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
224-38 (COR)	Sabina Flores Perez Chris Barnett Therese M. Terlaje Tina Rose Muña Barnes	AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW ARTICLE 5 TO CHAPTER 18, TITLE 1 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REVITALIZING MANDATORY GOVERNMENT-WIDE RECYCLING.	11/14/25 1:37 p.m.						

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

Bill No. 224-38 (COR)

Introduced by: Sabina Flores Perez SFP
Chris Barnett DCB
Therese M. Terlaje TMT
Tina Rose Muña Barnes

AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW ARTICLE 5 TO CHAPTER 18, TITLE 1 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REVITALIZING MANDATORY GOVERNMENT-WIDE RECYCLING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the 2019 Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. waste composition study categorized Guam's landfill waste, which comprised plastics (25%), paper (15%), and electronics (1%) that present more opportunities for landfill diversion targets. The study also noted at the time that the percentage of plastic waste disposed had increased dramatically. Meanwhile, a study conducted by the Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA) found that, as of March 2020, less than one percent (1%) of the total plastic waste generated in Guam was being recycled.

I Liheslatura finds that Guåhan's goal to reach fifty percent (50%) of waste reduction by 2035 and seventy-five percent (75%) waste reduction by 2045 can be met if current laws are consistently and broadly implemented to target areas of significant waste. Since offices generally produce large amounts of paper, plastic, and electronic waste, there is potential for source reduction through mandatory

recycling initiatives. One recommendation made in Guam's Zero Waste Master Plan 2023 is to implement mandatory recycling in government.

I Liheslatura finds that Public Law 24-304, sponsored by the late Senator Edward J. Cruz established the "Government of Guam Solid Waste Reduction Act," which required all government departments, agencies, and instrumentalities to make every effort to reduce their solid waste and required GEPA to implement rules and regulations for such purposes. In 2003, Governor Felix P. Camacho's Executive Order (EO) 2003-17 implemented a government-wide plan for source reduction, procurement of materials with limited packaging, and recycling. These directives provided a great framework for mandatory government-wide source reduction. However, the 2023 Guam Zero Waste Master Plan had noted that the mandates from Public Law 24-304 were not being enforced and that it was unclear whether EO 2003-17 had been fully implemented.

I Liheslatura further finds, as stated in EO 2003-17 by Governor Camacho, that "the government of Guam must set an example for the public, rather than continuing to contribute to the island's solid waste management problems."

Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to build upon the work of previous local leaders in establishing mandatory government recycling by requiring GEPA to create a centralized, online recycling resource guide for government and public use, codifying EO 2003-17 in the Guam Code Annotated, and by facilitating the completion of rules and regulations required by Public Law 24-304, in order to further enforce mandatory government recycling.

Section 2. A new Article 5 of Chapter 18, Title 1, Guam Code Annotated is hereby *added* to read:

"ARTICLE 5

MANDATORY GOVERNMENT-WIDE RECYCLING

§ 1850. Definitions.

§ 1851. Recycling Resource Guide.
§ 1852. Plan of Action for Source Reduction and Recycling.
§ 1853. Recycling Compliance Official (RCO).
§ 1854. Annual Review.

§ 1850. Definitions.

"Source Reduction" means the practice of preventing or minimizing the production of solid waste at the point of generation or reducing the amount of material that enters the waste stream before it can be discarded.

§ 1851. Recycling Resource Guide.

(a) The Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA) shall develop a centralized, online recycling resource guide which shall facilitate the implementation of this Article by including information such as:

(1) GEPA's most updated Guam Recycling Guide,

(2) a list of materials that can and cannot be recycled in Guam and a guide on universal recycling signage,

(3) a list of currently operating recycling companies in Guam and contract templates for said companies,

(4) educational materials and best practices to encourage recycling,

(5) a guide on how to budget or fund for recycling initiatives within the workplace or at home, and

(6) a phone directory for the purpose of providing information and guidance on recycling initiatives.

(b) The online resource guide shall be made available to the public and distributed, through notification, to all government of Guam departments, agencies, and instrumentalities, including autonomous and semi-autonomous agencies, upon its completion.

§ 1852. Plan of Action for Source Reduction and Recycling.

(a) All Government of Guam departments, agencies and instrumentalities, including autonomous and semi-autonomous agencies, shall develop and implement a Plan of Action, in conjunction with GEPA, to promote source reduction and recycling, including but not limited to the following procedures:

(1) conducting a waste audit or collection record to determine areas of improvement in minimizing waste,

(2) purchasing bulk products, procuring items with recyclable, compostable, or limited packaging, and sharing or donating materials, shredded paper, and/or furniture to reduce waste whenever possible; and

(3) implementing guidelines to pre-sort waste such as:

(A) providing separate receptacles for aluminum waste for recycling,

(B) providing separate receptacles for paper, including office paper, cardboard, and newspapers, and avoiding mixing or shredding papers and plastics together,

(C) ensuring materials such as batteries, vehicle oil, white goods and appliances, tires, and other waste for which recycling options are available are properly recycled,

(D) providing separate receptacles for all other materials, such as glass and plastic, as recycling options become available, and

(4) composting whenever possible.

(b) Each director, administrator, manager, or agency head shall ensure regular collection periods and maintain a record of weight or volume, type of recyclable items, and amount of monies received. Monies received from the sales of such collections shall be used to offset the cost of implementing this

Article. Any excess funds available shall be contributed to an employees association fund and/or student activities fund at the discretion of each responsible director, administrator, manager, or agency head.

§ 1853. Recycling Compliance Official (RCO).

(a) An employee shall be designated to be the Recycling Compliance Official (RCO). A second employee shall be designated as the alternate RCO in cases where the main RCO is unable to fulfill their duties. The RCO or their alternate shall coordinate with GEPA and any other government agency or instrumentality as necessary to develop and implement the Plan of Action along with appropriate procedures to maximize source reduction and recycling options and capabilities within the agency. The RCO or their alternate shall develop an annual collection record in accordance with this Article, including any progress made in source reduction or any waste stream data, if available. These reports shall be made available to the public on each department, agency, or other government instrumentality's website.

(b) Special provision for GDOE schools. Notwithstanding any provision in law, the Superintendent of GDOE is authorized to designate the principal of each elementary, middle, or high school as the RCO of the school. The principal is authorized to select the alternate RCO.

§ 1854. Annual Review.

In implementing this Article, GEPA shall coordinate with each line agency's RCO to review their annual collection record and Plan of Action, make recommendations on improving source reduction and recycling within their agency, and to provide information on newer methods of source reduction and recycling, if available. GEPA shall compile an Annual Summary Report, which shall be posted on GEPA's website and submitted to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* annually on November 1st."

Section 3. Promulgation of Rules and Regulations. The Guam Environmental Protection Agency shall promulgate rules and regulations through the Administrative Adjudication Law in accordance with this Act within one hundred eighty (180) days upon enactment. The rules and regulations shall include, but not be limited to, the provision and maintenance of receptacles, storage and transport of recyclables, tracking of generation and use of funds.

Section 4. Severability. If any provision of this Act or its application to any person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are severable.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Act shall be effective upon enactment.