



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**

A SONG OF GRATITUDE: KUMISIÓN HONORS INDIGENOUS HERITAGE WITH NEW CHAMORU SING-ALONG

Hagåtña, Guåhan - The *Kumisióñ 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) proudly launches the newest addition to its *Read/Sing-Along Series* in honor of Native American Heritage Month. This special feature highlights, *The Thanksgiving Day Song* written by Dr. Samuel Betances and lovingly translated into CHamoru by his wife, Dr. Laura M. Torres Souder.

Originally composed in English, *The Thanksgiving Day Song* began, as Dr. Betances shared, with “a catchy tune in my head that needed to be sung.” What started as a playful family song became a heartfelt reflection of gratitude, family, and togetherness. Through Dr. Souder’s translation, **I Kåntan Ha’ånen Mannå’i Gråsia** brings this spirit of thankfulness to life in the CHamoru language, celebrating the shared Indigenous values of community and kinship.

Performed by the students of Maga'låhen Hurao Charter Academy, this release honors intergenerational learning and language revitalization, which are key pillars of the Kumisióñ’s Revitalization Mission. Each product of this series celebrates the beauty of CHamoru through storytelling, song and collaboration with CHamoru authors, educators and students.

“This collaboration reminds us that the spirit of gratitude lives within every culture. By singing in our language, our children learn not only words, but also the values that make us who we are as a people,” said Kumisióñ Special Projects Coordinator and Public Information Officer, Piatra Tuncap.

I Kåntan Ha’ånen Mannå’i Gråsia will be accessible to the public beginning November 14, 2025 on the Kumisióñ’s website at kumisionchamoru.guam.gov and through Linktree on their social media platforms.

To schedule an interview with the author please contact Piatra Tuncap at piatra.tuncap@kumision.guam.gov or by phone at (671)922-0600.