



COMMISSION ON DECOLONIZATION

Sen Guaiya Hao Guåhan 2017 Youth Conference Recap

The *Sen Guaiya Hao Guåhan 2017 Youth Conference* was held on April 27 & 28, 2017 at the Guam Museum and the University of Guam. The conference was co-sponsored by the University of Guam Division of Social Work, Chamorro Studies, and School of Education; GALA, Inc., Inetnon Gef Pa'go, and the Commission on Decolonization.

The conference was structured after the youth empowerment model; it was *for* youth facilitated *by* youth. Nearly 150 of our island's high school students were in attendance to discuss important issues pertaining to the island. Some of the topics discussed were: decolonization and political status options, identity, environmental issues of the island, the role of cultural arts in promoting and perpetuating CHamoru customs and culture, the CHamoru language, the lived experiences of a young CHamoru and Micronesian woman, and lastly, barriers our LGBTQI youth populations face today.

Throughout the course of the two day conference, assigned scribes had been documenting statements and sentiments of the youths in attendance which was then used to create a resolution that we would like to present to you at your convenience. We quickly found that this platform was the first of its kind for many of our youths to express themselves; particularly with the LGBTQI population, which resulted in a very powerful and inspiring conference.

The resolution serves as a statement from the youths in attendance whereby they are advocating for what they feel, need, and have experienced.

With wishes for a productive meeting!

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