 (3,400+ toys collected for Christmas 2023)**



In collaboration with Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz and with partnership between the Saipan Chambers of Commerce, Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs, CNMI Women’s Association, and the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College, Toys for Tots toy collection boxes were placed at local businesses, the office of the Governor, and government agency offices during the first week of October until the first week of December. Toys for Tots collection concluded on December 8, 2023. By the end of the collection, there were about 3,400+ toys collected for Christmas 2023.

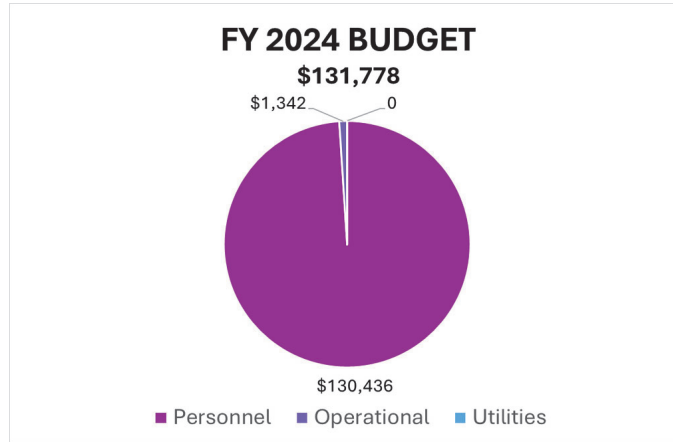
**Trunk or Treat - October 31, 2023**



In collaboration with the Office of the Governor and other government agencies, The Women’s Affairs office joined along for the Drive-thru Trunk-or-Treat candy distribution that was held at the Garapan Central Park for the whole community to come.

## FINANCES

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**(1% Public Auditors Fee included)**

### KEY CHALLENGES:

Despite the budget restrictions, with no Operational budget in place for FY 2024, WAO still managed to successfully host and partner multiple community events through out the year to serve the CNMI. We will continue to operate with No Funding for Operations for FY 2025 also and a deduction in our budget from FY 2024.

<b>FY 2025 BUDGET</b>				
<b>(PL 23-26)</b>				
<b>NOP</b>	<b>PERSONNEL</b>	<b>ALL OTHERS</b>	<b>UTILITIES</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>\$104,921</b>	<b>\$1,301</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>\$106,222</b>

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## PARTNERS & LOOKING AHEAD

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*Our agency partners and collaborations with non-profit organizations to make our work a success!*

WAO will continue to promote the interest of women as mandated by the CNMI constitution by partnering up with government agencies and Non-government agencies on projects, community events and by offering our services. We will also:

- Look and share resources in the community to achieve projects and goals.
- Look for funding and resources to support projects.
- Continue to collaborate with the Public School System and Private School System to provide incentive awards to top honor senior female students. Look for other ways to empower and promote the interest of women in the CNMI.
- Seek more training and professional development for staff and women in need.

### NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS



### GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (plus many more!)



Plus many more not shown/mentioned!

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