

# GUÅHAN ANCESTRAL LANDS COMMISSION

## INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTION SHEET

The Guåhan Ancestral Lands Commission was set up by Guam Public Law 25-45 to pass title of federal excess lands, once returned to Government of Guam, back to original landowners or their heirs. Guam Public Law 25-178 sets the missions, mandates, powers and jurisdiction of the Commission in processing claimant applications for Deed of Title.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

Basically, you need to:

1. File a **Claim of Interest (COI)** at the Guam Department of Land Management (see Form #2 included in this application package). *Please complete but make sure you sign it in front of a notary.* The COI does two (2) things:
  - (a) the person named on the COI is making a meritorious claim on the subject property;
  - (b) the person named on the COI is making a public declaration on their claim on the property.

Claims of Interest must be recorded for *each lot* being claimed, and pay a *\$25.00 recording fee per lot* to the Guam Department of Land Management (1 original and 3 copies are needed for recordation). Please submit a copy of your recorded COI with you application.

For Off-Island Claimants: Please have a relative or representative on-island do this for you.

2. File an **Ancestral Title and Compensation Application** with our Commission along with the following (included in this application package):
  - (a) "**Ancestral Title and Compensation Application**" (see Form #3) - fill in all information you can, sign and date where required.
  - (b) "**Affidavit of Applicant**" (see Form #4) - *please complete but do not sign it.*
  - (c) "**Request for Abstract of Title and Surveyor's Certification**" (see Form #5).

In returning the above documents **please also provide:** a **copy of applicant's birth certificate and a family tree** to your level in the heirs which would show any other possible interests to the property, including those relatives' names and addresses. This would help us cross-reference any other applications that may be submitted to our office claiming interest on the property.

Additionally, if possible, inform all your relatives a claim has been made in behalf of your common ancestor(s). While each claimant is entitled to make a claim individually, it would be best to collectively appoint one spokesperson, administrator or administratrix to handle this process in consideration of separate recordation fees, legal fees, and other fees. A family group appointment may be requested to confer with the Executive Director on lot and landowner information, or to clarify any concerns.

**For further information, please contact us at (671) 473-5263 or 5267. Our hours for intake and inquiry are: 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m. and 1:00p.m. to 4:00p.m., Monday to Friday. IMPORTANT: Please call ahead for notary service to make sure the Notary is on duty.**

**Thank you for your patience and cooperation. We look forward to serving you.**

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