



LEARN TO NAVIGATE WITH THE

# P A F I U S O N G



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## Pafiu Song

Lesosor the sunrise  
Lebwong nge sunset  
Asabwal a ngito  
Lemelan eotiw

Yegal uwe ngali yei  
Achem me safali first time  
Ai nonomw wol pwel Seipel

Seipel leliel ach bwahbwah  
Ghisch sisabw malughila ii

Essor mo yew faluw  
Yewaschagh lingil  
Ach bwahbwah ai nonomw

Mailap, Paiyeor, Eliuyeol, Saerpwol,  
Tumwur, Mesariuw,  
Tanubw, Maechemers,

Welewelewelewelewele...Woohoo!(2x)

Mailap, Paiyefaeng, Wuun, Maerigaer,  
Meon, Iukluknik,  
Weoneo, Maeilpaenfaeng,

Welewelewelewelewele...Woohoo!(2x)

Sarabwel Salopw!(2x)

Lob, lob!  
Sew, sew!

Lobwa, lobwa, lobwa, lobwa!

Aieechichu, aieechaichai! (2x)

Beautiful sunrise  
The image of the setting sunset  
The flowing of  
The wind from the east

Brought me back  
To the first time  
I set my foot on Saipan

Saipan is our place of happiness  
And we will never forget it

There's no other island  
That brings me  
Happiness and peace

(Rising star names - due East to  
due South)

(Welewele when due South  
is Welewelelubw)

(Setting star names - due East to  
due North)

(Welewele when due North  
is Welewelefusiumwagiut)

Sarabwel Clap! (to mark the  
middle star)  
Clap, clap! (with cupped hands)  
Repeat, repeat!

Clap, clap, clap, clap!  
(Keep clapping!)

(Motivational cheer)

### Pafiu Song Background

Pafiu is a song in Carolinian about the star compass that is fundamental to Carolinian traditional navigation. The song names all the stars in the compass in order. These are the stars that guide voyagers along sea routes between islands. Students of navigation memorize the positions and paths of these stars in the night sky as part of their training in the Weriyeeng and Fanur schools of traditional Carolinian navigation.

Introducing this song to students at an early age will provide them with foundational navigation knowledge that will be with them all their lives, both strengthening their ties to these islands and helping them to understand the place of traditional navigation in Micronesian history.

The song has its origins in Satawal. 500 Sails became aware of the song when it was sung at a gathering in Saipan by voyagers and members of Master Navigator Pius "Mau" Piailug's family. The story told was that the song was sung to Mau Piailug by his young nieces and nephews on his birthday. Accordingly, 500 Sails Board President Emma Perez, asked the family for permission to document and translate the song in this project so that it could be taught in the CNMI Public Schools. Permission was granted by Sesario Sewralur, Tony Piailug, and Cecilio Raiukiulipi. The audio recording of the song provided is sung by Tony Piailug.

