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
379-38 (LS)	Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation and Hagåtña Restoration by request of *I Kongressun Manhoben Guåhan* , the Guam Youth Congress, in accordance with 2 GCA § 7102	AN ACT TO *AMEND* § 40125(A) OF CHAPTER 40, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ENHANCING YOUTH REPRESENTATION IN VILLAGE GOVERNANCE BY INCLUDING GUAM YOUTH CONGRESS VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES AS EX-OFFICIO, NON-VOTING MEMBERS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE VILLAGE MUNICIPAL PLANNING COUNCILS AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE MAYORAL APPOINTMENT OF A YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE IN THE ABSENCE OF AN ELECTED GUAM YOUTH CONGRESS REPRESENTATIVE.	10/15/26 1:46 p.m. ^10/30/26 1:03 p.m.						

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

Bill No. 379-38 (LS)

Introduced by: Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation and *Hagåtña* Restoration
by request of *I Kongressun Manhoben Guåhan*, the Guam Youth Congress, in accordance with 2 GCA § 7102

AN ACT TO *AMEND* § 40125(A) OF CHAPTER 40, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ENHANCING YOUTH REPRESENTATION IN VILLAGE GOVERNANCE BY INCLUDING GUAM YOUTH CONGRESS VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES AS EX-OFFICIO, NON-VOTING MEMBERS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE VILLAGE MUNICIPAL PLANNING COUNCILS AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE MAYORAL APPOINTMENT OF A YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE IN THE ABSENCE OF AN ELECTED GUAM YOUTH CONGRESS REPRESENTATIVE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Intent and Purpose. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* recognizes the significant role that the youth of Guam play in the future of our island and believes that the youth should not only be the leaders of tomorrow but also active participants in shaping their communities today. In light of this, *I Liheslatura Guåhan* aims to provide youth with a formal, recognized role in the decision-making processes that directly affect the development and governance of their respective villages through the inclusion of youth

representatives of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* elected by the youth in their villages as ex-officio, non-voting members of the Municipal Planning Councils in each village across Guam.

The inclusion of youth representatives from *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* in the Municipal Planning Councils will ensure that the voices of young people are heard in the local governance structures that shape their communities. By involving youth in discussions and decisions surrounding community planning, local education, public safety, and other issues impacting the welfare of the island's youth, *I Liheslatuan Guåhan* seeks to integrate youth perspectives into the fabric of municipal governance. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* seeks to foster civic engagement, responsibility, and leadership by ensuring that young people have a direct hand in shaping policies that will affect the future of their villages and the broader island.

Furthermore, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* intends to establish a framework for greater collaboration between youth representatives, mayors, and other local officials. By automatically including elected representatives of the Guam Youth Congress in the Municipal Planning Councils, this Act ensures that local government is reflective of the needs and concerns of all residents, especially the youth, who are often underrepresented in the planning process. Through these collaborations, young people will gain firsthand experience in governance, enhance their leadership skills, and become more active in the development of solutions to address challenges such as education, youth employment, community safety, and overall quality of life.

In sum, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* hopes to ensure that the voices of youth are not only heard but also integrated into the governance structures that will directly impact the future of their villages and their island. It is a commitment to an inclusive, collaborative, and youth-driven approach to community planning and local governance across our island.

Section 2. § 40125(a) of Chapter 40, Title 9, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *amended* to read as follows:

"§ 40125. Composition and Eligibility of Council Members.

(a) A Municipal Planning Council shall be composed of at least ten (10) members to be appointed by the Mayor from among the residents of the district who are registered voters, who are U.S. citizens, and who are at least eighteen (18) years of age. In addition, the Mayor may appoint one (1) additional member to the Municipal Planning Council for every one thousand (1,000) residents of the district in excess of ten thousand (10,000); provided, that the total membership shall not exceed twenty (20) members.

Notwithstanding the requirements for age, U.S. citizenship, and voter registration set forth in this section, each youth representative of the Guam Youth Congress, elected by the youth of the respective village, shall automatically serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Municipal Planning Council for their village. This youth representative seat shall be required and shall not be omitted. This Youth Congress representative shall be exempt from the age and voter registration requirements in the event that they are under the age of eighteen (18) years old. The Youth Congress representative shall have the right to participate in all discussions, presentations, and deliberations before the Council, but shall not have the right to vote on any matter or issue before the Council.

If a village does not have an elected Guam Youth Congress representative seated at the time of Council service, the Mayor shall appoint a youth resident of the village to serve as the ex-officio, non-voting youth representative to the Municipal Planning Council. The appointed youth representative shall meet the age eligibility requirements for candidacy to the Guam Youth Congress, but shall not be required to be a registered voter or a U.S. citizen. The appointed youth representative shall have the same

rights of participation and the same non-voting status as the elected youth representative as described *supra.*

Should a Guam Youth Congress special election subsequently be held and a youth representative for the village be elected, the elected representative shall immediately assume the ex-officio, non-voting seat on the Municipal Planning Council. Upon the certification of the election results by the Chairwoman of the Committee on Youth of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, the term of the appointed youth representative shall automatically terminate without further action required."

Section 3. 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 4. Effective Date. This Act shall be effective upon enactment.