

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
256-38 (COR)	Tina Rose Muña-Barnes	AN ACT TO <i>AMEND</i> § 12106(h) OF CHAPTER 12, TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO INCREASING THE CAP ON CHARTER SCHOOLS FROM SEVEN (7) TO EIGHT (8) TO ADVANCE TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.	1/16/26 11:10 a.m. 1/23/26 3:18 p.m.						

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

Bill No. 256-38 (COR)

Introduced by:

Tina Rose Muña-Barnes

AN ACT TO AMEND § 12106(h) OF CHAPTER 12, TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO INCREASING THE CAP ON CHARTER SCHOOLS FROM SEVEN (7) TO EIGHT (8) TO ADVANCE TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that
3 charter schools are an effective component of Guam's public education system,
4 complementing traditional public schools by offering specialized instruction models
5 that respond to workforce and community needs.

6 Tourism and hospitality are cornerstones of Guam's economy, accounting for
7 a substantial share of employment and economic activity, and that the long-term
8 competitiveness and resilience of this sector depend not only on technical service
9 skills, but on the ability to deliver an authentic, high-quality visitor experience rooted
10 in Guam's history, culture, language, and identity.

11 Guam's cultural heritage is a defining asset of the island's tourism product,
12 and that a workforce lacking cultural literacy and historical understanding, as well
13 as place-based knowledge diminishes Guam's ability to distinguish itself from other

1 regional destinations offering similar amenities but without a comparable cultural
2 foundation.

3 A Guam-driven curriculum centered on our heritage and environmental
4 stewardship is essential to developing tourism and hospitality professionals who are
5 service-oriented and culturally competent ambassadors of the island. Such a
6 curriculum strengthens the authenticity and sustainability of Guam’s tourism
7 industry while fostering local pride and stewardship among students.

8 Guam’s position as a premier destination in the Asia-Pacific region, combined
9 with anticipated economic activity associated with military realignment and regional
10 development, will increase demand for hospitality and tourism professionals who
11 possess both industry-recognized skills and a deep understanding of Guam’s cultural
12 and social context.

13 Career and Technical Education is essential to meeting these workforce
14 demands by providing students with industry-aligned skills and exposure to real-
15 world professional environments. When paired with culturally grounded instruction,
16 CTE programs in tourism and hospitality prepare students for immediate
17 employment while supporting long-term career advancement and entrepreneurship.

18 Partnerships between secondary schools, industry stakeholders, and cultural
19 practitioners create clear pipelines to industry certifications, degrees, and
20 employment. Collaboration with hotels, restaurants, tour operators, tourism
21 organizations, cultural institutions, and institutions of higher education ensures that
22 instruction remains responsive to workforce needs while remaining rooted in
23 Guam’s cultural landscape.

24 While Career and Technical Education is currently offered within Guam’s
25 public high schools and existing charter schools, the Legislature finds that a
26 dedicated public charter school focused exclusively on Tourism and Hospitality
27 Management would allow for deeper specialization and the intentional integration

1 of Guam-centered cultural curriculum, thereby strengthening the workforce pipeline
2 in a sector vital to the island’s economic future.

3 The Legislature further finds that increasing the statutory cap on public charter
4 schools from seven (7) to eight (8) is necessary to authorize the establishment of a
5 Tourism and Hospitality Management Charter School. This targeted expansion
6 builds upon the demonstrated success of existing charter schools and is not intended
7 to diminish or detract from current public or charter school programs.

8 It is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to support the creation of a public
9 charter school that integrates academic instruction with industry-recognized
10 certifications and experiential learning that further advances a Guam-driven, culture-
11 centered curriculum. Such school prepares students for careers or further education
12 in tourism and hospitality, and strengthens Guam’s cultural heritage as a cornerstone
13 of a sustainable and competitive economy.

14 **Section 2.** § 12106(h) of Chapter 12, Title 17, Guam Code Annotated, is
15 amended to read:

16 “(h) The total number of Academy Charter Schools operating on Guam
17 under this Chapter at any one (1) time shall not exceed ~~seven (7)~~ eight (8). At
18 least two (2) Academy Charter Schools shall be an elementary school; at least
19 one (1) Academy Charter School shall be a middle school; at least one (1)
20 Academy Charter School shall be a high school; and at least one (1) Academy
21 Charter School shall be a school servicing elementary and middle school
22 students. An Academy Charter School applicant shall submit a written request
23 to the Superintendent or the Guam Education Board to determine whether an
24 available or suitable facility exists within the Department before the applicant
25 submits its application to the Council. If a response is not provided within
26 thirty (30) days of receipt of the request, the applicant may submit its
27 application without said determination to the Council.”