



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
UNIBETSEDÁT GUÅHAN
Board of Regents

Resolution No. 22-17

RELATIVE TO APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM (UOG) PRESIDENT TO SIGN/SUBMIT ALL DOCUMENTS AND TO NEGOTIATE ON BEHALF OF UOG THE GRANT PROPOSAL “CHAMORU CULTURE AND LANGUAGE RESEARCHERS TRAINING PROGRAM” TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, ADMINISTRATION FOR NATIVE AMERICANS

WHEREAS, the University of Guam (UOG) is the primary U.S. Land Grant institution accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission serving the post-secondary needs of the people of Guam and the Western Pacific region;

WHEREAS, UOG has the unique obligation to strengthen and support the understanding of the history and culture of the CHamoru people through the development of academic programs, such as the CHamoru Studies program, and providing access to information through the Richard Flores Taitano Micronesian Area Research Center (MARC);

WHEREAS, the CHamoru Studies Program is the only undergraduate program in the world with the stated mission to “revitalize and sustain a CHamoru-literate community through the development of a steady cohort of proficient CHamoru-speaking and -writing graduates”;

WHEREAS, research conducted by UOG faculty has consistently shown that I fino’ CHamoru (the CHamoru language) is considered by I ManCHamoru (the CHamoru people) to be essential to the perpetuation of the Chamoru culture;

WHEREAS, research published by CHamoru language and culture commissions in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) has shown a steady decline of fluent language speakers in the Marianas, with recently published statistical data revealing 16% of Guam CHamoru population are using the CHamoru language and 17% of high school students in CNMI are speaking CHamoru among family or friends;

WHEREAS, UOG is submitting a grant application entitled “CHamoru Culture and Language Researchers Training Program” under MARC to address crucial need for a labor force prepared to collect, analyze and document elements of the CHamoru language for the purpose of preserving the language and developing CHamoru language learning resources for all levels of language and culture learning;

WHEREAS, ANA requires that grant applications include demonstrated support of the community as evidenced by an approval by the organization’s governing body; and

WHEREAS, the UOG Administration and the Academic, Personnel, and Tenure Committee have reviewed the attached project summary and recommend that the Board of Regents (BOR) approve the proposal and authorize the UOG President to sign/submit all documents and to negotiate on behalf of UOG.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the BOR approves the proposal and authorizes the UOG President to sign/submit all documents and to negotiate on behalf of UOG.

Adopted this 21st day of April, 2022.

ATTESTED:



Liza J. Provido, Chairperson



Thomas W. Krise, Ph.D., Executive Secretary

PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE: CHamoru Language Researcher Training Program
APPLICANT NAME: University of Guam
ADDRESS: MARC, University of Guam, UOG Station, Mangilao, GU 96923
CONTACT NUMBERS: Work: 671-735-2333; Cell: 671-988-7167
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SUMMARY:

I ManChamoru have a long-term community goal of being able to easily find, access, and use information about CHamoru language and culture to learn about themselves. The CHamoru language, as a predominantly oral language, has been documented piecemeal. This piecemeal approach has resulted in incomplete, outdated, and mostly out-of-print learning resources and has left major gaps in the written record of the language, particularly in relation to cultural meaning and practices which, as a result, stand a risk of being lost. Thus, this project proposes to train a workforce of language researchers to possess the skills necessary to document *i fino'* Chamoru (the CHamoru language) and help create future language resources.

During this three-year project, seven participants in a CHamoru language documentation training program will increase their proficiency in collecting, analyzing, and documenting the missing pieces of the CHamoru language, demonstrating mastery of these skills with a minimum proficiency score of 75%.

In the project's first year, project personnel will create a training program and documentation template based on the areas of need identified by the language and culture commissions in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. In the second year, project personnel will train participants in linguistic theory and analysis; CHamoru language structure; and best practices for collecting, analyzing, and documenting the CHamoru language. In the third year, project personnel will guide the participants as they engage in a language documentation project.

At the end of the grant period, seven participants shall have received the requisite training, increasing the number of community members capable of documenting the language and cultural knowledge shared by the CHamoru people across the Mariana archipelago.

POPULATION GROUP(S) SERVED: The primary population served in this project are CHamoru adults.

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION: Guam, CNMI