



# Indigenous Affairs Office

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## About IAO

- coordinate the development, distribution, adoption and translation of a comprehensive history of the Marianas.
- ensure local participation in executive managerial decision-making in the government and private sector.
- assist and promote local entrepreneurial development.
- establish a community foundation for the advancement of the indigenous people.
- coordinate the translation and distribution of such official documents as the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Covenant and the analyses thereof.

- plan for the establishment of the Indigenous Cultural Center and the Indigenous Hall of Fame.
- coordinate an annual cultural festival.
- develop and implement a long-range plan to assist and promote the entry of the indigenous people into professional and technical institutions of higher education.
- serve as an advocate of positions taken by indigenous people on issues brought before them.

**Guma' Sakman**, Katan Uda



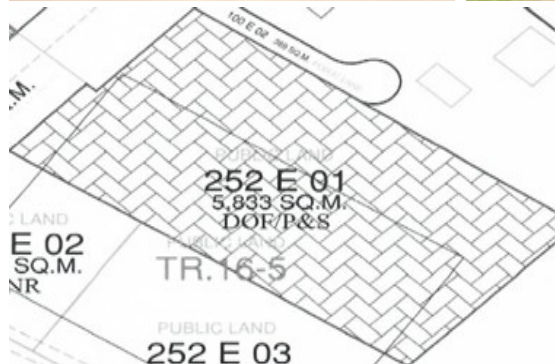
**500 Sails Boat Yard**, Lower Base



Proposed **Indigenous Cultural Center**



**Indigenous Affairs Office, Capitol Hill**



# Programa Siha:



On January 29, 2020, Governor Ralph DLG Torres issued Executive Order 2020-01 declaring a state of significant emergency and public health emergency due to COVID-19. Before the declaration, the budget of IAO was intact until March of 2020. In February of 2020, a Notice of Non-standard Work Week was 64 hours. Due to the reduction of work hours, implementation of established programs were suspended to accommodate the reduction of work hours, implementation of established programs were suspended to accommodate the reduction of work hours, implementation of established programs were suspended to accommodate the reduction of work hours. Nonetheless, we managed to partner with various non-government organizations (NGOs) such as the CNMI Farmers Cooperative Association, Tinian Cattle Crop Association to try to establish an entrepreneurship program. The idea was to assist indigenous peoples in a start-up of a value-added production through their respective organizations and to apply for federal grants. Through this partnership, IAO was able to apply for a grant titled *Value-Added Production and Cultural Marketing Strategies* in the amount of \$154,846.63 for value-added equipment. The grant applied was from the Technical Assistance Program offered by the Department of Interior. Unfortunately, the grant application was not awarded.



IAO also partnered with 500 Sails to revive a Chamorro revival of the Sakman or *flying proa* and other maritime activities were recommendations from the IAO's 2017 Chamorro and Carolinian Identity Conference. The Sakman project and maritime classes played a vital role in the two (2) Department of Public Lands (DPL) to IAO. The properties were approved for the following purposes; 1) to assist and promote local entrepreneurial development 2) establishment of a new people 3) to develop and of the indigenous people into The establishment of the Mari-currently a 500 Sails boatyard building and other maritime

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Sanctuary Inc., an the Saipan, Tinian, assisted with re-The collaboration throughout Guam, Rota for two presentation in



NGO out of Guam also collaborated with IAO to coordinate and Rota Inafa'maolek Manhoben Marianas' participants. IAO recruitment, program schedules, and two months coordination. established a wonderful partnership with 21 youths, 9 mentors, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. The youth camp was conducted in weeks. IAO did 5 weeks of presentations and a weekend Rota.

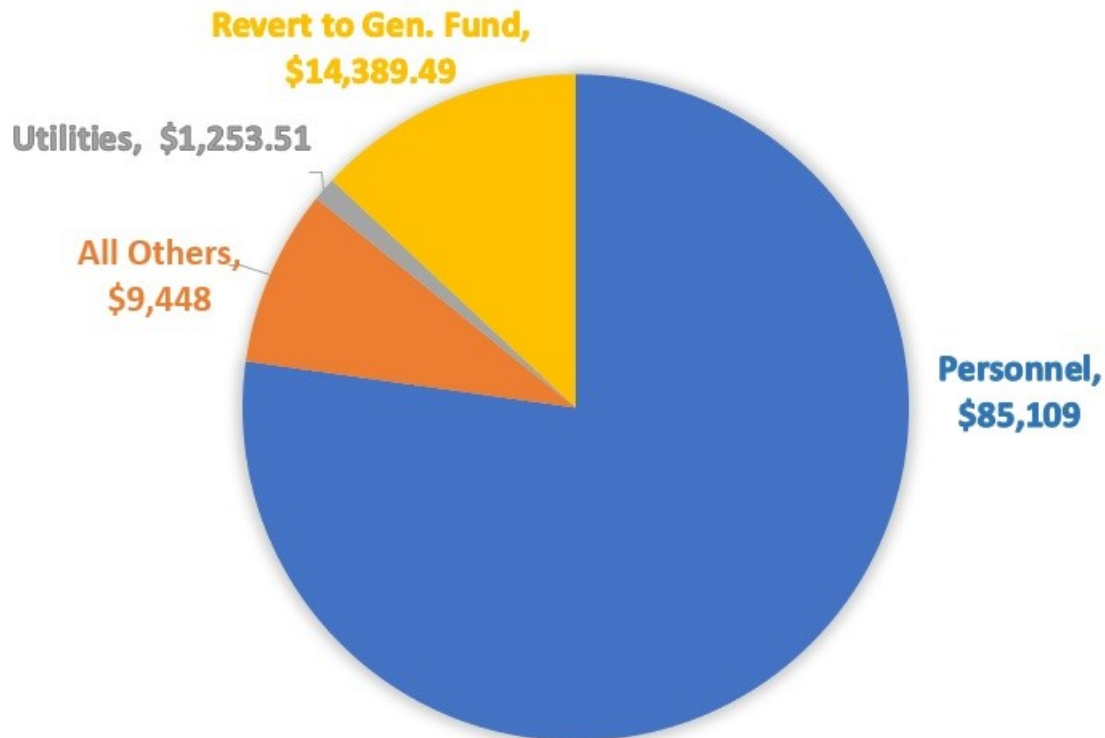
As we enter the early stages of the pandemic and the introduction of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), we were faced with the dilemma of insinuating Directives on social distancing and public safety. For the safety of IAO personnel, public health safety, budget reduction, and consideration of operational fundings, IAO's annual public activities for the fiscal year 2021 were not implemented. tion was sufficient for administrative operations to work with our partners administratively, conlar office operation and try to complete some of tratively such as preparing a digital format of the Chamorro language for printing and archiving for ministrative collaborations were the inter-lighting, NMC-CREES Maga'lahi Summer Camp Money Management Program, Inetnun Amut yan terly working sessions and meetings, information ous peoples visiting and or contacting the office, and taking reservations for the usage of the Sengsong Chamorro thatch houses in Susupe. With the current Governor's Executive Orders and insinuating Directives, we try to work on Article III Section 23(b) accordingly.



The budget for operation only. Therefore, we try to continue maintaining the mandates administrative CNMI constitution in distribution. Other administrative government Christmas Program and Youth Kutturán Natibu quarantine and referral of indigenous

# Fainansiat:

## PUBLIC LAW 21-35 \$110,200



The fiscal year 2021 expenditures were focused on administrative functions and programs. Governor's directives and public health safety dictated our ability to conduct public outreach and all established annual IAO programs. The personnel expenditure was for 3 individuals at \$85,109 as budgeted. IAO was budgeted \$18,091 for operations and \$7,000 for utilities. However, FY21 actual expenditures were at \$9,448 for operations and \$1,253.51 for utilities. As a result of conservation efforts, a total of \$14,389.49 and the relief of established public outreach due to the pandemic were reverted to the general fund.

# **Intension para I mamamaila’:**

## **1. Program expansion to Tinian and Rota**

- a) Chamorro language studies through media platforms
- b) Indigenous Cultural Expo and mini-expo
- c) Traditional medicine workshops
- d) Dialogue for the Draft Fanihi Recovery Plan of 2009
- e) Native medicinal garden for Tinian
- f) Offer Maritime Training programs through partnership with 500 Sails
- g) Conference and workshops

## **2. Structures**

- a) Construct more traditional Guma’ Higail’s at Sengsong Chamorro in Civic Center.
- b) Traditional thatch houses at Latte sites if funding permits
- c) Partner with DPW & OGM to seek funding for Maga’lahi statues with interpretive devices throughout CNMI.
- d) Construction of “Naftan I Tasi(Lost at Sea)” monument.
- e) Establishment of the Indigenous Cultural Center at Civic Center, Susupe.
- f) Erecting of more Guma’ Higail’s along public beaches.

## **3. Beautification and Accessibility**

- a) Partner with HPO & MVA to develop an educational area at Latte sites on Saipan

## **4. Continue applying for available Federal Grants**

## **5. As mandated in Article III Section 23(b) of the CNMI Constitution:**

- a) Seek funding for professional service to coordinate the development, distribution and translation of a comprehensive history of the Marianas,
- b) Advocate for more hiring of indigenous people in government and businesses
- c) Seek funding for future entrepreneurship workshops, training and start-ups through non-profit organization partners
- d) Establish canoe festival