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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 P.L. 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.

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. Vice Mayor Peter Benavente

TASK FORCE REPRESENTATIVES

- Hon. Frm. Sen. Edward Duenas, *Statehood*
- Mr. Adrian Cruz, *Free Association*
- Dr. Michael Bevacqua, *Independence*

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

- Dr. Mary Therese F. Cruz
- Vacant Appointment*

GUAM YOUTH CONGRESS APPOINTEE

- Mr. Vicente B. Tajeron

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 continue decolonization, self-determination, and self-governance education via public outreach; a comprehensive study that includes Guam's current political status and models of government under each option as prescribed by P.L. 23-147; 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 intent and rights of the people of Guam to self-determination and self-governance.

OUR PERFORMANCE

MEDIA MARKETING PROJECT

The Media Marketing Project (MMP) encompasses the rebranding of the Commission on Decolonization image that includes the creation of a new logo and website, and the establishing of social media presence for the purposes of decolonization outreach and education. The MMP is the umbrella project for the Self-Governance Study and Newspaper Insert project, to include the Fanhita Conference held on September 12-14, 2019, at the Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort.



SELF-GOVERNANCE STUDY

The Self-Governance Study is an analysis of Guam's current political status and its effects on governmental relationships with the administering power and other governments. The study also provides a model for each political status (Free Association, Independence, and Statehood) and the potential impacts each status will have through various government facets such as the economy, healthcare, and public education.



DECOLONIZATION PAMPHLET

A condensed and brief insight to the Self-Governance Study that will be published as a newspaper insert with the goal to reach a minimum of 11,000 residents.



MEDIA EDUCATION PROJECT

The Media Education Project (MEP) is the umbrella project for the Self-Determination Documentary and includes media translations of key aspects of the Self-Governance Study to be released at a time to be determined by the Commission.

SELF-DETERMINATION DOCUMENTARY

The Self-Determination Documentary is a two-part film with the first highlighting and introducing the Self-Governance Study. The second part of the documentary brings to light what life is like as an unincorporated territory of the United States through the life of those it affects. It also provides insight into the movement within the community to achieve self-determination including educational outreach, and constant lobbying at the United Nations level.



GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

EXPENDITURES	FY2019	FY2020
Salaries and Benefits	\$127,130	\$187,911
COD Office Operations, Programs, and Projects	\$9,507	\$19,906
Free Association Task Force	\$53,000	\$0.00
Independence Task Force	\$52,930	\$59,990
Statehood Task Force	\$15,525	\$45,000
TOTAL	\$258,092	\$258,807



FEDERAL GRANT EXPENDITURES

In October 2016, under the Calvo-Tenorio Administration, the U.S. Department of Interior Office of Insular Affairs awarded the Commission on Decolonization a \$300,000 grant from the Technical Assistance Program (TAP) for projects relative to a public educational campaign on decolonization and self-determination in anticipation of a plebiscite. Under the Leon Guerrero-Tenorio Administration, the Commission's board propelled forward the use of this funding through projects that included public engagement and involvement, social media promotions, a video documentary and TV special, and the long-awaited Self-Governance study.

Fanhita Conference	\$50,000
Self-Governance Study	\$120,000
Media Marketing Project	\$50,000
Media Educational Project	\$80,000
TOTAL	\$300,000

MOVING FORWARD



A LOOK AHEAD

The Commission on Decolonization, alongside the people of Guam, has endured relentless setbacks to its mission and goal in achieving self-determination. However, it is with unwavering Chamoru perseverance and resilience that we move forward with the determination to bring historical and cultural political awareness to the rights that should be afforded to our people.

We will move forward with the continued effort to establish open and deliberate dialogue with the United Nations, our federal counterparts, including the Biden Administration and the U.S. Congress to achieve self-determination.

Our efforts will also be supported by projects and programs that will include, but are not limited to:

- Continued social media engagement, providing historical and factual accounts and information, opportunities for learning, and interactive participation;
- Through the development of decolonization curriculum with teacher training for proper implementation in public schools; and
- By engaging the public-at-large and in community-centric events that open lines of communication for our people to voice their concerns, take up opportunities to learn, get involved, and promote awareness to the cause of the Commission's mission for the people of Guam.

CONTACT US

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Governor of Guam

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Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan
Lieutenant Governor of Guam

MELVIN WON PAT-BORJA

Direktot i Kumision
Executive Director

July 20, 2021

**To: Honorable Benjamin J. F. Cruz, Public Auditor
Office of Public Accountability**

From: Melvin Won Pat-Borja, Executive Director 

Re: FY2020 Citizens-Centric Report

Delivered electronically to bjcruz@quamopa.org and vduenas@quamopa.org.

Håfa Adai, Honorable Public Auditor Cruz:

The Commission on Decolonization transmits its Citizens-Centric Report for Fiscal Year 2020. Should you require more information or have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!*