

PACIFIC ISLANDS REPORT

*Pacific Islands Development Program/East-West Center
With Support From Center for Pacific Islands Studies/University of Hawai'i*

MARSHALLS TO OFFER DIABETES TREATMENT ON ISLAND

Services to begin early next year

HONOLULU, Hawaii (Pacific Islands Report, Nov. 1, 2010) – For the first time in 25 years, the Marshall Islands will reportedly have medical treatment for diabetes on Island.

The Marshall Islands Journal reports that National Taipei Hospital Superintendent Dr. Shoei-Loong Lin's visit last December prompted the idea to donate diabetes equipments to the Marshall Islands.

Taiwan officials have reportedly committed to supporting the service financially to ease the costs for the Marshall Islands government.

The report states that the Ministry of Health indicated they are now in the process of setting up protocols for service usage as well as data records to identify patient numbers.

Additionally, the report says nurses and doctors are in the training process including two nurses sent to Taiwan for a two month course on equipment operation.

Although the equipment is installed and running, health officials reportedly expect to formally begin services early next year.

Republic of China Ambassador George TK Li says the Marshallese "won't have to travel to another country and live abroad to survive."

A big number of Marshallese reside abroad because they require serious health care treatment to survive. For example, thousands of Marshallese citizens are currently living in Hawaii for medical reasons. However, Hawaii's new [Basic Health Hawaii](#) plan is limiting health care to patients in need of serious treatments like dialysis and chemotherapy.

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