



PRESS RELEASE

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@BankofGuam

Bank of Guam was established over 50 years ago, and as The People's Bank, is Guam's first locally owned and chartered bank. Built on the vision of founder Jesus S. Leon Guerrero to be the driving force for prosperity in the communities it serves, the Bank's work continues through its network of over 500 employees spanning 6,000 miles and 16 branches across Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and San Francisco, California.

February 18, 2025

BANK OF GUAM® STRENGTHENS COMMITMENT TO THE MARSHALL ISLANDS WITH \$3,000 SPONSORSHIP TO MAJOL CANOE PADDLING CLUB FOR FIRST VARUA VA'A CANOE

Hagåtña, Guam – Bank of Guam proudly announces a \$3,000 sponsorship to the Majol Canoe Paddling Club in the Marshall Islands, marking a historic moment for the club as it acquires its first-ever Varua Va'a Canoe. The canoe is co-sponsored together with Pacific International Inc.

For decades, Bank of Guam has remained deeply connected to our neighboring islands, standing alongside communities in ways that celebrate culture, strengthen ties, and support dreams and aspirations. This sponsorship to the Majol Canoe Paddling Club is a reflection of this enduring commitment to the Marshall Islands, honoring the trust and relationships built over years.

The Tahitian outrigger canoe represents a significant milestone for the Majol Canoe Paddling Club along with the Marshall Islands Canoe Paddling Federation as they continue their mission of connecting community, culture, and ocean preservation through the sport of paddling.

The 10-men and 10-women team made its competitive debut at the 24th annual Micronesia Cup in Saipan last year, joining over 300 delegates throughout the region. The Micronesia Cup is a regional Va'a outrigger race hosted alternatively by Guam, Palau, and the CNMI. With only a few months of training, the team debuted at the competition earning a silver medal in the V6 Open Men's 500m finals and a bronze medal in the V6 Open Mixed long-distance 8-mile course.

For years, Bank of Guam has been a part of the community in the Marshall Islands, standing alongside organizations like the Majol Canoe Paddling Club, as they grow and create lasting impact. We're excited to see the canoe in action, as the team continues to inspire the next generation of paddlers. As The People's Bank, we remain committed to lifting up our people and organizations that make the Marshall Islands stronger. **-Joaquin P. L.G. Cook, President and Chief Executive Officer**

This canoe symbolizes more than just a sport – it's a vessel that connects us closer to our culture, the ocean, and our community. Thank you to Bank of Guam for believing in our vision and supporting our efforts to inspire and uplift our people. We're excited to practice, train harder, and make history together.

-Isabel Kramer Espiritu, President, Majol Canoe Paddling Club



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Bank of Guam Strengthens Commitment to the Marshall Islands with \$3,000 Sponsorship to Majol Canoe Paddling Club for First Varua Va'a Canoe. Pictured (from left) are Selina Enne-Capelle, Familia Ambassador I, Ryan Ditchen, Branch Manager, Bank of Guam; Shamanda Hanerg, Member-At-Large, Majol Canoe Paddling Club; Tatiana Shoniber, Secretary, Majol Canoe Paddling Club; Lesley Leon Guerrero, Senior Vice President, Chief Experience Officer, Bank of Guam; Isabel Kramer-Espiritu, President, Majol Canoe Paddling Club; Janice Chargualaf, Senior Vice President, Chief Retail and Card Services Officer, Bank of Guam; Laan Jokray, Member-At-Large, Majol Canoe Paddling Club; Henry Kramer, Member-At-Large, Majol Canoe Paddling Club; and Christopher Cruz, Vice President, Neighboring Islands Regional Manager, Bank of Guam.