



CITIZEN-CENTRIC REPORT

SAKKAN FISKÁT 2024
(10/2023 - 9/2024)



PUT HAMI

PRUYEKTO
SIHA

FONDON-MÂMI

I CHALAN-MÂMI
PARA MO'NA

PUT HAMI

ABOUT US

The Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nâ'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tâno', was reestablished through the [CHamoru Heritage Act of 2016](#) (P.L. 33-236). The Kumisión is charged with the critical mandate of developing and maintaining a standardized orthography, producing and approving CHamoru resources, guiding language policy across educational and government institutions, and ensuring the revitalization of the CHamoru language, history, and culture.

TINANGA

OUR VISION

"U cha'lâni u su'on mo'na yan u hotkonuyi i lina'la' CHamoru; u ta atitútuyi i kinahulo' tinaotao yan u petsigi i fino' CHamoru, i lina'la', yan i finaloffan i Taotao Tâno' Guåhan.

We lead nation-building efforts to ensure the continuity of our CHamoru peoplehood and nationhood by fostering the restoration and revitalization of our language, culture, and history as Guåhan's Taotao Tâno'."

ALIGAO HAM

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TATTIYI HAM

FOLLOW US



INENKÂTGA

OUR MANDATES

- Regularly study and update CHamoru orthographic rules; notify public and private institutions of changes.
- Collaborate with CNMI leaders to standardize CHamoru orthography and address regional differences.
- Advise media, institutions, and individuals on aligning content with CHamoru grammar and orthography.
- Provide updates to the CHamoru-English Dictionary.
- Establish a CHamoru translation service with a structured fee system for public/private use and media.
- Develop standardized, culturally relevant curricula for Guåhan's schools and higher education institutions.
- Conduct research and produce multimedia and print materials on CHamoru language, history, and culture.
- Coordinate with educational institutions and businesses to ensure proper use of standardized orthography and grammar.
- Provide training to enhance understanding of CHamoru heritage.
- Act as a clearinghouse for accurate representations of CHamoru language, history, and culture.
- Partner with the Bureau of Statistics and Plans to survey CHamoru language use and intergenerational transmission.
- Serve as the Guam Place Names Commission, to promote culturally and historically accurate naming criteria.
- Study and restore ancient CHamoru terminology and pronunciation of place names using current orthography.

ATMENESTRADORA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARIA DUENAS-CONCEPCION



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MEMBRO SIHA

BOARD MEMBERS



LEFT TO RIGHT: DR. LAURA M. TORRES SOUDER (GÉ'HELO'). HOPE A. CRISTOBAL (BISA GÉ'HELO'), ROSA S. PALOMO (SIKRITÁRIA), TERESITA C. FLORES, DR. ROBERT UNDERWOOD, PÁLE' FELIXBERTO LEON GUERRERO, RUFINA F. MENDIOLA, JIMMY S. TERIA, MELVIN WON PAT-BORJA

I HINAGO'-MĀMI YAN PRUYEKTO SIHA

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

EYAK I FINO'-TA

DEVELOPING A BILINGUAL SCHOOL MODEL FOR GUAM

Through an ANA grant, we partnered with Saint Francis Catholic School, to create a dual-language model for integrating CHamoru instruction in an English-medium environment. CHamoru language use in the classroom increased from zero to 79 minutes a day and integrated the language into subjects such as math, science, and social studies. The project developed 90 place-based CHamoru lessons, provided teachers with 60 hours of annual language training, and produced 30 instructional videos to strengthen learning at school and home. Each classroom was equipped with CHamoru Resource Stations, and all materials were made accessible online for families and the community. Together, these efforts established SFCS as a functioning CHamoru-English bilingual model school and created resources that other schools can adopt.

ESKUELAN SAN FRANCISCO
SAINT FRANCIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL



NINA'FITME INEYAK CHAMORU

CHAMORU IMMERSION TEACHER CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The Nina'fitme Ineyak CHamoru Certificate Program was created through ANA grant funding to strengthen CHamoru language teaching using immersion-based methods. The certificate consists of 12 credit hours designed to support teacher professional development in CHamoru language instruction. The program is a partnership between the Kumisión, Chief Hurao Academy, UOG, GCC and GDOE Faneyākan Sinipok. You may learn more about this initiative and each cohort [here](#).

COHORTS 1 & 2



FINA'CHE'CHO' YAN FINATTAN HINAYEN CHAMORU

CHAMORU GENEALOGY SYMPOSIUM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CHAMORU ROOTS

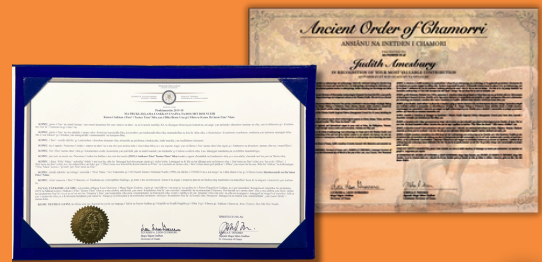
In partnership with CHamoru Roots, this 2nd Genealogy Symposium brought the community together to uncover and celebrate CHamoru ancestry. Through the workshop, access to historical records, and genealogy tools, participants traced family histories, shared stories, and began building their family trees. By connecting past and present, the symposium strengthened cultural identity and inspired a deeper appreciation for CHamoru heritage. Learn more about this event [here](#).



PINILA'

TRANSLATION SERVICES

CHamoru is one of Guåhan's two official languages. As such, it needs to be recognized and utilized as an equal medium of communication in the public sector. The tedious but important work of translating written English into CHamoru text in alignment with our orthography is a key component of building CHamoru literacy. The Kumisión provides translations to the Governor's Office and the Guam Legislature when needed. Numerous other requests for assistance from both public and private entities and individuals are received daily. While we are not able to provide translations for all requests, the Kumisión's Fino' Committee does engage regularly in providing assistance or referring interested parties to a list of Board vetted CHamoru translators.



FANEYĀKAN PUT I UTUGRAFIHAN CHAMORU, GUÅHAN

GDOE TEACHER TRAINING ON THE GUAM CHAMORU ORTHOGRAPHY

The Kumisión Members developed and conducted in-depth training for CHamoru teachers on the rules of the Utugrafihan CHamoru Guåhan during a summer institute.



NUEBU NA PRUDUKTO SIHA

NEW PRODUCTS

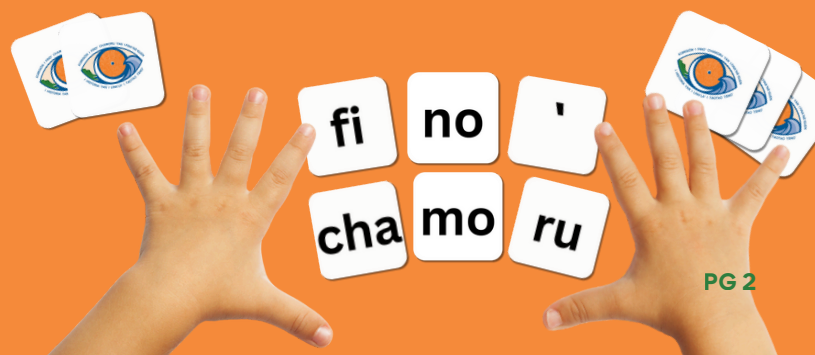
The Kumisión produced **Kao Un Hungok?**, its 2017-2024 Annual Report. This publication has expanded from a traditional record of strategic priorities and accomplishments into a dynamic resource for the CHamoru community. The report now serves as both a reflection of the Kumisión's impact and a tool that connects and empowers the community while encouraging continued engagement and collaboration. You may view and download a copy of this report [here](#).



KAO UN HUNGOK?
2017-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

I FANSELABĀYAN
SYLLABARY TILES

The Kumisión developed a set of CHamoru syllabary tiles to highlight the most common sounds used by learners. The tiles help children recognize vowel and consonant combinations. This tool supports early reading and writing skills in CHamoru and was disseminated to schools throughout Guam to strengthen foundational language learning in the classroom.



GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION

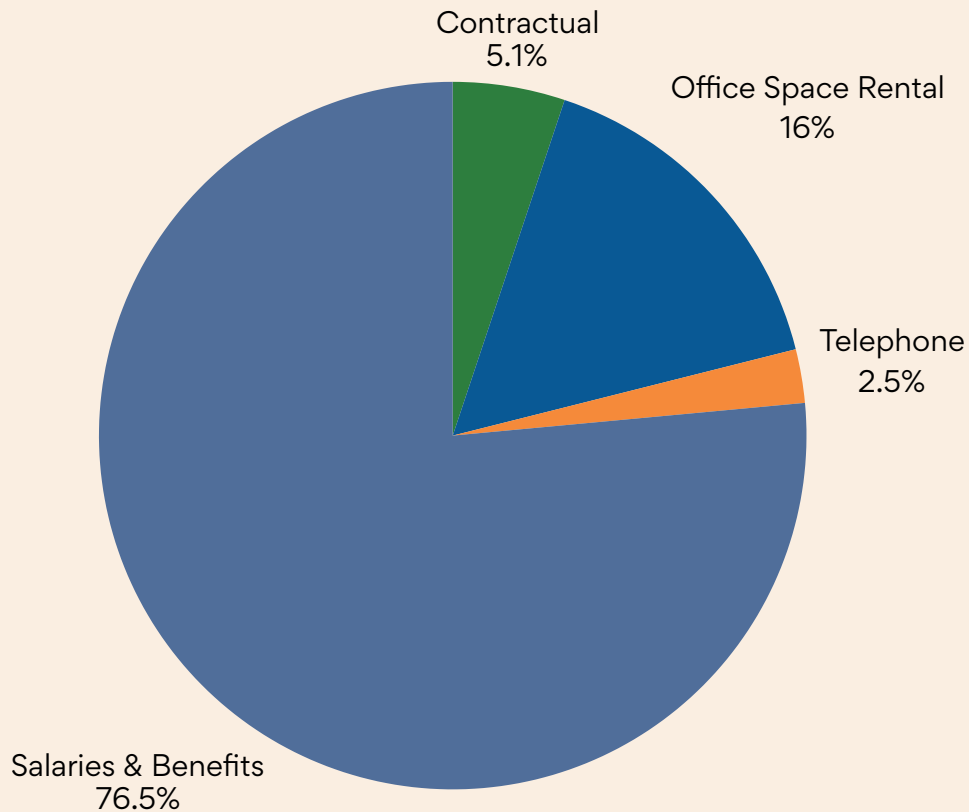
| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| GENERAL FUND FY2023 | \$454,534.00 |
| GENERAL FUND FY2024 | \$489,637.00 |

FEDERAL GRANTS (FY2024)

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| ANA PRESERVATION & MAINTENANCE YR3 | \$297,425.00 |
| AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FY2024 | \$266,310.58 |

FY2024 EXPENDITURES

| | | |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| | SALARIES & BENEFITS | \$374,450.00 |
| | CONTRACTUAL | \$25,087.00 |
| | OFFICE SPACE RENTAL | \$78,100.00 |
| | TELEPHONE | \$12,000.00 |
| | TOTAL: | \$489,637.00 |



MINAPOT YAN CHINÁTSAGA CHALLENGES

- We continue to seek a change in our legal status to become a public non-profit corporation. This will allow the Kumisión to seek funding from non-governmental sources and enable us to acquire donations from private entities. We would also be able to sell our products for the purpose of maintaining a revolving fund for future productions.
- The Kumisión has had to relocate multiple times since its establishment in 2017. We are still in need of a permanent facility to house our staff and programs, recording studio, training rooms, archives, genealogy lab and research center, and to provide adequate space for community outreach and collaboration with partners.
- The process of compensating our traditional experts and knowledge-bearers for their wisdom and service is cumbersome and requires licensure and vendor status that our elders do not have access to. Creating alternative procurement procedures that meet compliance requirements while acknowledging and honoring traditional cultural practices is another major hurdle we constantly encounter.
- These issues continue to be an ongoing challenge.

PARA MO'NA GI SAKKAN FISKÁT 2025 MOVING FORWARD IN FY2025

DIGITAL READ-ALONGS

- Conversion of existing educational publications, such as Tinanumi, and other instructional materials, into interactive read-alongs with CHamoru narration. This format supports accurate pronunciation, improves learners confidence and increases accessibility for teachers, parents, and students in Guåhan and throughout the diaspora.



I KINALAMTEN PARA I DIRECHON I TAOTAO TÂNO' EXHIBIT

- Create a virtual reality iteration of our Quest for CHamoru Self-Determination exhibit to provide an immersive, accessible platform for civic and historical education.



DIGITAL READ-ALONG FEATURING CHAMORU AUTHORS

- The Kumisión will expand its digital read-along series by featuring CHamoru authors and their publications. This project aims to promote CHamoru literacy, uplift indigenous storytelling and strengthen community partnerships and engagement.



NINA'FITME INEYAK CHAMORU

- The Kumisión will expand the Nina'fitme Ineyak CHamoru certification course by offering additional cohorts to meet increasing demand.



KUMISIÓN KIDS

- Begin collaborations with schools of Guam for "Kumisión Kids", a digital CHamoru language and culture series featuring songs from its earlier publication entitled "Tiniironon Neni". This project supports young learners, fosters collaboration with the community, and aligns with our mandate to develop accessible CHamoru learning materials for early education.

