

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.						

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 *Saly*
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

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

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

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

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

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

3 **“§ 40125. Composition and Eligibility of Council Members.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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