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## **HUD gives GHURA good marks, some criticism in annual assessment**

HONOLULU — The Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority received an overall positive annual community assessment for 2005 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. For the fifth year in a row, GHURA met timeliness requirements in use of Community Development Block Grant funds. HUD noted that the agency completed several funded projects in 2005, including public facilities, public services, and renovation projects. HUD also recognized GHURA for improvement in program management and for a "high" level of commitment among agency staff.

HUD's primary criticism of GHURA was for falling "substantially behind schedule" in implementing a new financial management system. Failure to satisfactorily implement the system could affect future funding.

## **New Barrigada fire station under construction**

BARRIGADA, Guam — Construction on Guam's newest fire station is underway. On March 5, Big Ben & Co. began demolition of the existing Barrigada Fire Station at the intersection of Purple Heart Memorial Highway and Adacao Avenue. The \$13,000 project is expected to take less than two weeks. Construction on the new 5,400 square-foot structure, with room for nine firefighters per shift, one fire engine and one ambulance, is expected to take 220 days. The \$860,000 contract is still under negotiation.

The new fire station will serve more than 27,000 residents in Barrigada, Mangilao, Mongmong-Toto-Maite and Chalan Pago, as well as six public schools, five private schools, UOG, GCC, DYA, St. Dominic's and the Skilled Nursing Unit.

The Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority is funding the project through a Community Development Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.