

Guam Indigenous Heritage Alliance (GIHA)

Date: Friday April 8, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

Chairperson: Laura M. T. Souder

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81883317834?pwd=em1aY01mUWRUNWFicmNVL1IzRTEvQT09>

<p>Absent: NA</p>	<p>Members Present: Laura M. T. Souder (LMTS), Michael Lujan Bevacqua (MLB), Hope Cristobal (HAC) Melvin Won-Pat Borja (MWPB), Patrick Lujan (PL) Elyssa J. Santos (EJS), and Anna Marie B. Arceo (AMA)</p> <p>Visitors: None</p>	
<p>Order</p>	<p>Notes</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>.Roll Call and Introductions and Review of Minutes of Regular Meeting March 4, 2022</p>	<p>All members were asked to introduce themselves.</p>	<p>LMTS begins meeting at 2:05 p.m.</p>
<p>II. Ideas for celebrating International Decade of Indigenous Languages</p>	<p>A. Chamoru Language Summit (2024 prior to FESTPAC) LMTS reminded GIHA members that the request of UN members is to post our events on the UN website so that they are updated.</p> <p>The Kumisión has had conversations during their strategic planning meetings about hosting a language summit. Ideally, this language summit will occur in tandem with the next FESTPAC or prior to it. GIHA will want to have something to report to the other island nations at this event.</p> <p>B. Follow-up of Presentation at Indigenous Languages Conference in Taiwan in March 2022 –Rosa Salas Palomo presented) LMTS reported that Rosa Palomo was able to attend the conference virtually. HAC provided a report from Sra.. Palomo: A lot of the exchanges were in Taiwanese so there were some language barriers. Sra.. Palomo was exposed to the history of the Austronesian language. HAC believes Sra.. Palomo made a good impression during her presentation as there were roughly 71 persons in attendance. GIHA members were grateful that she was able to attend the conference, especially within the duration of the Inacha'igen competition she was helping to coordinate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Start establishing communication with Taiwan organizers.

	<p>HAC noted that the Taiwanese party is already beginning to plan the next conference. The forum in Taiwan is highly funded and supported by the Taiwanese government so they are extremely well endowed. Considering that we are establishing good relations with Taiwan, LMTS suggested that we look to them as a funding source for our language conference and that we should get into their consciousness the possibility of inviting the conference to Guam. The next conference theme is “indigenous language revitalization.” LMTS requested that whoever gets the next invite should share it with the collective so we can discuss how we can leverage the opportunity.</p> <p>HAC stated that Taiwan is very protocol-oriented. She added that the Austronesian forum has an office in Palau. The booklet she provided lists all of the contact information for the office.</p>	
<p>III. Community Outreach, need to schedule next Networking Session: June 3, 2022; we can have networking session in lieu of regular meeting</p>	<p>LMTS suggested that we frame the outreach event as a networking meeting. It was suggested that we host the event in the morning on June 3rd from 9am–12pm. We can ask the organizations to make presentations to us about their activities as GHA alliance members provided presentations at the last networking event.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elyssa draft invitation for approval at next meeting and develop program lineup based on responses.
<p>IV. Request from Barnard Punzalan for GIHA to co-sponsor Genealogy Workshop this summer</p>	<p>LMTs noted that Bernard Punzalan has been a diligent collector of information on CHamoru genealogies. The Kumisión has a genealogy component in its strategic plan, but LMTS hopes that the agency can partner with Punzalan for the genealogy workshop he plans to host in Guam in the fall. The Kumisión has identified funds - roughly \$4,000 - to assist with genealogy projects such as this. LMTS mentioned that it would be a good idea for GIHA to give its support and asked if members wanted to formally commit to this event. Members agreed. LMTS will let Punzalan know that GIHA will co-sponsor.</p> <p>LMTS stated that she and Punzalan would be the primary facilitators. The event will instruct guests on how to gather information about family genealogies. The goal is to capture different trends in genealogy. GIHA can ask for families to submit genealogies. Should there be a publication, we can look into the costs and identify other potential funders for this element. PL added that Historic Preservation Trust may also be able to fund some aspect of the event.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Get Dr. Underwood on board to present on genealogies of place. ● Review Kumisión budget and earmark funds for genealogy workshop.

	<p>Proposals were made as to when the event should take place: GIHA members are looking at the upcoming fall season or late in the summer. The event can be hosted in one of the Guam Museum spaces and GIHA can also broaden the program to include genealogies of place. Bernard already has a list of presenters that were asked to participate. We can add to list . LMTS stated that this is another reason why a CNMI presence is necessary - we share families, Hope identified Herman and Manny as two potential names from CNMI..</p>	
<p>V. Updates on Ongoing Issues of Concern</p>	<p>A. Reorganization of Historic Preservation, status of new proposed legislation – PL PL reported that not much has changed since the last time he reported. He is in the waiting period with the Governor’s legal team. He will share feedback with GIHA and the AG’s office for their legal review once received. He hopes to solidify the executive and stakeholder view by the time it goes through legislative review so it can be a smoother process.</p> <p>Attached to this draft would be the request PL made on the strategic plan. He stated, “In parallel, we’re also running the process of updating their historic preservation comprehensive plan, which is behind schedule due to covid. SHPO sent out a survey to the group in hopes of getting feedback and is collaborating, from a planning perspective, with GPT.” SHPO has their own strategic plan and GPT will have their comprehensive plan. They are sharing resources and getting public input. Hopefully, it will be completed by the end of the year.</p> <p>LMTs participated in a portion of that planning event a few Saturdays ago. She stated that GPT was excited about helping with historical signage for the Naftan and burial sites, and to be able to do a very honorable job at indicating some of the important information that needs to be included in the signage. Hopefully, GPT will underwrite the cost of the signage.</p> <p>B. Naftan Update/Other Burials -PL/MWB PL reported that there has not been much movement since he returned to Guam. Senator San Agustin, who drafted the initial bill to fund the Naftan, has yet to reply to him.</p> <p>PL reported that there are two projects that require reburials. A new burial is located at the Ilig Bridge project site - a Federal Highways project</p>	

established years ago. There are about 54 human remains that still need to be reburied but the museum is holding them at the moment. This project falls under Federal Highways and DPW. They have the funding to proceed with completion of the project.

PL stated that Joe Garrido did a lot of leg work on this project. The verbiage will be coming through in the next 35 days to get accurate interpretation. All of the designs of the reburial monument and plans should be ready for thorough review by the summer.

In line with this, the same entities are responsible for the Hâgatña bridge reburial. They are considering options as to where the remains can appropriately be re-interred. Earlier in the planning process, Federal Highways identified funding to proceed with this project as well.

C. Cultural Repository – MWPB

MWPB reported that furniture is on its way. There was a hold up due to the Canadian border incident. There will be a potential ribbon cutting in June or July. DCA will be meeting with George Bamba and Vera Topasna to get another update.

DCA team got approved for facility training. Their goal is to trim the list down to bare bones facility staff. They need to get the admin unit in there to identify potential contracts they are going to take over. The Governor has requested DLM to parcel out the property so that the remaining portion of the land behind the building will be separated out to be given to UOG. The land was transferred to UOG, but this wasn't fully executed. The Governor requested that the land GCR sits on remain with GovGuam.

LMTS asked if GIHA can have a preliminary walk through. MWPB stated that DCA will coordinate with the GIHA team to do a private walk through of the facility.

DCA is trying to get grant funding transferred officially from DOI and given to the Governor's Office. This should be done hopefully within a week's time. Once this is completed, DCA will have access to the budget.

DCA and SHPO are in communication with regards to the Ilig burial site and how to approach it. "Nothing that prevents us right now from maintaining possession of burial goods through the museum, but this will

- MWPB will arrange for GIHA members to have tour.

end up becoming a major discussion and must incorporate a lot more perspectives,” reported MWPB. The DCA and SHPO teams are going through the Ilig collection. This is going to have some kind of impact on the Naftan. It is a question about what to do with human remains outside of the legal threshold, but that have no responsible party left on Guam doing business. “This is something we need to start thinking about because as we get closer to the construction of the Naftan, this decision will essentially impact every discovery of human remains moving forward,” stated MWPB.

LMTS stated that we cannot leave those burials unattended. “It is a can of worms. We are beholden moving forward but we have a specific responsibility to those remains. Are there any remedies? We need to make a recommendation that prevents any future organization from using it as a loophole. Let's explore that,” she stated. MWPB reassured GIHA that there are no human remains covered under the moratorium. PL confirmed that SHPO is addressing this too. LMTS added consideration of a sunset clause. MWPB responded that we take these remains from these digs. He didn't have a recommendation but made it clear that we have to be smart about the approach we take. “We can't make this decision in a silo,” he stated.

D. Kumisión’s Relocation efforts and change of legal status to Public Non-Profit Corporation – AMA

The Kumisión continues to follow up on their request to change of their status. They would like to have the ability to receive funds from non-govt sources and are asking to become an authority similar to DCA so they can expand. “Right now, as a line agency, we are having to spin a lot of wheels here. Legal status of public nonprofit designation - as GCA and GPT - would be beneficial. We are hope this can be approved soon,” stated LMTS.

E. New Sites for Registry of Historic Places – HP asking that Kumision provide guidance on place names

PL mentioned that SHPO is doing a physical inventory, getting updated data and seeing what initial data is missing with regards to historic places. They hope to work with the Kumisión in identifying the proper place names for sites over a span of one year. Requests would be made periodically for Kumisión review.

New Business

A. Hope requesting for letter from GIHA, victims of radiation survivors – letter to network requesting for support

HAC reported that Mr. Bob Celestial was supposed to attend the GIHA meeting. She reported on his behalf: Several US senators are racing to extend a July sunseting of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act - a bill that would include Guam as it works its way through Congress. LMTS suggested that Mr. Celestial be invited to share updates on the bill at the next networking event.

EJS gave an introduction on the NHPIMI Weaving Collections of Care training program. Guam students of the program include Elyssa Santos, Dr. Miget Bevacqua, and Nicole DeLisle. Nicole initiated conversations with program coordinators about access to the Hornbostel collection at the Bishop Museum in Hawaii. Nicole and Elyssa discussed the possibility of viewing the collection during the in-person training session in July. Staff of the Bishop Museum stated that they would share lists of the CHamoru items in their collections. Elyssa and Nicole discussed the inevitability of repatriation discussions. They discussed the need to include GIHA members in the discussion and the need to seek council with CHamoru mañaina.

MWPB added that COSAS should be included in these conversations as the advisory board for the Guam Museum. DCA is actively working on accreditation for the repository which will be open this year. He added, “We will want to be strategic in the way we approach the discussion. We would prefer repatriation over a permanent loan. When Adrian Cruz went out to the Biba CHamoru exhibit, he had a conversation with the museum leadership. He told them that the GCR would come on board, and they used the language of “repatriation”. They are a part of Icon, which is the European AMA. Their major consideration is the state of our facilities and our capacity for proper care and preservation.” MWPB also mentioned that Andrew Gumataotao had learned about items in German collections and initiated conversations about repatriation there.

MWPB also brought up the issue of war claims, stating, “We are backing war claims where the federal government fell short. War claims were paid out to Japan and Japan is missing in the war claims conversations on Guam. Through museum activity, preservation, and curation, we hope to build friendly relationships.”

VI. Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on Friday, May 6, 2022 at 2pm.

LMTS adjourned the meeting at 3:05pm.

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



Laura M. T. Souder, GIHA Chairperson

Date: 5/2/22



Michael Lujan Bevacqua, GIHA Vice Chairperson

Date: 5/2/22