

GUBETNUN GWÁHAN
UFISINAN MAGA' LAHI
HAGÁTÑA, GWÁHAN

GOVERNMENT OF GUAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AGANA, GUAM

IKSEKITIBU NA OTDIN NUMIRU

78-26

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.

I UTUGRAFIYAN CHAMORRO ZAN I AREKLAMENTO-ÑA
CHAMORRO ORTHOGRAPHY AND RULES

KOMU, I CHAMORRO I PROPIYU NA FINIHU' GWÁHAN ZAN I ISLAS MARIANAS SIHA;
ZAN.....Whereas, Chamorro is the indigenous language of Guam and the Marianas
Islands; and

KOMU, I FINIHU' CHAMORRO MARIKUNISA UFISIYATMENTI ZAN MAFA'LAYI KOMU
UNU GI UFISIYÁT NA FINIHU' SIHA GIZA GWÁHAN; ZAN.....Whereas, the Chamorro
language has been officially recognized and codified as one of the official
languages of Guam; and

KOMU, I SISTEMAN NA TINIGI' CHAMORRO TÁZA' NA MANA'KLÁRU I MARIPRISINTÁ-ÑA
GI TINIGI'; ZAN.....Whereas, the Chamorro writing system has never been explicitly
delineated in any official form; and

KOMU, TÁZA' UFISIYÁT NA AREKLU HUMUZUNG MEGAY NA KLÁSI ZAN DIFIRENTIS
TINIGI' MANMA'USA; ZAN.....Whereas, the lack of any official rules has resulted
in inconsistent usage and form; and

KOMU, PÁ'GU NA TEMPU MEGAY MANMÁMANGGI' MADALALALAKI I HINASSUN-NIHA ZAN
I PETSUNÁT NA HISTILU-NIHA ZANGGIN MANMÁNGGI' GI FINIHU' CHAMORRO; ZAN.....Whereas,
at the present time most writers follow their own intuition and personalized style
when writing in Chamorro; and

KOMU, I MARIANAS ORTHOGRAPHY COMMITTEE HA ADOPTA I SISTEMAN MADILITREHA
GI MIT NWEBI SIYENTU SITENTAY UNU NA SÁKAN; ZAN.....Whereas, the Marianas Orthography
Committee adopted a spelling system in 1971; and

KOMU, I SISTEMAN MANDILITREHA MA'U'USA PÁ'GU GI BILINGUAL EDUCATION NA PRUGRÁMA GI ISKWELAN GWÁHAN ZAN GI SANLAGU NA ISLAS MARIANAS; ZAN.....Whereas, this spelling system is currently being used by the bilingual education programs in schools on Guam and the Northern Marianas Islands; and

KOMU, ASTA PÁ'GU NA FECHA TÁZA' UFISIYÁT NA UTUGRAFIYA MA'ADOPTA; ZAN.....Whereas, to date, no official orthography has been adopted; and

KOMU, PRISISU NA UMA'ISTAPBLESU UN UFISIYÁT ZAN UNIFOTMI NA UTUGRAFIYAN CHAMORRO PARA UMA'ASIGURA UN KLÁSIN TINIGI' HA' GI FINIHU' CHAMORRO; ZAN.....Whereas, an official standard Chamorro orthography should be adopted to assure uniformity in the use of the Chamorro language; and

KOMU, I CHAMORRO LANGUAGE COMMISSION HA'ISTUDIYÁZI, HA'ANALISA, ZAN HADISKUTI ÁPMAM NA TEMPU TODU I GWAHA ZAN DIFIRENTIS NA TINIGI' GI FINIHU' CHAMORRO PARA UMALAKNUS UNUHA'NA SISTEMAN TINIGI' GI FINIHU' CHAMORRO; ZAN.....Whereas, the Chamorro Language Commission has devoted numerous months and countless hours, past attempts and proposals to systemize the Chamorro writing system; and

KOMU, I CHAMORRO LANGUAGE COMMISSION HA PRESENTA GI AS MAGA'LÁHI UN SISTEMA ZAN I GUMACHUCHUNGI NA AREKLAMENTU SIHA NI MUNA'ANUK HÁFA DIPUTSI I CHAMORRO NA FINIHU' ZAN PARA UMANALIBIYÁNU MA'USÁ-ÑA ZAN MAFANAGWI'ÑA GI ISKWELA SIHA; ZAN.....Whereas, the Chamorro Language Commission has presented the Governor with a system and a set of rules that they feel is reflective of Chamorro and will facilitate its use and teaching in the schools; and

KOMU ESTA MUNAZAN HU ISTUDIYA I RIKUMINDASIYON I CHAMORRO LANGUAGE COMMISSION ZA HU APREBA I MAPRUPONI;.....Whereas, I have reviewed the recommendation of the Chamorro Language Commission and concur with their proposal;

PWES, PUT ESTI SIHA NA RASON, GWÁHU SI RICARDO J. BORDALLO, MAGA'LÁHIN GWÁHAN PUT I UTURIDÁT NI MANA'I' ZU' GININ I ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM NI MA'AMENDI HU OTDIN NA UMA'ADOPTA SIGUN GI MATUGI' GWINI "I CHAMORRO NA UTUGRAFIYA ZAN AREKLAMENTO-ÑA":.....Now, Therefore, I, RICARDO J. BORDALLO, Governor of Guam, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Organic Act of Guam, as amended, do hereby order the adoption of the following "Chamorro Orthography and Rules":

1.0 Letters of the Alphabet

1.1 The alphabetic symbols of the new Chamorro orthography will be as follows:

a, á, b, ch, d, e, f, g, h, i, ' , k, l, m, n, ñ, ng, o, p, r, s, t, u, w, y, ʒ.

1.2 The letters C, J, ll, Q, rr, V, X and Z will be used in the spelling of proper names only.

1.3 The Chamorro alphabet is called atfabetu and is composed of twenty-six (26) letters, six (6) vowels and twenty (20) consonants.

For uniformity and consistency it should be read as follows:

a, á, ba, cha, da, e, fa, ga, ha, i, glota ('), ka, la, ma, na, ña, nga, o, pa, ra, sa, ta, u, wa, ya, ʒa.

2.0 Common Words and Proper Names

2.1 Common words (all words other than proper names) should be written or spelled as they are pronounced in accordance with the Chamorro letters of the alphabet adopted in this orthography.

2.2 All proper names (person and place) may retain their original traditional spelling. All agencies and departments associated with the Government of Guam should phase in systematically the new system in accordance with accurate Chamorro pronunciation in all signs and place names. Personal names may be altered by the individual to conform to the new system in accordance with a procedure organized and acceptable to the Government and the courts that will be at a nominal cost.

3.0 Foreign Words

3.1 Foreign words or borrowed words that are newly introduced and are not yet naturalized as Chamorro words may be written as they are spelled in the language where they are borrowed. They should be underlined or italicized when printed.

3.2 The following examples are given:

	<u>UNDERLINED</u>	<u>ITALIZED</u>
English	<u>airport, stereo, coach</u>	<i>airport, stereo, coach</i>
Italian	<u>pizza pie, spaghetti</u>	<i>pizza, i.e. spaghetti</i>
French	<u>Bon voyage, grand prix, papier mache</u>	<i>bon voyage, grand prix, papier mache</i>
Latin	<u>Habeas corpus, modus operandi</u>	<i>habeas corpus, modus operandi</i>

4.0 Capitalization

4.1 The conventional practice of capitalization should be followed, e.g., proper names of persons and places, and words at the beginning of a sentence, pronouns relating to the divinity, names of months of the year and days of the weeks.

4.2 The affixed forms of proper names shall be capitalized.

For example:

-um-	+	Atoigue	=	umAtoigue
-in-	+	Atoigue	=	inAtoigue
man-	+	Chamorro	=	manChamorro
man-	+	Juan	=	manJuan

5.0 Distinctive Sound

5.1 The sounds of a.

The two distinctive sounds of /a/ and /ae/ are represented by two separate letters in the alphabet. The letter /a/ should be used to represent the sound in baba 'open' and â in bâba 'bad'.

5.2 The sound of z.

5.2.1 The symbol z (3 with a tail) should be used in the alphabet to represent the sound /z/ as zan, 'and' zulang 'destroy', zabaw 'slash'.

5.2.2 The traditional symbol or letter y for the /z/ sound should be used to represent the sound in yoyo, yoga, yamaha, yogurt, New York, Tokyo, Yokoi, etc., which are already part of the vocabulary of Chamorro.

6.0 The Diphthongs

The diphthongs in the Chamorro writing system should be represented as a sequence of a vowel and a semi-consonant/semi-vowel. This interpretation precludes any occurrences of (vowel/vowel) in the language.

6.1 The diphthong aw will be used to represent the sound traditionally represented by ao or sometimes au as in taotao, or tautau (person), haohao or hauhau (to bark), saosao or sawsaw, respectively.

6.2 The diphthongs ay and oy will be used to represent the sound traditionally represented by ai and oi respectively, as in taitai (to read) and hagoi (pond). These will be written as taytay and hagoy.

6.3 The speech forms traditionally written as ea, ia, io and iu, as in manea (manage), ispia (to look for) aksion (action) and tiu (uncle) will be written as eya, iya, and iyu, as in maneya, ispiya, aksiyon and tiyu, respectively. However, aksiyon and similar words such as grasiya (grace) and istoriya (history) may be pronounced as aksyon, grasya and istorya, respectively.

The dialect forms for the same words may be written as maneha, ispiha and tihu, respectively.

7.0 The Glottal Stop (')

7.1 The glottal stop to be called glota in the proposed orthography (represented by a raised comma') should be a part of the new spelling system and should be written wherever it occurs, except at the beginning of words where its occurrence is predictable. The following examples illustrate the glota in the new writing system, in contrast with other words without the glota. For example:

bâ'ba'	'sterile seed'	bâba	'bad'
ba'ba'	'whip'	baba	'open'
nâ'i	'give'	nay	thematic word
sâ'u	'weave net'	sâwsaw	'wipe'

7.2 In alphabetizing word, the glota /'/ should be considered except in initial position. For example:

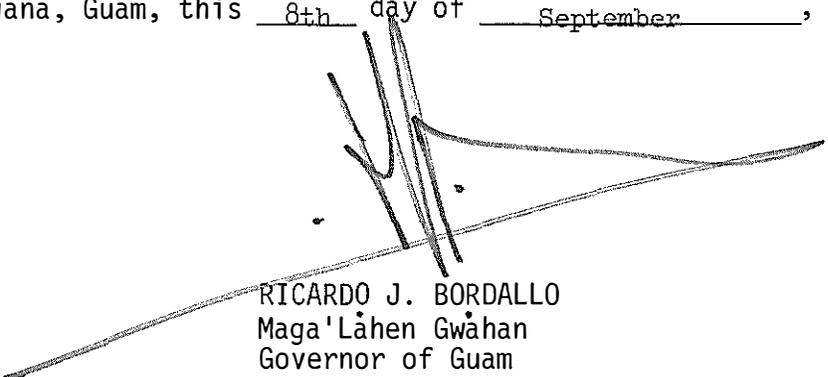
baba	'open'	bâbu	'low area'
bâha'	'droop'	bâ'ba	'sterile seed'
ba'ba	'whip'	bâkulu	'crutch'
bakbak	'wide mouth'		
bâba	'bad'		

8.0 Illustration

<u>ALPHABETIC SYMBOL</u>	<u>PHONETIC SYMBOL</u>	<u>CHAMORRO WORDS New Spelling</u>	<u>ENGLISH EQUIVALENT</u>
a	a	baba	open
â	â	bâba	bad
b	b	bula	full
ch	ch (ts)	chichi'	grin
d	d	dâkdak	knock
e	e	echung	crooked
f	f	foffu	snort
g	g	gâ'ga'	animal
h	h	hânum	water
i	i	igi	excel
'	'	lji'i'	see
k	k	kâ'ka'	crack
l	l	lâgu	north
m	m	mâta	eye

<u>ALPHABETIC SYMBOL</u>	<u>PHONETIC SYMBOL</u>	<u>CHAMORRO WORDS New Spelling</u>	<u>ENGLISH EQUIVALENT</u>
n	n	nāna	mother
ñ	ñ	ñānu'	dull
ng	ng	ngāngas	chew
o	o	oksu'	hill
p	p	pugwa'	beetlenut
r	r	rilos	watch
s	s	sāga	stay
t	t	tāta	father
u	u	ulu	head
w	w	tāwtaw	person
y	y	yoga	yoga
z	z	zan	and

HU FITMA ZAN HU DIKLĀRA GIZA HAGATNA, GWĀHAN, GWINI GI Ochu
 DIYA GI Septembre, MIT NWEBI SIYENTUS SITENTAY OCHU NA SAKAN.....
 Signed and promulgated at Agana, Guam, this 8th day of September,
 1978.


 RICARDO J. BORDALLO
 Maga'Lāhen Gwāhan
 Governor of Guam

KONTRAFITMA:
 COUNTERSIGNED:


 RUDOLPH G. SABLAN
 Sigundo Maga'Lāhen Gwāhan
 Lieutenant Governor