

July 6, 2012

Ms. Justina Langidrik  
Secretary of Health  
Republic of the Marshall Islands

Dear Ms. Langidrik:

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Marshall Islands Health Fund (the Fund) as of and for the year ended September 30, 2011 (on which we have issued our report dated July 6, 2012), 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 the Fund'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 the Fund's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund'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 the Fund's internal control over financial reporting and other matters as of September 30, 2011 that we wish to bring to your attention.

We have also issued a separate report to the Honorable David Kabua, Minister of Health, also dated July 6, 2012, on our consideration of the Fund'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.

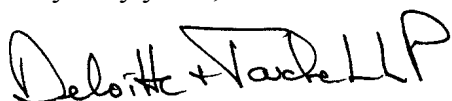
A description of the responsibility of management for establishing and maintaining internal control over financial reporting and of the objectives of and inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, is set forth in the attached Appendix II and should be read in conjunction with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

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Ministry of Health, management, 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 the Fund 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 the Fund's internal control over financial reporting as of September 30, 2011 that we wish to bring to your attention:

### (1) Revolving Fund

As of September 30, 2011, reconciliation of the revolving fund indicated an unexplained \$22,639 variance. In addition, the revolving fund account was not reconciled throughout the year. We recommend that management require timely reconciliation of the revolving fund account. Furthermore, reconciliation variances should be investigated and be timely resolved.

### (2) Travel Advances

At September 30, 2011, the Fund recorded \$3,244 of travel advances, which include balances that have been outstanding from two months to two years. We recommend that management scrutinize long outstanding advances and necessary adjustments occur. This matter was discussed in our previous letter in the fiscal year 2010 audit.

### (3) Disbursements

The Fund made a payment to an off-island vendor through check #s 10077 and 9183 in the amount of \$4,239 and \$6,695, respectively for patient pharmaceutical charges based on billing statements. However, the vendor billing statement was not supported by invoices or other documentation evidencing actual patient charges. We recommend that management require submission of invoices or other documentation to support vendor statements.

### (4) Account Reconciliations

Account sub ledgers such as accounts receivable, travel advances, and accounts payable are reconciled as part of year-end closing in preparation for the audit. However, no independent review by management takes place. We recommend that management establish policies and procedures requiring that account reconciliations be performed timely and regularly. Further, an appropriate independent review by management personnel other than the preparer should also be implemented.

## 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**

The Fund’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.