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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 round of our summer program, we are seeking two Educational Specialists – one with a background in the environments of Guåhan and Micronesia, and the other with a background in the cultures of Guåhan and Micronesia. In collaboration with our curriculum committee, the educational specialists will further develop the curriculum including classroom instruction, capacity-building workshops, cross-cultural exchange, and educational hikes and tours.

The *Taking Root* program has three main components – the first is a rigorous six-week summer curriculum tentatively scheduled for June 20 - July 15 (meeting 5 days per week) and July 18 - July 29 (meeting 3 days 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 project 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 project 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.

We look forward to working with the two Educational Specialists to further develop and enhance the *Taking Root* curriculum in order to provide opportunities that inspire and empower students through responsive youth-led action. Please contact me via email at kkihleng@humanitiesguahan.org or Nedine Songeni, Program and Communications Manager, at nfsongeni@humanitiesguahan.org if you'd like to discuss further details of the program and the Educational Specialist positions.

With best regards,


Kimberlee Kihleng, PhD
Executive Director



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Position Descriptions and Application Process

Please send letters of application and resumes, including the names of three references, for the following temporary, six-month positions to kkihleng@humanitiesguahan.org no later than April 7, 2022.

Taking Root Educational Specialist (Environments of Micronesia): This contractor, together with the Cultures of Micronesia Educational Specialist, is responsible for the curriculum development and implementation of the *Taking Root* program. This specialist will have strong professional experience and interest in education and the environments of Micronesia. This specialist will work closely with the Cultures Educational Specialist, the *Taking Root* Coordinator, the Executive Director, and the Curriculum Committee to review the 2018 curriculum and internship program to build on their successes, and find ways to further integrate and connect environmental education with cultural education and community service/leadership education. Prior to the implementation of the summer program, the specialist will be trained to teach the Roots & Shoots Service Learning Curriculum. In implementing the curriculum, the specialist will serve as one of the two lead teachers throughout the summer program, and take the lead in educating and engaging students and interns on subjects and issues of environmental stewardship, sustainability, and community engagement in Micronesia. The specialist will supervise the interns, oversee the development of student Roots & Shoots community action plans, and prepare students and interns for the Youth Sustainability Conference.

Taking Root Educational Specialist (Cultures of Micronesia): This contractor, together with the Environments of Micronesia *Taking Root* Educational Specialist, is responsible for the curriculum development and implementation of the *Taking Root* program. This specialist will have strong professional experience and interest in education and the cultures of Micronesia, and in engaging students on subjects of indigenous heritage, identity, and cross cultural exchange. This specialist will work closely with the Environments Educational Specialist, the *Taking Root* Coordinator, the Executive Director, and the Curriculum Committee to review the 2018 curriculum and internship program to build on their successes, and find ways to further integrate and connect cultural education and cross cultural exchange with environmental education and community service/leadership education. Prior to the implementation of the summer program, the specialist will be trained to teach the Roots & Shoots Service Learning Curriculum. In implementing the curriculum, the specialist will serve as one of the two lead teachers throughout the summer program, and take the lead in educating and engaging students and interns on subjects and issues of cultural diversity and exchange, indigenous heritage and identity, cultural sustainability and preservation, race and society, and community engagement in Micronesia. The specialist will supervise the interns, oversee the development of student Roots & Shoots community action plans, and prepare students and interns for the Youth Sustainability Conference.