

The Case for Independence...

To reach the next step in its political evolution, Guam must exercise political decolonization.

The Commission on Decolonization is a government agency designed to direct this important task.

Community members, elected officials, and academic scholars are represented in the Commission.

There are three task forces in the Commission, one for each of Guam's potential political options: Statehood, Free Association, and Independence,



The role of the Independence for Guam Task Force is to advocate for Independence as the best future political option for Guam. While each of the three options carry both positive and negative outcomes, Independence is a concept that many people on Guam may have the most questions about. Independence means becoming a sovereign nation, thus giving Guam the true ability to discuss and negotiate policies and decisions that affect our people. Whereas, in our present situation, major decisions affecting the future of the island are made for us by the United States government, and the United States represents us in regional and international forums where decisions regarding our borders and our resources are made.

The Independence Task Force is committed to informing the public about the benefits and freedoms that Guam would receive as a sovereign nation and also countering the myths and misperceptions about what this status change would mean for Guam. We wish to demonstrate that independence does *not* mean traveling back in time or cutting ourselves off from the world. In fact, becoming a sovereign nation means we can live in the way we want to live today and into the future, because we will hold authority over our lives as opposed to being governed by people who live thousands of miles away. Most importantly, all decisions made for us would be chosen by our people.

At its core, Independence is a chance for the people of Guam to truly determine our own destiny. For many centuries, Guam's political course has been dictated for us—our people, our land, and our resources have been used to benefit other countries leaving us at a greater loss each time. Currently, Guam is stuck with a dependent and underdeveloped relationship with the United States. The colonial status of Guam keeps us trapped – economically, politically, mentally, and spiritually. Independence will allow us to work together as a community to grow into a more sustainable and regionally integrated people, who will no longer be stunted as a colony of the United States.



Independence is the only option that will allow us to chart our desired future and seize our own unique destiny.