



COMMISSION ON DECOLONIZATION

UFISINAN I MAGA'HÅGAN GUAHAN

2022

CITIZEN-CENTRIC REPORT

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT DECOL.GUAM.GOV

TABLE OF CONTENTS 1 About Us 2 Our Performance 3 Finances 4 Moving Forward



MANAGEMENT & STAFF



MELVIN WON PAT-BORJA
Executive Director

NOLAN FLORES
Staff Assistant

HARMONY PALAGANAS
Staff Assistant

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.

BOARD MEMBERS



CHAIRWOMAN

Hon. Governor Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero

VICE CHAIRWOMAN

Hon. Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña-Barnes

LEGISLATIVE APPOINTEES

Hon. Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Hon. Senator Frank Blas Jr.

MAYORS' COUNCIL OF GUAM

Hon. Mayor Jesse L.G. Alig

TASK FORCE REPRESENTATIVES

Hon. Fmr. Sen. Edward Duenas, *Statehood*

Michael Lujan Bevacqua, Ph.D., *Independence*

Free Association (Vacant)

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Mary Therese F. Cruz, Ph.D.

Kenneth Gofigan Kuper, Ph.D.

GUAM YOUTH CONGRESS APPOINTEE

Ty Whitaker

MISSION STATEMENT

The Commission on Decolonization is charged with carrying out the mandates of PL 23-147 and with assisting the Guam Election Commission with populating the Decolonization Registry. The Commission is also mandated to develop and implement an educational plan for an upcoming Self-determination plebiscite.

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).

GOALS

- To develop and produce decolonization educational materials and programming in various forms of traditional and contemporary mediums including but not limited to print, broadcast, and social media.
- To plan and executive community events that facilitate public education and elicit public conversation, interaction, and involvement in the decolonization process.

OUR PERFORMANCE

COMMUNITY EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT

As part of its community education mandate (1 GCA, Chapter 21), the Commission on Decolonization (COD) engaged and partnered with various entities to organize and host several community education events:

- **Fanhita Manhoben: Decolonization Through The Arts**—a three-day youth conference attended by over 130 students from across Guam's public, private, and charter high schools. The conference educated, engaged, and immersed students in issues related to our island's quest for Self-Governance through visual, performing, and creative arts. As part of the conference, COD also hosted, in collaboration with the Department of CHamoru Affairs and local artist Joshua Barrigada, the **Unknown Projects: Freshman Class** art gallery featuring specially curated works from local artists and select works produced by students at Fanhita Manhoben.
- To celebrate and commemorate Indigenous Peoples' Day, COD premiered and hosted three screenings of **Decolonization 101: The Quest for Self-Governance**, a 30-minute educational film that explores how Guam's status as an unincorporated Territory continues to affect our everyday lives and limit our growth as an island. The film also premiered simultaneously on broadcast and digital platforms, and is available for streaming at decol.guam.gov (see QR code below) and via COD's social media platforms.
- COD collaborated with the Department of CHamoru Affairs and visiting scholar Dr. Kevin Escudero to sponsor and host the **Fanohge CHamoru Put I Tano'-ta: Charting Our Collective Future** exhibit, which presented and provided insights into Guam's historical and ongoing quest for Self-Governance.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Launch of Giha Mo'na: A Self-Determination Study for Guåhan

As the centerpiece of COD's comprehensive community education campaign, *Giha Mo'na: A Self-Determination Study for Guåhan* is the first comprehensive scholarly study detailing the 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* was launched, published, and distributed on COD's digital platforms and islandwide at various locations including Mayor's offices, schools, and businesses. *Giha Mo'na* is available at decol.guam.gov or via the QR code below.

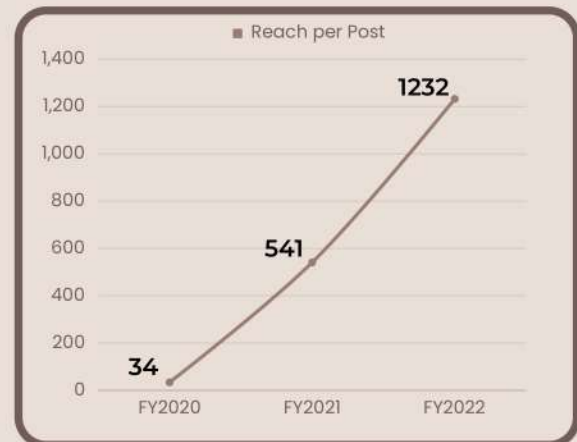
Comprehensive Media Campaign

Built from *Giha Mo'na: A Self-Determination Study for Guåhan*, COD produced and launched educational videos and infographics/static image posts on COD's social media platforms. This content provides short, accessible, and easily digestible content for community education and engagement, with the videos consisting of interviews with decolonization experts, archival footage, etc., and the infographics/static image posts consisting of direct quotes and paraphrased information from *Giha Mo'na* to provide the community with a brief, visually appealing, easily comprehensive and shareable digest of the larger *Giha Mo'na* text.

Launch of Giha Mo'na: At a Glance

The Commission on Decolonization produced and published *Giha Mo'na At A Glance*, a condensed, easily accessible version of *Giha Mo'na: A Self-Determination Study for Guåhan*, containing the most relevant information and direct quotes from each chapter/topic of the larger study. *Giha Mo'na At A Glance* is available at decol.guam.gov or via the QR code below.

COMPREHENSIVE MEDIA CAMPAIGN SOCIAL MEDIA METRICS



What would you like to see reported on this page? Please let us know by contacting Harmony Palaganas via email at harmony.palaganas@guam.gov or via phone at (671)475-9545.

OUR FINANCES

GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION & EXPENDITURES

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



POLITICAL STATUS TASK FORCES



PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM



For inquiries, please contact Harmony Palaganas via email at harmony.palaganas@guam.gov or via phone at (671)475-9545.



MOVING FORWARD



A LOOK AHEAD

In the coming year, the Commission on Decolonization (COD) will build upon and strengthen its comprehensive community education campaign by producing and disseminating supplementary educational material to the wider community in Guam. The Commission also aims to increase in-person engagement in a variety of settings.

Created in 2022, *Giha Mo'na: At a Glance* is a truncated version of *Giha Mo'na: A Self-Determination Study For Guåhan*. *At A Glance* allows readers to preview highlights from each section of the larger study. The Commission intends to distribute copies to every public high school in Guam to support the anticipated introduction of Decolonization curriculum.

The Commission also plans to reach a wider audience by conducting a mixed media campaign promoting its educational programs and material.

CONTACT US

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex
513 West Marine Corps Drive
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

TELEPHONE

(671)-475-9545

EMAIL

guamcod@guam.gov

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 2950, Hagåtña,
Guam 96932

Please follow COD on social media!



@DecolGuam



@decolonizeguam



@guamcod



decol.guam.gov

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 Harmony Palaganas via email at harmony.palaganas@guam.gov or via phone at (671)475-9545.

