

Guam Indigenous Heritage Alliance (GIHA)

Date: Friday, March 4, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.
Chairperson: Laura M. T. Souder
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81334969298?pwd=Wk5kQzcyc1N3NXR4aWNOanhKek1VQT09>

Absent: Patrick Lujan (PL)	<p>Members Present: Laura M. T. Souder (LMTS), Michael Lujan Bevacqua (MLB), Hope A. Cristobal (HAC), Anna Marie B. Arceo (AMA), Elyssa J. Santos (EJS), Melvin Won-Pat Borja (MWPB), Michael Blas Makio (MBM)</p> <p>Visitors: Lincoln Budasi (LB) on behalf of The Honorable Speaker Therese M. Terlaje (TMT), Senator Amanda Shelton (AS), and Calen Meno (CM) on behalf of Senator Telena Cruz Nelson (TCN)</p>
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Order	Notes	Action
.Roll Call and Introductions	All members present were asked to briefly introduce themselves.	LMTS begins meeting at 2:10 p.m.
II. Review of Minutes of Regular Meeting February 4, 2022	<p>LMTS reminded members of MWPB’s concern regarding the use of the proper spelling of the word “CHamoru” across all government agencies. Government agencies should be able to use what is reflected in a law. This would help agencies avoid issues when applying for grants or putting out official documentation.</p> <p>LMTS went on to add more context: When Senator Won Pat left office, the new corrections were not enforced or made under the new legislature. Usually, when a new law changes something, the new items in the current law are replaced. HAC noted that the law that states that Guam has two official languages diminishes the CHamoru language in court. English should not supersede CHamoru. It must be equal in value in the face of the court.</p> <p>The Legislature is drafting law to address these issues and hopes to have more information to share at the next meeting.</p>	
III. Ideas for celebrating International Decade of Indigenous Languages	<p>A. CHamoru Language Summit LMTS stated that there was public interest in this and that GIHA can facilitate the planning of such a Summit. recommendation. The Kumisión has had talks about hosting such an event with the CNMI. CHamoru people in the diaspora should also be included. LMTS asked if this was something that was to be linked to FESTPAC, which is confirmed in Hawaii in 2024.</p>	

	<p>B. Status of Guam’s Presentation at Indigenous Languages Conference in Taiwan in March 2022 - MWB (Rosa SP scheduled to present) The conference invitation for this event was sent to Linda Reyes and copied to the LTG who was asked what he wanted to do. MWPB mentioned that it would be most appropriate for the Kumisión to make the call on it.</p> <p>It was decided that Rosa Salas Palomo would represent Guam virtually. LMTS hopes we can access the recording when the conference or presentation is over. Saina Rosa will be asked to provide information on follow-up.</p> <p>.</p> <p>C. Kumision’s Projects: Cultural Dictionary, CHamoru Keyboard, CHamoru Spellcheck App, CHamoru Archive, Minecraft Video Game - AM and LMTS LMTS shared updates on the Kumisión projects: Volume I of the Cultural Dictionary will be shared with the public. The Kumisión has also started to resource who can do the work necessary to produce their CHamoru spellcheck and keyboard. These qualified individuals connected with us through the GIHA network.</p> <p>Elyssa is also working on the CHamoru Archive project - a collection of any and all materials pertaining to CHamoru language, history, and culture. With regards to the Minecraft project, it was hoped that the Kumisión will have a team of technical advisors to drive that side of the project.</p> <p>LMTS expressed that we need to post these activities on the UN Website. She asked members if they had updates on the UNPFII (UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues). Miget stated that he would reach out to Deitrix who would know more about the event. Elyssa also mentioned that she would be learning more about the event as a student of the FIMI Indigenous Women’s Global Leadership School.</p>	
<p>IV. Community Outreach, what next?</p>	<p>LMTS reported that the Feb. 18 kick off was a great success.</p> <p>MLB stated that he would support a quarterly networking meeting or one hosted every six months. He offered to help with the technical aspect.</p> <p>LMTS noted how people responded well to the children’s singing. She hoped that we could get the parents to agree for them to be filmed again. MWMP would like to see a NIHI kids talk in CHamoru shared at this kind of event. HAC supported this idea via the chat.</p> <p>LMTS proposed to host another event in June. At the April meeting, we will need to determine how to proceed with the next quarterly event. There were organizations that were not able to log on and would like to make presentations. LMTS proposed that we schedule an early time of the day on Guam as it would be better for CHamoru organizations in the diaspora to attend.</p>	

V. Updates on Ongoing Issues

A. Reorganization of Historic Preservation, status of new proposed legislation – PL

The roundtable was held off until Pat submits something for discussion.

B. Status of National Historic Preservation Guidelines for Islands- MWPB

MWPB reported that there is nothing additional there.

C. Naftan Update/Other Burials -PL/MWB

CM announced that there is going to be a public hearing relating to the burials. MWPB stated that funding for this is being looked at. He expressed that the biggest issue is getting appropriations passed to fund the Naftan Project. At the moment, DCA and SHPO are stuck. They are to remove all of the human remains that are stored in the Flores Building into the repository. The repository is not supposed to store human remains; however, the agreement does say that the repository can be used for temporary storage but only if there is an identified timeline as to when the remains would be removed. This is welcomed news.

MWPB and PL met with UOG. PL wants to build into funding, some resources for the assessment of these remains and do it through UOG. MWPB supports this because the goal is to cultivate Guam students in an effort to keep the work here at home. UOG does not have a building separate from the Repository to do this kind of work.

When this information was found out by DCA and SHPO, it was realized they could be moved into the GCR, which has lab space. Mel and Pat can work with UOG to give them access to do their work. They can use GCR as a temporary storage if they opt to do the work at UOG. There has to be an assessment done before we move our ancestors into the Naftan. There has been some level of pre-planning.

LMTS brought up the lifting of the moratorium on receiving artifacts. MWPB assured GIHA that there aren't any remains in the hands of the organizations that still have items. MWPB stated that we are in possession of human remains. He expanded on the historical pattern of dealing with burial remains: What hotels like Nikko were supposed to do was re-inter the remains and build a naftan. You see this all around Tumon. The challenge was that there were sites where they discovered human remains. The company in business and the archeological firms are no longer here. What are we going to do about these remains? We need to determine how to deal with this reality. Do we put them at the site they were discovered and risk that the property may change hands or should these remains be interred in the Naftan even if they are outside of the timeframe authorized for Naftan burials? This can cause challenges as MWPB and PL pointed out.


D. Cultural Repository – MWPB

Conversations are ongoing regarding how to build policies to support the existing remains for re-interment. Upon the discovery of remains and setting up legislation, could we create a pot for funds

	<p>installed for professional services needed for museum-related tasks? Services needed would be cataloging, filling in the gaps for the data attached to the remains, etc.</p> <p>Guam Preservation Trust may be tapped to assist with funding these related projects.</p> <p>E. Kumisión’s Relocation efforts and change of legal status to Public Non-Profit Corporation – AMA</p> <p>The Kumisión is on it’s third round of submitting an IFB. All bids received have significantly exceeded the budgeted amount for monthly rental. They will submit another IFB by the end of next week. They are looking at a space requirement of 3,000-5,000 square feet.</p>	
<p>VI. Upcoming Mes CHamoru Activities</p>	<p>No reports were made.</p>	
<p>VII. New Business</p>	<p>New Sites for Registry of Historic Places – ES; SHPO asking that Kumisión provide guidance on place names; Elyssa will follow up with Saina Malia Ramirez on the status of this project.</p> <p>CM shared a document with GIHA members - Dr. King’s analysis of Guam’s law regarding the SHPO</p> <p>HAC requested a letter from GIHA to support a bill on reparations for CHamoru victims of radiation. HAC asks that we support Bill l27-98 championed by a group of senators working to remove the Sunset Law aspect of it. Guam was never a part of the law. It made it in the House and is now up for consideration in the Senate. The CNMI was invited to lobby. Mr. Bob Celestial of PARS will be invited to the next meeting to explain more.</p> <p>MWPB added that the governor received the UN Effects on Atomic Radiation. This was initiated because of the rapid work filings. Guam is constantly requesting for a UN visiting mission. This fell in our laps in the sense that the committee and chair offered to come to Guam with regards to the effects of radiation. We wouldn't have to fund it but the unresolved question is t how will this work in regards to the state department? That is always the biggest hurdle. The UN is mandated to accommodate a request for a visiting mission, but they will not come to Guam without expressed approval from the state department. The state department only approved during the time of the Guam Constitutional Convention. MWPB stated that the Governor tasked DCA to explore ways to facilitate such a hearing. PARS may help to sway the state department.</p>	


	<p>MMPB mentioned that he could include HAC in the meetings with Legal. LMTS supported HAC's participation in this.</p> <p>Delegate Mike San Nicolas was interviewed and members were informed that war reparations are going to be extended to survivors and descendants . HAC stated that the NMI should be included.</p>	
<p>III. Adjournment</p>	<p>The next meeting will be held Friday, April 8, 2022 at 2 p.m.</p>	<p>LMTS adjourned the meeting at 3:48pm.</p>

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



Laura M. T. Souder, GIHA Chairperson

Date: _____



Michael Lujan Bevacqua, GIHA Vice Chairperson

Date: _____