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Contact: Kimberlee Kihleng, Executive Director
Monaeka Flores, Coordinator for Marketing and Programs

Phone: 472-4460/1

Guam Humanities Council hosts book launch for Guam scholar Vicente M. Diaz

The Guam Humanities Council is pleased to present the book launch for *Repositioning the Missionary – Rewriting the Histories of Colonialism, Native Catholicism, and Indigeneity in Guam* by historian Vicente M. Diaz, PhD. *Repositioning the Missionary* critically examines the cultural and political stakes of the historic and present-day movement to canonize Blessed Diego Luis de San Vitores, the Spanish Jesuit missionary who was martyred by Chief Mata'pang while establishing the Catholic mission among the Chamorros in the Marianas Islands. The work juxtaposes official, popular and critical perspectives of the movement to complicate prevailing ideas about colonials, historiography, and indigenous culture and identity in the Pacific.

Dr. Diaz will be the featured speaker in Dr. Robert Underwood's Presidential Lecture Series at the University of Guam. The book launch and reception will take place immediately after his presentation in the atrium of the Humanities and Social Sciences Building. Dr. Diaz's a lecture entitled, "In the Wake of Mata'pang's Canoe: Alternative Histories of Chamorro Catholicism and its Opposition" will take place on Tuesday, August 23 at 5:30 p.m. in the University of Guam CLASS Lecture Hall. Books will be available for purchase, at \$25 per copy.

Dr. Diaz is an Associate Professor of Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies at the University of Michigan. Born and raised on Guam, he taught Pacific History and Micronesian Studies at the University of Guam from 1992 to 2001 until he relocated to his present post at the University of Michigan. Dr. Diaz is a co-founder of the Guam Traditional Seafarers, which helped revived traditional canoe building and navigation in Guam, and served as a historian for the *Hale'ta* series of Guam history and civics books produced by the Guam Political Status Educational Coordinating Commission in the 1990s. He is published widely in the fields of Pacific history, anthropology, and cultural studies, and is currently an elected council member of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA), an international association of native academics and scholars who are advancing the field of comparative native studies.

The Guam Humanities Council is a non-profit organization that provides foundational support and educational programs for the people of Guam. The mission of the Guam Humanities Council is to foster community engagement and dialogue, inspire critical thinking, celebrate diversity and enrich the quality of life of island residents through the power of the humanities.

For more information, please contact Monaeka Flores at 472-4461 or email monaeka_ghc@teleguam.net.

