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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Press Release

PUBLIC INPUT NEEDED FOR THE Nãftan Mañaina-ta SHRINE

Dept. of Parks and Recreation shares proposed plan of a new Chamoru National Shrine

Agana Heights, October 26, 2020- The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is seeking the public's input on the proposed design plan of the **Nãftan Mañaina-ta Shrine**, a new Chamoru National Shrine that will be located at Ypao Point (also known as Oka Point or Old Hospital Point). The public is invited to view a virtual 3-D conceptual design plan of the Shrine on www.historicguam.net. Public comments can be submitted via email at guamshpo@gmail.com or through DPR's website from October 26, 2020 to November 6, 2020

The proposed design plan is in accordance to Guam Public Law 33-204:

GUAM PUBLIC LAW 33-204: AN ACT TO RESERVE A PORTION OF LOT NO. 5173-I-R2-NEW-R6 IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TAMUNING, CONTAINING AN AREA OF UP TO FIVE (5) ACRES ± FOR USE AS A CHAMORU NATIONAL SHRINE AND THE REINTERMENT OF ANCESTRAL REMAINS. [Enacted into law on December 15, 2016.] The intent of this law is to establish the Chamoru Shrine in order to pay homage to our ancestors and provide them a final resting place on Chamoru lands.

The location is historically significant in the Chamoru cultural landscape because it is the original site of the only Chamoru victory of the Spanish-Chamoru Wars. Access to the Shrine is from the main entrance gate of Sãgan Kotturan Chamoru. The access road leads to a parking lot to the south of the Shrine. Visitors can walk north toward the Shrine, along a walkway that is parallel to the eight burial vaults. The below-grade burial vaults will be the final resting place for ancestral remains of those disinterred prior to September 25, 1989, as mandated by Guam Public Law 33-204.

At the Shrine's central axis, visitors can proceed to the focal point of the Shrine – a reclaimed latte set in the middle of a ceremonial reception space that is in the shape of a sling stone. In this space, performance of rites associated with the Chamoru culture, chanting, dance, and other activities appropriate to the reinterment can take place. Informational signage will describe the significance of the Shrine and the importance of the reinterment of the ancestral remains. Landscaping and seating areas throughout the Shrine will provide areas for visitors to relax in a calm setting and enjoy the views of Tumon Bay.

The statues of two native leaders – Chief Agualin from Hagãtña, and Chief Matã' pang from Tomhom (Tumon) – will stand proudly along the edge of the cliff, looking out toward Tumon Bay – to protect and watch over the island's people and land.

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