

KUMISIÓN I FINO' CHAMORU YAN I FINA'NÁ'GUEN I HISTORIA YAN I LINA'LA' I TAOTAO TĀNO'

*Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History
and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam*



Press Release:

**June 18, 2025
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**KUMISIÓN I FINO' CHAMORU
LAUNCHES NEW DIGITAL READ-ALONG BOOK
IN HONOR OF NATIONAL READING DAY
*First in a New Series Showcasing CHamoru Authors***

Hagåtña, Guåhan - In celebration of National Reading Day, the *Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan Fina'ná'guen i Historia yan Lina'la' i Taotao Tāno'* (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History & Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) proudly announces the release of *I Biåhen Kiko' gi i Engkantáo na Gigipu na Sâkman*, a newly narrated children's digital read-along book by Dr. Laura M. Torres Souder and Frank Thomas "Kiko" Freitas Guzman.

This release marks a significant milestone as the first book in a series highlighting CHamoru authors and storytellers, aimed at preserving and revitalizing the CHamoru language through literature.

The story follows seven-year-old Kiko, who visits an ancient CHamoru burial site with his Auntie Lo in the village of Tomhom. While exploring the nearby beach, he discovers a hidden *sâkman* in a seaside cave. Climbing in, Kiko gently drifts into sleep. When Kiko wakes up, he is left wondering - was it just a dream, or something more?

The narrated version brings this tale to life through expressive CHamoru narration, offering an engaging cultural and educational resource for learners, educators and families.

I Biåhen Kiko' gi i Engkantáo na Gigipu na Sâkman will be made available **Thursday, June 19, 2025**, through the Kumisión's website at kumisionchamoru.guam.gov and in their linktree on all social media platforms.

For more information or to schedule an interview with one of the authors, please contact Piatra Tuncap at piatra.tuncap@kumision.guam.gov; or by phone at 671-922-0600.