

DECOLONIZATION & SELF-DETERMINATION

CONTACT INFORMATION

POLITICAL STATUS OPTIONS: STATEHOOD

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

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Statehood Task Force

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Free Association Task Force

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Independence Task Force

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WHAT IS STATEHOOD?

As a U.S. **state**, Guam would obtain:

- State sovereignty/local autonomy in all state matters
- Complete protection under the U.S. Constitution
- Permanent U.S. citizenship
- The ability to vote for U.S. Congressional representation and the U.S. President
- The ability to write a state constitution
- The ability to determine local government organization
- The ability to set up our tax structure
- Equality with all other U.S. states.
- Equitable federal funds, programs, grants, and aid
- National defense protection from foreign threats or invasion

RESOURCES

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.

STATEHOOD: POLITICAL STATUS POSSIBILITIES

IMMIGRATION

Immigration policies will remain aligned with U.S. policies. Guam will remain a point of entry for immigration excluding from the freely associated states. Statehood will ensure that all U.S. diplomatic policies and travel restrictions will apply to the island and its citizens.

LAND

Property rights in Guam will be defined by Guam law in accordance with the U.S. Constitution. The CLTC program settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice amended regulations to align with the U.S. Fair Housing Act.

DEFENSE

Guam may continue to be a U.S. base with the U.S. maintaining responsibility for the island's defense. The political influence of the military leadership can be reduced by Guam's voting representation in the U.S. Congress. This would give the island more influence over the implementation and application of military policies and strategy.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Similar to the status quo. However, Guam will have a greater influence on U.S. policy positions and negotiations because we will have voting members in the U.S. Congress.



INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

The full extent of citizen rights outlined in the U.S. Constitution will apply to citizens living in Guam.

CULTURE

Culture will continue to experience the same or increased levels of change due to new populations immigrating to Guam for a piece of the American Dream.



TRAVEL

Travel restrictions will follow U.S. federal guidelines.

EDUCATION

Little change will be needed as Guam's educational system already aligns with U.S. federal guidelines. More funding may be available with the payment of federal tax dollars. Guam will remain a COFA jurisdiction with the existing shortfalls in U.S. federal reimbursements.

HEALTH

Guam may see an increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Programs (Medicaid) and other social welfare programs as a result of taxes paid to the federal government. Guam will remain a COFA jurisdiction and will continue to experience the same funding shortfalls as Hawaii and other state jurisdictions.



LEGAL & JUDICIAL FRAMEWORK

The framework will be similar to the status quo with full applicability of the U.S. Constitution and legal framework.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Similar to the status quo. All federal mandates, including the Jones Act, will still apply to Guam. There is also a potential for increased economic growth due to greater military spending, access to labor resources, and construction activity. Economic growth and a rise in incomes and standards of living will be offset by greater taxation, with more government revenues going to the U.S. federal government. Guam would have the lowest degree of autonomy in external affairs related to trade.

CITIZENSHIP

U.S. citizens in Guam will have full citizenship rights and responsibilities as outlined in the Constitution. Naturalization laws would apply to alien residents seeking citizenship.

NATURAL RESOURCES

U.S. guidelines and regulations over land and waters within the Exclusive Economic Zone will apply. Access to assistance and funding for preservation will be available. The U.S. will continue to maintain the power of eminent domain over all lands.