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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nikolette Salas of Tiyan High School to Represent Guam in Washington, D.C. Annual Poetry Out Loud Competition

Tiyan, Guam – The Guam Department of Education (GDOE) is proud to announce and congratulates **Nikolette Salas**, an 11th grade student at Tiyan High School, for securing the 1st place in the prestigious **Annual Poetry Out Loud Competition (POL)**. The event hosted by the Guam Council on the Arts Humanities Agency (CAHA), was held on March 9, 2024, at the UOG Lecture Hall located in Mangilao, where Nikolette showcased her exceptional poetic talents among her peers. Her achievement is a testament to her hard work and dedication to the arts.

Ms. Salas has achieved a remarkable milestone by winning Guam's State Champion title, securing her a prestigious spot at the National Poetry Out Loud Finals in Washington D.C., scheduled from April 30 to May 2, 2024. She will showcase her poetic prowess by competing against fellow champions from various states. Accompanied by her chaperone, Ms. Mayoyo-Buan, the Tiyan High School POL coordinator, Ms. Salas is poised to make a significant impact at the Poetry Out Loud National Finals. Furthermore, each state-level victor will be awarded \$200, and their respective schools will receive \$500 dedicated to poetry materials courtesy of the Poetry Foundation. This initiative not only fosters students' public speaking skills but also bolsters their confidence and enriches their understanding of literary history and contemporary life.

GDOE Superintendent, Dr. Erik Swanson said, *"We congratulate Ms. Salas for her hard work and dedication for winning and representing our island in the Poetry Out Loud National Finals and commend the Tiyan High School team especially Ms. Mayoyo-Buan for the support provided to Nikolette. We wish Nikolette the best as she represents our island in Washington D.C."*

For more information, please contact Tiyan High School at (671)300-5570, email at ths@gdoe.net or Tes Reyes-Burrier at mtreyes@gdoe.net.

END OF STATEMENT