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Håfa Adai. My name is Amanda Francel Blas, and I am the newly appointed
executive director for Guam's Commission on Decolonization. On behalf of the

territories. We have to pay for 45% of Medicaid costs, which further impacts our debt. If Guam and the other territories received equal treatment with the states, we could avoid the adverse financial situations that other U.S. insular areas are facing.

Another unfunded mandate is the Compact of Free Association, which allows citizens of the Freely Associated States to enter the U.S. without visas. While FAS migrants can move to any of the states or territories, Guam has become their top

destination. While the Compact recognizes there should be compensation for states and territories, the reimbursements Guam received has been inadequate of the costs it takes to host FAS citizens. In fiscal year 2016, Guam spent \$142 million to provide educational and social services to FAS citizens.

has made it clear the only way we can avoid the lawsuit is through a consent decree. Consent decrees imposed on our local government have cost our island hundreds of millions of dollars.

Since Governor Calvo relaunched the Commission on Decolonization in 2011, the

oppress Guam.

We are three years away from 2020, the United Nations' targeted year to eradicate colonialism. However, Guam's ability to reach self-governance may still be beyond reach. The plebiscite has been brought to a halt, with the court decision

ideas on how to overcome our current challenges that hinder our ability to reach self-governance.

Thank you, and *Si Yu'us Ma'ase* for the opportunity to share, dialogue and work with you all.