



Dipåttamenton Idukasion
Dibision Inestudion Chamoru yan Espesiát na Prugrâma Siha

Family and Community Engagement Playbook



2025 2nd Edition

FAÑODDA'AN

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CHamoru Studies and Special Projects Division

Dipattamenton Idukasion Guahan Dibision Inestudion CHamoru yan Espesiāt na Prugrama Siha

Tel: (671) 475-0479 ext. 2498/5048 • Email: cssp_doe@gdoe.net • Address: 501 Mariner Ave. Tiyan Bldg B Suite 317 Barrigada, GU 96913
• Office Hours: 8am - 12pm & 1pm - 5pm, Mon - Fri

Inatituyen-māmi (Our Focus)

The CHamoru Studies & Special Projects Division has a sharp focus on ensuring each student graduates understanding and valuing the CHamoru language and culture. The graduating student is able to share the history, culture, and traditional practices of CHamoru and is able to read, speak, and write CHamoru language to some degree. This student has a strong sense of identity connected to CHamoru language and culture, and uses CHamoru knowledge, language and cultural practices to meaningfully contribute to solving local and global issues.

Hinenggen-māmi (Our Values)

Our values guide our work and decision-making. As the CHamoru Studies & Special Projects Division we value

- the importance of the teacher in student learning,
- collaborative teamwork that supports each other in reaching the goals, and
- our CHamoru language and culture.

Hinangai-māmi (Our Purpose)

The CHamoru Studies & Special Projects Division collaborates with GDOE divisions, schools and other agencies and organizations to create and implement CHamoru language and cultural learning opportunities for all students so they graduate with CHamoru knowledge, skills, and values needed to be prepared for post-secondary education, the workforce and civic engagement.

Prugraman Inestudion CHamoru (The CHamoru Studies Program)

CHamoru Language and Culture Program (K-5, MS, HS) (17 GCA § 8103)

All elementary school students are provided CHamoru language and culture instruction daily, twenty (20) minutes in grades K-2 and thirty (30) minutes in grades 3-5.

All secondary students must take one year of CHamoru Language in Middle School and one year in High School.

Modon Fina'nā'gue CHamoru is the language of instruction.

Instructional methods used by teachers include: The Natural Approach, Total Physical Response, Language Experience Approach, Whole Language Approach, Notional-Functional Approach, and other second language acquisition methods.

Faneyākan CHamoru Medium/Immersion Program

Faneyākan is a CHamoru medium/immersion program that utilizes the CHamoru language as the medium of instruction in all content areas throughout the school day. It aims to develop fluent and proficient generations of CHamoru speakers learning all academic subjects. Our CHamoru medium students are taught by Guam Commission for Educator Certification (GCEC) certified teachers.

The Faneyākan Program was established to address the critical need for children to become proficient CHamoru Speakers. The Guam Education Board (GEB) adopted the CHamoru Immersion Masterplan in 2016.

For more information regarding our programs please contact our office.

Maga' Plānon Inestudion CHamoru (CHamoru Studies Division Plan)

The GDOE's 5 Year Strategic Plan was adopted on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 by the Guam Education Board. It is the Department's path moving forward and was created by board stakeholders. Using the GDOE's plan, the CHamoru Studies & Special Projects Division revisited our foundational purpose and developed a five year strategic work plan to guide our specific work as it aligns to the GDOE's Strategic Plan.

The CHamoru Studies & Special Projects Division reviewed the GDOE goals and reflected on the Division's role. Based on the Division's role, we developed strategies, milestones, and action plans to guide our work in support of GDOE's Strategic Plan.

Finaiche'cho' (Professional Development and Training)

The Division provides, coordinates, facilitates, and implements pre-service and in-service training activities, and observations for all CHamoru Language and Culture, Traditional Arts (CHLCTA) Teachers.

Matiriāt (Curriculum and Materials Development)

The CHamoru Studies and Special Projects Division develops the CHamoru Language Content Standards and Performance Indicators for each grade level (K-12). CSSPD produces numerous CHamoru instructional materials for teacher and student use. Instructional materials include, student activity books and grade level readers, instructional posters and other visual aides, and other materials all based on the curriculum.



Kumunidāt (Community Involvement)

Silibrasion Mes CHamoru is coordinated by CHSSPD together with the CHLCTA Teachers. Islandwide CHamoru activities and events are held to promote and perpetuate the language and culture of Guam. Students, teachers, and parents participate in the activities and events such as the Inacha'igen Yiyupākto (Slingstone Competition), Finattan CHamoru (School Curriculum Showcase), Tinanña Fina'finas (CHamoru Culinary Food Tasting), Bailan Taotao Tāno' (CHamoru Dance Competition), and other cultural activities.

The Division has also launched its first edition of the Family and Community Engagement Playbook that lists tips, strategies, and resources to help those in the community to start their own CHamoru Language Learning Journey.

Prugraman Tiningo' (CHamoru Knowledge Project)

Prugraman Tiningo' (CHamoru Knowledge Project) strives to:

1. Increase the number of CHamoru Teachers and the retention of highly qualified CHamoru language teachers;
2. Increase the effectiveness of CHamoru Teachers;
3. Increase the proficiency level of CHamoru speakers in the district; and
4. Increase the number of engaged parents in the CHamoru Language program.

Prugraman Tiningo' also provides supplemental support i.e. interactive boards/CHamoru Supplies/resources to CHamoru Teachers.

Prugraman Tiningo' is administered by the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) and funded by the U.S. Department of Education - Consolidated Grant to the Outlying Areas.

I Taotao Ufisina

Siñot Jimmy Santos Teria, Administrator • **Siñora Jocelyn T. Santos**, CHamoru Language and Culture Specialist • **Siñot Felix A. Chaco**, School Program Consultant • **Siñot Mark A. Santos**, CHamoru Language and Culture Specialist • **Siñora Mariam Kristina Alam**, Program Coordinator III • **Siñot Brandy J. Martinez**, Program Coordinator III • **Siñot Joseph F. Sablan**, Graphic Artist Technician III • **Siñora Frances Agulto**, School Aide I • **Siñora June Angoco**, School Aide I • **Siñora Teresa Cruz**, School Aide I • **Siñorita Praysia Castro**, School Aide I

Introdusi Introduction

Buenas yan Håfa Adai!

We at the CHamoru Studies and Special Projects Division of the Guam Department of Education would like to sincerely thank you for taking the time to read through our first ever Family and Community Engagement Playbook.

CHamoru Studies and Special Projects Division is a branch of the Guam Department of Education that develops the curriculum and teaching standards for all Guam Public School CHamoru Teachers as well as provide them with the services and materials they need to provide students with the high quality education they deserve. The CHamoru Studies Division also hosts a number of community-wide events during the Silibrasion Gupot CHamoru or CHamoru Month Celebration that allows our students and their families to participate in an array of activities to celebrate our CHamoru Cultural Heritage.



What is this playbook and who is it for?

This Engagement Playbook was developed to provide our community, parents, and teachers with the information and opportunity to host their own CHamoru-related events outside of the Guam Department of Education's scheduled events. This playbook is also aiming to provide other learning opportunities to engage the community in learning the CHamoru Language and its culture through strategies, resources, CHamoru Studies provided materials, etc.

Why is it important for the community to engage with the CHamoru Language?

It's no surprise that the CHamoru Language is categorized as an "Endangered Language". What it means when a language is classified as endangered is that there aren't enough new generational speakers of that language being produced. The gap between the older generation speaking our language compared to the younger generation is severe and we need to change that through revitalization.

While yes, our students are learning the CHamoru Language and its culture as a requirement in our Public Schools, we are just not producing enough speakers to keep the language alive. We're currently addressing the teaching duration of the CHamoru program in our classes, but we're also hoping to encourage the parents of our students and those out in the community to embrace speaking and understanding more of the CHamoru Language to show just how important it is that our students and children begin to do so as well. The more exposure of the language we give to our new generation of speakers, the more proficient they'll become and thus our CHamoru Language and Culture will thrive.

But learning the language isn't just for the youngest generation, EVERYBODY should strive to be able to speak and understand the CHamoru Language for themselves and the CHamoru Culture. Wouldn't it be an amazing sight that one day everybody on Guam can speak and make normal conversations in CHamoru without having to rely on "context clues" asking the other party to say it again but in English? Not just on Guam but also to our familia out on the mainland or somewhere else abroad?

The CHamoru Language IS the CHamoru Culture. Without the language our way of life as CHamoru people is incomplete.

How to Use This Playbook

Your Language Learning Journey to Language Revitaliation Starts Here

This Playbook will provide those on their Learning Language Journey with Revitalization and Proficiency strategies, tips, information, and resources. We hope to encourage the community in becoming CHamoru Language speakers to engage with our elders who also need to pass on their knowledge of the language and culture. We also hope to encourage a welcoming environment to all those who want to learn the CHamoru Language by providing resources readily available to the public whether among the Guam Department of Education or externally amongst our partners. We want to further encourage our community to breathe new life into our language and bring the younger generation to engage with it more in their daily lives outside of the CHamoru Class instructional time.

This book will also provide the information and guidelines the community can use or be inspired by to host their own CHamoru Events that we do during the Silibración Mes CHamoru every year. We want to set the skeleton and resources in this book to inspire the community with ideas on how they can further celebrate our island's culture among the community. We will be providing each event with descriptions, the logistics generally required for the events, and any specifics that may be required to be disclosed regarding safety to run a smooth event.



Strategies for Language Learning

Lessons and tips to assist in your language learning journey

Setting your goals for Language Learning

When diving into learning the CHamoru Language it's important to set what your expectations will be out of your learning experience/sessions. Ask yourself these questions; How proficient in the language do I want to be? Do I want to learn enough to understand CHamoru conversations? Do I plan on writing and understanding advance CHamoru sentence structures? Will I share my knowledge with the community and younger generations? Setting your goals will determine what level of proficiency you will be aiming your sights towards.

Scheduling and Putting Time Aside to Learn

According to Language Testing International's website about the amount of time it takes to become truly proficient in a language, it'll take up to at least **44 weeks or 1320 hours** to reach an Advanced Level of proficiency with regards to the difficulty of the language. That is why it is important to schedule and plan out the amount of time you will set aside to dedicate yourself to learning the language, we'll be able to show some example schedules but ultimately the amount of time you put in each day, week, and month will result in your proficiency sooner rather than later. Also, please remember that the quality of learning also effects your language learning, this is why we encourage anybody to seek out a CHamoru speaking master you can confide your language journey with.

The amount of time for the average learner of the language will require a minimum input of **50 hours per month and 12.5 hours per week**, this will reflect in the samples on the next page. We will also provide some empty planning pages to further provide assistance to your language learning journey. Once again it is up to you to schedule your own time



Example Schedules

50 hours per month

12 hours and 30 minutes per week

EXAMPLE SCHEDULE #1: Evenings and One Weekend Day per Week

Month - Dismebre	Sábalu (Sun)	Lunes (Mon)	Mátttes (Tues)	Metkoles (Wed)	Huebes (Thurs)	Betnes (Fri)	Damenggo (Sat)	Total Hours
Week 1		7pm - 9:30pm		7pm - 9:30pm		7pm - 9:30pm	7pm - 9:30pm	12.5
Week 2		7pm - 9:30pm		7pm - 9:30pm		7pm - 9:30pm	7pm - 9:30pm	12.5
Week 3		7pm - 9:30pm		7pm - 9:30pm		7pm - 9:30pm	7pm - 9:30pm	12.5
Week 4		7pm - 9:30pm		7pm - 9:30pm		7pm - 9:30pm	7pm - 9:30pm	12.5
Total Hours per Month								50

EXAMPLE SCHEDULE #2: Evenings Only

Month - Ineru	Sábalu (Sun)	Lunes (Mon)	Mátttes (Tues)	Metkoles (Wed)	Huebes (Thurs)	Betnes (Fri)	Damenggo (Sat)	Total Hours
Week 1		7pm - 10pm	7pm - 10pm	7pm - 10pm	7pm - 10:30pm			12.5
Week 2		7pm - 10pm	7pm - 10pm	7pm - 10pm	7pm - 10:30pm			12.5
Week 3		7pm - 10pm	7pm - 10pm	7pm - 10pm	7pm - 10:30pm			12.5
Week 4		7pm - 10pm	7pm - 10pm	7pm - 10pm	7pm - 10:30pm			12.5
Total Hours per Month								50

EXAMPLE SCHEDULE #3: Weekends Only

Month - Fibreru	Sábalu (Sun)	Lunes (Mon)	Mátttes (Tues)	Metkoles (Wed)	Huebes (Thurs)	Betnes (Fri)	Damenggo (Sat)	Total Hours
Week 1	9am - 3pm						9am - 3:30pm	12.5
Week 2	9am - 3pm						9am - 3:30pm	12.5
Week 3	9am - 3pm						9am - 3:30pm	12.5
Week 4	9am - 3pm						9am - 3:30pm	12.5
Total Hours per Month								50

EXAMPLE SCHEDULE #4: Lunch Hours with some Evenings and Weekends

Month - Mátso	Sábalu (Sun)	Lunes (Mon)	Mátttes (Tues)	Metkoles (Wed)	Huebes (Thurs)	Betnes (Fri)	Damenggo (Sat)	Total Hours
Week 1		12pm - 1pm	12pm - 1pm	12pm - 1pm	12pm - 1pm	12pm - 1pm	9am - 4:30pm	12.5
Week 2		12pm - 1pm	12pm - 1pm, 7pm - 9:30pm	12pm - 1pm, 7pm - 9:30pm	12pm - 1pm, 7pm - 9:30pm	12pm - 1pm		12.5
Week 3		12pm - 1pm	12pm - 1pm	12pm - 1pm	12pm - 1pm	12pm - 1pm	9am - 4:30pm	12.5
Week 4		12pm - 1pm	12pm - 1pm, 7pm - 9:30pm	12pm - 1pm, 7pm - 9:30pm	12pm - 1pm, 7pm - 9:30pm	12pm - 1pm		12.5
Total Hours per Month								50

Language Learning Journey Schedule								
Month - Ineru	Sābalu (Sun)	Lunes (Mon)	Måttes (Tues)	Metkoles (Wed)	Huebes (Thurs)	Betnes (Fri)	Damenggo (Sat)	Total Hours
Week 1								
Week 2								
Week 3								
Week 4								
Total Hours per Month								

Language Learning Journey Schedule								
Month - Fibreru	Såbalu (Sun)	Lunes (Mon)	Måttes (Tues)	Metkoles (Wed)	Huebes (Thurs)	Betnes (Fri)	Damenggo (Sat)	Total Hours
Week 1								
Week 2								
Week 3								
Week 4								
Total Hours per Month								

Language Learning Journey Schedule								
Month - Måtso	Sábalu (Sun)	Lunes (Mon)	Måttes (Tues)	Metkoles (Wed)	Huebes (Thurs)	Betnes (Fri)	Damenggo (Sat)	Total Hours
Week 1								
Week 2								
Week 3								
Week 4								
Total Hours per Month								

Language Learning Journey Schedule								
Month - Abrit	Såbalu (Sun)	Lunes (Mon)	Måttes (Tues)	Metkoles (Wed)	Huebes (Thurs)	Betnes (Fri)	Damenggo (Sat)	Total Hours
Week 1								
Week 2								
Week 3								
Week 4								
Total Hours per Month								

Language Learning Journey Schedule								
Month - Māyu	Sābalu (Sun)	Lunes (Mon)	Māttes (Tues)	Metkoles (Wed)	Huebes (Thurs)	Betnes (Fri)	Damenggo (Sat)	Total Hours
Week 1								
Week 2								
Week 3								
Week 4								
Total Hours per Month								

Language Learning Journey Schedule								
Month - Huño	Sábalu (Sun)	Lunes (Mon)	Måttes (Tues)	Metkoles (Wed)	Huebes (Thurs)	Betnes (Fri)	Damenggo (Sat)	Total Hours
Week 1								
Week 2								
Week 3								
Week 4								
Total Hours per Month								

Language Learning Journey Schedule								
Month - Húlio	Sábalu (Sun)	Lunes (Mon)	Máttēs (Tues)	Metkoles (Wed)	Huebes (Thurs)	Betnes (Fri)	Damenggo (Sat)	Total Hours
Week 1								
Week 2								
Week 3								
Week 4								
Total Hours per Month								

Language Learning Journey Schedule								
Month - Agosto	Sábalu (Sun)	Lunes (Mon)	Måttes (Tues)	Metkoles (Wed)	Huebes (Thurs)	Betnes (Fri)	Damenggo (Sat)	Total Hours
Week 1								
Week 2								
Week 3								
Week 4								
Total Hours per Month								

Language Learning Journey Schedule								
Month - Septembre	Sábalu (Sun)	Lunes (Mon)	Måttes (Tues)	Metkoles (Wed)	Huebes (Thurs)	Betnes (Fri)	Damenggo (Sat)	Total Hours
Week 1								
Week 2								
Week 3								
Week 4								
Total Hours per Month								

Language Learning Journey Schedule								
Month - Octubre	Sábalu (Sun)	Lunes (Mon)	Måttes (Tues)	Metkoles (Wed)	Huebes (Thurs)	Betnes (Fri)	Damenggo (Sat)	Total Hours
Week 1								
Week 2								
Week 3								
Week 4								
Total Hours per Month								

Language Learning Journey Schedule								
Month - Nubembre	Sábalu (Sun)	Lunes (Mon)	Måttes (Tues)	Metkoles (Wed)	Huebes (Thurs)	Betnes (Fri)	Damenggo (Sat)	Total Hours
Week 1								
Week 2								
Week 3								
Week 4								
Total Hours per Month								

Language Learning Journey Schedule								
Month - Disembre	Sábalu (Sun)	Lunes (Mon)	Måttes (Tues)	Metkoles (Wed)	Huebes (Thurs)	Betnes (Fri)	Damenggo (Sat)	Total Hours
Week 1								
Week 2								
Week 3								
Week 4								
Total Hours per Month								

CHamoru Word of the Day, Week, and Month

Teaching Vocabulary or Keywords to focus on is a common strategy utilized in the school environment as it helps enrich and develop student's knowledge of a language and to help them understand what they mean. The same strategy can be used in the home where families can choose to make a note of specific CHamoru Words they can focus on learning throughout that day. There is no need to limit it to a "CHamoru Word of the Day" this can extend to other lengths of time like CHamoru Word of the Week or Month.

A good way to map out Words of the Day/Week/Month is to create a calendar with planned out CHamoru words making the process easier and to know which words to expect. If you need words and their meanings there are numerous CHamoru Language Dictionaries in our bookstores as well as online resources and websites.

CHamoru Word of the Day						
Måtso 2019						
Damenggo	Lunes	Måttes	Merkoles	Huebes	Betnes	Såbalu
					1 Håfa Adai <i>Hi, Hello</i>	2 Håfa tatamanu hao? <i>How are you?</i>
3 Maolek, ya hágu? <i>I'm fine, and you?</i>	4 Irensia <i>Inheritance</i>	5 Afa'maolek <i>Collaborate, help out, cooperate with, friends</i>	6 A'adahi <i>Protector, guard, caretaker, body guard</i>	7 Acha'guasguas <i>Peer, equal</i>	8 Afuyot <i>Sandwich in, wrap up, infold, roll up</i>	9 Fo'naigue <i>Preside, do something before someone else</i>
10 Ágang <i>Call</i>	11 Babarihas <i>Foolishness</i>	12 Bakānte <i>Vacant, unoccupied</i>	13 CHa'saga <i>Difficult, hard, incapable, preoccupied.</i>	14 CHathinasso <i>Worry, be concerned</i>	15 Debidi <i>Must, have to, ought to, should</i>	16 Gai'ase' <i>Have mercy, be merciful, have pity, have forgiveness</i>
17 Eduka <i>Educate, teach, develop and cultivate mentally or morally</i>	18 Dirihi <i>Direct, lead, guide, conduct, administer</i>	19 Embátga <i>Trust, depend, entrust, have faith</i>	20 Enkátga <i>Commission, (someone) order, entrust, put in charge</i>	21 Eppok <i>Persuade, entice, urge</i>	22 Faborápble <i>Favorable, auspicious, well-disposed</i>	23 Flohu <i>Lazy, loafer, indolent, slothful, (qiao')</i>
24 Fotmát <i>Formal, serious, earnest</i>	25 Fanmao <i>Admirable, praisable, well known, famous</i>	26 Fañotsot <i>Be sorry for, repent</i>	27 Finiho' <i>Words, commitment</i>	28 Fitma <i>Sign, convey, write, signature</i>	29 Gaihinasso <i>Sensible, reasonable</i>	30 Gaisabot <i>Savory, delicious (Månque)</i>
31 Ga'na <i>Flexible, soft, easily yielding to pressure</i>						

Example Calendar - CHamoru Word of the Day

Engage with the Masters

We can learn as much as we can but ultimately it takes the knowledge and guidance of our masters in both the language and culture to fully enlighten the new generation to language revitalization. Our masters range in various fields of the CHamoru Culture from it's language, the writing of the language, storytelling, weaving with coconut leaves, our cultural dances and chants, and so many more. If you are truly dedicated in enhancing your language journey then seeking out these masters is imperative to your growth in learning and revitalizing the language.

Develop a Learning Plan

Just like in the classrooms, planning out your lesson plan or learning plan helps to organize what you will be learning and what you've already covered. Here are some bullet points to think about when developing your plan:

- Together with scheduling your hours to learn, you should schedule what you are willing to learn that month: What topics will you learn about? How many words will you learn this month? this week? and today? What kind of activities will you do in order to help further your language learning goals?
- Think about and plan who you'll be interacting with during your Language Learning Journey: Are you learning just for yourself? Are you going to involve your family in learning? Do you have children that you might want to pass your knowledge onto? Do you have elders in your family who can guide you along learning the language? Are you going to seek out others in the community who will be learning alongside with you? And which Masters in the community may be able to help learn your topics?
- Don't overwhelm yourself. Sometimes it's better to slow down and just try and understand words you don't know. Maybe review what you've learned and come up with ways to better use the vocabulary you've learned so far. Keep your expectations and goals realistic and don't try to cram too much information all at once, remember you're learning an entire language that you might've only had exposure to during your school years for a minimal amount of time.
- Not everything needs to be planned out. Like the previous point it's important not to overwhelm yourself with too many expectations. Doing simple activities like going on with your day and trying to incorporate speaking through the language. Talking about your day in CHamoru and just conversing doesn't need to be pre-planned but can count as your hours for the week as per your scheduling.

Tips for a Successful Language Learning Journey

Once you've done all this pre-planning and are ready to get started with your Language Learning Journey, it is imperative to think about how you will learn the language. We'll list some important points below to help you along your journey:

- **Total CHamoru Immersion** – In order to fully immerse yourself and better learn the language, please try and refrain from speaking English when you're learning CHamoru in your learning sessions.
- **Use Non-Verbal Communication to make your intent clear** – It'll help to use hand gestures, facial expressions, and pointing to pictures or objects instead of defaulting to English to communicate.
- **Speak in full sentences** – Like in the classroom when learning new vocabulary it's not only important to learn their meaning, but to use them in practice to understand their context. Seeing the word, hearing how it's said, and saying it yourself in context is a good way of getting used to it and there's no better way of learning the language than to putting it into practice.
- **Try using the language outside of your learning hours** – Even when it's not your active learning hours as per your schedule, do try and use the language in your everyday life. Start off by saying small affirmations like "Esta" instead of "Okay" or replying to others with "Hunggan" or "Åhe" for yes and no.
- **The Language IS the Culture** – Remember you're not just learning the language to speak CHamoru, you're also learning the CHamoru Culture by learning the language. That's why it's important to also learn about the culture to become more immersed on the ways our people: Learn about In-afa'maolek to learn our values, read our legends to learn about our history and art, watch our dances and listen to our songs, and taste our cooking to embrace the flavors that we hold important to our people.
- **Focus on Speaking and Listening** – Many will be eager to learn all facets of the language and one of our most popular subjects will always be the way we write things like our alphabet, but it should be noted that CHamoru is a very vocal language. Anybody starting out should first focus on becoming a speaker and listener of the language, someone who's able to understand and respond back to a fluent speaker of the CHamoru language.
- **Participating in Cultural Activities can help immerse you in the language** As we've said before the Language is the Culture. To further emphasize that Guam holds a huge amount of public events that invite the community to participate, like the CHamoru Month Celebration. Apprenticeship programs from the University of Guam. Sagan Kottura and its local displays of weaving and Åmot practices.

Tips for a Successful Language Learning Journey Continued...

- **Use audio and visual resources** – In order to fully immerse yourself and better learn the language, please try and refrain from speaking English when you're learning CHamoru in your learning sessions. Using CHamoru resources such as speaking recordings, CHamoru media, and listening to CHamoru songs can be a helpful tool to try and understand CHamoru when it's used fluently in other ways.
- **Share the lessons and knowledge** – Not only is putting into practice what you learned extremely helpful, but it's also beneficial for yourself to teach others of what you learned. Reciting and explaining the lessons of your time learning helps you review what you yourself have learned while also spreading the knowledge of what you've acquired in your studies. You entice learning and enlighten others around you with your dedication.
- **Be sensitive with your progress and expectations** – Please remember to be sensitive with your growth in learning, you're learning an entire language after all. There may be some added pressure (from yourself or others) because you're trying to learn a language for revitalization. Please take everything at a pace that's both sustainable and fits into your lifestyle. Each step you take no matter how big and small is still a step towards progress. We want to encourage a welcoming environment to all newcomers of the language and with this playbook we hope to accomplish that by educating all ages that we should be cooperating with one another to bring out their knowledge and study speaking and understanding the CHamoru Language.



Strategies for Immersion Language Sessions

Tips for your learning sessions

Use Everyday Situations/Scenarios as your base of learning

Thinking about everyday occurrences should be a good start to learning phrases and responses to conversations when speaking the language. Think about the REALLY important questions you'd want to ask someone that you'd normally do in english:

- Where is the restroom?
- How are you today?
- What time is it?
- Where can I find _____?
- How much is _____?
- Who is that? or What is your name?

Likewise you should be prepared to answer these questions yourself.

Gamify your Sessions

Turning some of your language sessions into games is another engaging way to learn the language. There's also no shortage of CHamoru based gmes you can play with other people: Bātu, CHonka, Coconut Relay, etc...

There's also the method of playing other games in the CHamoru Language: Playing cards, Mahjong, Bingo, board games, video games, Charades, Pictionary, Scrabble in CHamoru, CHamoru Word Quizzes, and CHamoru Crossword puzzles.



Use labels around your personal space

A good way to learn any language is to use it in your everyday life. Labeling things in the CHamoru Language where you can see them everyday is a great way to help further understand what they're called in CHamoru. You can take index cards with some tape or putty and label all your everyday items you and your family come in contact with daily: your toothbrushes, your refrigerator, your doors, etc.

Labelling doesn't have to be constrained to the home either. Businesses as you might have noticed lately have begun to label public sights in CHamoru as well. Other agencies also have their own respective organizations in CHamoru as well. For those that don't it might be worth the extra effort to make your own flash-cards of pictures or illustrations of such places with their respective CHamoru names and you can take them out to show your children on your next outings.

Evaluate Your Progress

Take a moment at the end of your learning sessions to review and evaluate how well you took to the learning process. Ask yourself these questions:

- Did I have trouble speaking and understanding the words?
- Would asking an expert or elder be more helpful for these words than trying on my own?
- Was this enough time for the things I wanted to learn?
- How would I teach this to someone else?
- How would I apply the things I learn into a conversation fluently?

As stated before remember to be kind to your own learning journey and don't be afraid to ask for help when you're having trouble. We're all in this together to revitalize and breathe life in the language and culture of the CHamoru Language and every little bit helps.



Encouraging our Parents and the Community to Learn and Use the Language

Encouraging Language Speaking and Learning Usage in the Family

The need to encourage our youngest generation to learn the CHamoru Language has become more prominent with each passing day. For any of our parents and guardians that are reading this Community Playbook, their child will be taught CHamoru in either the public school system, charter schools, or private school. CHamoru is a required subject especially in the Elementary grades, however it's important to note that the time teaching CHamoru in the classroom is very limited and we are working towards maximizing that through our public school Ma'estran/ron CHamoru.

This is why it's important to engage with our children not just in the classroom, but in the home and amongst the community to pass along our culture and language. In this playbook we've listed several strategies to assist individuals on their own language learning journey and the same strategies can be applied to our kids with some minor adjustments of course. We'll also be listing some more strategies you can utilize with your family.



Visiting Cultural Sites and Learning Our History

Guam is not shy of amazing cultural sites to learn our history from and taking yourself and your family can really spark inspiration into our younger generation from wanting to learn even more about our heritage. So why not take a weekend trip with the family and see the sites Guam has to offer by driving around the island?



Promoting Intergenerational Learning Through Teaching

Inspiring our youngest generation to learn the language through our manamko isn't a new strategy within our classrooms. Our CHamoru Teachers have utilized bringing guest speakers of all of subjects and have been used as an effective strategy to pass on the knowledge of our cultural history and arts. Teachers have brought in masters in weaving, hut building, cooking, and much more and while we touched upon seeking out Masters of their craft during the Silibrasion Gupot CHamoru section of this playbook. You don't have to limit yourself to seeking Masters just for Mes CHamoru. Encouraging and promoting such masters to give regular exhibitions or workshops on their craft amongst your community can promote more engagement for our youngest learners as we've seen such demonstrations take place in public within the community before.

Interacting and Becoming Active in Your Child's CHamoru Language Class Activities

Assisting and learning together with your child's work in their CHamoru Class can be an engaging way to learn the language. Showing interest in their CHamoru Class work can show your child how important it is to learn the language.

Of course every year when it comes close to the month of March, the Silibrasion Gupot CHamoru is a public school wide celebration of the CHamoru Culture with the Department of Education's CHamoru Studies Division hosting an array of events our students can participate in. Supporting and encouraging your child to participate in such events can be a great way to further promote their learning enrichment.





GDOE CHamoru Studies Resources and Materials



Aside from the mediums you can purchase or acquire freely, we here at the CHamoru Studies and Special Programs Division can provide those outside of our CHamoru Teachers with our developed materials.

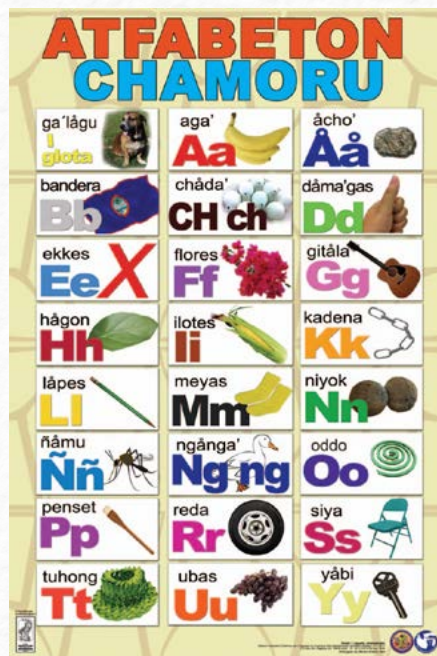
We have accommodated: other government branches, the Guam Legislature, the University of Guam, Guam Community College, other Guam Department of Education Divisions, many of the village Mayor Offices, Private Businesses, our public school CHamoru Teachers and regular teachers, Charter Schools, Private Schools, Off-Island CHamoru Learning Communities, Day Cares, and most importantly, the Community and Families who request.

As per our Standard Operating Procedures, in order to obtain these materials you must send our division a request via email cssp_doe@gdoe.net stating a general description of what kind of materials you would like to acquire along with the reason why you would need the materials. Then our Administrator will approve the request and you will be able to pick up the materials at our office. This is part of our protocol and accountability so we can keep track of what materials we distribute. Displayed are just some of our most popular materials we have, please note that we have a limited stock and is based on availability.



CHamorro Language and Culture
Content Standards

[\[download here\]](#)



Affabeton CHamoru Poster

[\[download here\]](#)

Additional CHamoru Studies Materials



Flashcards



Story Workbooks



Coloring Activity Books



Posters



Digital Media

Upcoming Additional Resources Coming Soon



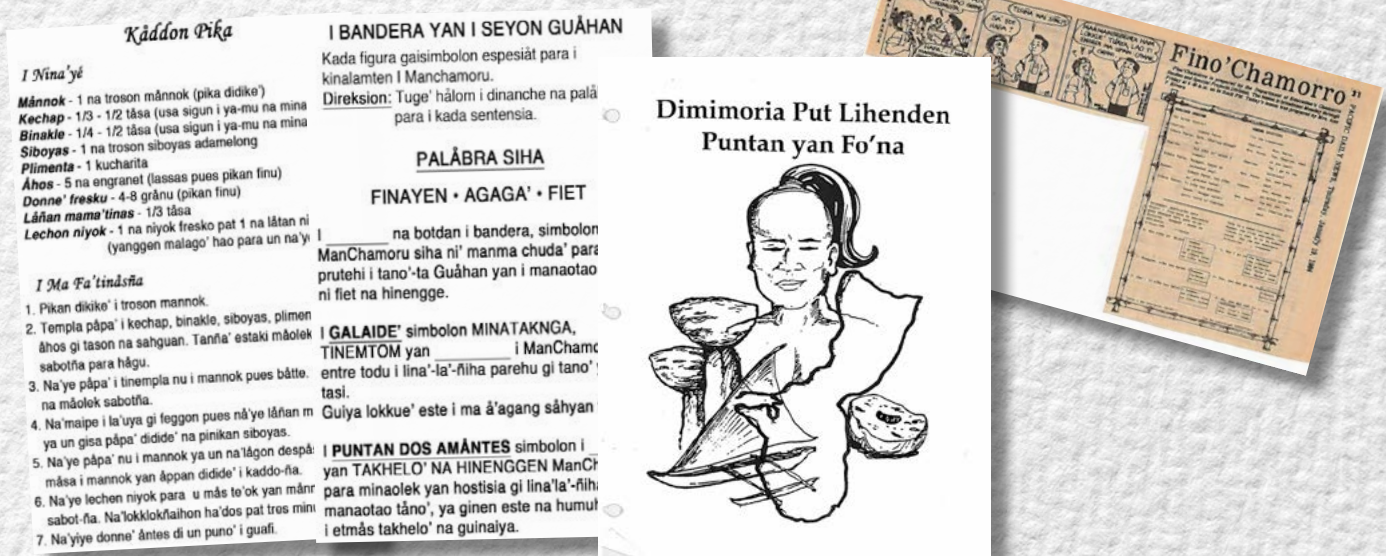
More Posters



More Storybooks



Archive of Old Materials



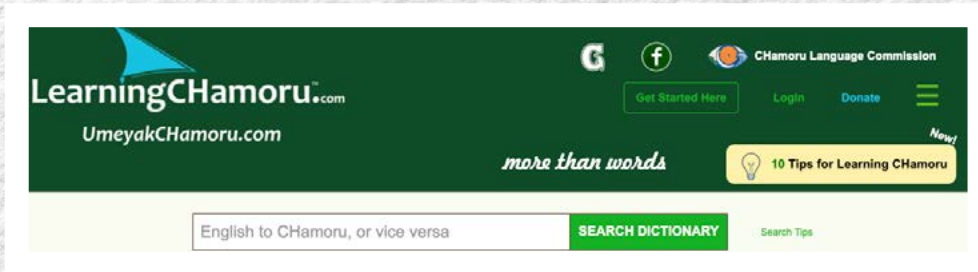
Archive of the Fino' CHamoru Column

External Resources

Valuable Sites and Resources from other Organizations

LearningCHamoru™.com

Online CHamoru Language Dictionary, tips in learning the language, and multi-media learning on any device 24/7 for free.



[click here]

YMLG CHamoru Language Collection

Free to use Online library/collection of old CHamoru Language Resources from the Young Men's League of Guam hosted on an online collection put together by the University of Guam.



[click here]

University of Guam

The University of Guam hosts a number of courses and classes dedicated to CHamoru and Culture Learning as well as an apprenticeship program to experience the life with the CHamoru Masters.



[click here]

Biba Mes CHamoru!

CHamoru Month Events in the Community



Bailan Taotao Tāno'



Inacha'ikak Yiyupåkto



Inacha'ikak Måmfok



Sunidon CHamoru



Tinanña Fina'tinas



Geran Kåddon Pika

Overview of SGC Events

In this playbook we've decided to share the Rules, Regulations, Waiver Forms, and needed Logistics in order to fully prepare for a Silibrasion Mes CHamoru Event. The events listed are our most popularly participated events during our month of celebration and thus should spark interest should the community want to host some of their own with a good showing of participants.

Forming Committees and Conducting Regular Meetings

For each event that we showcase there's always a body of teachers that take up the mantle of becoming the Chairperson to lead the responsibilities required to run the events. Behind every Chairperson are the Co-Chairs and the Members, this in total creates the Committee and it's this Committee that will ultimately be responsible for running the event they've decided to showcase.

The Committee should conduct regular meetings with each other and other branches of the committee if they've decided to run more than one event.

What exactly is the Committee responsible for?

The Committee is responsible for procuring the logistics for the event needed: garnering participation, acquiring sponsors such as the Offices of our Mayors or private businesses, refining the Rules and Regulations for their events if it's a competition, acquiring the necessary permits to allow the events to take place in public spaces, make sure the events are safely conducted with the right and proper equipment and spaces needed, and overall just making sure the events run smoothly especially on the day of the event.

Acquire Masters and Teachers as Your Judges

It's important to involve the masters and teachers of our cultural practices in order to bring their knowledge and experience to our new generation, and what better way to do this than have them become judges for your events. Master Weavers, Traditional Dance Teachers, Prominent Local Chefs and those teachers in our public school system or among our many Colleges and Universities are a good starting point to reach out to. We've found our Mes CHamoru Committees have had constant successes when reaching out to the community for judges when it involves the students as a way to enrich their education as well as promoting themselves and their craft.

The Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency, or CAHA, has provided a directory for Artists within our Community of Masters and Teachers and can be accessed freely on their website.

Importance of the Waivers and Logistics for Each Event

Of course participating and conducting public events is fun in itself but no event can run smoothly without planning out the proper logistics and accountability of its participants and sponsors if you choose to have them.

The sample waivers displayed below are the CHamoru Studies standard waivers we issue out to our CHamoru Teachers whom in turn give them to the parents/guardians of the students set to participate in **ANY EVENT, NO EXCEPTIONS**. The waivers help the participants and their parents/guardians to understand what they would be doing during the event and the possibility to be shown on media via the news or social media, these events are usually public events so any kind of coverage is to be expected. It should be stated that our waivers are specifically made with **Guam's Public Law 31-201** in mind so the creation of your own organization's waiver depending on the participants you gather will vary differently.

DIBISION INESTUDION CHAMORU VAN ESPESIAT NA PRUGRAMA SIHA
DIPATAMENTON IDUKASION
CHamoru Studies & Special Projects Division
Department of Education
501 Mariner Avenue Barrigada, GU 96913-1608
Tel: (671) 300-5048/1367

SILBRASION GUPOT CHAMORU 2022 - 2023
PERMISSION TO PUBLISH CHILDREN'S IMAGES, WORKS AND IDENTIFICATION
January 23, 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),
Buenos yon Hafa Adai!

Pursuant to Public Law 31-201, this is to request your permission to take photographs and publish your child's photo and/or video, images and samples of his/her work during the Silbrasion Gupot CHamoru 2023 activities and competitions. Granted this permission, the Guam Department of Education CHamoru Studies and Special Projects Division shall have the authority to publish and/or show the above-mentioned pictures/images and your child's identification in various media such as, but not limited to: GDOE websites, hardcopy print of reports/newsletters, local newspapers, magazines, social media and television. These images and information will also be stored in computer systems and/or file retrieval gadgets, such as memory cards and USB drives. The main purpose for publication is to advertise the event, activities and competitions; acknowledge winners and participants of the competition and activities of the Silbrasion Gupot CHamoru 2023. It will also be used for other GDOE CHamoru Studies and Special Projects Division or Guam Department of Education projects such as, but not limited to, cultural events, reports, posters, fliers and presentations.

Furthermore, this is also for you to acknowledge that your child will be joining activities/competitions of the Silbrasion Gupot CHamoru 2023 as specified on the next page.

If you agree to authorize the division to take and publish images of your child and/or his/her work and to publish your child's name, school, grade level, etc., please fill out the attached form (Permission to Publish - Parent Consent Form) and return to the division via your child's CHamoru Language Teacher. This consent shall remain in effect indefinitely until such time you advise the Guam Department of Education CHamoru Studies Division otherwise.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at 300-5048. Your support as parents and as a member of the community is greatly appreciated. *Sen Dangkola ni Si Yu'on Ma'ite'.*

Sincerely,

(Jimmy S. Teria/
Jimmy S. Teria
Administrator
CHamoru Studies and Special Projects Division
Guam Department of Education

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DIBISION INESTUDION CHAMORU VAN ESPESIAT NA PRUGRAMA SIHA
DIPATAMENTON IDUKASION
CHamoru Studies & Special Projects Division
Department of Education
501 Mariner Avenue Barrigada, GU 96913-1608
Tel: (671) 300-5048/1367

CONSENT, WAIVER, INDEMNITY and RELEASE FORM FOR PARENTS
PERMISSION TO PUBLISH CHILDREN'S IMAGES, WORKS AND IDENTIFICATION
(Please return this form signed to the GDOE CHamoru Studies & Special Projects Division via your child's CHamoru Language Teacher)

I have read and understand the purpose of the consent form and by signing this form, I **AGREE** to have my child's video and/or picture taken and images of his/her work at any activities and competitions of the Silbrasion Gupot CHamoru 2023. I also agree to have his/her name and information such as, but not limited to, grade level, school, etc. to be on, but not limited to, the following media platform: online (social media, website), print, television for the purposes and uses as stated on the letter. Furthermore, I hereby **WAIVE** any right to inspect or approve the use of the images or recordings or of any materials produced. I also waive any right to royalties, fees or other compensation arising from or related to the use of the images, recordings, or materials. I hereby release, defend and indemnify and hold harmless CHamoru Studies & Special Projects Division and its employees and the Silbrasion Gupot CHamoru 2023 Committee members from and against any claims of right of publicity or copyright infringement, or any misuse, distortion, blurring, alteration, optical illusion or use in composite form that may occur or be produced in taking, processing, reduction or production of the finished product, its publication or distribution. (initial)

I understand that risks are associated with any activity and by granting permission for my son/daughter to participate at the activities and competitions of the Silbrasion Gupot CHamoru 2023, I acknowledge that such risks exist. However, I believe that the opportunity for learning outweighs these risks and I hereby grant permission for my son/daughter to participate. I **AGREE** to release and waive, defend, indemnify and hold harmless CHamoru Studies & Special Projects Division, its employees and the Silbrasion Gupot CHamoru 2023 Committee members on any claim or legal cause of action. I further grant my full consent and authorization for my child to engage in this activity. (initial)

I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of the named student below and that I read and understood the foregoing release and waiver and that I **ALLOW** my child to participate in the activity listed below.

Name of Child: _____ Grade: _____
Name of School: _____ CHamoru Teacher: _____
Activities/Competitions: _____
Parent/Guardian's Contact Number(s): _____
Print name of Parent/Guardian _____ Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

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CHamoru Studies Waiver Samples

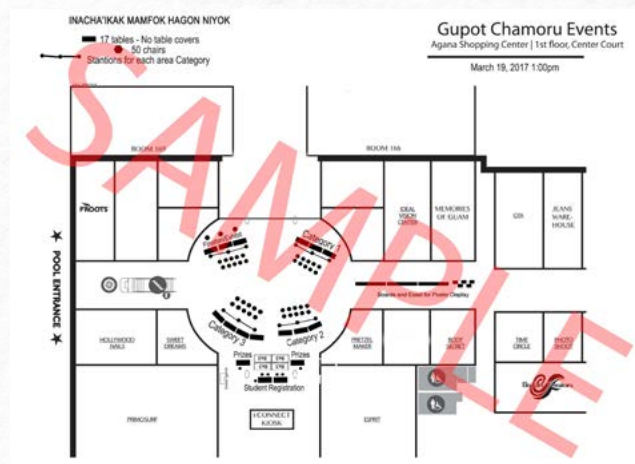
There are other Logistical requirements people should be aware of when conducting a public competition event:

- A **Fire Permit** issued by the **Guam Fire Department**. This is required whenever a public event takes place. A Fire Permit is required for every activity and must be specific for that event, one Fire Permit can NOT cover all events. Fire Permits can be required by filling out an **Operations Permit Application**.
- A **Floor Plan** must be included when filling out the Operations Permit Application.
- The **Guam Fire Department** may come out to inspect your operation/event and make on the spot inspections to dictate what needs to change or be improved upon for fire safety.
- In **Kind Donations and Forms** should be documented especially if you're operating as a recognized organization.
- If any cooking is to be done it is **HIGHLY** recommended those near and/or handling the food or supervising any children handling food to obtain a **Health Certificate from the Guam Department of Health and Social Services**. In order to obtain the Health Certificate you must go through their training course.

The image shows the 'GUAM FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS PERMIT APPLICATION' form. It includes fields for permit type (Annual, Renewal, Other), business name, address, and contact information. Below these are checkboxes for various types of permits required for different activities, such as 'Cooking', 'Flammable liquids', 'Flammable gases', etc. The form is labeled 'Page 1 of 4'.

GFD Operations Permit Application Form

[\[GFD forms link\]](#)



CHamoru Studies Sample Floor Plan

Inacha'ikak Mămfok - Coconut Leaf Weaving Competition

The Inacha'ikak Mămfok is one of our competitions where students display their skill and knowledge of weaving coconut leaves into various forms as practiced in our culture. The students are given a set of photo references of each item they would need to weave within a time limit. This event is usually conducted as a team sport with the students dividing the work of which items to weave so that they can complete the entire list within the time set. As per our rules and regulations, we've chosen to set different competing categories based on the student's grade level.

Inacha'ikak Mămfok Logistic Checklist:

- Venue and Floorplan of the Event
- Guam Fire Department Approval of event
- Ample amount of materials (coconut leaves) to have the participants weave from
- Area for the Judges to move around and observe the participants
- CHamoru Teachers and Weaving Experts for your judges
- Area for the Spectators and Audience, please make sure to set ample boundaries from the audience and the participants so no distractions can stray the participant's attention away
- Water and Refreshments for the Participants
- Trophies, Medals, or Certificates for the winners and runner-ups
- Prizes are optional but a great incentive for participation



Bailan Taotao Tãno' - Dance of Our People Competition

The Bailan Taotao Tãno' is a huge event that draws in a majority of participants as it showcases the different schools of dance our teachers have to offer, plus it's incredibly entertaining which draws in crowds. Just like with the previous event we've divided the participants into 3 categories depending on the grades they are in. We've also divided the categories the students can participate into 3 correlating time periods of CHamoru Culture: the Ancient Period, the Spanish Period, and the Contemporary Period.

Bailan Taotao Tãno' Logistic Checklist:

- Venue and Floorplan of the Event
- Guam Fire Department Approval of event
- Area for the Judges to watch
- CHamoru Dance Experts, Teachers, and Masters as Judges
- Area for the Spectators and Audience
- Water and Refreshments for the Participants
- Trophies, Medals, or Certificates for the winners and runner-ups
- Prizes are optional but a great incentive for participation



Geran Kåddon Pika - Hot and Spicy Chicken Competition

The Geran Kåddon Pika is a cooking competition where schools send a team representative of students plus a supervising coach to deliver their best Kåddon Pika, Hot and Spicy Chicken Soup, recipe within a allotted amount of time where the final product is judged by a panel of Judges. The students are also tasked in between cooking and prep times to explain their recipe and process in full CHamoru as well as have a decorated table to present their Kåddon Pika recipe.

When conducting this event please make sure that the venue has been prior approved by the Guam Fire Department. Any supervising adult on the cooking teams require an up-to-date Health Certificate from Department of Public Health and Social Services. Finally, for those participating in the event, participants **MUST** provide suitable fire extinguishers in case of an emergency when utilizing stoves. If the cooking area is not out in the open and under shelter, the cooking area **MUST NOT** be under a canopy with a flammable tarp. A cooking area with a tin roof is typically used for our events with a water source nearby. (sinks, hoses attached to faucets, etc.)



Geran Káddon Pika Logistic Checklist:

- Venue and Floorplan of the Event
- Guam Fire Department Approval of event
- Up-to-date Fire Extinguisher
- Health Certificates for the Food Preppers, if the participants are children than the surpervising coach only needs the health certificate and must be actively present to oversee the processes dealing with food
- Cooking area must NOT be under fabric tarp canopies, only tin or out in the open
- Area for the Judges
- Expert Chefs, Critics, and Elders of CHamoru culture Cuisine for your judges
- Water and Refreshments for the Participants
- Trophies, Medals, or Certificates for the winners and runner-ups
- Prizes are optional but a great incentive for participation



Silibrasion Sunidon CHamoru - CHamoru Music Festival

The Silibrasion Sunidon CHamoru is very self explanatory, it's a celebration of all CHamoru Music. We've since then turned it into a team competition as well where there is a panel of Judges that score a team representing their school in categories decided by grade. The Committee for the Sunidon CHamoru chooses a range of songs sung by masters and artists of renown and presented as choices the competitors can select from.

Sunidon CHamoru Logistic Checklist:

- Venue and Floorplan of the Event
- Guam Fire Department Approval of event
- Ample seating or space for spectators
- Masters and Experts of CHamoru Songs for the event
- Area for the Judges
- High Quality Sound System with Mics, you don't need a mic for every participant but just enough to catch all of your singers.
- Stage for the singers/competitors
- Water and Refreshments for the Participants



Inacha'ikak Yiyupåktu - Sling Throwing Competition

The Inacha'ikak Yiyupåktu is a recent competition we've added to our events thanks to the efforts of our teachers. They lead the charge to bring a more sports-like competition to the Silibrasion Gupot CHamoru alongside our Bailan Taotao Tåno'. Like the previous events, the Yiyupåktu divides team representatives of their schools into different divisions based on grades. The equipment used in the Yiyupåktu are hand woven slings and an abundant amount of Silicone made Slingstones for safety reasons, please note these will still hurt if thrown with the force of full sling throws.

Each team is tasked with hitting a target board with sectioned points at a distance with their Slings and Slingstones and they get a score based on where they hit the target. All hits are confirmed by appointed watchers at a safe distance to see where each slingstone impacts which area of the board. The target is usually a square wooden board propped up slightly slanted with wooden beams. It's recommended to have ample support because the force of the slingstones have been known to knock the boards down. Painted on the board are round targets with the center being the most points you can earn on a throw and an outer layer being less.

An important note as well is to have quick slingstone retrievers behind the targets far enough not to get hit, but close enough to retrieve the silicone slingstones.



Yiyupåkto Logistics Checklist:

- Scoring Targets
- Slingstone Equipment: Slings and Silicone Slingstones(lots of these)
- Target Counters, dedicated people to watch when and where the targets gets hit and how many points are accumulated
- Dedicated teams to retrieve slingstones that miss the targets
- Location/Floor Plan of where the targets are located, where the Slingers are positioned, and where the audience may safely watch.
- First-Aid kit and First Aid certified person in case of injuries
- Trophies, Medals, or Certificates for the winners and runner-ups
- Prizes are optional but a great incentive for participation
- Water and Refreshments for the Participants



Tinanña Fina'tinas Se'pe - CHamoru Food Tasting

The Tinanña Fina'tinas Se'pe is a public showcase and tasting of various CHamoru Culture dishes. Each school that signs up to participate is in charge of one dish whether that'd be a snack, entrée, drink, or dessert. All dishes presented are divided into carryable easy-to-eat portions and completely free of charge to participants.

It is very important that any person handling food and giving it out to the community, especially to our kids and parents, that they possess an up-to-date Health Certificate from DPHSS. It's also important that any venue and public event **MUST** be approved by the Guam Fire Department and deemed safe as per the fire code.

Tinanña Logistics Checklist:

- Menu of what foods will be served
- Health Certificates for the food preppers
- Floor Plan of the event
- Guam Fire Department Approval of event
- Ease of Access to throw trash away
- Sanitizers, Gloves, Masks, etc



Conclusion and Final Remarks

We'd like to close out with our utmost gratitude for taking the time to read through this playbook and that you'd walk away with some inspiration to take part in our island's continuous effort to revitalize our indigenous language of CHamoru.

Without you, our elders, our CHamoru Teachers, and the new generation of potential speakers our language would have died a long time ago, so let's aim to make our endangered language into a sustained one for many more generations to come.

The CHamoru Language is the CHamoru Culture so let's keep it alive.

Sen Dangkolo na Si Yuy'os Ma'åse'!

– Dibisión Inestudion CHamoru
yan Espesiāt na Prugrama Siha

