

*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
282-38 (COR)	Telo T. Taitague Shelly V. Calvo V. Anthony Ada Sabina Flores Perez Therese M. Terlaje Frank F. Blas, Jr. Chris Barnett Tina Rose Muña-Barnes Joe S. San Agustin Jesse A. Lujan William A. Parkinson	AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 40145 TO CHAPTER 40, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE SOUTHERN COASTAL PADDLING PROGRAM IN THE VILLAGES OF HÁGAT, HUMÁTAK, MALESSO', AND INALÁHAN; AND TO APPROPRIATE TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$200,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE MAYORS' COUNCIL OF GUAM FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION.	2/24/26 9:53 a.m.						

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

**Bill No. 282-38 (COR)**

Introduced by:

Telo T. Taitague  
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**AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 40145 TO CHAPTER 40, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE SOUTHERN COASTAL PADDLING PROGRAM IN THE VILLAGES OF HÅGAT, HUMÅTAK, MALESSO', AND INALÅHAN; AND TO APPROPRIATE TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$200,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE MAYORS' COUNCIL OF GUAM FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION.**

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds  
3 that the southern coastal villages of *Hågat, Humåtak, Malesso', and Inalåhan*  
4 possess deep historical, cultural, and geographic ties to Guam's maritime traditions.  
5 For generations, these communities have served as stewards of CHamoru seafaring

1 practices, fishing traditions, and ocean-based livelihoods that form a foundational  
2 part of Guam’s identity.

3 *I Liheslatura* further finds that youth engagement in culturally grounded  
4 maritime activities promotes physical wellness, discipline, leadership, teamwork,  
5 and pride in CHamoru heritage. Strengthening access to paddling and ocean-based  
6 education provides young people with meaningful opportunities to connect with  
7 their ancestry, develop life skills, and foster respect for the ocean that has sustained  
8 our island community for centuries.

9 *I Liheslatura* recognizes that the southern coastal geography of *Hågat*,  
10 *Humåtak*, *Malesso*, and *Inalåhan* uniquely positions these municipalities to host  
11 and administer a village-based paddling initiative rooted in place, history, and  
12 cultural continuity. The mayors of these villages, working through the Mayors’  
13 Council of Guam, are best situated to coordinate and oversee such a community-  
14 centered program.

15 *I Liheslatura* further finds that the high cost of canoes, safety equipment,  
16 storage facilities, and program development presents a significant barrier to entry  
17 for many families and villages. Targeted startup assistance is necessary to revitalize  
18 paddling traditions and reestablish accessible maritime programming in the southern  
19 coastal region.

20 It is therefore the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to establish the Southern  
21 Coastal Villages Paddling Pilot Program within the Mayors’ Council of Guam as a  
22 limited pilot initiative applicable to the municipalities of *Hågat*, *Humåtak*, *Malesso*,  
23 and *Inalåhan*. This initiative is intended to empower youth, preserve maritime  
24 heritage, and encourage community-based cultural engagement, while promoting  
25 long-term sustainability through grants, partnerships, sponsorships, and other non-  
26 General Fund revenue sources. Nothing in this Act shall be construed as creating a  
27 mandatory continuing General Fund obligation absent separate legislative

1 authorization.

2 **Section 2.** A New § 40145 is hereby added to Chapter 40, Title 5, Guam  
3 Code Annotated, to read:

4 “ **§ 40145. Establishment of the Southern Coastal Villages Paddling Pilot**  
5 **Program in the villages of *Hågat, Humåtak, Malesso’ and Inalåhan.***

6 (a) There is hereby established within the Mayors’ Council of  
7 Guam, the Southern Coastal Villages Paddling Pilot Program in the villages  
8 of *Hågat, Humatak, Malesso’ and Inalåhan.*

9 (b) The Program shall be administered by the Mayors’ Council of  
10 Guam in coordination with the Mayors of *Hågat, Humåtak, Malesso’ and*  
11 *Inalåhan* for the purpose of promoting culturally grounded maritime  
12 activities, youth development, and heritage-based community engagement  
13 within these municipalities.

14 (c) The administration and funding of the Program under this  
15 Section shall be limited to the municipalities of *Hågat, Humåtak, Malesso’,*  
16 and *Inalåhan*; provided, however, that youth participation in activities  
17 conducted under the Program shall not be restrained by municipal residency.

18 (d) The Program may include the acquisition and maintenance of  
19 paddling equipment, development of maritime training activities, safety  
20 instruction, cultural education components, coordination of village-based  
21 paddling events, and related activities consistent with the purposes of this  
22 Section.

23 (e) The Program is established as a pilot initiative applicable to the  
24 municipalities identified in this Section for purposes of administration and  
25 funding. Nothing herein shall be construed to create a continuing or  
26 mandatory General Fund obligation unless otherwise expressly authorized  
27 and appropriated by *I Liheslaturan Guåhan.*

1                   (f) The Mayors’ Council of Guam and the participating Mayors of  
2                   *Hågat, Humåtak, Malesso*’ and *Inalåhan* are authorized to pursue and accept  
3                   grants, sponsorships, private donations, partnerships, and other revenue  
4                   sources; provided that any additional Government of Guam appropriations  
5                   shall require separate legislative authorization.”

6                   **Section 3. Appropriation.** The sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars  
7 **(\$200,000)** is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Mayors’ Council of  
8 Guam (MCOG) for Fiscal Year 2027 for the implementation of § 40145 of Chapter  
9 40, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated.

10                   This appropriation is intended as a one-time, non-recurring startup investment  
11 and shall not be construed as creating a continuing General Fund obligation beyond  
12 the amount appropriated herein, unless otherwise appropriated by *I Liheslaturan*  
13 *Guåhan*.

14                   The MCOG shall allocate this appropriation in equal amounts of Fifty  
15 Thousand Dollars **(\$50,000)** to each of the following villages:

- 16                   (a) The Office of the Mayor of *Hågat*;
- 17                   (b) The Office of the Mayor of *Humåtak*;
- 18                   (c) The Office of the Mayor of *Malesso*’; and
- 19                   (d) The Office of the Mayor of *Inalåhan*

20                   **Section 3. Use of Funds; Non-Lapsing Provision.** Funds appropriated  
21 under this Act shall be used solely for startup and operational costs directly related  
22 to the Southern Coastal Villages Paddling Pilot Program, including procurement of  
23 paddling equipment, safety gear, storage infrastructure, training materials, and  
24 programmatic support for youth and cultural tourism initiatives. Notwithstanding  
25 any other provision of law, these funds shall not lapse and shall remain available  
26 until fully expended.

27                   **Section 4. Supplemental Funding and Independent Incorporation**

1 **Authorization.** The Mayors of *Hågat, Humåtak, Malessó* and *Inalåhan* are hereby  
2 authorized to:

3 (a) Incorporate this program as a separate line item within their  
4 respective municipal budgets to identify and track long-term funding; and

5 (b) Seek additional supplemental funding through federal grants,  
6 private donations, or by partnering with or establishing non-profit  
7 organizations specifically dedicated to the mission of the paddling program.

8 **Section 5. Reporting Requirement.** The Mayors Council of Guam shall  
9 submit a written report to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* within one hundred eighty (180)  
10 days of the end of the fiscal year detailing:

11 (a) A full accounting of expenditures by village;

12 (b) An itemized inventory of equipment and assets procured and  
13 their assigned location;

14 (c) Participation and engagement data, including number of youths  
15 served, community events hosted, any revenue generated, grants pursued or  
16 secured, and partnerships established; and

17 (d) A sustainability plan and recommendations regarding the  
18 continuation, modification or expansion of the pilot program.

19 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective immediately upon  
20 enactment.