



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:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

KUMISIÓN I FINO' CHAMORU LAUNCHES PROGRAM ON INDIGENOUS HISTORIOGRAPHY

Hagåtña, Guåhan - 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) announces the launch of **I Historia put i Hinanao i Taotao Tàno'**, a new program inspired by a presentation delivered by Dr. Laura M. Torres Souder at the International Indigenous Youth Forum in 2023. The program premieres as part of the “Lumåla i Estoriå-ta: History Comes Alive” celebration.

Drawing from Dr. Souder’s presentation, the program explores CHamoru history and culture through the lens of indigenous historiography and CHamoru revisionism — placing the lived experiences, wisdom, and language of the Taotao Tàno’ at the center of the narrative. By challenging conventional portrayals of Guam’s past, **I Historia put i Hinanao i Taotao Tàno’** presents history from the inside out. As Dr. Souder explains:

“Our sense of identity as a colonized indigenous people has been called into question, often eroding our confidence in our sense of authenticity as a people. Who are we? The truth is, we know who we are. We are Taotao Tàno’, descendants of a wise and ancient people. The First People of this land! When we tap into our måta, the font of wisdom of our ancestors, we regain a sense of our true identity. Interpreting and writing about our history from a CHamoru Revisionist perspective constitutes an act of cultural sovereignty.”

Her message serves as both a reminder and a call to action: that reconnecting with ancestral wisdom is not only an academic exercise but also a living practice that strengthens identity, builds cultural pride, and empowers future generations.

The program will be accessible to the public on the Kumisión’s YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@ikumisionifinochamoru7574 and is set to air on the Guam Legislative Channel beginning the week of **September 1, 2025**.

For more information on this program or to schedule an interview with Kumisión Gé'helo', Dr. Laura M. Torres Souder, call 671-922-0600.