

*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
277-38 (COR)	Tina Rose Muña-Barnes	AN ACT TO <i>AMEND</i> § 12901 AND ADD A NEW §§ 12907 AND 12908 ALL OF ARTICLE 9 CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING AND REGULATING ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE ASSISTANTS.	2/12/26 1:45 p.m.						

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

**Bill No. 277-38 (COR)**

Introduced by:

Tina Rose Muña-Barnes

**AN ACT TO AMEND § 12901 AND ADD A NEW §§ 12907  
AND 12908 ALL OF ARTICLE 9 CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10,  
GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO  
AUTHORIZING AND REGULATING ACUPUNCTURE  
AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE ASSISTANTS.**

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guahan* finds that  
3 Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine is a licensed healthcare profession in Guam that  
4 serves a growing number of residents seeking integrative and culturally responsive  
5 care, and that patient demand for such services has increased in recent years. Guam  
6 faces healthcare workforce limitations, including a shortage of licensed practitioners  
7 relative to patient demand, resulting in increased strain on existing providers and  
8 reduced access to care.

9 Licensed practitioners of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine routinely  
10 perform non-diagnostic and non-invasive clinical and administrative tasks that do  
11 not require the education or licensure of a practitioner and may be safely delegated.  
12 However, Guam currently lacks a regulated statutory framework governing the use  
13 of support personnel in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine clinics, creating

1 uncertainty for providers and potential risks to patient safety when delegation occurs  
2 without clear standards.

3 *I Liheslaturan Guahan* further finds that other healthcare professions  
4 regulated under Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, utilize defined allied health support  
5 roles to address workforce shortages, improve efficiency, and expand patient access,  
6 while maintaining public safety through standardized training and supervision  
7 requirements. Establishing a narrowly defined Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine  
8 Assistant role, with clear limitations on scope of practice and mandatory training,  
9 certification, and on-premises supervision, promotes patient safety and professional  
10 accountability.

11 It is, therefore, the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guahan* to address workforce  
12 shortages and increased patient demand by authorizing a regulated Acupuncture and  
13 Oriental Medicine Assistant role that performs limited, non-invasive support tasks  
14 under supervision, while preserving the professional responsibility of licensed  
15 practitioners and preventing the unlicensed practice of acupuncture or medicine.

16 **Section 2.** §12901 of Article 9, Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated  
17 is amended to read:

18 **“§ 12901. Definitions.**

19 (a) “Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine” means the science and art of  
20 examination and diagnosis based on traditional oriental medicine, and  
21 treatment of symptoms and diseases by the insertion of needles into the  
22 respective three hundred sixty-five (365) major trigger points of twelve (12)  
23 meridians, eight (8) extra trigger points of extra meridians, Ashi (regional or  
24 local) points, as well as other extra points on the human body, by piercing the  
25 skin of the body to control and regulate the flow and balance of vital energy  
26 in the body and to treat ailments or diseases of the mind, body, any wound,  
27 bodily injury, or deformity. The term includes therapies that use manual,

1 mechanical, thermal, electrical, or electromagnetic treatment based on the  
2 principles of oriental medicine to prevent or modify the perception of pain or  
3 to normalize physiological functions including pain control for the treatment  
4 of diseases or dysfunction of the Yin and Yang organic systems, and includes  
5 the application of acupuncture needles, electro-acupuncture, electro-dynamics  
6 stimulation, i.e., electro-stimulation, neuromuscular stimulation, etc.,  
7 ultrasound, or diathermy devices, cold lasers, magnets, cupping, moxibustion,  
8 heat and cold therapy, i.e., heat and cold pads, heat lamp, infrared heat, etc.,  
9 hydrotherapy, acupressure, Tui Na, oriental massage, massage therapy, Chi-  
10 gong, breathing techniques, therapeutic exercise, manual traction, naturopathy  
11 and natural medicine techniques, and nutrition, including the incorporation of  
12 drugless substances and herbs as dietary supplements to promote health.  
13 Ordering blood and laboratory tests, x-rays, or image tests to assist in making  
14 a diagnosis and monitoring a treatment plan is within the scope of practice of  
15 acupuncture and oriental medicine. It shall exclude operative surgery and the  
16 prescription of scheduled drugs.

17 (b) “Doctor” or “Master Degree of Acupuncture and Oriental  
18 Medicine” means a person licensed under the provisions of this Chapter to  
19 practice acupuncture and oriental medicine. A person who is licensed pursuant  
20 to this Article as a practitioner of acupuncture and oriental medicine may refer  
21 to himself as a Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine if he or she has  
22 successfully completed a Doctorate level or Ph.D. program, or a Master of  
23 Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine if he or she has successfully completed a  
24 Master’s degree program in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine that has been  
25 approved by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental  
26 Medicine (ACAOM) or by the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and  
27 Oriental Medicine (CCAOM), and has otherwise met the conditions and

1 qualifications for licensure pursuant to this Article and the rules and  
2 regulations adopted by the Board in accordance with the Administrative  
3 Adjudication Law.

4 (c) “Accredited School of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine” means  
5 a school of Acupuncture and Oriental medicine accredited by the  
6 Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine  
7 (ACAOM) or by the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental  
8 Medicine (CCAOM) of the United States of American and United States  
9 National Board of Oriental Medicine and Alternative Medicine.

10 (d) “Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Assistant” means a certified  
11 allied health support worker authorized to perform limited, non-invasive tasks  
12 under the supervision of a licensed practitioner.

13 (e) “On-premise supervision” means the licensed acupuncture and  
14 oriental medicine practitioner is physically present at the clinical site and  
15 immediately available.

16 (f) “Non-invasive” means procedures that do not penetrate the skin or  
17 constitute diagnosis or treatment planning.

18 **Section 3.** A new § 12907 is added to Article 9 of Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam  
19 Code Annotated to read:

20 **“§ 12907. Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Assistants; Authorization**  
21 **and Scope.**

22 (a) Authorization. A licensed Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine  
23 practitioner may utilize an Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Assistant  
24 (ACOM Assistant) as an allied health support worker, provided the assistant  
25 is trained, certified, and supervised in accordance with this section. An  
26 ACOM Assistant shall not be deemed a licensed healthcare provider and shall  
27 not engage in the practice of acupuncture or medicine.

1           (b) Scope of Authorized Activities. Under on-premises supervision of  
2           a licensed Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine practitioner, an ACOM  
3           Assistant may perform only the following non-invasive, non-diagnostic tasks:

4           (1) Removal of acupuncture needles following completion of treatment;

5           (2) Removal of cupping equipment;

6           (3) Operation and shutdown of electroacupuncture devices after needle  
7           insertion and electrode placement by the supervising practitioner;

8           (4) Measurement and documentation of basic vital signs, including  
9           blood pressure, pulse, temperature, height, and weight;

10           (5) Treatment room preparation, sanitation, and equipment  
11           sterilization;

12           (6) Herbal pharmacy support, excluding formulation, prescription, or  
13           modification of herbal treatments;

14           (7) Administrative, scheduling, billing, and electronic medical record  
15           support.”

16           **Section 4.** A new § 12908 is added to Article 9, of Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam  
17 Code Annotated, to read:

18           “§ 12908. Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Assistants; Training and  
19 Certification, Supervision and Responsibility, Prohibitions, Rules and  
20 Enforcement.

21           (a) Training and certification. An ACOM Assistant shall meet the following  
22 minimum requirements:

23           (1) Completion of at least forty (40) hours of approved safety and  
24 clinical support training, including infection control, patient safety,  
25 emergency procedures, ethics, and basic anatomy and physiology;

26           (2) Completion of at least three (3) years of supervised clinical  
27 experience under a licensed Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine practitioner;

1           (3) Certification issued by a professional organization approved by the  
2           Guam Board of Allied Health Examiners.

3           (b) Supervision and Responsibility. The supervising Acupuncture and  
4           Oriental Medicine practitioner shall be physically present on premises when an  
5           ACOM Assistant performs authorized tasks and shall retain full professional and  
6           legal responsibility for all delegated activities.

7           (c) Prohibited Acts. An ACOM Assistant shall not:

8                   (1) Insert acupuncture needles;

9                   (2) Select acupuncture points or treatment protocols;

10                  (3) Diagnose, assess, or independently treat patients;

11                  (4) Prescribe, recommend, or modify herbal medicines;

12                  (5) Apply cupping, moxibustion, tuina, gua sha, or other therapeutic  
13                  techniques;

14                  (6) Practice independently or represent themselves as a licensed  
15                  practitioner.

16           Any violation of this subsection constitutes unlicensed practice.

17           (d) Rules and Enforcement. The Guam Board of Allied Health Examiners  
18           shall adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement this section and may  
19           investigate complaints, suspend or revoke certification, and impose discipline as  
20           authorized by law.”