

KUMISIÓN I FINO' CHAMORU YAN I FINA'NÁ'GUEN
I HISTORIA YAN I LINA'LA' I TAOTAO TÁNO'

*Commission on Chamoru Language and the Teaching of the History
and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam*



The Honorable Frank Blas, Jr.
Speaker, 38th Guam Legislature
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Guam Congress Building
163 W. Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

RE: Citizen-Centric Report (CCR) for Fiscal Year 2023

Håfa Adai Honorable Speaker Blas,

Pursuant to Title 1 Guam Annotated Code, Chapter 19 §1922(a), transmitted herewith is the Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'ná'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Táno's Citizen Centric Report for Fiscal Year 2023. An electronic copy of this report has also been uploaded onto our website at kumisionchamoru.guam.gov as mandated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me (671) 922-0642.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse',

Maria S. Duenas-Concepcion
Executive Director, Kumisión

Attachment(s):

- 1) Citizen-Centric Letter FY2023
- 2) Citizen-Centric Report FY 2023



CITIZEN-CENTRIC REPORT

SAKKAN FISKÁT 2023- 2024



PUT HAMI

PRUYEKTO SIHA

FONDON-MÂMI

I CHALAN-MÂMI PARA MO'NA

PUT HAMI

ABOUT US

The Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nã'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tãno', was reestablished through the [CHamoru Heritage Act of 2016](#) (P.L. 33-236). The Kumisión is charged with the critical mandate of developing and maintaining a standardized orthography, producing and approving CHamoru resources, guiding language policy across educational and government institutions, and ensuring the revitalization of the CHamoru language, history, and culture.

TINANGA

OUR VISION

“U cha'lãni u su'on mo'na yan u hotkonuyi i lina'la' CHamoru; u ta atitútuyi i kinahulo' tinaotao yan u petsigi i fino' CHamoru, i lina'la', yan i finaloffan i Taotao Tãno' Guåhan.

We lead nation-building efforts to ensure the continuity of our CHamoru peoplehood and nationhood by fostering the restoration and revitalization of our language, culture, and history as Guåhan's Taotao Tãno'.”

ALIGAO HAM

CONTACT US

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TATTIYI HAM

FOLLOW US



INENKÁTGA

OUR MANDATES

- Regularly study and update CHamoru orthographic rules; notify public and private institutions of changes.
- Collaborate with CNMI leaders to standardize CHamoru orthography and address regional differences.
- Advise media, institutions, and individuals on aligning content with CHamoru grammar and orthography.
- Provide updates to the CHamoru-English Dictionary.
- Establish a CHamoru translation service with a structured fee system for public/private use and media.
- Develop standardized, culturally relevant curricula for Guåhan's schools and higher education institutions.
- Conduct research and produce multimedia and print materials on CHamoru language, history, and culture.
- Coordinate with educational institutions and businesses to ensure proper use of standardized orthography and grammar.
- Provide training to enhance understanding of CHamoru heritage.
- Act as a clearinghouse for accurate representations of CHamoru language, history, and culture.
- Partner with the Bureau of Statistics and Plans to survey CHamoru language use and intergenerational transmission.
- Serve as the Guam Place Names Commission, to promote culturally and historically accurate naming criteria.
- Study and restore ancient CHamoru terminology and pronunciation of place names using current orthography.

ATMENESTRADORA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MARIA DUENAS-CONCEPCION



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MEMBRO SIHA

BOARD MEMBERS



LEFT TO RIGHT: DR. LAURA M. TORRES SOUDER (GÉ'HELO'). HOPE A. CRISTOBAL (BISA GÉ'HELO'), ROSA S. PALOMO (SIKRIT'ÁRIA), TERESITA C. FLORES, DR. ROBERT UNDERWOOD, PÁLE' FELIXBERTO LEON GUERRERO, RUFINA F. MENDIOLA, JIMMY S. TERIA, MELVIN WON PAT-BORJA

I HINAGO'-MAMI YAN PRUYEKTO SIHA

STRATEGIC GOALS AND PERFORMANCE

LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION INITIATIVES AND FACILITATION TOOLS

Priority Goal 1 is to develop user-friendly print and digital tools to make learning Fino' CHamoru more accessible, increasing fluency across all age groups with culturally accurate and orthographically aligned resources. For a complete list of language revitalization products, please visit our website.



LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND HISTORY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Priority Goal 2 is to create and promote CHamoru educational materials and outreach through curriculum development, training sessions, podcasts, expert interviews, and events like conferences and workshops. You may visit our YouTube channel or website to view these podcasts and interviews in full.



MARKETING OF SERVICES

Priority Goal 3 is to share CHamoru language, history, and cultural resources via media initiatives, including public information campaigns and active social media engagement. Currently, the Kumisión utilizes platforms like Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, the Legislative Channel, and the Guam Daily Post to increase its outreach. Links to these platforms are listed on our website.



SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH

IEWS	386.6 K
REACH	33.7K
INTERACTIONS	16.1K
VISITS	5.7K
FOLLOWS	2.8K

EXPANSION OF ARCHIVE , RESOURCE LIBRARY, AND PARTNERSHIPS

Priority Goal 4 is to build an accessible archive of the CHamoru language, history, and culture to compile materials, these archives include multimedia and print materials, genealogy records, maps, and place names, for community and scholarly use. The Kumisión acquired a genealogy database and established a Genealogy lab for collecting family histories. To schedule an appointment to utilize our database and resources, please visit our website. Our Priority Goal 7 relates to establishing partnerships with public and private entities, which are critical to our success. To view our partners, please view our website.



TRANSLATION SERVICES

Priority Goal 5 is to establish a certified network of Fino' CHamoru translators through orthography training, referral systems, and fair compensation to ensure accurate, culturally appropriate translations. Currently, the Kumisión offers a Seal of Affirmation for written translations that are in alignment with Guåhan's orthography and is working toward integrating a Translation Request feature onto our website.



PUBLICATIONS/PRINTING AND DEVELOPMENT OF LEARNING RESOURCES

Priority Goal 6 is to produce publications and learning tools—such as dictionaries, maps, and digital content—to help individuals and families engage with CHamoru language, history, and culture. To view these products in full or to request for a copy, please visit our website.

LEPBLO SIHA PUBLICATIONS



KÅTTAN FINIHO' FLASHCARDS



GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION	
GENERAL FUND FY2019	\$230,000.00
GENERAL FUND FY2020	\$202,200.00
GENERAL FUND FY2021 & TOURIST ATTRACTION FUND	\$257,540.00 \$196,994.00
GENERAL FUND FY2022	\$454,534.00
GENERAL FUND FY2023	\$454,534.00
GENERAL FUND FY2024	\$489,637.00

FEDERAL GRANTS		FISCAL YEAR
HUMANITIES GUĀHAN	\$10,000.00	2021
ANA NATIVE LANGUAGE (ARP)	\$311,939.00	2022 CARRYOVER TO 2024
ANA PRESERVATION & MAINTENANCE YR1	\$299,075.00	2022
ANA PRESERVATION & MAINTENANCE YR2	\$299,325.00	2023
ANA PRESERVATION & MAINTENANCE YR3	\$297,425.00	2024
EDUCATION STABILIZATION FUND	\$890,014.33	2022 CARRYOVER TO 2023
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FY2022	\$465,412.00	2022
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FY2023	\$440,932.17	2023
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FY2024	\$266,310.58	2024

MINAPOT YAN CHINÁTSAGA CHALLENGES

- We are seeking a change in our legal status to become a public non-profit corporation. This will allow the Kumisión to seek funding from non-governmental sources and enable us to acquire donations from private entities. We would also be able to sell our products for the purpose of maintaining a revolving fund for future productions.
- The Kumisión has had to relocate multiple times since its establishment in 2017. We are in need of a permanent facility to house our staff and programs, recording studio, training rooms, archives, genealogy lab and research center, and to provide adequate space for community outreach and collaboration with partners.
- The process of compensating our traditional experts and knowledge-bearers for their wisdom and service is cumbersome and requires licensure and vendor status that our elders do not have access to. Creating alternative procurement procedures that meet compliance requirements while acknowledging and honoring traditional cultural practices is another major hurdle we constantly encounter.

PARA MO'NA GI SAKKAN FISKÁT 2024 MOVING FORWARD IN FY2024

PRODUCT DISTRIBUTION

- Distribute its products for enhancing CHamoru instruction and language learning to all schools on Guam: public, private, charter, and daycare centers. Provide digital copies of most of our products on our website for residents of Guam and as well as those interested throughout the diaspora.



NEW USER-FRIENDLY AND INTERACTIVE WEBSITE

- The Kumisión has developed and will launch its new and improved website to facilitate accessibility of all products of the Kumisión online.



I KINALAMTEN PARA I DIRECHON I TAOTAO TÂNO' EXHIBIT

- Showcase The Quest for CHamoru Self-Determination digitally as a guided tour exhibit on our website and develop a traveling exhibit for circulation throughout Guam's schools and government agencies.



SAGAN INILAO PUT HINAYI YAN PUT NÂ'AN LUGÁT YAN TAOTAO SIHA

- Establish a research center to house our genealogy database, resources, and maps for community engagement.



PUT NÂ'AN LUGÁT

- Complete recommendations to the Guam Legislature on the naming of municipalities in collaboration with the Guam Mayors Council.
- Continue geological features naming projects
- Restore traditional CHamoru place names throughout Guam in collaboration with village informants.
- Update CHamoru names on maps with the Bureau of Statistics and Plans, U.S. Geological Survey, Google, and Apple Maps.



Office of Public Accountability - Guam <admin@guamopa.com>

Citizen-Centric Report FY2023

1 message

Maria Duenas <maria.duenas@kumision.guam.gov>

Wed, Apr 9, 2025 at 5:17 PM

To: speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov

Cc: admin@guamopa.com, bjacruz@guamopa.com, Mariella Cruz <mcruz@guamopa.com>, Elerida Cruz <elerida.cruz@kumision.guam.gov>

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Si Yu'os Ma'åse',**Maria S. Duenas****Executive Director****Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan I Fina'nå'guen****I Historia yan I Lina'la' I Taotao Tåno'****710 West Marine Corps Drive, Suite 203 Hagåtña, Guam 96910****I Numeron i Ufisiña: (671) 922-0600****I Uebsait: <https://kumisionchamoru.guam.gov>**

2 attachments **Honorable Speaker Blas.CCR.FY2023.Letter.pdf**
56K **2023-2024 CITIZEN-CENTRIC REPORT.pdf**
13850K