

# First Palau olympians off to Sydney



VALERIE PEDRO



PEORIA KOSHIBA



SILAS ADOLF



ANLLOYD SAMUEL



NICOLE ISAU HAYES

A ceremonial dinner ceremony was held last Wednesday evening at the Palau Pacific Resort Hotel to bid farewell to the first national delegation of 16 athletes, coaches, and officials to participate in 27<sup>th</sup> Olympiad in Sydney, Australia next month. On hand to show support were about 200 people including parents and dignitaries. High Chief Reklai and Vice President Tommy Remengesau made remarks giving the delegates encouragement and blessings from the people and government of Palau. VP Remengesau summarized the feeling of the people when he said "we don't expect you to bring back gold or silver medals but give it all you got, miracles can happen, and our hearts and soul are with you."

Bill Keldermans as Vice President and Baklai Temngil as Secretary-General of the Palau National Olympic Committee gave briefings on the preparation and activities relating to the national participation officials making up the delegation. Peoria Koshiba spoke on behalf of the athletes by thanking the gathering and promising to represent the country well and to the best of their abilities. Bank of Hawaii's Country Manager, Bob Yee, made a presentation

of \$10,000 contribution of the largest bank in the country, to the delegation.

The athletes making the trip are Peoria Koshiba (track), Christopher Silas Adolf (track), Anlloyd Samuel (swimming), Nicole Isau Hayes (swimming), Valerie Pedro (weightlifting). They are accompanied by Pelefotie Cooper (weightlifting coach), Steven Patris (asst. weightlifting coach), Bismark Brel (swimming coach), Micki Iri-sawa (asst. swimming coach), Laura Mangham and Mitsuru Shiga (athletic coach and assistant respectively).

The officials in the trip are Sen. Alexander Merep, President Palau National Olympic Committee, Baklai Temengil, Secretary General, Bill Keldermans, Chef De Mission Chairman, Team Palau, Marcy Andrew-administrative assistant, and Sally Techitong, media representative.

The opening of this year's 27<sup>th</sup> Olympic Games will be in Sydney on September 15. Palau was admitted into the international Olympic movement in 1999 and will be taking part for the first time in Australia this year, in the biggest sport competition in the world that is held every four years.