

**Statement Position  
Genevieve Brighthouse**

**A Regional Perspective of Coastal Management  
- Priority Issues & Challenges in Island Environments**

Coastal Management of limited island resources are a formidable challenge in the US Insular Areas due to a dependency on a narrow economic base, a growing population, and changes in societal expectations. Development impacts we see on larger land bodies are magnified on small island states because of our small land mass. Today, coastal managers face the difficult task of trying to reach a balance between resource conservation and resource development. Priority issues include coping with escalating impacts of population growth, applying a regional network approach to significant environmental issues, maintaining a balance between economic growth and sustainability, re-thinking the sustainability of Reef Fish Stocks, and the need for research on physical parameters and ocean dynamics and impacts on ocean resources.