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
218-38 (COR)	Shelly V. Calvo	AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW § 421 TO CHAPTER 4, TITLE 1, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MANDATING THE OFFICIAL USE OF THE SPELLING "CHAMORU" IN PLACE OF "CHAMORRO" IN GUAM LAW, POLICY, AND PUBLIC DOCUMENTS, AND TO REQUIRE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS CHANGE BY ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PUBLIC EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS.	11/7/25 8:40 a.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2025 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 218-38 (COR)

Introduced by: Shelly Vargas Calvo

AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 421 TO CHAPTER 4, TITLE 1, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MANDATING THE OFFICIAL USE OF THE SPELLING "CHAMORU" IN PLACE OF "CHAMORRO" IN GUAM LAW, POLICY, AND PUBLIC DOCUMENTS, AND TO REQUIRE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS CHANGE BY ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PUBLIC EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

SECTION 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the term *CHamoru* more accurately reflects the pronunciation and orthography of the Indigenous people, language, and culture of Guam and the Mariana Islands. The term *Chamorro* is a Spanish colonial-era spelling that does not align with the orthographic conventions adopted by CHamoru language scholars, educators, and community advocates.

I Liheslatura further finds that the adoption of *CHamoru* over *Chamorro* has been widely embraced by cultural institutions, educational curricula, and CHamoru language revitalization efforts. Therefore, to affirm Guam's commitment to cultural preservation and Indigenous self-determination, the official spelling used

in statutes, government publications, educational materials, and signage shall be updated to *CHamoru*.

Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan* to provide justification and cultural context supporting the formal adoption of the spelling "CHamoru" in place of "Chamorro" across official government documents, statutes, educational materials, and agency names.

SECTION 2. A new §421 is hereby added to Chapter 4, Title 1, Guam Code Annotated, to read as follows:

§421. Adoption of "CHamoru" Orthography in All Official Uses Within the Government of Guam

(a) "For the purposes of this Act, *"CHamoru"* shall mean the people, language, and culture indigenous to Guam and the Mariana Islands.

(b) *"Chamorro"* shall refer to the legacy spelling to be replaced, except where used in a historical or legally established context.

(c) The Compiler of Laws is authorized and directed to revise the Guam Code Annotated (GCA) and other codified government publications to replace all instances of the term "Chamorro" with "CHamoru," except in proper nouns, names of historic programs, or references where legal or historical accuracy requires retention of the legacy term.

(d) All line agencies, autonomous and semi-autonomous government entities, and public educational institutions shall:

(1) Use the term *CHamoru* in all official documents, signage, websites, correspondence, and programs going forward;

(2) Phase out usage of *Chamorro* in existing materials within eighteen (18) months from the enactment of this Act;

(3) Collaborate with the Department of CHamoru Affairs and the Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the

History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam for correct orthographic usage.

(e) The Office of Technology and the Department of Administration shall coordinate with all agencies to ensure that digital systems and communications reflect the updated terminology."

SECTION 3. Creation of an Implementation Working Group.

There is hereby established an interagency Working Group on CHamoru Terminology Implementation (WGCTI), to be co-chaired by the Department of CHamoru Affairs and the Department of Administration. The WGCTI shall:

(1) Issue technical guidance on orthographic usage;

(2) Provide training or informational materials to agencies and educators;

(3) Submit a report to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* no later than one (1) year from enactment on progress and challenges in implementation.

SECTION 4. Funding. Funding for implementation may be drawn from existing agency operational budgets, cultural preservation grants, or appropriated through subsequent legislation. Agencies are encouraged to incorporate these costs into budget requests.

SECTION 5. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon enactment.

SECTION 6. Severability. If any provision of this Act or its application to any person or circumstance is found invalid, the remainder of this Act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.