

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
264-38 (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 EARLY INTERVENTION AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION.	1/23/26 8:25 a.m.						

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

Bill No. 264-38 (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 EARLY INTERVENTION AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION.

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** Guam has experienced a steady
3 increase in the number of children identified with autism spectrum disorder (ASD),
4 attention-deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), speech and language delays,
5 and other neurodevelopmental conditions, resulting in greater demand for
6 specialized educational support. Early childhood represents a critical period of
7 neurological and developmental growth, during which timely, evidence-based
8 intervention is shown to improve the child's cognitive development, communication
9 skills, socialization, academic readiness, and long-term quality of life.

10 Consistent early intervention integrated into the educational environment is
11 essential to addressing the needs of children with developmental differences. Delays
12 in access to appropriate supports during early childhood may increase reliance on
13 more intensive and costly educational and therapeutic services later in life, resulting

1 in greater long-term demands on public education systems, while also placing
2 additional strain on families.

3 Guam’s public education system faces structural and capacity limitations in
4 delivering timely, individualized, and coordinated services for young children with
5 ASD, ADHD, and related needs within traditional school settings. A public charter
6 school intentionally designed around early intervention and whole-child
7 development offers a targeted and accountable means to address this gap within
8 Guam’s public education framework.

9 It is, therefore, the intent of I Liheslaturan Guåhan to affirm the importance
10 of authorizing and supporting a public charter school model that prioritizes early
11 intervention and inclusive education for children with ASD, ADHD, and related
12 developmental conditions.

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

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