

Guam Indigenous Heritage Alliance (GIHA)

Date: Friday November 5, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Chairperson: Laura M. T. Souder

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

Absent: Michael Lujan Bevacqua (MLB)

Members Present: Laura M. T. Souder (LMTS), Hope A. Cristobal (HAC), Anna Marie B. Arceo (AMA), Patrick Lujan (PL), Melvin Won-Pat Borja (MWPB), Michael Blas Makio (MBM), and Elyssa J. Santos (EJS)

Visitors: Lincoln Budasi on behalf of the Honorable Speaker Therese M. Terlaje (LB)

Order	Notes	Action
I. Roll Call and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All members in attendance were asked to briefly introduce themselves. 	LMTS begins meeting at 2:15p.m.
II. Review of Minutes of Regular Meeting Oct. 1, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All attendees approved the minutes for Oct. 1, 2021. 	
III. Updates on Ongoing Issues of Concern	<p>A. Reorganization of Historic Preservation - PL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PL met with the governor's office and their chief policy personnel. He reported that because there are too many proposed amendments to the current law, the Historic Preservation Office is opting to do a rewrite instead. The draft will go through legal review by the governor's policy legal team next week. Upon receiving their feedback, PL will present the document to GIHA for our review. Some of the main goals written in include increasing private property responsibilities when it comes to archeological surveys, implementing the reburial policies that have been referenced from the 1989 executive order which will finally be implemented to local law, and addressing confusion with previous conflicts identified. <p>B. Status of Public Hearing - PL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LMTS reminded attendees that the public hearing that was previously scheduled was intended to allow the public to provide testimony regarding amendments to the legislation that enabled the preservation program. This was held in abeyance and is as yet not rescheduled. As a 	

group, GIHA offered written comments to the Legislative Oversight Committee, a copy of which has been provided to all GIHA members.

- HAC asked LB of Speaker Terlaje’s office if she could further comment on the status of the hearing. LB could not comment and confirmed that the speaker was out of the office.

C. Naftan Update - PL/MWB

- PL report: Regarding inventory for this project, SHPO has an initial internal meeting coming up to discuss the idea of another agreement with UOG to assist in conducting a comprehensive inventory of human remains. SHPO is drawing up a framework to identify what will be necessary. The good news is that SHPO does not have to wait to build the NAFTA until after 100% completion of the inventory. Remains can be re-interred after inventoried properly.
- PL stated that there are other funding sources and higher educational angles to make this a success to include using our younger students as well. “We’re trying to encompass all of these progressive ideas and enhance our capabilities in the field of historic preservation and archeology,” he stated.

D. Cultural Repository - MWB

- MWB reported on space limitations with current inventory. The vast majority of human remains have been moved to the Flores Building. The space there was limited and now it is even more packed. Remains have to be prepared and inventoried properly for reburial at the Naftan. The Governor made the final decision to grant operational and management responsibility of the Guam Cultural Repository located on the UOG campus to DCA. DCA now has clarity on it and will be receiving some ARP funding to standardize the operations. The Governor’s announcement should come out within a week’s time. From this, they will be able to know what the budget will look like and how that will affect their timetable.
- Occupancy permits are still anticipated for March or earlier. Now that DCA has clarity on operational responsibilities, DCA can now work on the staffing pattern and make the necessary preparations for the timely conclusion of construction. DCA’s current challenge is to address the ARP requisitions and put staff in place. Having a full staff at Guam Museum makes it easier for them to close that gap.

E. Other Burial Sites - PL/MWB

- HAC strongly suggested that there be an HPT grant to take the technical reports being filed at GHPD and put it in a format that is accessible to

the public. LMTS agreed and pointed out that the information contained in the reports are invaluable to telling the story of our ancestors on the various sites that have been studied archaeologically. This information is crucial to signage and informational material developed in tandem with the historical sites that proliferate across our island landscape. History of Guam students and other classes can use the material to deepen their understanding of Guam's Taotao Tãno' .

- PL stated that he does not know the true cost of what this inventory will be. He stated that programs are interested in this project especially if SHPO and DCA come together and carry their own weight whether it is through identifying more funding sources or heavy lifting like providing the reports they have and the actual footwork from acquiring it from other areas. PL reached out to other cultural repositories to see what they have in their inventory now. The goal is to have an accurate an inventory as is possible.
- LMTS stated that a lot of the ancestral remains have been disturbed. Boxes have collapsed on each other. some are mixed in with others. This is a further challenge Remains from several sites have been combined into a single box. She asked, what the plan is for determining who goes into which crypt and what strategy will be used to identify remains?
- PL responded that currently remains are being placed in fiber glass boxes. The details of the type of vessels used in the future are still blurry but SHPO does intend to re-enter them in a cultural fashion rather than an archeological fashion.
- The latest burial issue is the Pa'go Bay site. This reburial will happen the soonest because we have a willing and cooperating developer that wants to re-enter them as quickly as possible. As for where to do so, there have been huge disagreements in the past. LMTS asked that GIHA be invited so we can be a part of the re-interment. She emphasized that saina presence is important and a part of the respect factor.

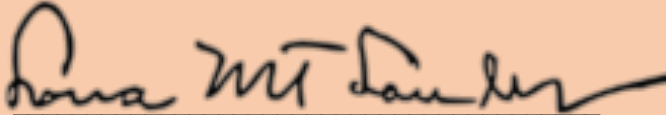
F. Kumisión's Efforts to Relocate - AMA

- The Kumisión is looking for more adequate space and has prepared a bid through DOA. AMA reported that their IFP is out and she asked for help in passing along the word. The Kumisión is looking for 3,500-6,500 square feet to be able to house their recording studio, classroom space, archive, and main office. "We were hoping to move in before the end of the fiscal year 2021, but delays in procurement have prevented that" she stated.

<p>IV. Upcoming Member Events or Activities Needing Support</p>	<p>National Historic Preservation Efforts - MBM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The National Historic Preservation Office has started a focus group to expand funding, support, and technical expertise specifically to “Pacific Island-American communities”. The objective is to extract the Pacific Islander community experiences - their stories related to historic preservation spaces and traditional prosperity - from the American experience. The islander groups being given this consideration include Hawaii, Guam, the NMI, American Samoa, the Marshall Islands, and other communities a part of the American fabric. The two leaders of the focus group are from Guam and Hawaii. Once the National Trust gets a good understanding of Guam’s historical background, they can identify the kind of support they're going to target for us. ● LMTS asked if this endeavor would impact the naming of historic sites and the inclusion of historic properties. MBM responded that this is his hope. He commented that the nature of historic preservation is a mainland approach to historic preservation and historic stories of America. He is positive now that we’ll be able to make significant improvements with this effort as the current attitude is to respect the efforts done in and by Pacific communities. ● LMTS added that the definition of place is a variable. “Place” in the western context, means real estate. For us, it means homeland, intangible places, and location. “This whole island is linked intrinsically with our identity as taotao tãno,” she stated. MBM responded that the Hawaiian community shares similar sentiments: Mauna Kea is sacred. There is no box in the register for historic places for a mountain . “This is our opportunity now to reshape historic preservation so it is not one size fits all and recognizes specific sites that need protection and advocacy,” he stated. 	
<p>V. Community Outreach Strategy</p>	<p>A. Report on status on list - EJS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EJS reported that 18 organizations have responded to our call out and filled out the survey we distributed. <p>B. Next Steps for Engaging - LMTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kumisión representatives to put together a proposal for a networking event for CHamoru-centered and CHamoru-serving agencies and organizations. It was proposed that the event be held in February for Mother Tongue Day - Feb. 21. This will be a week in advance of Mes CHamoru. EJS proposed the Guam Museum as a venue. 	


<p>VI. New Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HAC emphasized the importance of the reorganization of the SHPO. 	
<p>VII. Adjournment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next meeting will be held Friday, January 7, 2022. 	<p>LMTS adjourned the meeting at 3:18pm.</p>

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



Laura M. T. Souder, GIHA Chairperson

Date: 12/28/21



Michael Lujan Bevacqua, GIHA Vice Chairperson

Date: 12/28/21