

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)



September 1, 2021

Hawaii State Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
235 South Beretania Street
6th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hope A. Cristobal
Gé'helo'
(History)

Dr. Laura M.T. Souder
Sigundo Gé'helo'
(History)

Rosa Salas Palomo
Sikritaria
(Language)

Teresita C. Flores
(Culture)

**Pále' Felixberto C.
Leon Guerrero, OFM Cap.**
(Culture)

Rufina F. Mendiola
(Language)

Melvin Won Pat-Borja
(Culture)

Jimmy Santos Teria
(Language)

Dr. Robert A. Underwood
(History)

Anna Marie B. Arceo
(Administrator)

Subject: GUAM PLACE NAMES PROJECT

Håfa adai,

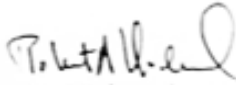
The Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'ná'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tāno' (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) serves as the authority on CHamoru language policy for the island of Guam. This includes authority over I Na'an Lugåt Guåhan (INL; Guam Place Names). The main goals of INL include: 1) restoring indigenous place names 2) aligning CHamoru place names with the updated CHamoru orthography 3) providing updated maps for public use and 4) uncovering histories of place.

We are in the second phase of reviving the Guam Place Names project which includes working with GIS specialists helping to build our place names database and base maps. We are also collaborating with village mayors and informants to gain community input.

We acknowledge that the Hawaii Board on Geographic Names (HBGN) holds a similar responsibility and has been doing this kind of work longer than we have. We kindly ask if you would be willing to meet via zoom as we are interested in your place naming processes and relationships with USGS and, perhaps, Google Maps, Apple Maps, and others. Essentially, we are curious as to how the HBGN transfers their data to user-friendly platforms so that the public is informed of Hawaiian place names.

We hope this can be the first of other networking opportunities between our offices. The work of restoring CHamoru place names is a major part of our cultural heritage and identity. It is a matter of pride and a serious endeavor. We are thus open to any information you may have that can help further our efforts.

Kon Respetu,



Robert A. Underwood
I Na'an Lugât Chairperson



Teresita Flores
I Na'an Lugât Kunité Member



Jimmy Santos Teria
I Na'an Lugât Kunité Member

