



222 Chalan Santo Papa, Reflection Center, Suite 106, Hagåtña, GU96910
T. 671 472 4460/1 | F. 671 472 4465 | E. info@humanitiesguahan.org | www.humanitiesguahan.org

March 24, 2022

*UPDATE: Please note that the schedule for our *Taking Root* summer program has changed. Please refer to the 4th paragraph for the updated schedule.

Håfa adai!

Humanities Guåhan (HG) is pleased to announce the continuation of our award-winning outdoor youth initiative, *Taking Root– Growing Youth Empowerment for Island Sustainability*, which will be launched in June 2022 through the Governor's Education Assistance and Youth Empowerment grant. The program will connect a cohort of 30 CHamoru and Micronesian youth from underserved communities in Guam with scientists, environmentalists, humanists, and traditional experts. The *Taking Root* program promotes physical activity, civic engagement, and greater cultural and ecological awareness while encouraging diverse islander youth to share their knowledge and to work collaboratively and creatively to identify challenges and solve problems caused by cultural and environmental change.

Launched in 2018, our *Taking Root* program was a great success due to the passion and dedication of the student participants, college interns, the curriculum committee, HG staff, and our many community partners. We are excited to offer this unique educational opportunity once again – this time to outgoing GDOE 8th-grade students.

To ensure another successful summer program, we are seeking six college students interested in the cultures and environments of Guåhan and Micronesia. Below are some of the duties and responsibilities our interns will carry out throughout our *Taking Root Program*:

- Mentor and supervise student participants, and help them work well together as a team.
- Guide students through the process of creating a youth-led community action plan.
- Help students engage further with topics by clarifying concepts and terms, reviewing materials, or asking key questions to stimulate critical thinking and discussion among students.
- Provide constructive feedback on student creative work and research.

The *Taking Root* program has three main components – the first is a rigorous six-week summer curriculum scheduled for June 20 - July 15 (meeting 5-days per week) and July 18 - July 29 (meeting 3-day per week) that will include classroom instruction, cultural and creative workshops, hikes and farm visits, snorkeling, film, and discussion events, and clean up and restoration activities. During the summer program, participating youth will identify local and regional challenges that have emerged due to climate change and define their vision for a youth-led response. From August through October, the participants will work collectively, conduct their own research, and design an outreach and action plan to involve peers in longer-term community-based projects, which is the second program component. These projects will be presented at our Youth Sustainability Conference to be held in October 2022 that will be developed, produced, promoted, and facilitated by the *Taking Root* students. The Conference, the third and final program component, will provide an opportunity for students to share their experiences and community action plans with their peers, as well as with experts whom we have partnered with for the *Taking Root* program.

For your convenience, interested applicants can apply online at <https://bit.ly/3tFjlf8> or email a completed PDF to our Program and Communications Manager Nedine Songeni at nfsongeni@humanitiesguahan.org.

With best regards,

Kimberlee Kihleng, PhD
Executive Director