

*I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
**BILL STATUS**

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	FISCAL NOTES	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
<b>202-38 (COR)</b> As amended by the Committee on Education, Libraries, and Public Broadcasting; and further amended on the Floor.	Vincent A. V. Borja Frank F. Blas, Jr. Shelly V. Calvo Sabrina Salas Matanane Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao Tina Rose Muña-Barnes	AN ACT TO <i>ADD</i> A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5 OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE "GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT."	10/9/25 11:43 a.m.  10/20/25 11:40 a.m.	10/21/25	Committee on Education, Libraries and Public Broadcasting.	Request:10/21/25  10/22/25	12/9/25 9:00 a.m.	1/7/26 As Amended.	
	<b>SESSION DATE</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>DATE PASSED</b>	<b>TRANSMITTED</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>	<b>NOTES</b>			
	1/26/26	AN ACT TO <i>ADD</i> A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5 OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE "GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT."	1/29/26	1/29/26	2/10/26				



**COPY**

*I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN*  
Thirty-Eighth Guam Legislature

January 29, 2026

The Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero  
*I Maga'hågan Guåhan*  
*Ufisinan I Maga'håga*  
*Hagåtña, Guam 96910*

Dear *Maga'håga* Leon Guerrero:

Transmitted herewith are Bill Nos. 29-38 (COR), 79-38 (COR), 138-38 (COR), 150-38 (LS), 162-38 (COR), 169-38 (COR), 195-38 (COR), 202-38 (COR), 210-38 (COR), 215-38 (COR), 217-38 (COR), 240-38 (LS), 251-38 (COR), and Substitute Bill No. 235-38 (COR) which were passed by *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guahan* on January 29, 2026.

Sincerely,

**Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane**  
**Legislative Secretary**

Enclosure (14)

*Jesse Castro*

*7:04pm, 1.29.26*




**COPY**

*I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN*  
2026 (SECOND) Regular Session

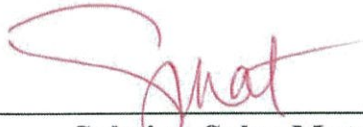
**CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO *I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN***

This is to certify that **Bill No. 202-38 (COR)**, “AN ACT TO *ADD A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5 OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE ‘GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT’*,” was on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026, duly and regularly passed.



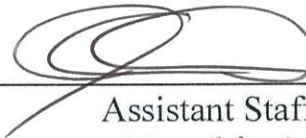
Frank F. Blas, Jr.  
Speaker

Attested:



Sabrina Salas Matanane  
Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* this 29<sup>th</sup> day of Jan,  
2026, at 7:14 o'clock P.M.



Assistant Staff Officer  
*Maga'håga's Office*

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero  
*I Maga'hågan Guåhan*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Public Law No. \_\_\_\_\_

***I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2025 (FIRST) Regular Session**

**Bill No. 202-38 (COR)**

As amended by the Committee on Education,  
Libraries, and Public Broadcasting; and further  
amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

Vincent A.V. Borja  
Frank F. Blas, Jr.  
Shelly V. Calvo  
Sabrina Salas Matanane  
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao  
Tina Rose Muña-Barnes  
V. Anthony Ada  
Chris Barnett  
Christopher M. Dueñas  
Jesse A. Lujan  
William A. Parkinson  
Joe S. San Agustin  
Telo T. Taitague  
Therese M. Terlaje

**AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5  
OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE  
TO ESTABLISHING THE “GUAM VETERANS HIGHER  
EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT.”**

1           **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2           **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds  
3 that the people of Guam owe a profound debt of gratitude to the veterans who entered  
4 the U.S. Armed Forces from Guam, and to their spouses and dependents, for their  
5 distinguished service and immense sacrifice. While federal educational assistance  
6 programs provide valuable support, it is the finding of this body that the

1 establishment of a distinctly local benefits program is a moral imperative that  
2 demonstrates Guam’s unwavering commitment to honoring and supporting its  
3 veterans and their families.

4 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that, with a significant veteran population  
5 residing on Guam, many of whom, along with their families, encounter substantial  
6 financial obstacles to accessing higher education, it is in the public interest to remove  
7 such barriers. Providing these educational benefits is not merely an act of gratitude  
8 but a strategic investment in the intellectual capital and economic prosperity of our  
9 island. By enhancing access to higher education at the University of Guam and the  
10 Guam Community College, this Act will directly contribute to a more skilled and  
11 capable workforce, fostering economic growth and ensuring our veterans and their  
12 families can achieve their full potential.

13 Therefore, it is the express purpose of this Act to establish the “Guam  
14 Veterans Higher Education Benefits Act.” This legislation is designed to provide  
15 meaningful tuition assistance, modeled after effective programs such as the Texas  
16 Hazlewood Act, yet carefully tailored to the fiscal and institutional framework of  
17 Guam. It is the intent of this Legislature that the Act be implemented without  
18 requiring new appropriations, by leveraging existing institutional capacities for  
19 tuition waivers at the University of Guam and the Guam Community College.

20 **Section 2.** A new Chapter 56 is *added* to Division 5, Title 17, Guam Code  
21 Annotated, to read as follows:

22 **“CHAPTER 56**

23 **GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT.**

- 24 § 56101. Short Title.  
25 § 56102. Definitions.  
26 § 56103. Educational Benefits.  
27 § 56104. Eligibility Requirements and Limitations.

1 § 56105. Administration.

2 § 56106. Implementation.

3 **§ 56101. Short Title.**

4 This Chapter shall be known as the “Guam Veterans Higher Education  
5 Benefits Act”

6 **§ 56102. Definitions.**

7 As used in this Chapter, the following terms shall mean:

8 (a) ‘Commission’ means the Commission on Post-Secondary  
9 Education

10 (b) ‘Dependent’ means:

11 (1) A spouse; or

12 (2) A child who:

13 (A) Is twenty-five (25) years old or younger on the first  
14 day of the semester or term for which the exemption is claimed;  
15 and

16 (B) Was claimed as a dependent on a federal income tax  
17 return filed for the preceding year

18 (c) ‘Qualifying Veteran’ means a person who:

19 (1) At the time of entry into the U.S. Armed Forces, was a  
20 resident of Guam and officially declared Guam as their home of record;

21 (2) Is a legal resident of Guam at the time of application for  
22 benefits under this Chapter; and

23 (3) Served in the active military, naval, air service to include  
24 and was discharged or released there from under conditions other than  
25 dishonorable. Qualifying Veteran includes veterans of the Guam  
26 Combat Patrol, the United States Insular Force, Philippine Scouts of  
27 World War II, and the United States Armed Forces; or

1                   (4) Is a current member in good standing or a former member  
2                   who received an honorable discharge from the Guam National Guard  
3                   or a Reserve Component of the U.S Armed Forces, regardless of active  
4                   duty time served; and

5                   (d) 'Institution' shall mean the University of Guam, and the Guam  
6                   Community College.

7                   (e) 'Tuition' shall mean the fees charged by an institution for  
8                   enrollment in a course, but does not include any other fees, charges, or costs,  
9                   such as student activity fees, laboratory fees, or the cost of books and  
10                  instructional materials.

11                  (f) 'Tuition-paying students' means those students who pay tuition  
12                  fees and/or utilize student loans, receive federal government tuition assistance  
13                  such as federal student aid, utilizes an awarded scholarship, and/or receive  
14                  tuition waivers or assistance on account of age eligibility.

15                  **§ 56103. Educational Benefits.**

16                  (a) The following persons, subject to the requirements and limitations of  
17                  this Chapter, shall be exempt from the payment of tuition at an Institution:

18                         (1) Qualifying veterans and their dependent spouse and children may  
19                         be included if sufficient institutional capacity exists, as determined by the  
20                         Commission on post-secondary education through rule making.

21                  (b) The tuition exemption provided under this Chapter:

22                         (1) At the undergraduate level, shall not exceed a lifetime total of  
23                         ninety (90) credit hours per Qualifying Veteran, which may be used by the  
24                         veteran or allocated to one (1) or more eligible dependents. No individual may  
25                         receive more than eighteen (18) credit hours of tuition exemption per  
26                         academic semester

1           (2) At the graduate level, shall not exceed a lifetime total of thirty  
2 (30) credit hours. Such exemption shall be limited to master's degree  
3 programs, except that professional doctoral programs may qualify if  
4 designated by the Commission on Post-Secondary Education as a critical  
5 workforce shortage area;

6           (3) Shall apply only to charges for tuition as defined in §56102(e)  
7 and shall not cover student fees, laboratory charges, instructional materials, or  
8 other incidental costs;

9           (4) Shall not be applied to repeated courses beyond one additional  
10 attempt;

11           (5) Shall be contingent upon space being available in a course after  
12 all tuition-paying students have completed registration; and

13           (6) Shall only be available to a Qualifying Veteran after all  
14 applicable federal veterans' educational benefits and other federal tuition  
15 assistance programs, including federal Title IV financial aid, have been fully  
16 exhausted.

17 **§ 56104. Eligibility Requirements and Limitations.**

18 (a) To be eligible for and to maintain benefits under this Chapter, a person  
19 must:

20           (1) Be admitted and enrolled at an Institution;

21           (2) Maintain satisfactory academic progress toward a degree or  
22 certificate program, as defined by the policies of the respective Institution,  
23 and possess a cumulative grade point average of no less than 2.5 for  
24 undergraduate programs and 3.0 for graduate programs;

25           (3) Attest that they have exhausted all eligibility for any federal  
26 veterans' educational benefits that provide tuition assistance prior to receiving  
27 a waiver under this Chapter; and

1           (4) Not be in default on any student loan made or guaranteed by the  
2 government of Guam;

3           (b) Benefits conferred by this Chapter shall be subject to the following  
4 limitations:

5           (1) The provision of a tuition exemption shall be contingent upon  
6 space being available in a course after all tuition-paying students have  
7 completed registration;

8           (2) This Chapter does not guarantee admission into any academic  
9 program, course, or Institution;

10          (3) The benefit is subject to all course capacity limits and program  
11 enrollment restrictions established by the Institution;

12          (4) A tuition exemption shall not be granted for any course that has  
13 reached its maximum enrollment capacity or for which a waitlist of tuition-  
14 paying students exists.

15          (c) If a recipient withdraws from or fails a course for which a tuition  
16 exemption was granted, the recipient shall be responsible for repayment of waived  
17 tuition, unless otherwise waived for good cause as defined by Commission rule.  
18 Such reimbursed funds shall be deposited into the Student Financial Aid Program  
19 (SFAP) fund of the respective Institution.

20          **§ 56105. Administration.**

21          (a) The Commission shall promulgate such rules and regulations as are  
22 necessary for the administration of this Chapter. The University of Guam and the  
23 Guam Community College shall establish and amend internal policies and  
24 administrative procedures as required to ensure full compliance with the provisions  
25 of this Chapter.

1 (b) The government of Guam entity responsible for veterans affairs shall  
2 provide necessary assistance in the verification of a veteran’s status, service record,  
3 and eligibility for benefits under this Chapter upon request by an Institution.

4 **§ 56106. Implementation.**

5 (a) The benefits prescribed by this Chapter shall be implemented and  
6 provided by the University of Guam and the Guam Community College through a  
7 tuition waiver mechanism;

8 (b) The University of Guam, the Guam Community College shall each:

9 (1) Develop and publish clear procedures for the application and  
10 processing of tuition exemptions consistent with institutional enrollment  
11 timelines and course availability;

12 (2) Submit a report to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* no later than ninety  
13 (90) days after the end of each academic year, detailing the number of  
14 beneficiaries served, the total number of credit hours exempted, the total  
15 amount of credits failed or withdrawn and repayment received, if applicable,  
16 list of the types of undergraduate and graduate degrees that recipients enrolled  
17 in, and the calculated value of the tuition waived;

18 (3) Implement control measures to ensure that the granting of  
19 exemptions under this Chapter does not result in the displacement of any  
20 tuition-paying student from any course or program.

21 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, benefits under this Chapter  
22 shall be implemented no earlier than April 1, 2026, to allow Institutions adequate  
23 time to establish administrative procedures.”

24 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any  
25 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity shall not  
26 affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without

1 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are  
2 severable.

3 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Act shall become effective upon enactment.