



(For Immediate Release)

CHAMORRO DANCE ACADEMY CONTINUES TO DRAW JAPANESE INTEREST

(Friday, May 28, 2010; Tumon, Guam) Guam Visitors Bureau (GVB) and the Guam Chamorro Dance Academy are spreading the Hafa Adai Spirit in Japan this weekend.

For the fourth time in the past year, a two-day course beginning May 29 in Tokyo will successfully teach Chamorro song and dance to Japanese students with the goal of building Guam as a destination of choice among potential visitors.

“Our goal is to increase the number of Japanese visitors that come to Guam, and one of the ways we’re doing that is by building interest in our Chamorro culture through programs like the Guam Chamorro Dance Academy,” said GVB General Manager Gerald S.A. Perez. “This program allows us to *show* potential visitors one of the reasons why our island is so unique instead of just telling them. It’s really getting people excited.”

Other dance schools in Japan have even gotten involved by recruiting their students for the course, led by the only certified Chamorro dance master on Guam, Frank Rabon, founder of Pa’a Taotao Tano’ dance troupe. The group, which formed in the 1980s, works to immerse a strong Chamorro cultural perspective into the entertainment community on Guam.

Rabon usually teaches Japanese students three traditional Chamorro songs, the meaning of each song in their own language, and corresponding dances.

At least 50 participants have enrolled in each Guam Chamorro Dance Academy, held September 2009, January and March. Additional courses have already been scheduled for July 24-25 and Sept. 25-26.



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