

Guam Indigenous Heritage Alliance (GIHA)

Date: Friday August 12, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

Chairperson: Laura M. T. Souder

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81334969298?pwd=Wk5kQzcyY1N3NXR4aWNOanhKek1VQT09>

Absent: Michael Lujan Bevacqua (MLB), Patrick Lujan (PL), and Michael Blas Makio (MBM)

Members Present: Laura M. T. Souder (LMTS), Hope A. Cristobal (HAC), Melvin Won-Pat Borja (MWPB), and Elyssa J. Santos (EJS)

Visitors: None

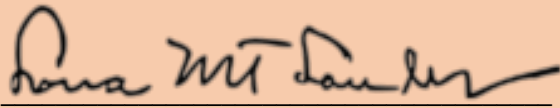
Order	Notes	Action
I. Roll Call and Review of Minutes of July 15, 2022	<p>All members present were asked to briefly introduce themselves.</p> <p>LMTS announced that EJS was absent for the month of July so minutes for July 15, 2022 will be provided at the next meeting.</p>	LMTS begins meeting at 2:00 p.m.
II. Genealogy Workshop with Bernard Punzalan – GIHA support	<p>LMTS gave a brief introduction of Bernard Punzalan and his role as a CHamoru genealogist. The Kumisión is partnering with CHamoru Roots to support a larger genealogy workshop than what Mr. Punzalan conducts every two years.. Mr. Punzalan (BP) has developed a tentative agenda. LMTS asked GIHA members if they can make short presentations. LMTS assisted BP in securing the multipurpose facility at GCC for November 11-12, 2022.</p> <p>The GCC facility has the capacity to house the workshop as well as family displays of genealogy-related paraphernalia. LMTS asks that the members of GIHA be a part of the exhibit component. Suggestions for exhibits were made by EJS and LMTS. MWPB reassured LMTS that he will get MLB on board and see how their institutions and agencies can further support the event. A zoom meeting will be scheduled between the Kumisión and Mr. Punzalan once the MOA is signed.</p> <p>HAC suggested that the CHamoru registry be displayed and that GIHA get permission from families to become a part of the registry. She suggested that the Guam Election Commission host the CHamoru registry. She also asked GIHA members to be mindful of the emotional responses that genealogical revelations may trigger for some individuals.</p>	Request for copies of Maga'láhi books and posters. Ask each network member to ask them if they can put something on display.

<p>III. Updates on Ongoing Issues of Concern</p>	<p>A. Reorganization of Historic Preservation, status of new proposed legislation – PL Tabled</p> <p>B. Naftan Update/Other Burials -PL/MWPB Tabled</p> <p>C. Cultural Repository – MWPB Tabled</p> <p>D. Kumisión’s Relocation efforts and change of legal status to Public Non-Profit Corporation – LMTS LMTS reported that the Kumisión hopes to move by early to mid September. The inspections and site visits have been completed. Roberta Joyce Castro is assisting the Kumisión with the Adelup Bell Tower building arrangements, however, circumstances may change. From LMTS’s perspective, the Bell Tower is more conducive for their work than the Bank of Hawaii as it is more accessible to elders.</p> <p>E. Change of legal status to Public Non-Profit Corporation - HAC Efforts continue to include new language in our enabling legislation.</p> <p>F. Request that Legislative entity responsible for revising Guam Code Annotated reflect the provisions of the Guam Heritage Act Of 2016 in the code - LMTS Tabled</p> <p>G. Clarify point about spelling of CHamoru in code -MWB LMTS emphasized that GIHA needs to work on this more consistently. HAC has put forward to the Speaker the idea of emphasizing consistency to government agencies not only for the spelling of the word “CHamoru ” but also the spelling of place names. They provided the Speaker and San Agustin with the verbiage to make the change. This verbiage comes from the task force that proposed GIHA. She and others have also looked into GPT’s and DCA’s enabling legislation to identify the specific language already in the law that sets precedence. She stated that adding five words into the existing legislation will change the course of the Kumisión’s capacity significantly.</p> <p>H. New Sites for Registry of Historic Places – HP asking that Kumision provide guidance on place names - PL Tabled</p>	
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<p>IV. New Business</p>	<p>LMTS encouraged EJS and MLB to present on their experiences in the NPHIMI museum and archive training program in July.</p> <p>MWPB reported that DCA is dealing with a lot of expenses related to facility needs. The Guam Museum arch is being repaired, an awning is being built, and the chiller needs to be replaced. CHanoru Village has also not been repaired since the 1990s so DCA is trying to obtain as many grants as possible to pay for these repairs. They will continue to use ARP funding while they can.</p> <p>MWPB also discussed the challenges budget cuts have presented DCA and hopes that the increased cost in construction will go toward increased support for the museum. MWPB also expressed his mixed feelings towards the TAF stating that “when it is performing, it's fantastic. It's only an issue when business wasn't coming in during covid.” He predicts that it is going to rebound when tourism picks up again, however, he feels it is good to get off the TAF to get on something more stable. His suggestion is that we should be funded by the general fund or some other stable mechanism and still have access to the TAF when it performs. This way, everyone can benefit.</p> <p>MWPB attended a session with GEDA and a national organization that is working on the refining and advising of the CRA - Community Reinvestment Act. He explained the purpose of the CRA: It is a federal act that creates a registry of banks doing business in specific US jurisdictions. They assert that these banking institutions have a requirement to reinvest in the community. Normally, these banks just invest the minimum. However, if you are a non-profit or government entity and have an organized project that qualifies and you're doing something substantive, they are more likely to invest and even partner to increase the overall contribution.</p> <p>The issue is that CRA has broad qualifications and guidelines, but they are narrow in the way they apply it. It is intended to target underserved and rural communities. There is nothing in the guidelines that allows it to be leveraged by agencies like the CLTC because there is no verbiage on the use of native lands. MWPB states that CRA is currently collecting comments so that they can push recommendations to the federal government in hopes of refining guidelines to allow us better access.</p> <p>He asked if GIHA could be the conduit through which GovGuam agencies can receive such funding? He will forward GIHA members the call for</p>	<p>EJS and MLB requested to present their experience in the NPHIMI at upcoming meeting.</p>
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	<p>recommendations and the contact information for Melvin Sabilas of GEDA to answer any questions GIHA may have. LMTS expressed her desire to invite Melvin to our next GIHA meeting.</p> <p>MWPB feels this could be a viable resource to access funds to improve infrastructure for certain government agencies like CLTC and Ancestral Lands. It is on his radar because DCA has been exploring this idea of how to use sustainability projects to promote self-determination. How went on to explain the benefits of a circular lending model.</p>	<p>Follow-up with MWPB to send information on CRA. Ask Melvin Sabilas to join our GIHA meeting to further explain the role that GIHA can play.</p>
<p>V. Adjournment</p>	<p>The next Meeting will be held on Friday, September 2, 2022 at 2 pm.</p>	<p>LMTS adjourned the meeting at 3:07pm.</p>

Prepared by Elyssa J. Santos (Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru) and approved by:



Laura M. T. Souder, GIHA Chairperson

Date: 9/28/22



Michael Lujan Bevacqua, GIHA Vice Chairperson

Date: 9/28/22