

KUMISIÓN I FINO' CHAMORU YAN I FINA'NÀ'GUEN I HISTORIA YAN I LINA'LA' I TAOTAO TÀNO'

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



Press Release:

**July 17, 2025
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

UNFINISHED FREEDOM: KUMISIÓN HONORING TRUTH THIS LIBERATION WEEKEND

Hagåtña, Guåhan - Liberation weekend, the *Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan Fina'nà'guen i Historia yan Lina'la' i Taotao Tàno'* (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History & Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will host a booth at this year's Liberation Festival to offer the community a meaningful and thought-provoking experience centered on truth, identity, and resilience.

While Liberation Day is publicly celebrated as the end of Japanese occupation in 1944, it is important to acknowledge that CHamoru people have never truly been liberated. The struggle for self-determination, decolonization, and the right to shape our own future continues today.

At the Kumisión's booth, visitors will be able to engage with *I Kinalamten para i Direchon i Taotao Tàno'* — *The Quest for CHamoru Self-Determination*, an exhibit that centers historical and ongoing pursuit of CHamoru political and cultural freedom. The exhibit invites critical reflection on what liberation truly means for an indigenous people who remain under colonial rule. It recognizes the ongoing efforts of leaders and activists who resist silence, challenge injustice, and continue to fight for the CHamoru people's right to self-determination.

This powerful exhibit will eventually be transformed into a digital virtual reality experience to expand accessibility and engagement beyond physical spaces.

In addition to the exhibit, the booth will offer:

- Access to the full collection of Kumisión publications, including both children's and adult books rooted in CHamoru language and heritage;
- An opportunity to sign up and be part of their CHamoru Network, a growing collective dedicated to language revitalization, cultural empowerment, and community collaboration;
- Guest registration for *Sagan Inilao put Hinayi*, the Kumisión's Genealogy Lab, where community members can explore family history and deepen their understanding of ancestral ties.
- Educational resources and materials from the Commission on Decolonization.

The Kumisión's presence at the festival represents a commitment to engage the community in meaningful conversation, while providing tools and resources that continue the growth of CHamoru identity, language, and action.

The Kumisión's booth will be located at *I Sengsong CHamoru (The CHamoru Village)* at Hut 17 and will remain open throughout the Liberation weekend.