

# PRIDE PRESS

## Pride Campaign



“Piti Pride Tepungan Wide” is a conservation project to help manage marine preserves effectively. Piti Bomb Holes Preserve has an amazing marine habitat. There are about 200 fish species, various invertebrates, and coral that can be easily seen here. Currently, there are approximately over 200 visitors to this preserve every day, many of which are new divers and snorkelers. Impacts to the marine habitat include coral reef and sea grass bed damage, fish and invertebrate loss, and overuse of the marine environment. This campaign encourages people to support the protection of the environment and aquatic resources to build reef resilience for Guam now and for the future.

Piti Bomb Holes Preserve is located in the Tepungan Bay in the Piti village. Piti residents would like to reestablish the location’s Chamorro name, *Tepungan*, which means “a place by the water.” The preserve begins right of the Tepungan Bay Beach Park, extends left past Tepungan Channel, Hoover Park, and ends across GPA.

### Issue 1, 30 November 2013

#### Highlights



“Piti Pride Tepungan Wide” launched on September 27th, 2013 at the Pedro Santos Memorial Park in Piti village.

We welcomed our mascot Piti Pete!

#### Piti Pride T-shirts



Si Yu'us Ma'ase' to those who did “Pledge to Protect” Piti Pete and the preserve!



Piti Resident – MJ Quenga  
Co-owner of Local Girl

## Piti Pride Tepungan Wide

### *Campaign for Piti Bomb Holes Preserve*

The orange spine unicorn fish (*Naso lituratus*, Hangan in Chamorro) is a local fish native to Guam's waters. In the past, there were populations reaching up to 40-50,000. This fish resides primarily among coral reef but also needs sea grass beds during different stages of its life. The Hangan was chosen as our mascot by a survey conducted last May 2013. We named him Piti Pete. He will be making visits around Guam.



Photo credit: Tom Quinata

After our launch of the campaign, we celebrated Arbor Day at the Tepungan Bay Beach Park with Guam Department of Parks and Recreation, Guam Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Soil Resources and Aquatic and Wildlife Resources Divisions, along with vendors, businesses, and Piti residents. We planted 38 native plants along the shoreline of the park to help filter sediment. Trees are our friends!

Our campaign moved on to meetings at various Guam agencies to spread the word about our project and to request for support of Guam's preserves. Highlights include presentations to Guam Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission, Guam Department of Youth Affairs, and Agana Heights Elementary School including ASPIRE students after school. Our latest presentation, on November 22, 2013, Piti Pride visited Fish Eye Marine Park.

Operational staff learned about the Piti Pride campaign and how to teach others conservation practices. The goal of the training was to inspire staff to recognize the uniqueness of the preserve and to gain their support in protecting the environment they work in. Yes, more pledges!



## Meet our Funders

DAWR is pleased to acknowledge our funders for this campaign. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sport Fish Restoration Program provides the majority of the funding to develop a marine protected area campaign project. Two non-profit organizations, the Micronesia Conservation Trust and Rare, offered training and support to complete the project; and the University of Guam Sea Grant program supports the campaign manager while training off-island.

**Si Yu'us Ma'åse'!**

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*The mission of the Guam Department of Agriculture's Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources is to effectively manage, preserve, protect, and restore Guam's natural resources now and for the future.*



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