

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
352-38 (COR)	Joe S. San Agustin Vincent A.V. Borja Tina Rose Muna Barnes William A. Parkinson Shelly V. Calvos	AN ACT TO <i>ADD</i> A NEW SUBSECTION 3 TO § 4101 (c), CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO HIGHER EDUCATION CULTURAL TEACHERS AND PRACTICIONERS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM.	8/26/26 2:08 p.m.						

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

Bill No. 352-38 (COR)

Introduced by:

Joe S. San Agustin 
Vincent A.V. Borja 
Tina Rose Muna Barnes 
Willam A. Parkinson 
Shelly V. Calvo 

**AN ACT TO ADD A NEW SUBSECTION 3 TO § 4101 (c),
CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED
RELATIVE TO HIGHER EDUCATION
CULTURAL TEACHERS AND PRACTITIONERS
FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM.**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the University of Guam CHamoru Studies Program is an interdisciplinary degree program that recognizes the need for its students to engage in both the theoretical and the applied aspects of the pursuit of knowledge, with particular emphasis on engaging with CHamoru cultural practices and epistemologies. Thus, in addition to courses offered in academic settings, students are afforded opportunity to participate in applied coursework in cultural practices to include, but not limited to, weaving, traditional medicine, carving, stone quarrying, language technology development, navigation and sailing, and other practices offered through classroom instruction, internship, and/or service-learning formats. Students taking courses in CHamoru cultural practices benefit greatly from the knowledge and expertise of community members such as our Fáfa'na'gue or Cultural Teachers and Practitioners.

1 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that all special courses, or those not listed
2 in the UOG catalog, must be vetted and endorsed by the core faculty of the CHamoru
3 Studies Program. Individuals who are not members of the core faculty of the
4 program and who seek to teach special courses will also be vetted and endorsed prior
5 to any special or permanent course offering.

6 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that while there are many individuals in
7 the community with expertise in various CHamoru cultural practices and knowledge
8 systems, many may not have the minimum academic credentials required by the
9 university or the Government of Guam for hiring at the rank of Assistant Instructor
10 and Instructor. As a result, the university has worked diligently to establish
11 guidelines and procedures to employ Guam's rich cultural practices and search for
12 instructors who meet or exceed these guidelines as Fáfa'na'gue.

13 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that while Fáfa'na'gue may not always possess
14 academic credentials, they are nonetheless highly qualified to instruct students in
15 various areas of cultural practice and knowledge and should thus be properly
16 acknowledged. Fáfa'na'gue who successfully abide by these guidelines and
17 procedures may be approved to teach special courses for the program as outlined
18 with the university.

19 It is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to allow our island's Fáfa'na'gue, our
20 cultural teachers and practitioners, who qualify as instructors in higher education, to
21 provide the necessary training and guidance that will expand the knowledge and
22 skills needed to advance the specialty practices of our island culture and heritage.

23 **Section 2.** A new Subsection 3 is *added* to § 4101 (c), Chapter 4, Title 4,
24 Guam Code Annotated to read as follows:

25 “(3) This Subsection shall not be applicable to higher education instructors
26 who are cultural teachers and practitioners or Fáfa'na'gue at the University of Guam.

1 The instructors must meet the qualifications as prescribed: established and adopted
2 by the University of Guam.

3 (a) Minimum qualifications:

4 i. Demonstrated competency in CHamoru cultural practices and
5 knowledge systems.

6 ii. Evidence of experience in working with the CHamoru
7 community for at least five (5) years.

8 iii. At least five (5) years of applied experience in the practice or
9 knowledge on which the course will focus.

10 iv. Exposure of the instructor's work to the communities in
11 Guam and/or the Northern Mariana Islands (exhibits, workshops,
12 festivals, etc.) over a period of at least five (5) years.

13 v. At least five (5) years of experience in providing instruction
14 (formal or informal) in the practice or knowledge on which the course
15 will focus.

16 vi. Evidence of community service within the last five (5) years
17 specific to the candidate's area of knowledge/practice.

18 (b) Preferred qualifications:

19 i. Demonstrated competency in CHamoru cultural practices and
20 knowledge systems, and their relationships to other parts of the Pacific
21 Islands region.

22 ii. Evidence of experience in working with CHamoru and other
23 Pacific Islander communities.

24 iii. More than (5) years of applied experience in the practice or
25 knowledge on which the course will focus.

1 iv. Exposure of the instructor's work to the communities both in
2 Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and internationally (exhibits,
3 workshops, festivals, etc.) for a period of more than five (5) years.

4 v. Established record of successful receipt/completion of
5 community grants related to the candidate's area of knowledge or
6 practice in the last five (5) years.

7 vi. More than five (5) years of experience in providing
8 instruction and/or mentoring to apprentices (formally or informally) in
9 the practices or knowledge on which the course will focus.

10 vii. Established record of awards and recognition of work related
11 to the practices or knowledge on which the course will focus.

12 viii. Institutional recognition/sanctioning of work (e.g., Guam
13 Council on the Arts and Humanities Master recognition, etc.).

14 ix. Evidence of community service for more than five (5) years
15 specific to the candidate's area of knowledge/practice."

16 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment.