



COMMISSION ON DECOLONIZATION

Ufisinan i Maga'hågan Guåhan

2021
CITIZEN-CENTRIC REPORT

For more information, visit decol.guam.gov

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MANAGEMENT & STAFF



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THE COMMISSION

The Commission on Decolonization was established by the 24th Guam Legislature in 1997 to enhance the efforts of the Commission on Self-Determination. Its purpose is to educate the people of Guam on the various political status options available. Since then, the Commission and each respective Task Force have conducted educational and outreach programs including meetings, rallies, and seminars in efforts to inform the public about the decolonization process and three status options - Free Association, Independence, and Statehood.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Commission on Decolonization is charged with carrying out the mandates of PL: 23-147 and to assist the Guam Election Commission with populating the Decolonization Registry. The Commission is also mandated to develop an educational plan for an upcoming plebiscite vote for the people of Guam with the intention of providing the opportunity of Self-determination in governance.

MANDATES

- "To ascertain the intent of the Native Inhabitants of Guam as to their future political relationship with the United States." (1 GCA Ch. 21 §2105)
- To conduct a public education program in conjunction with the three (3) political status task force options: Independence, Free Association, and Statehood, as provided by law, based on their position relative to their political status option (1 GCA Ch. 21 §2109)

BOARD MEMBERS

CHAIRWOMAN

- Hon. Governor Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero

VICE CHAIRWOMAN

- Hon. Senator Telena C. Nelson

LEGISLATIVE APPOINTEES

- Hon. Speaker Therese M. Terlaje
- Hon. Senator Chris M. Duenas

MAYORS' COUNCIL OF GUAM

- Hon. Mayor Jesse L.G. Alig

TASK FORCE REPRESENTATIVES

- Hon. Fmr. Sen. Edward Duenas, *Statehood*
- Mr. Adrian Cruz, *Free Association*
- Michael Lujan Bevacqua, Ph.D., *Independence*

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

- Mary Therese F. Cruz, Ph.D.
- Kenneth Gofigan Kuper, Ph.D.

GUAM YOUTH CONGRESS APPOINTEE

- Ms. Chauntae Aliyah Quichocho

GOALS

- To continue decolonization, Self-determination, and Self-governance education via public outreach, a broadcast, print, and social media campaign, and to develop and produce educational materials that are relevant, accessible, and supportive of these efforts.
- To continue engaging with Committees of the United Nations in every effort to ascertain the intents and rights of the people of Guam to Self-determination and Self-governance.

OUR PERFORMANCE

DECOLONIZATION EDUCATION

In fulfillment of the Commission on Decolonization's (COD) community education mandate, COD produced and launched two (2) educational films: *Decolonization 101: The Quest for Self-Governance*, providing an introductory look at how unincorporated territory status affects our everyday lives and limits Guam's growth, and *I CHalan Mo'na: Navigating Guam's Political Status Options*, exploring the prospects and challenges of each political status option available to Guam. COD also produced and distributed islandwide, *Guam: A Territory Like No Other*, an educational newspaper insert. These resources are available at decol.guam.gov or via the QR code below.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

To enhance the Commission on Decolonization's community education campaign, COD partnered and engaged with various government agencies, community organizations, and school clubs to organize and host events centered around educating and connecting with the community.

- *Pathways to Self-Governance* Decolonization Curriculum Professional Development w/Guam Department of Education
- *Mabuhay Merienda* Meeting w/Filipinos for Guåhan
- *Charting Our Course* Film Screening & Panel Discussion w/ the University of Guam Political Science Student Association
- *Fanohge for the Future* Forum w/the Fanohge Coalition



NATION BUILDING

Fostering a shared sense of identity and belonging is a critical component of Guam's quest for decolonization. To aid these efforts, the Commission on Decolonization organized and aired *CHamoru Kada Ha'ani*, a showcase of local creative works aired on television and social media. COD also hosted the *I Guinahâ-ta* video contest, encouraging the community to showcase CHamoru identity, cultural sovereignty, and our ability to govern ourselves. As part of the contest, COD awarded \$2,500 in community-sponsored cash prizes to the top three submission. The videos can be viewed at the Commission on Decolonization's Instagram page: [@guamcod](https://www.instagram.com/guamcod).



INTERNATIONAL & FEDERAL ENGAGEMENT

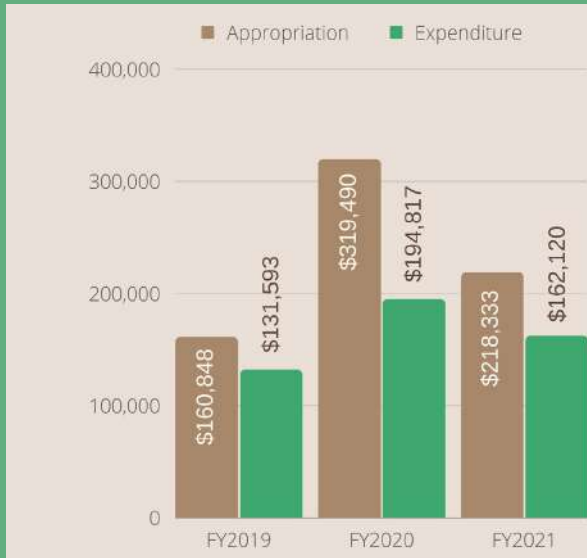
The Commission on Decolonization continued engaging with international and federal stakeholders. At the international level, COD engaged with the United Nations' Special Committees on Decolonization (C4 & C24). COD also hosted the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues. At the federal level, COD engaged with the Biden Administration and the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, requesting a UN visiting mission to Guam and discussing the UN Special Rapporteurs' Letter to the United States, among other matters.



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OUR FINANCES

GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION & EXPENDITURES



**DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
FY19 - FY21**



**TASK FORCES
FY19 - FY21**



MOVING FORWARD



A LOOK AHEAD

With the launch of two educational decolonization films and an educational newspaper insert, the Commission on Decolonization has begun rolling out its comprehensive community education campaign.

Funded by a grant from the Department of the Interior, the community education campaign is built around *Giha Mo'na: A Self-Determination Study for Guåhan*, the first comprehensive scholarly study detailing the drawbacks and deficiencies of Guam's current unincorporated territory status and providing an in-depth look at the potential opportunities and challenges of each political status option (Statehood, Independence, Free Association) over a variety of topic areas. *Giha Mo'na* will be distributed islandwide and made available to the community.

Utilizing *Giha Mo'na*, the community education campaign also includes a mixed media campaign, consisting of multimedia content including videos, audio, advertisements, and graphics distributed across print, broadcast, and social media platforms

The Commission on Decolonization will continue exploring new ways to educate our community on the need for decolonization and Self-determination and empower them with the tools necessary to get involved and engaged with our island's quest for Self-governance, all in support of a future political status plebiscite to ascertain the political desires of the colonized people Guam.

CONTACT US

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Visit decol.guam.gov
for educational
resources.



We want to hear from you. Do you like this report? Do you believe it should include any other information? Please let us know by contacting Nolan Flores at nolan.flores@guam.gov or 475-9545.