

# DECOLONIZATION & SELF-DETERMINATION

# CONTACT INFORMATION

# POLITICAL STATUS OPTIONS: INDEPENDENCE

**Decolonization** is the undoing of Guam's colonial relationship by evolving from our status as an unincorporated Territory of the United States to one of three political status options: Statehood, Free Association, or Independence. To be decolonized, Guam's people will have achieved Self-determination, freedom, and political sovereignty.

**Self-determination** is the process by which the people of a colonial territory express their desire for a Self-governing status. Their preference for a particular decolonized status will form the basis of Guam's actions/negotiations to implement the Self-governing status.

## Commission on Decolonization

☎ (671)-475-9545

✉ [decol@guam.gov](mailto:decol@guam.gov)

## Independence Task Force

Facebook: @independentgu

🌐 <https://independentguahan.org/>

## Statehood Task Force

Facebook: @GuamStatehood

## Free Association Task Force

Facebook: @GuamFreeAssociation



# RESOURCES

## WHAT IS INDEPENDENCE?

Under the political status of **Independence**, Guam would become its own country and would gain full sovereignty. Being sovereign means that the island's government would be internally supreme and externally equal to other countries.

As an independent nation, we will be able to prioritize the distinct needs of all who call Guam home. We will work together to create a government guided by our values. Independence will allow us to protect our lands and waters; revitalize our language; revive our health; and reinvigorate our community.

Please scan the QR code below to access various educational resources on the Commission on Decolonization's website.

### COD Website



The Commission on Decolonization is tasked with educating our island community on the drawbacks of our current unincorporated territory status and the potential benefits and challenges of the three (3) political status options available to Guam: Statehood, Free Association, and Independence.



COMMISSION ON  
DECOLONIZATION  
GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

Funded by the Commission on Decolonization's Public Information Program.

# INDEPENDENCE: POLITICAL STATUS POSSIBILITIES

## IMMIGRATION

As an independent country, Guam would retain exclusive control over its immigration policies. Emigration for U.S. citizens will be unrestricted. Guam will create visa restrictions to support the growth of the island's economic and professional industries. Travel agreements with other countries will have to be negotiated.

## LAND

Federally controlled land will be returned to the Government of Guam. The Government can enter into lease agreements with the U.S. or another country for a combination of monetary fair market value and long-term economic development aid. The island will be able to enact laws for the preservation of land that hold value to CHamoru culture and heritage. Lands owned by private landowners can remain.

## DEFENSE

Guam can enter into a treaty with the U.S. or another country for defense. Guam can also take part in a regional defense pact led by the U.S. that can include access to land for military bases. The U.S. may sponsor Guam's participation in multilateral pacts for regional defense.

## HEALTH

A new healthcare system including health and insurance programs can be created. Policies for licensing programs can allow for more medical professionals and state-of-the-art medical facilities in partnership with nearby countries. Guam can build a medical tourism industry to fund additional healthcare programs.



## INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

Individual rights will be determined by the people and outlined in a constitution. Individual rights can align with international human rights and those of similar democratic states.

## CULTURE

Guam would have absolute control over its policies concerning CHamoru programs and cultural preservation. Giving the island the ability to integrate the CHamoru culture into its governance, education, and economic development.

## TRAVEL

Citizens of Guam will need to obtain proper visas to travel to foreign countries. Travel agreements can be negotiated with other countries.

## EDUCATION

An Independent Guam will have the flexibility to adopt curriculum and standards for an educational system without outside interference. The Government will also retain control of the structure, budget, and certification requirements for educators. With the potential to receive funding through international aid.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

An Independent Guam will gain access to membership and participation in regional and international organizations, including the United Nations. Guam and the U.S. can exchange diplomatic representatives enabling economic cooperation and easy resolution on most matters. Mutually agreed treaties will allow for the creation of new economic and political alliances in exchange for defense and security. The potential for new investment and additional sources of economic growth is possible through negotiations with Asia-Pacific governments.



## LEGAL & JUDICIAL FRAMEWORK

A constitution would outline the powers and policies for a legal and judicial system. Guam could enact policies that mirror existing laws or create an entirely new code.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT

Guam will prepare a comprehensive economic plan including laws and regulations that will guide its new economy. The island would be able to explore new industries and economic partnerships with neighboring countries, who are leading global economic growth. While initial economic instability is likely, Guam can negotiate for economic assistance from the United States during this critical transition period.

## CITIZENSHIP

Guam will establish guidelines for citizenship including rights and responsibilities. Current U.S. citizens may be allowed to establish dual citizenship based on negotiations with the U.S. However, U.S. citizenship for future generations is unlikely, and U.S. citizenship for non-U.S. citizens of Guam at the time of political status change is unlikely.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

Guam will retain exclusive control over all-natural resources including land and waters within its Exclusive Economic Zone. The ability to control immigration will help reduce the strain on natural resources.