

**Guam Indigenous Heritage Alliance (GIHA)**

**Date:** Friday July 15, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

**Chairperson:** Laura M. T. Souder

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

**Absent:** Michael Lujan Bevacqua (MLB) and Michael Blas Makio (MBM)

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

**Visitors:** None

Order	Notes	Action
<p><b>I. Roll Call and Review of Minutes from May 6, 2022 and Networking Meeting on June 3, 2022</b></p>	<p>All members present asked to briefly introduce themselves.</p> <p>LMTS reported that the 2nd GIHA Virtual Networking Meeting that took place on June 3rd was successful. Members who were not able to present during the first virtual meeting were given the opportunity to share updates. LMTS stated that networking members and audience members remain enthusiastic for future GIHA events. She suggested that, at our next meeting, we give the audience updates on government action related to the NAFTA, historic preservation issues, and decolonization.</p> <p>HAC reported on the PARS' presentation on RICA. She stated that Mr. Bob Celestial received word that the Sunset Clause has been moved for two years for our people to file claims and that we need an update on the latest developments in the U.S. Congress. LMTS stated that a positive outcome of the networking event has been the letter writing campaign organized by CHamoru organizations in the diaspora.</p>	<p>LMTS begins meeting at 2:10 p.m.</p>
<p><b>II. Genealogy Workshop with Bernard Punzalan – GIHA support</b></p>	<p>LMTS reported that the Genealogy Workshop co-sponsored by (Bernard Punzalan) CHamoru Roots and the Kumision is scheduled for November 11-12, 2022. The sponsors will need the multi-purpose room and the hallway areas at GCC for Guam participants. The event will also be on zoom for off-island participants. She explained the three different aspects of the workshop: The <i>what</i> is that MARC and the Guam library will provide resources and the <i>how</i> will be</p>	

	<p>how to utilize those materials. Mr. Punzalan has invited guest speakers who have engaged actively in genealogical studies.</p> <p>LMTS noted EJS’s idea to have a fair where we can invite families to bring paraphernalia such as t-shirts and booklets to display. At the event, the Kumision can invite families to donate their data or share it via link.</p> <p>LMTS asked if the Guam Museum is willing to give the sponsors a discount for renting the multipurpose room. MWPB mentioned that the room will not be available as DOA and the Guam War Claims Commission will be utilizing the venue until April 2023. He stated that the theater can be another option if it is not booked.</p> <p>HAC and LMTS considered alternative options such as the University of Guam, GCC, or hotel rooms. LMTS asked GIHA members to make presentations and have a display at the workshop.</p>	
<p><b>III. Ongoing Issues of Concern</b></p>	<p><b>A. Reorganization of Historic Preservation, status of new proposed legislation – PL</b>  PL reported that this effort has gained little traction and will probably remain this way until after the election.</p> <p><b>B. Naftan Update/Other Burials -PL/MWB</b>  MWPB reported on some of the big questions he and PL have been grappling with. The question of which remains are going to be interred and which are not is clear to both parties. The big question asked was, <i>what are we doing with the remains that fall outside of the threshold of the 1989 law or are no longer associated with any company doing business any longer?</i> MWPB explained that if remains were discovered after this timeline, then it will be re-interred at the site with a monument erected. When there is no responsible party doing business on Guam and no responsible party or avenue for them to mitigate this, they would likely re-inter them within NAFTA. The problem is that DCA and SHPO do not want to set a precedent allowing others to dump remains at NAFTA.</p> <p>GIHA members gave feedback on this issue. LMTS asked if either of the two parties could make an internal decision discreetly. HAC asked if PL could ask the Governor to issue an executive order. PL responded that we will not know until the inventory is completed. It is ongoing. PL also mentioned that Joanne Akin who did the DNA testing with Hunter Anderson is willing to do the inventory project. PL clarified that UOG will be assisting her and that they already know that there are human remains.</p>	

MVPB expressed that this might be a way forward. It is a one time exception to the rule, but does allow for open-ended exemptions later on. HAC responded that she would be weary about a misinterpretation.

LMTS reiterated the importance of the story told for each of the burial groups and the need to utilize the resources that the archeological firms have reported. She pointed out that the Kumisión could help write the stories in CHamoru and translate them into English. She urges us not to wait until reinterment to write the stories. HAC mentioned that the SHPO's office has standards that must be observed for the interactive plaques. They are in CHamoru and English while some are in Japanese.

PL is going to start writing letters to the hotel association to ensure that hotels clean up monument sites on their respective property. LMTS asked PL for an organized tour of these sites for GIHA members. She stated that during the strategic planning meeting for the Guam Preservation Trust, the board explored the possibility of having a grant to begin to develop the content and research for these prehistoric communities

She would like GIHA members to consider the possibility of having a grant from the Trust to develop the content and research required as a way of engaging college students interested in archaeology. LMTS believes that this would give them grounding in a practical outcome that would be useful to the storytelling piece.

LMTS inquired: *Is there a possibility to include the stories of those other archaeological communities as a part of the NAFTAN experience?* PL responded that an intentional design element of the NAFTAN is to include a "blank page" wall to be able to share the story of these disturbed villages. Determining what content will go onto the blank wall is dependent on the inventory that is yet to be completed. PL assumes that not every village will be represented in the remains that need to be re-interred. Once the inventory is completed, narratives can be written.

HAC noted that Lincoln Budasi and Senator Terlaje have worked on a research project on the disinterred burials. Lincoln has filmed these monuments and has shown that the plaques don't include the number of people whose graves were desecrated. She claims that, at the time, the Nikko hotel discovered 161 people and more have since been discovered.

**C. Cultural Repository – MWPB**

MWPB shared that the situation has changed significantly: Initially, the Governor decided that DCA was going to manage and operate the GCR entirely. President

Plan a GIHA tour to visit the hotel monuments.

Krise expressed disappointment toward this because he was ready to utilize staff hired under the LTA through ARP funding. MWPB updated members on what took place as far as the change in direction: Issues with UOG and the contractor emerged and DCA was notified late in the game regarding the Governor and Lt. Governor's decision to make changes. Essentially, the contractor overshot the landing on the budget. Over a million dollars was spent on construction that was supposed to be used to purchase equipment. UOG ended up getting a supplemental grant for equipment from DOI. When the GCR was transferred to DCA, UOG decided that they were going to return the grant because they did not want to do it anymore if the GCR was going to DCA. DCA would not have been able to execute the grant in the same way as UOG or ensure timely delivery. DCA thus wanted UOG to finish the grant, stock equipment, and let DCA do what they needed to do.

MWPB further expressed that the building warranty will only last for 18 months on the GCR. The Governor wants UOG to hold the facility longer than 18 month so they are proposing that UOG open and manage the facility for a three-year term before it is transferred back to DCA. MWPB took issue with the original language in the MOU. The original proposal was for a five-year term with an option to extend. Their terms were that UOG would transfer the GCR when it was ready, however, *he questions who gets to decide when it's ready?* MWPB is also fighting for accreditation which he has been told is a federal requirement. Lester Carlson says it is not and that you can have an unaccredited facility so long as the procedure is accredited. MWPB states that UOG claims one year is not enough time to deliver accreditation. Mel is going to see if he can push this through.

The new MOU language allows DCA to terminate the agreement even prior to the three-year maker. They only need UOG's concurrence if they decide to extend the agreement, which DCA will not need. MWPB does not find this arrangement to be ideal and expressed frustration in getting DCA involved in the hiring process. He wanted to recruit Tina Delisle as a staffer. She is interested, but this may not pan out for DCA as he does not think UOG can deliver her. He has all of the other positions in place.

Another issue has to do with intellectual property and who is going to make the decisions about what gets studied. MWPB stated that this decision will likely be made by UOG. He asserts that the entire inventory is under the legal jurisdiction of DCA and that if one is to collect information out of DCA's inventory, then the information belongs to DCA. DCA has research, publication, and training dormant and unfunded. His concern is that MARC can generate revenue through publications and use it on the side. The big question is *how do we determine what*

*is intellectual property? If UOG has a scholar that does the research, who does the research belong to?*

LMTS expressed concerns about rights linked to indigenous knowledge not covered under US statutes or copyright law. *IF DCA or the Guam Museum is unable to control this, who is going to interpret? Will researchers do whatever they want? How will this information get published? How can we guard indigenous interpretive rights?* She mentioned that Senator Kelly Marsh started this process through the trademark initiative. Unfortunately, it was not followed through in the 35th legislature, but she acknowledges that it is a good conversation to reignite. A conversation must be had about indigenous issues related to misappropriation and interpretation. This affects historic preservation - nomenclature, periodization, etc.

HAC encouraged GIHA members to discuss the complexity of the educational component of this initiative. Consider the Kumision as the IRB for research concerning CHamoru language, culture and history.

MWPB responded that the money for the GCR came from the military as a mitigating vehicle. This is why the educational element is murky. Just as UOG can claim this responsibility and fit itself into the equation so too can the Guam Museum. HAC suggested that we invite the cultural repository team to be a part of GIHA and that the Governor can write to them and tell them they should be a part of it.

LMTS asked that GIHA members give this more thought but agreed that they need to be a part of GIHA discussions and be held accountable. LMTS wondered if the GCR can be separated from UOG in the same way that SHPO may be separated from the Department of Parks and Recreations. MWPB clarified that, legally, GCR would be under DCAs jurisdiction, but the MOA will delegate the authority to UOG for the term of 3 years.

He suggested that as opposed to inviting the GCR team to sit in GIHA's meetings, that GIHA invite UOG since they are the operating entity. DCA, representing the GCR, is already a GIHA member. UOG can be invited to attend GIHA meetings, but not to serve as a member.

MWPB also mentioned the issue surrounding the land on which the GCR sits. He stated that UOG wants to be compensated for the land it owns (Dave Okada) if DCA is not going to manage and operate the facility. The legislature did transfer land to UOG but the deed was not fully executed. The Governor asked that the land for the GCR be separated from the land behind it (for UOG) so that the GCR

Recommend that Kumision become the IRB for research concerning CHamoru language, culture and history either by law or executive order.

Invite UOG/Monique Storie to attend GIHA meeting to discuss concerns related to GCR

can remain under DCA. Mel asked that they deed the land to DCA for the long term to avoid future questions about whose land it is. There have been questions about keeping the facility on UOG's books as this would increase their asset value and leverage the value of their entire facility for other funding purposes.

**D. Kumisión's Relocation efforts and change of legal status to Public Non-Profit Corporation – LMTS**

LMTS announced that the Kumisión is entering its third round of the IFB process. They are giving opportunities for landlords to ask questions. This process will end on the 25th of July and then the bid will open and close by the first week of August. Initially, the Kumisió was told that they would be moved into the Bank of Hawaii building, but it depends on who submits bids.

As far as the change on the Kumisión's legal status, LMTS hoped Lincoln would be present to give them an update. HAC recommended writing a third letter to the legislature and hand carrying it so it can be signed and received. MWPB reminded the group of the spelling of "CHamoru" in the code. LMTS will ask that Lincoln look into revisions in the code of the Guam Heritage Act and other questions raised.

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

PL reported that he is trying to do a report on all the historic places. He is working with Malia to update the files and update the original place names. There was one nomination that the military did for Northwest Field called the "Arizona Room". He asked Malia to work on that research so it is work in progress. LMTS introduced the work of the Guam Place Names committee in the Kumisión and emphasized the need for such place names to be vetted by them as place naming has ramifications far beyond determining what to put on a sign.. She encouraged Malia to continue to reach out to the Kumisión. PL responded that he will have Malia go through proper research and vetting processes aside from her personal research. HAC added that Dr. Robert Underwood is reporting to USGS and networking with other place naming entities to update their maps.

**F. GIHA Networking event generated support for victims of radiation survivors**

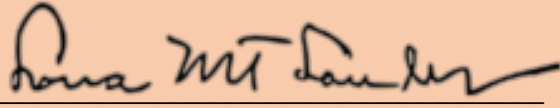
LMTS briefly mentioned the letter writing campaign by CHamoru people in the diaspora.

Include the codification of the spelling of CHamoru in clear terms in any proposed legislation regarding the Kumisio's status. The proposed legislation could also appoint Kumision as IRB for research on CHamoru Language, culture and history.

Agencies must coordinate place naming through the Place Names Commission.

<p><b>IV. New Business</b></p>	<p><b>GVB Children’s Smart Park</b> - PL stated that a comprehensive study must be done to ensure that there are no remaining graves or significant archeological holdings in the site. PL stated that plans at Ipao are going to halt until he gets his survey done. He is trying to find some firms to do it and is looking at alternative locations. PL proposed at Ipao point right next to the NAFTAAN (17 acres). It is smaller in size compared to Ipao (25 acres). The question is whether something sacred is up there. It is the property Guam Memorial Hospital used to be on. By law, it was land given to the CLTC for cultural purposes, however, the recent vision is to have it used as a green space. PL shared that former Governor Carl Gutierrez is going to ask Governor Lou Leon Guerrero if she can consider this space as a possible option for this park.</p> <p>MWPB shared the challenge the planning team experienced which was centered around the question: <i>how do we stay within the five acre maximum and stay contiguous to the SKC border and the limestone rock formation and one cannot do both?</i> Joe Borja figured out that, in the law, this space must include an “appropriate buffer zone”. The question was who determines that? Joe Borja stated that we are going to assert that this is NAFTAAN border, but this area to include the fault line will be the buffer zone. This means that we do not have to change the design or location NAFTAAN but can secure the buffer zone using that fault line. By default, what that means is that should anything be built after the NAFTAAN, it will have to be behind the building. By designating this area and the buffer zone, there will still be available space in the border in which a meeting house can later be built.</p> <p>HAC added that an individual named Niko created a new word - funagu’on. HAC has encouraged him to turn over his written material so that the Kumisión can look over his orthography. LMTS reiterated that people are not aware of the damaging effects of playing with CHamoru words.</p>	
<p><b>V. Adjournment</b></p>	<p>The next Meeting will be held on Friday, August 5, 2022 at 2 pm.</p>	<p>LMTS adjourned the meeting at -3:36pm.</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