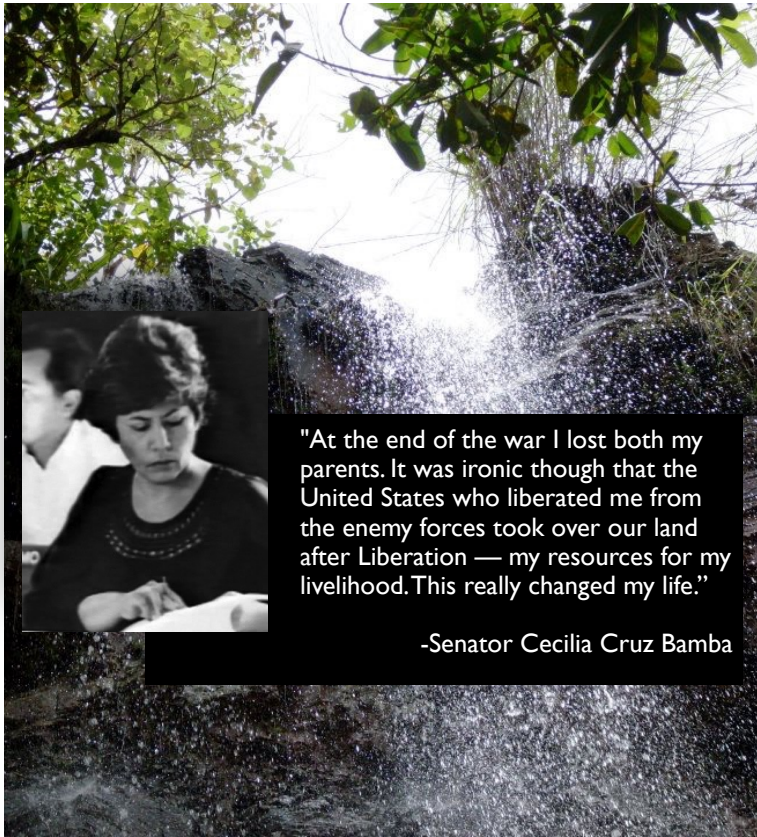


# Hita La'mon: Hasso Independence



"At the end of the war I lost both my parents. It was ironic though that the United States who liberated me from the enemy forces took over our land after Liberation — my resources for my livelihood. This really changed my life."

-Senator Cecilia Cruz Bamba

## Why should we prioritize and protect our hānom?

"Water is fundamental for life and health. The human right to water is indispensable for leading a healthy life in human dignity. It is a pre-requisite to the realization of all other human rights."

-The United Nations Committee on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights

"Water is life's matter and matrix, mother and medium. There is no life without water."

-Albert Szent-Gyorgyi, Hungarian biochemist and Nobel Prize Winner for Medicine.

"Water is life becuz our hearts are 75 percent water becuz i will whisper to her, while she is sleeping, "hanom hanom hanom," my people's word for water, so that our dreams of water will carry us home water is life, water is life, water is life."

-Craig Santos Perez, Chamorro poet and Assistant Professor of English at UH Mānoa

## Threats to Our Water

We use about 40 million gallons a day, which is about 14.6 Billion a year.

The U.S. Navy controls the Fena Reservoir and GWA buys water from the Navy to serve civilian customers in the southern villages of Agat and Santa Rita. The rest of GWA's water comes from the northern aquifer.

GWA's efforts to use less Navy-supplied water followed an increase in the price of Navy water from \$5.41 to \$7.59 for every 1,000 gallons, beginning in October 2014 — an unexpected 40-percent increase!

"We are reducing our use of Navy water as much as possible to avoid any rate hikes on our civilian customers ... We reduced it 75 percent since 2010."

-Simon Sanchez, CCU Outgoing Chairman

"[Water from Fena] is the most expensive water on island, because the Navy continues to thirst for higher rates for this precious resource."

-Speaker Judi Won Pat

"As Guam moves into the future, development demands will require increased sources of high quality water. A possible source of this increased water supply is the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer (NGLA). Eighty percent of the supply of water for the island's residents and businesses depend on this water source for their daily water needs. Guam is expecting more expansion in tourism in the future [and] ... the U.S. military plans to relocate Marines ... to Guam. These impacts along with other growth in the islands population will clearly have an effect on Guam's demand for fresh water supply resources. Possible impacts could include exceeding pumping rate limits of sustainable yield to meet the increased population demands. This in turn could threaten the fresh water quality through salt water intrusion."

-Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific

## Plans for the military buildup threaten the Aquifer in these ways:

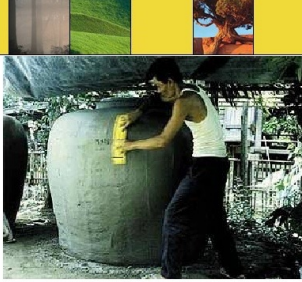
1. A long-term increase in annual groundwater production (withdrawal) of 1.7 million gallons per day
2. An increase in the rate of sewage spills, impacting groundwater quality from potential exposure to additional raw sewage.
3. Increased withdrawal from the NGLA may result in higher levels of chloride concentrations.

-U.S. Navy SEIS Record of Decision

# Learning from An Independent Model Nation: Thailand

## Thailand

- 1979, the Royal Govt declared a policy of water resources dev't and jars and tank construction of drinking water started.
- Today, most households have 1 household tank and a membership in a community tank.



\*After 10 years, 8 million tanks have been constructed. Private sector competition brought prices down but education lagged behind and incidence of diarrhea increased.

-Thailand falls in the tropical belt of the world. It has abundant rainfall; the wet seasons are from May-October, when the country experiences southwest monsoon. The annual rainfall ranges from 102 cm in the northeast to over 380 cm in the peninsula.

- The construction of over 10 million 1-2 cubic meter ferrocement jars for rainwater storage has demonstrated the potential of catchment systems as a primary rural water supply technology. The rainwater harvesting jars are used by almost all the individual houses, and thus people have year-round access to clean water.

- Storing rainwater from rooftop run-off in jars is an appropriate and inexpensive means of obtaining high quality drinking water in Thailand. Prior to the introduction of jars for rainwater storage, many communities had no means of protecting drinking water from waste and mosquito infestation.

-Initially implemented by the Population and Community Development Association (PDA) in Thailand, the demonstrated success of the rainwater jar project has encouraged the Thai government to embark on an extensive national program for rainwater harvesting.

-United Nations Environment Programme

## If an Independent Guåhan controlled our hånóm:



1. We could actively prevent the contamination of our water by eliminating threats to this precious resource.

2. We could control the rates of use, and the rates charged to our people for water, keeping it clean and accessible.

3. We could better sustain this resource by implementing traditional methods for harvesting water through catchment systems. If Guam used only 10 percent of its land space to catch rainwater for consumption, we would be able to catch more than enough water to supply our island, saving millions of dollars and potentially boosting our economy through the sale of bottled water to the region.



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