

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
348-38 (LS)	Shelly V. Calvo	AN ACT TO <i>ADD</i> A NEW SECTION 85113.2 OF CHAPTER 85, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERAN ARTS ACCESS FUND; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "VETERAN ARTS FOR WELLNESS ACT OF 2026."	8/7/26 11:57 a.m. 8/17/26 11:14 a.m.						

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

Bill No. 348-38 (LS)

Introduced by:

Shelly V. Calvo 

**AN ACT TO ADD A NEW SECTION 85113.2 OF
CHAPTER 85, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE
ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING
THE VETERAN ARTS ACCESS FUND; AND TO
CITE THIS ACT AS THE “VETERAN ARTS FOR
WELLNESS ACT OF 2026.”**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the “Veteran Arts for
Wellness Act of 2026.”

SECTION 2. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*
finds that therapeutic arts programs offer meaningful pathways for healing,
expression, and community reintegration for veterans with service-connected
disabilities. These programs foster resilience, reduce isolation, and promote mental
wellness through creative engagement.

Historically, such programs have been supported through federal arts funding,
including grants administered by agencies like the National Endowment for the Arts
(NEA). However, federal support for the arts has significantly declined, narrowing
access to traditional funding channels and disproportionately impacting small
jurisdictions like Guam.

1 In response, Guam must identify alternative federal funding sources to sustain
2 and expand therapeutic arts programming for disabled Veterans. One such
3 opportunity is the VA Adaptive Sports Grant Program, administered by the National
4 Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events Office (NVSP&SE), which includes
5 support for trauma-informed arts instruction and public exhibitions.

6 While the application window for the FY2025 VA Adaptive Sports Grant
7 (VA-SPORTS-25) has closed, Guam must proactively prepare for the next grant
8 cycle to ensure eligibility, readiness, and stakeholder coordination.

9 *I Liheslatura* additionally finds that the Guam Council on the Arts and
10 Humanities Agency (CAHA) is uniquely positioned to serve as the lead applicant
11 and administrator for federal adaptive arts grants. As a nonprofit-designated agency
12 under Guam law, CAHA meets the eligibility criteria outlined by the U.S.
13 Department of Veterans Affairs for grant recipients. Moreover, CAHA has a proven
14 track record in organizing public arts programming, coordinating cultural
15 exhibitions, and managing grant-funded initiatives in partnership with local and
16 national stakeholders.

17 CAHA's institutional experience, fiscal accountability, and community
18 engagement capacity make it an ideal steward for the federal adaptive arts funds. Its
19 collaboration with the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC), the
20 Guam Museum, and veteran-serving organizations will ensure that adaptive arts
21 programming is trauma-informed, culturally grounded, and accessible to all eligible
22 veterans.

23 Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* is to establish and fund the
24 Veteran Arts Access Fund as a dedicated account to support adaptive arts initiatives
25 for veterans, including those eligible for future federal grants. By creating a locally
26 administered fund, Guam affirms its commitment to veteran wellness, cultural

1 accessibility, and grant-readiness, ensuring that no veteran is left behind due to
2 shifting federal priorities.

3 **SECTION 3.** A new § 85113.2 of Chapter 85, Title 5, Guam Code
4 Annotated, is hereby *added* to read:

5 **“§ 85113.2. Veteran Arts Access Fund.**

6 (a) Establishment of the Veteran Arts Access Fund. There is hereby
7 established within the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency
8 (CAHA) a special account to be known as the “Veteran Arts Access Fund”
9 (Fund).

10 (1) The Fund shall be administered by CAHA in coordination
11 with the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC) and
12 the Guam Museum.

13 (2) The Fund shall be used exclusively to support therapeutic
14 arts programs for veterans with service-connected disabilities,
15 including but not limited to:

16 (A) Adaptive visual and performance arts workshops;

17 (B) Public exhibitions featuring veteran artists;

18 (C) Trauma-informed arts instruction and facilitator
19 training; and

20 (D) Accessibility services such as ASL interpretation and
21 tactile guides.

22 (b) Designation as Grant Receiving Account. The Fund shall serve as
23 the designated account for the receipt and management of federal funds
24 awarded to Guam under the VA Adaptive Sports Grant Program (VA-
25 SPORTS-26) or any successor program.

1 (1) CAHA is authorized to apply for, receive, and administer
2 such federal funds in a nonprofit capacity, in partnership with GBHWC
3 and other veteran-serving organizations.

4 (2) All expenditures from the Fund shall be subject to audit and
5 reporting requirements consistent with federal grant conditions and
6 local fiscal policy.

7 (c) Initial Appropriation. The sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000)
8 is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Veteran Artist Fund for
9 Fiscal Year 2026. These funds shall be used to support program planning,
10 stakeholder coordination, and grant readiness activities in anticipation of the
11 VA Adaptive Sports Grant Fiscal Year 2026 cycle. The funds shall also be
12 used to subsidize any fees charged to veterans with service-connected
13 disabilities by CAHA for participation in arts programming or grant-
14 supported activities, excluding commission fees on artwork sales.

15 (d) Reporting and Oversight.

16 (1) CAHA shall submit an annual report to the Speaker of the
17 Guam Legislature detailing:

18 (A) Program activities and outcomes;

19 (B) Grant expenditures and fund balances; and

20 (C) Veteran participation metrics.

21 (2) The Speaker may refer the report to the appropriate standing
22 committee for review and may convene oversight hearings as necessary
23 to ensure transparency, impact, and alignment with the Fund's purpose.

24 **SECTION 4. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon enactment.

25 **SECTION 5. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to
26 any person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity shall
27 not 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.