



Diaspora Community Report
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*Note this data excludes respondents who did not affirm consent (“No” to Q1), who explicitly denied having Chamorro ancestry (“No” to Q2), and who explicitly denied spending more than half the year in Guam (“Yes” to Q24). Respondents who skipped Q2 and Q24 were included in this analysis.

¹ Joseph S. Roberto is a CHamoru born from Guam. He is a 3rd year student at Hawaii Pacific University where he is double majoring in International Studies and Political Science. Joseph is interested in empowering CHamoru & Pacific Island identities in social structures, and is also interested in human rights and migration/diaspora patterns. As a passionate and caring advocate, he hopes to pursue a legal education to protect the interests of marginalized communities in the Pacific

Introduction

As mentioned in the main community report, this survey was conceived narrowly as a response to a 2019 U.S. Ninth Circuit court decision, which concluded that a CHamoru-only nonbinding plebiscite in Guåhan would violate the Fifteenth Amendment of the U.S. constitution (which prohibits discrimination on the basis of “race, color, or previous condition of servitude”). Given the legal restrictions on formal state mechanisms to capture the voices of CHamorus in Guåhan, and given the lack of up-to-date data on what CHamorus in Guåhan want for their political future, the co-Principal Investigators decided to focus on everyday residents who (1) identify as “Chamorro” or other cognate terms; (2) are age 18 or above; and (3) are full-time residents of Guåhan.

We recognize that criteria (3) is problematic and exclusionary for at least two reasons. First, CHamorus are Indigenous to the Mariana Islands (comprising *both* Guåhan and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands). By focusing on Guåhan, this survey seemingly reinforces artificial divides between CHamorus living in Guåhan and CHamorus living in CNMI. Second, CHamorus—like other Pacific Islander communities—are diasporic in nature, with many CHamorus living in the continental US, Hawai’i, across Oceania, and beyond. By focusing on CHamoru residents of Guåhan, this survey also seemingly denies the diasporic, mobile nature of Pacific peoples.

We deeply regret any pain that criteria (3) may have caused, and our intention was certainly not to reinforce these harmful tropes. Our intention behind establishing criteria (3) was not only to fill in knowledge gaps in the context of legal restrictions on a CHamoru-only nonbinding plebiscite, but also to restrict the scope of the study more generally. This restricted geographical scope allowed us the capacity to build intentional, long-term relationships with our community stakeholders, who were incorporated as partners in the design of the survey; and to build long-term mentorships with our CHamoru-majority research assistants, who are incorporated as partners in the execution and analysis of the survey findings. It also allowed us to make sure that we could compensate everyone on our CHamoru-majority team, under a very limited budget (raised solely by a PhD candidate, through grants from MIT). Expanding the survey to include either CNMI and/or the rest of the US would have severely constrained our capacity to build relationships and hold ourselves accountable. Thus, we decided to focus squarely on Guåhan, to ensure that we could meet our own ethical standards and commitments.

However, while we included criteria (3) in our survey outreach efforts, we did not restrict anybody from taking the survey. Very quickly, it became clear that diasporic CHamorus also wanted to have their voices heard: despite limited promotion outside of Guåhan, 45 diasporic CHamorus participated in this survey. Their responses are summarized in this diaspora community report.

Limitations of this Survey Data

This study relies on convenience and snowball samples and does not approximate a representative sample of the CHamoru population in Guam. While the results are not statistically generalizable, they nonetheless offer a partial portrait of what everyday CHamorus in Guam think and want for their futures, and serve to provide a baseline dataset to facilitate community dialogue around the question of CHamoru self-determination.

Results

Q1. Do you consent to participating in this survey and confirm that you self-identify as Chamorro, are at least 18 years or older, and currently residing in Guam?

	Frequency
Yes	45

Q2. Are you of Chamorro ancestry?

	Frequency
Yes	45

Q3a-Q3h. Do you self-identify with one or more of these groups? Please check all that apply.

	Frequency
American	5
Chamorro	35
Chamoru (CH)	27
Chamoru (small H)	20
Guamanian	8
Guamanian American	3
Chamorro-American	6
Native Inhabitant of Guam	8
Other	2

Q4. What village do you live in?

	Frequency	Percent*
Assan-Ma'ina (Asan-Maina)	1	2.63
Barigáda (Barrigada)	1	2.63
Chálan Págu-Otdot (Chalan Pago-Ordot)	0	0.00
Dedidu (Dededo)	3	7.89
Hâgat (Agat)	1	2.63
Hagâtña	4	10.53
Humâtak (Umatac)	1	2.63
Inalâhan (Inarajan)	3	7.89
Mangilao	1	2.63
Malesso (Merizo)	0	0.00
Mongmong-Toto-Maite	4	10.53
Piti	1	2.63
Santa Rita/Sumay	2	5.26
Sinahânña (Sinajana)	1	2.63

Talo'fo'fo (Talofofo)	0	0.00
Tamuning/Tumon/Harmon	6	15.79
Tutuhan (Agana Heights)	0	0.00
Yigo	3	7.89
Yo'ña	6	15.79
Total	38	99.98

Q5. In your opinion, what does being Chamorro mean to you?

[OPEN-ENDED]

*All open-ended responses can be found at guamstudy.org.

Q6. How do you express your Chamorro identity?

[OPEN-ENDED]

Q7. In your opinion, what are the three most important issues facing the Chamorro community today?

[OPEN-ENDED]

Q8a-Q8f. The next questions are about your Chamorro identity.

For each statement, please tell us if you strongly agree, agree, neither agree or disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree.

Q8a. I have spent time trying to find out more about Chamorro history, traditions, and culture.

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	30	66.67
Agree	9	20.00
Neither Agree or Disagree	3	6.67
Disagree	2	4.44
Strongly Disagree	0	0.00
Don't Know	1	2.22
Total	45	100.00

Q8b. I am active in Chamorro organizations, social events or cultural activities.

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	12	26.67
Agree	15	33.33
Neither Agree or Disagree	15	33.33
Disagree	1	2.22
Strongly Disagree	1	2.22
Don't Know	1	2.22
Total	45	99.99

Q8c. I feel good about my Chamorro identity.

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	32	71.11
Agree	9	20.00
Neither Agree or Disagree	2	4.44
Disagree	1	2.22
Strongly Disagree	1	2.22
Don't Know	0	0.00
Total	45	99.99

Q8d. I have a deep sense of belonging to my Chamorro community.

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	28	62.22
Agree	11	24.44
Neither Agree or Disagree	5	11.11
Disagree	0	0.00
Strongly Disagree	1	2.22
Total	45	99.99

Q8e. I have a deep sense of belonging to America.

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	9	20.00
Agree	11	24.44
Neither Agree or Disagree	8	17.78
Disagree	8	17.78
Strongly Disagree	8	17.78
Don't Know	1	2.22
Total	45	100.00

Q8f. I struggle with balancing my Chamorro identity w/other identities (e.g. American, Servicemember).

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	4	8.89
Agree	5	11.11
Neither Agree or Disagree	10	22.22
Disagree	11	24.44
Strongly Disagree	15	33.33
Don't Know	0	0.00
Total	45	99.99

Q9. Thinking back to elementary, middle, or high school, were you offered Chamorro language courses? *

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	27	60.00
No	17	37.78
Don't Know	0	0
Total	44	97.78

Q10. Thinking back to elementary, middle, or high school, were you taught Chamorro culture and history?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	31	68.89
No	13	28.89
Don't Know	0	0.00
Total	44	97.18

Q11. Do you consider Guåhan to be occupied by the United States?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	35	77.78
No	10	22.22
Don't Know	0	0.00
Total	45	100.00

Q12. Do you support the construction of the US military firing range at Camp Blaz/above Litekyan (Ritidian)?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	6	13.33
No	34	75.56
Don't Know	5	11.11
Total	45	100.00

Q13. How important is it to you that sacred places are protected and accessible?

	Frequency	Percent
Extremely Important	37	82.22
Very Important	2	4.44
Somewhat Important	5	11.11
Not so Important	1	2.22
Not at all Important	1	2.22
Total	45	102.21

Q14a-14h. In the past year, what kinds of political activities have you engaged in? Check all that apply.

	Frequency	Percent
Internet Petition	29	24.78
Social Media Message	29	24.78
Political rally, protest, demonstration	13	11.11
Civil Disobedience	2	1.70
Policy Advocacy	15	12.82
Public Education and Outreach	12	10.25
Community organizing or people power	13	11.11
Mutual Aid Funds	4	3.41

Q15a-15d. The next questions are about how you feel about government. For each statement, please tell us if you strongly agree, agree, neither agree or disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree.

Q15a. I feel that public officials in the Government of Guam care about what I have to say.

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	0	0
Agree	6	13.33
Neither Agree or Disagree	24	53.33
Disagree	5	11.11
Strongly Disagree	5	11.11
Don't Know	5	11.11
Total	45	99.99

Q15b. I can affect what the Government of Guam does.

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	3	6.67
Agree	9	20.00
Neither Agree or Disagree	18	40.00
Disagree	7	15.56
Strongly Disagree	6	13.33
Don't Know	2	4.44
Total	45	100.00

Q15c. I feel that public officials in the US federal government care about what I have to say.

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	2	4.54
Agree	3	6.81
Neither Agree or Disagree	10	22.72
Disagree	13	29.54
Strongly Disagree	13	29.54
Don't Know	3	6.81
Total	44	99.96

Q15d. I can affect what the US federal government does in Guam.

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	3	6.81
Agree	2	4.54
Neither Agree or Disagree	11	25.00
Disagree	12	27.27
Strongly Disagree	14	31.81
Don't Know	2	4.54
Total	44	99.97

Q16. If you were asked to vote on the political future of Guåhan, what options might you choose? [Check all that apply]

	Frequency	Percent
Statehood	14	26.41
Free Association	20	37.73
Independence	19	35.85
Total	53	99.99

Q17. If you had to vote today on Guåhan's political future, how would you vote, choose only one?

	Frequency	Percent
Statehood	8	18.60
Free Association	10	23.26
Independence	12	27.91
No Preference	5	11.63
Don't Know	8	18.60
Total	43	100.00

Q18. When you think about self-determination, what are the first three things that come to mind?

[OPEN-ENDED]

Q19. When you think about self-determination, what comes to mind as things that you are hopeful and excited about?

[OPEN-ENDED]

Q20. Do you support, oppose, or neither support or oppose the US military paying rent to Guåhan to lease the land for US military bases?

	Frequency	Percent
Support	26	59.10
Oppose	7	15.56
Neither support or oppose	11	25.00
Total	44	99.66

Q21. As a US citizen in Guåhan, do you feel that you have the same rights as US Citizens who are residents of one of the fifty states?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	9	21.43
No	30	71.43
Unsure	3	7.14
Total	42	100.00

Q22. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: ONLY the “Native inhabitants of Guam” (per the 1950 Organic Act of Guam) have the fundamental human right to vote for the future status of Guåhan?

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	15	34.10
Agree	7	15.91
Neither Agree or Disagree	10	22.72
Disagree	5	11.36
Strongly Disagree	4	9.10
Don't Know	3	6.81
Total	44	100.00

Q23a. If Guåhan became a freely associated state, the national security of Guåhan would increase.

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	3	6.67
Agree	6	13.33
Neither Agree or Disagree	11	24.44
Disagree	9	20.00
Strongly Disagree	7	15.56
Don't Know	9	20.00
Total	45	100.001

Q23b. If Guåhan became a freely associated state, high quality jobs on Guåhan would increase.

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	1	2.22
Agree	5	11.11
Neither Agree or Disagree	14	31.11
Disagree	10	22.22
Strongly Disagree	6	13.33
Don't Know	9	20.00
Total	45	99.99

Q23c. If Guåhan became an independent nation, the national security of Guåhan would increase.

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	5	11.36
Agree	3	6.81
Neither Agree or Disagree	9	20.45
Disagree	13	29.55
Strongly Disagree	7	15.91
Don't Know	7	15.91
Total	44	99.99

Q23d. If Guåhan became an independent nation, high quality jobs on Guåhan would increase.

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	5	11.36
Agree	5	11.36
Neither Agree or Disagree	7	15.91
Disagree	9	20.45
Strongly Disagree	9	20.45
Don't Know	9	20.45
Total	44	99.98

Q23e. If Guåhan became a US state, the national security of Guåhan would increase.

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	13	29.55
Agree	14	31.81
Neither Agree or Disagree	6	13.64
Disagree	4	9.10
Strongly Disagree	1	2.27
Don't Know	6	13.63
Total	44	100.00

Q23f. If Guåhan became a US state, high quality jobs on Guåhan would increase.

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	6	13.94
Agree	12	27.91
Neither Agree or Disagree	12	27.91
Disagree	3	6.98
Strongly Disagree	3	6.98
Don't Know	7	16.28
Total	43	100.00

Q24. Do you spend more than half of the year living outside of Guåhan?

	Frequency
Yes	45

25. If you said YES to Q24. Please provide the country and state. Otherwise skip to Question 26.

[OPEN-ENDED]

26. What is your age?

Age Groups	Frequency	Percent
18-24	11	24.44
25-34	8	17.78
35-44	9	20.00
45-54	6	13.33
55-64	8	17.78
65-74	1	2.22
75+	2	4.44
Total	45	99.99

Q27. What is the highest level of education you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

	Frequency	Percent
Less than high school	0	0.00
High School degree or GED	4	8.89
Some college but no degree	13	28.89
Associate Degree	6	13.33
Bachelor's Degree	11	24.44
Graduate Degree	11	24.44
Total	45	99.99

Q28. Are you currently employed? *

	Frequency	Percent
Yes, part-time	19	42.22
Yes, full time	9	20.00
No	11	24.44
Retired or Disabled	6	13.33
Total	45	99.99

Q29. Do you have any children?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes, all over 18	8	17.77
Yes, one or more under 18	12	26.67
No	25	55.56
Total	45	100.00

Q30. If you are multiracial, please list any other racial or ethnic groups that you belong to.

[OPEN-ENDED]

Q20. How do you describe your gender identity?

	Frequency	Percent
Female	24	51.06
Male	20	42.55
Other	3	6.39
Total	47	100.00

Note: Responses for “Transgender,” “Gender Queer/Non-Binary” and “Other” were aggregated for purposes of confidentiality.

32. All things considered, how satisfied are you with your life as whole these days?

	Frequency	Percent
Very Satisfied	14	32.56
Satisfied	22	51.16
Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied	4	9.30
Dissatisfied	2	4.65
Very Dissatisfied	1	2.32
Total	43	97.99

Q33. Thank you again for your help and time. Is there anything else you'd like to share with us about how you think about being Chamorro or this survey?

[OPEN-ENDED]