

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
202-38 (COR)	Vincent A. V. Borja Frank F. Blas, Jr. Shelly V. Calvo Sabrina Salas Matanane Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao Tina Rose Muña Barnes	AN ACT TO <i>ADD</i> A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5 OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE "GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT."	10/9/25 11:43 a.m. 10/20/25 11:40 a.m.	10/21/25	Committee on Education, Libraries and Public Broadcasting.	Request:10/21/25 10/22/25	12/9/25 9:00 a.m.	1/7/26 As Amended.	



Office of Senator

Vincent A.V. Borja

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

DNA BUILDING
SUITE 502
238 ARCHBISHOP FLORES ST.
HAGATÑA, GUAM 96910
TEL 671-969-8423

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, LIBRARIES
AND PUBLIC
BROADCASTING

December 31, 2025

The Honorable Frank F. Blas Jr.

Speaker, *I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan*
163 W. Chalan Santo Papa
Hågatña, Guam 96910

Via Honorable Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada 
Chairman, Committee on Rules

RE: Committee Report on Bill No. 202-38 (COR) As Amended

Buenas yan Håfa Ådai Speaker,

Transmitted herewith for your consideration is the Committee Report **on Bill No. 202-38 (COR)- As Amended by the Committee on Education, Libraries, and Public Broadcasting** – Vincent A.V. Borja – Frank F. Blas, Jr. – Shelly V. Calvo – Sabrina Salas Matanane – Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao – Tina Rose Muña Barnes – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5 OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE “GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT”.

Committee votes are as follows:

- 3 TO DO PASS
- _____ TO NOT PASS
- 6 TO REPORT OUT ONLY
- _____ TO ABSTAIN
- _____ TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE



COMMITTEE ON RULES

RECEIVED:
December 31, 2025 10:15 a.m.
Marie Crisostomo
Revisions Received:
January 7, 2026 10:15 a.m.

Best Regards,

Senator Vincent A.V. Borja
Chairman, Committee on Education, Libraries, and Public Broadcasting



Office of Senator

Vincent A.V. Borja

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CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, LIBRARIES
AND PUBLIC
BROADCASTING

COMMITTEE REPORT

BILL NO. 202-38 (COR)

*As Amended by the Committee on Education, Libraries, and
Public Broadcasting*

**Sponsors: Vincent A.V. Borja – Frank F.
Blas, Jr. – Shelly V. Calvo – Sabrina Salas
Matanane – Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao –
Tina Rose Muña Barnes**

**“AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 56
TO DIVISION 5 OF TITLE 17, GUAM
CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO
ESTABLISHING THE “GUAM
VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION
BENEFITS ACT”.**



Office of Senator

Vincent A.V. Borja

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CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, LIBRARIES
AND PUBLIC
BROADCASTING

December 31, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Members
Committee on Education, Libraries, and Public Broadcasting

From: Senator Vincent A.V. Borja
Chairperson, Education, Libraries, and Public Broadcasting

Subject: Committee Report on Bill No. 202-38 (COR) *As Amended*

Transmitted herewith for your consideration is the Committee Report on **Bill No. 202-38 (COR)- *As Amended by the Committee on Education, Libraries, and Public Broadcasting*** – Vincent A.V. Borja – Frank F. Blas, Jr. – Shelly V. Calvo – Sabrina Salas Matanane – Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao – Tina Rose Muña Barnes – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5 OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE “GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT”.

This report includes the following:

- Copy of COR Referral of Bill No. 202-38 (COR)
- Notices of Public Hearing
- Copy of the Public Hearing Agenda
- Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet
- Copies of Submitted Written Testimony
- Committee Vote Sheet
- Committee Report Digest
- Copy of Bill No. 202-38 (COR), *As Introduced*
- Copy of Bill No. 202-38 (COR), *As Amended*
- Copy of Bill No. 202-38 (COR), *As Amended by the Committee (Markup)*
- Fiscal Note/Fiscal Note Waiver

Please take the appropriate action on the attached vote sheet. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Senator Vincent A.V. Borja

Chairperson

Committee on Education, Libraries, and Public Broadcasting




COMMITTEE ON RULES

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Chairperson
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
38th Guam Legislature

October 21, 2025

To: **Rennae V. C. Meno**
Clerk of the Legislature

Attorney Darleen Hiton
Legislative Legal Counsel

From: **Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada** 
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Subject: **Referral of Bill No. 202-38 (COR)**

Håfa Adai,

As per my authority as Chairperson of the Committee on Rules and subject to §6.01(d)(1), Rule VI of our Standing Rules, I am forwarding the referral of **Bill No. 202-38 (COR)** – Vincent A. V. Borja, Frank F. Blas, Jr., Shelly V. Calvo, Sabrina Salas Matanane, Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, Tina Rose Muña Barnes. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5 OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE “GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT.”

Please ensure that the subject bill is referred to the Committee on Education, Libraries, and Public Broadcasting chaired by Senator Vincent A.V. Borja. I also request that the same be copied to the Prime Sponsor of the subject bill and to Management Information Services (MIS) for posting on our website.

A copy of the bill is available on our legislative website.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Kamarin Nelson, Committee on Rules Director at 671-472-2461.





Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>

FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – DECEMBER 9, 2025

1 message

Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov

Mon, Dec 1, 2025 at 8:00 AM

December 1, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL SENATORS, STAKEHOLDERS, MEDIA

FROM: SENATOR VINCENT A. V. BORJA,
CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, LIBRARIES, AND PUBLIC BROADCASTING

RE: FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – DECEMBER 9, 2025

Håfa Adai! The Committee on Education, Libraries & Public Broadcasting will conduct a Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, beginning at 9:00 A.M in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building.

The Committee will hear and accept testimony on the following:

- I. [Doc. No. 38GL-25-1364](#) – The Appointment of David J.N. Camacho to serve as a Member, Guam Academy Charter Schools Council, Retired Teacher – Representative, Three (3) Years; From Date of Confirmation
- II. [Doc. No. 38GL-25-1369](#) – The Appointment of Evangeline M. Cepeda to serve as a Member, Guam Academy Charter Schools Council, General Public – Representative, Three (3) Years; From Date of Confirmation
- III. [Bill No. 202-38 \(COR\)](#) – AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5 OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE “GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT.”

How to Participate: Written testimony may be delivered to the Office of Senator Vincent A. V. Borja, DNA Building, Suite 502, 238 Archbishop Flores Street, Hagåtña, Guam 96910, or via email to contact@senatorvinceborja.com. The Committee requests that testimonies be submitted at least forty-eight (48) hours before the scheduled hearing.

Please confirm your attendance by contacting the office of Senator Vincent A. V. Borja via email at contact@senatorvinceborja.com or by voice call at (671) 969-8423

Special Accommodations: All government activities, programs, and services are accessible for people with disabilities in compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For assistance

or special accommodations to fully participate in this public hearing, please contact the office of Senator Vincent A.V. Borja at (671) 969-8423 or via email at contact@senatorvinceborja.com

Watch Live/Record: The hearing will be broadcast live on local television

(GTA, Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117) and streamed online via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed on YouTube. After the hearing, a hearing recording will also be available online via the Guam Legislature Media on YouTube.

Respectfully,



Office of Senator Vincent A.V. Borja

Committee on Education, Libraries, & Public
Broadcasting

38th Guam Legislature

Suite 502, DNA Bldg. 238 Archbishop Flores St.

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T +1 (671) 969-8423

E contact@senatorvinceborja.com

 **FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – DECEMBER 9, 2025 .pdf**
264K



Office of Senator

Vincent A. V. Borja

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TEL 671-969-8423

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, LIBRARIES
AND PUBLIC
BROADCASTING

December 1, 2025

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TO: ALL SENATORS, STAKEHOLDERS, MEDIA

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FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – DECEMBER 9, 2025

FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – DECEMBER 9, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING

 **Posted on:** 12/01/2025 07:30 AM

 **Posted by:** Caden Poblete, Intern

 **Public Hearing Date:** 12/09/2025 09:00 AM

 **Department(s):** [GUAM LEGISLATURE \(/notices?department_id=92\)](/notices?department_id=92)

 **Division(s):** [OFFICE OF SENATOR VINCE BORJA \(/notices?division_id=297\)](/notices?division_id=297)

 **Notice Topic(s):** [PUBLIC HEARING \(/notices?topic_id=74\)](/notices?topic_id=74)

 **Types of Notice:** [PUBLIC HEARING \(/notices?type_id=7\)](/notices?type_id=7)

 **For Audience(s):** [PUBLIC \(/notices?public=1\)](/notices?public=1)

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December 1, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL SENATORS, STAKEHOLDERS, MEDIA

FROM: SENATOR VINCENT A. V. BORJA,
CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, LIBRARIES, AND PUBLIC BROADCASTING

RE: FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – DECEMBER 9, 2025

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The Committee will hear and accept testimony on the following:

I. **Doc. No. 38GL-25-1364**

(https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Mess_Comms_38th/Doc.%20No.%2038GL-25-1364.pdf) – The Appointment of David J.N. Camacho to serve as a Member, Guam Academy Charter Schools Council, Retired Teacher – Representative, Three (3) Years; From Date of Confirmation

II. **Doc. No. 38GL-25-1369**

(https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Mess_Comms_38th/Doc.%20No.%2038GL-25-1369.pdf) – The Appointment of Evangeline M. Cepeda to serve as a Member, Guam Academy Charter Schools Council, General Public – Representative, Three (3) Years; From Date of Confirmation

III. **Bill No. 202-38 (COR)**

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20202-38%20\(COR\)%20Referred%20Version.pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20202-38%20(COR)%20Referred%20Version.pdf)) – AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5 OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE “GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT.”

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Hearing on Camacho, Cepeda Appointments, Veterans Benefits Legislation



Five Business Days from Now

This public notice was published on Kandit on December 1, 2025

Senator Vincent Borja will convene a Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 to accept testimony on the following: David J.N. Camacho and Evangeline M. Cepeda's appointments to the Guam Academy Charter Schools Council Bill No. 202-38 (COR).

Information follows

An advertisement for Guam Cleaning Masters Inc. featuring a smiling man in a white t-shirt and blue overalls, wearing an orange hard hat and holding a clipboard. The text on the ad includes: "Join Our Team Now! We're Looking For OPERATIONS MANAGER \$40,000 /PER YEAR JANITORIAL SUPERVISOR \$35,000 /PER YEAR". It also lists benefits like vacation leave, holiday pay, and health insurance, and provides qualifications and contact information for the company.

GUAM CLEANING MASTERS INC.
Join Our Team Now!
We're Looking For
OPERATIONS MANAGER
\$40,000 /PER YEAR
JANITORIAL SUPERVISOR
\$35,000 /PER YEAR
BENEFITS:
• Vacation Leave w/ Pay
• Holiday Pay
• Health Insurance
Qualifications:
• Must possess U.S. Passport or a Real ID- U.S. Citizen
• Must possess a Professional Standard Card or a Real ID- all other
• Willing to learn and be trained.
• Will be in compliance of all company rules and regulations
Send your resume to: GUAMCLEANINGMASTERS@GMAIL.COM
More Information call us: +1671 646 2000

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Information follows



FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Published on Kandit on December 1, 2025

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Special Accommodations: All government activities, programs, and services are accessible for people with disabilities in compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For assistance or special accommodations to fully participate in this public hearing, please contact the office of Senator Vincent A.V. Borja at (671) 969-8423 or via email at contact@senatorvinceborja.com

Watch Live/Record: The hearing will be broadcast live on local television

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🔗 Share ❤️ FAVORITES 👤 By Troy Torres 📅 Posted on: Monday, 12/01/2025 9:18 AM 🏷️ Education + Arts + Culture 📍 Guam 🗂️ Other Events 💬 0 comments 👁️ 203

PUBLIC NOTICES

VINCE BORJA



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Leave a Reply



Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>

SECOND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – DECEMBER 9, 2025

Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>

Thu, Dec 4, 2025 at 8:00 AM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov

December 4, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL SENATORS, STAKEHOLDERS, MEDIA

FROM: SENATOR VINCENT A. V. BORJA,
CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, LIBRARIES, AND PUBLIC BROADCASTING

RE: SECOND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – DECEMBER 9, 2025

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Respectfully,



Office of Senator Vincent A.V. Borja

Committee on Education, Libraries, & Public
Broadcasting

38th Guam Legislature

Suite 502, DNA Bldg. 238 Archbishop Flores St.

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T +1 (671) 969-8423

E contact@senatorvinceborja.com

 **SECOND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – DECEMBER 9, 2025 .pdf**
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Office of Senator

Vincent A. V. Borja

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

DNA BUILDING
SUITE 502
238 ARCHBISHOP FLORES ST.
HAGATÑA, GUAM 96910
TEL 671-969-8423

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, LIBRARIES
AND PUBLIC
BROADCASTING

December 4, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL SENATORS, STAKEHOLDERS, MEDIA

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SECOND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – DECEMBER 9, 2025

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PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 12/04/2025 07:30 AM

Posted by: Caden Poblete, Intern

Public Hearing Date: 12/09/2025 09:00 AM

Department(s): [GUAM LEGISLATURE \(/notices?department_id=92\)](/notices?department_id=92)

Division(s): [OFFICE OF SENATOR VINCE BORJA \(/notices?division_id=297\)](/notices?division_id=297)

Notice Topic(s): [PUBLIC HEARING \(/notices?topic_id=74\)](/notices?topic_id=74)

Types of Notice: [PUBLIC HEARING \(/notices?type_id=7\)](/notices?type_id=7)

For Audience(s): [PUBLIC \(/notices?public=1\)](/notices?public=1)

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December 4, 2025

MEMORANDUM

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(https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Mess_Comms_38th/Doc.%20No.%2038GL-25-1364.pdf) – The Appointment of David J.N. Camacho to serve as a Member, Guam Academy Charter Schools Council, Retired Teacher – Representative, Three (3) Years; From Date of Confirmation

II. **Doc. No. 38GL-25-1369**

(https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Mess_Comms_38th/Doc.%20No.%2038GL-25-1369.pdf) – The Appointment of Evangeline M. Cepeda to serve as a Member, Guam Academy Charter Schools Council, General Public – Representative, Three (3) Years; From Date of Confirmation

III. **Bill No. 202-38 (COR)**

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20202-38%20\(COR\)%20Referred%20Version.pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20202-38%20(COR)%20Referred%20Version.pdf)) – AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5 OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE “GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT.”

How to Participate: Written testimony may be delivered to the Office of Senator Vincent A. V. Borja, DNA Building, Suite 502, 238 Archbishop Flores Street, Hagåtña, Guam 96910, or via email to contact@senatorvinceborja.com (<mailto:contact@senatorvinceborja.com>). The Committee requests that testimonies be submitted at least forty-eight (48) hours before the scheduled hearing.

Please confirm your attendance by contacting the office of Senator Vincent A. V. Borja via email at contact@senatorvinceborja.com (<mailto:contact@senatorvinceborja.com>) or by voice call at (671) 969-8423

Special Accommodations: All government activities, programs, and services are accessible for people with disabilities in compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For assistance or special accommodations to fully participate in this public hearing, please contact the office of Senator Vincent A.V. Borja at (671) 969-8423 or via email at contact@senatorvinceborja.com (<mailto:contact@senatorvinceborja.com>)

Watch Live/Record: The hearing will be broadcast live on local television (GTA, Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117) and streamed online via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed on YouTube. After the hearing, a hearing recording will also be available online via the Guam Legislature Media on YouTube.

REMINDER: Borja's Public Hearing on Education Appointments, Veterans Bill



Two Business Days from Now

This public notice was published on Kandit on December 4, 2025

Senator Vincent Borja will convene a Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 to accept testimony on the following:
David J.N. Camacho and Evangeline M. Cepeda's appointments to the Guam Academy Charter Schools Council

Bill No. 202-38 (COR)

Information follows

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SECOND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Published on Kandit on December 4, 2025

The Committee on Education, Libraries & Public Broadcasting will conduct a Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, beginning at 9:00 A.M in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building.

The Committee will hear and accept testimony on the following:

1. **Doc. No. 38GL-25-1364** – The Appointment of David J.N. Camacho to serve as a Member, Guam Academy Charter Schools Council, Retired Teacher – Representative, Three (3) Years; From Date of Confirmation
2. **Doc. No. 38GL-25-1369** – The Appointment of Evangeline M. Cepeda to serve as a Member, Guam Academy Charter Schools Council, General Public – Representative, Three (3) Years; From Date of Confirmation
3. **Bill No. 202-38 (COR)** – AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5 OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE “GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT.”

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Please confirm your attendance by contacting the office of Senator Vincent A. V. Borja via email at contact@senatorvinceborja.com or by voice call at (671) 969-8423

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(GTA, Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117) and streamed online via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed on YouTube. After the hearing, a hearing recording will also be available online via the Guam Legislature Media on YouTube.

🔗 Share ❤️ FAVORITES 👤 By Troy Torres 📅 Posted on: Thursday, 12/04/2025 6:40 AM 🏠 Education + Arts + Culture 📄 Guam 📄 Legislature 📄 Other Events 💬 0 comments 👁️ 193

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Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>

Invitation to Provide Testimony on Bill No. 202-38 (COR)

2 messages

Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>

Mon, Dec 1, 2025 at 10:03 AM

To: "Dr. Anita Enriquez" <abe@triton.uog.edu>

Cc: Sharleen Santos-Bamba <sbamba@triton.uog.edu>

December 1, 2025

Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez

President, University of Guam

CRJ3+ V8P, University Dr, University of Guam, 96923, Guam

VIA EMAIL: abe@triton.uog.edu**Subject: Invitation to Provide Testimony on Bill No. 202-38 (COR)**

Dear Dr. Enriquez,

As part of my commitment to engaging stakeholders in the legislative process, I am writing to invite your agency to participate in a public hearing regarding Bill No. 202-38 (COR) scheduled for December 9, 2025, at 9:00 AM

I. **Bill No. 202-38 (COR)** – AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5 OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE “GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT.”

Your agency’s insights and expertise are invaluable in shaping the discussion around this important topic.

The public hearing will take place at the Guam Congress Building and will provide an opportunity for agencies, organizations, and members of the community to voice their opinions and share relevant information concerning these proposed bills.

We would like to have a representative from your agency present to provide testimony and engage with other participants. If you have any questions or require additional information, feel free to contact my office at 671-969-8423 or office.senatorborja@guamlegislature.gov

Sincerely,

Senator Vincent A.V. Borja

Chairperson

Committee on Education, Libraries, and Public Broadcasting

Respectfully,



Office of Senator Vincent A.V. Borja

Committee on Education, Libraries, & Public
Broadcasting


38th Guam Legislature

Suite 502, DNA Bldg. 238 Archbishop Flores St.

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T +1 (671) 969-8423

E contact@senatorvinceborja.com

 **Invitation to Provide Testimony on Bill No. 202-38 (COR).pdf**
337K

Dr. Anita Enriquez <abe@triton.uog.edu>

Mon, Dec 1, 2025 at 11:00 AM

To: Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>

Cc: Sharleen Santos-Bamba <sbamba@triton.uog.edu>, Christine Mabayag <ckamm@triton.uog.edu>, Kalyne Roberto <robertok@triton.uog.edu>

Hafa Adai Senator Borja,

Thank you for this notice.

Mås rikuetdo (With respect),

Anita Borja Enriquez, D.B.A.

President

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Unibetsedat Guåhan: "Ina, Diskubre, Setbe - To Enlighten, to Discover, to Serve"

Phone: (671) 735-2990, www.uog.edu

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From: Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 10:04 AM
To: Dr. Anita Enriquez <abe@triton.uog.edu>
Cc: Sharleen Santos-Bamba <sbamba@triton.uog.edu>
Subject: Invitation to Provide Testimony on Bill No. 202-38 (COR)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - Please use caution when opening attachments or clicking links.]

[Quoted text hidden]



Office of Senator

Vincent A. V. Borja

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CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, LIBRARIES
AND PUBLIC
BROADCASTING

December 1, 2025

Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez

President, University of Guam

CRJ3+ V8P, University Dr, University of Guam, 96923, Guam

VIA EMAIL: abe@triton.uog.edu

Subject: Invitation to Provide Testimony on Bill No. 202-38 (COR)

Dear Dr. Enriquez,

As part of my commitment to engaging stakeholders in the legislative process, I am writing to invite your agency to participate in a public hearing regarding Bill No. 202-38 (COR) scheduled for December 9, 2025, at 9:00 AM

I. [Bill No. 202-38 \(COR\)](#) – AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5 OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE “GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT.”

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We would like to have a representative from your agency present to provide testimony and engage with other participants. If you have any questions or require additional information, feel free to contact my office at 671-969-8423 or office.senatorborja@guamlegislature.gov

Sincerely,

Senator Vincent A.V. Borja

Chairperson

Committee on Education, Libraries, and Public Broadcasting



Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>

Invitation to Provide Testimony on Bill No. 202-38 (COR)

1 message

Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>
To: Mary Okada <mary.okada@guamcc.edu>

Mon, Dec 1, 2025 at 10:06 AM

December 1, 2025

Dr. Mary OkadaPresident, Guam Community College
148 West Marine Corps Drive, Mangilao, GU, 96913
VIA EMAIL: mary.okada@gcc.edu**Subject: Invitation to Provide Testimony on Bill No. 202-38 (COR)**

Dear Dr. Okada,

As part of my commitment to engaging stakeholders in the legislative process, I am writing to invite your agency to participate in a public hearing regarding Bill No. 202-38 (COR) scheduled for December 9, 2025, at 9:00 A.M.

I. **Bill No. 202-38 (COR)** – AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5 OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE “GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT.”

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We would like to have a representative from your agency present to provide testimony and engage with other participants. If you have any questions or require additional information, feel free to contact my office at 671-969-8423 or office.senatorborja@guamlegislature.gov

Sincerely,

Senator Vincent A.V. Borja
Chairperson
Committee on Education, Libraries, and Public Broadcasting

 **Invitation to Provide Testimony on Bill No. 202-38 (COR).pdf**
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Office of Senator

Vincent A. V. Borja

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COMMITTEE ON
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AND PUBLIC
BROADCASTING

December 1, 2025

Dr. Mary Okada

President, Guam Community College
148 West Marine Corps Drive, Mangilao, GU, 96913

VIA EMAIL: mary.okada@gcc.edu

Subject: Invitation to Provide Testimony on Bill No. 202-38 (COR)

Dear Dr. Okada,

As part of my commitment to engaging stakeholders in the legislative process, I am writing to invite your agency to participate in a public hearing regarding Bill No. 202-38 (COR) scheduled for December 9, 2025, at 9:00 A.M.

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Sincerely,

Senator Vincent A.V. Borja

Chairperson

Committee on Education, Libraries, and Public Broadcasting



Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>

Invitation to Provide Testimony on Bill No. 202-38 (COR)

1 message

Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>

Mon, Dec 1, 2025 at 10:16 AM

To: jose.sanagustin@gvao.guam.gov

Cc: joe.meno@gvao.guam.gov

December 1, 2025

Håfa Adai,

As part of my commitment to engaging stakeholders in the legislative process, I am writing to invite you to participate in a public hearing regarding Bill No. 202-38 (COR) on December 9, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

I. **Bill No. 202-38 (COR)** – AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5 OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE “GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT.”

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If you have any questions or require additional information, feel free to contact my office at 671-969-8423 or contact@senatorvinceborja.com.

Sincerely,

Vincent A.V. Borja
Chairperson
Committee on Education, Libraries, and Public Broadcasting

Respectfully,

**Office of Senator Vincent A.V. Borja**Committee on Education, Libraries, & Public
Broadcasting**38th Guam Legislature**

Suite 502, DNA Bldg. 238 Archbishop Flores St.

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T +1 (671) 969-8423
E contact@senatorvinceborja.com

 **Invitation to Provide Testimony for Bill No. 202-38 (COR) .pdf**
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Office of Senator

Vincent A.V. Borja

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CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, LIBRARIES
AND PUBLIC
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December 3, 2025

Håfa Adai,

As part of my commitment to engaging stakeholders in the legislative process, I am writing to invite you to participate in a public hearing regarding Bill No. 202-38 (COR) on December 9, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

I. [Bill No. 202-38 \(COR\)](#) – AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5 OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE “GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT.”

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If you have any questions or require additional information, feel free to contact my office at 671-969-8423 or contact@senatorvinceborja.com.

Sincerely,

Vincent A.V. Borja
Chairperson
Committee on Education, Libraries, and Public Broadcasting



Office of Senator

Vincent A. V. Borja

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COMMITTEE ON
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PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA
Tuesday, December 9, 2025
Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room

AGENDA FOR 9:00:

- I. [Doc. No. 38GL-25-1364](#) – The Appointment of David J.N. Camacho to serve as a Member, Guam Academy Charter Schools Council, Retired Teacher – Representative, Three (3) Years; From Date of Confirmation
- II. [Doc. No. 38GL-25-1369](#) – The Appointment of Evangeline M. Cepeda to serve as a Member, Guam Academy Charter Schools Council, General Public – Representative, Three (3) Years; From Date of Confirmation
- III. [Bill No. 202-38 \(COR\)](#) – AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5 OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE “GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT.”

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Chairperson on Education, Public Broadcasting & Libraries
Vincent Anthony V. Borja
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

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 HAGATNA, GUAM 96910
 TEL. 671-969-8423

PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-IN SHEET
Tuesday, December 9, 2025 – 9:00 AM
Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building

Bill No. 202-38 (COR) AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5 OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE “GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT.”

NAME:	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	POSITION	TESTIMONY	CONTACT INFORMATION
1. Joe Sal Austin	GOVA	SUPPORT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2. Stephanie Francisco	UOG	SUPPORT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	
3. TACARA Quintanilla	UOG	SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	
4. GENA ROJAS	UOG	SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Sharleen Santos	UOG	SUPPORT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
6. Jonathan Susiro	SELF	SUPPORT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
7. Rachel Field	UOG	SUPPORT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	
8. Tim Puzan	Guam USAF Veterans	SUPPORT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	
9.		SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	

November 24, 2025

Håfa Adai, Hon. Senator Borja and Hon. Members of the 38th Guam Legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on **Bill 202-38 (COR), defined as “an Act to add a new Chapter 56 to Division 5 of Title 17, Guam Code Annotated,”** which is intended to establish the **"Guam Veterans Higher Education Benefits Act."**

At the University of Guam, we are proud of the veteran students who are a part of our Triton community. Our institution has long been committed to offering services that support their successful transition to civilian and academic life and access to quality education at affordable rates.

Bill 202-38’s intention of providing qualifying veterans with tuition assistance through tuition waivers at UOG is in line with our efforts in honoring veterans for their service by creating a military-friendly campus environment, which includes assisting them to overcome financial barriers that may delay or derail their educational goals.

The University of Guam commends the introduction of this proposed legislation; however, we would like to provide some recommendations on making Bill 202-38 more impactful before the bill is passed and becomes law. Our recommendations are as follows:

- Proposed section 56103, subsection (a) lists qualifying veterans and their dependent children or spouses as eligible for exemption from payment tuition at an Institution, and according to Section 56106 subsection (b), “[t]he costs associated with the tuition exemptions shall be absorbed by the Institutions as a civic and public duty.” As of the current Fanuchånan (Fall) 2025 semester, UOG’s student population consists of 64 veterans and 164 dependents. If fully absorbed by the University, this could result in \$1.2M in tuition waivers. Because of the potential amounts, we ask that **only qualifying veterans** be considered for the tuition exemptions.
- Part of UOG’s responsibilities is listed in proposed section 56105, subsection (a), “[...] establish and amend internal policies and administrative procedures as required to ensure full compliance with the provisions of this Chapter” and proposed section 56106, subsection (c), paragraph (1), “[d]evelop and publish clear procedures for the application and processing of tuition exemptions consistent with institutional enrollment timelines and course availability.” We are committed to doing this work, but completing these provisions will require time, as we must first assess existing processes, convene the appropriate cross-departmental committees, seek the necessary approvals, and ensure that staff are trained on the new policies. These steps are essential to ensure accurate administration of the tuition waiver benefit. As such, we

T: +1 671.735.2994 E: sbamba@triton.uog.edu W: www.uog.edu
Mailing Address: 303 University Drive UOG Station Mangilao, Guam 96913

respectfully request for an implementation window or a phased effective date of no later than April 1, 2026, to allow the institution adequate time to establish the operational framework needed to carry out the provisions of the bill.

- Bill 202-38 does not include any provisions addressing what happens when a veteran student who avails the tuition exemption benefit fails or withdraws from his/her class(es). We recommend that in the event of withdrawal, students should pay back the tuition amount used. The collected funds should be put into SFAP funds.

The University of Guam acknowledges the sacrifices that our veterans make for our island community and the nation, as well as their contributions of exceptional leadership, insight, and experience to our higher education classrooms. We have seen firsthand how financial assistance can make the difference between a veteran completing their degree or halting their studies due to financial strain.

Thus, legislative measures from our local government that intend to bridge the gap between federal benefits and the full cost of college tuition are indispensable, and while UOG supports such measures, we must reiterate the need to address the concerns we have shared in our testimony today regarding Bill 202-38. We would also like to emphasize that implementing legislation such as Bill 202-38 further stresses the importance of maintaining and increasing funding for higher education through government appropriations in order to better serve the members of our community.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse.



Sharleen Santos-Bamba, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President & Provost
Accreditation Liaison Officer

T: +1 671.735.2994 E: sbamba@triton.uog.edu W: www.uog.edu
Mailing Address: 303 University Drive UOG Station Mangilao, Guam 96913



Senator Vince Borja <vince.borja@guamlegislature.gov>

Opposition to Bill 202-38 on Veteran's Tuition// Ron McNinch

RONALD L MCNINCH <mcninchr@triton.uog.edu>

Thu, Dec 11, 2025 at 4:48 PM

To: Senator Vince Borja <vince.borja@guamlegislature.gov>, "speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov" <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: "office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov" <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>, Tina Rose Muña Barnes <tinamunabarnes@gmail.com>, "vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, "senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov" <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov" <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>, "senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>

Dear Senator Borja and Senators,

My name is Ron McNinch and I am a veteran of the US Army, as well as the Army Reserves and Army National Guard. My total service was about 17 years. I was both enlisted and commissioned in the infantry. I am also an elected member of the Guam Education Board and I have served for over 27 years as the Doc Sanchez Scholarship Program at the University of Guam. This program helps government employees earn college degrees.

I was not able to attend the hearing on Bill 202 and I would have attended and presented in person. As many of you know by now, I would have said in person exactly what I have written here. I just look better in person than on paper.

While I appreciate the intentions of Senator Borja, Speaker Blas, Senator Calvo, Senator Matanane, Senator Gumataotao and Senator Muna-Barnes, this is simply a very bad bill. While no one has an ugly baby, this bill is like Rosemary's baby. It is just that bad. And trust me, after working and around legislatures both on Guam and in Georgia in the past 35 years, I have seen a lot of ugly babies.

I will briefly list my objections to this bill and I hope that the bill will be tabled and a new approach will be taken. There are simply better and more meaningful ways to try to do some of the things this bill wants to do. In fact, there are some very good things that can happen with genuine discussion that do not involve these schemes that are dreamed up in the Congress Building. There are plenty of examples of pandering policies in the Guam Code or in various regulations. For example, there is a 55 and over program at UOG for seniors. Hardly anyone uses it. Why? The general fees are stifling. (Lab fees are different.) If they just charged a simple low cost fee (ie \$50-- instead of over \$400) per semester, it is likely many more seniors would participate. The classes are available space and it doesn't really cost UOG anything. But it does look good on paper, but it is ugly in practice. I think the legislature can do a lot of good if it makes genuine informed efforts that are not piecemeal flavor of the day schemes. This bill is simply flawed and bad policy.

Comments

- 1) Under this bill, I am not a veteran. Take a hike senators. I served my country and my community. I do not need any of you silly people to tell me who I am or what I have done. I took the honor of serving my country seriously and I do not need a pat on the head from a bunch of people who largely have no backbone. This bill is just an example of pandering to a group of people most of you appear to not understand. It is simply pathetic in my view.
- 2) In addition to trying to pander to this warped definition of a veteran, this bill even extends farther and tries to absorb spouse and dependents also. What is really ironic about these particular points is that the Guam Legislature has actually done little or nothing to assist many of our veterans in this community. Talking and describing is not acting and leading. There are good things you can actually do, but you need better advice in my opinion. Having some snowflake staffer playing call of duty bring you coffee between sessions does not count. The real world is not a video game.
- 3) With just a minor amount of focused effort, real and tangible strides could be taken. But, this would take a lot more than some bored staffer cutting and pasting ideas from other locations. Example from the bill: What is the Commission on Post-Secondary Education? Where is it in the Guam Code? Why wasn't a part of the bill used to update the powers of the "Commission on Post-Secondary Education to reflect this new role?" I have said this before at hearings: Senators please provide the source of the bill if you are cutting and pasting it from somewhere else. I don't care if this is from Nevada or Montana or AI nor do I care if there is a lack of originality in bills, but please edit and read bills carefully. The reason is clear. If you are not reading these bills, you are not thinking about or vetting these bills, no pun intended. No one in the Guam Legislature actually "scores" or assesses the impact of bills. But they do actually pander whenever possible.
- 4) There are a wide range of things that our government can do to promote and assist our veterans. There are also a lot of good things that can be done to improve education. I don't believe special parking, special license plates, first in line cut ins or other silly things the legislature has passed over the years to try to "help" veterans matter. In fact, I personally resent these things because I served for my nation and our people. The only credit I will actually appreciate will be the flag placed on my casket when I die.

Sincerely, Ron McNinch

College* of Business and Public Administration (* Pending Action)
Division Chair Public Administration and Legal Studies
MPA Program Chair
NASPAA Principal Representative
Associate Professor of Public Administration
The Distinguished Professor of Guam (LR 30-72)
Elected Member of the Guam Board of Education (2023-present; Appointed 2016-2023)
Senior Professional in Human Resources (1998-present) (SPHR, HRCI)
Certified Fraud Examiner (2010-present) (CFE, ACFE)



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

DEC 18 2025

Honorable Vincent A.B. Borja
Senator
38th Guam Legislature
Chairman, Committee on Education,
Libraries & Public Broadcasting

Re: Testimony – Bill 158-36

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Senator Borja and members of the 38th Guam Legislature,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of your efforts to provide education and training opportunities for our veterans and their families, through **Bill No. 202-38: Guam Veterans Higher Education Benefits Act**.

I respectfully submit testimony in support of Bill 202-38, the *Guam Veterans Higher Education Benefits Act*. This measure seeks to create a permanent, locally administered higher education benefits program for Guam's veterans and their dependents. Guam Community College (GCC) strongly values the service of our military community, and we recognize this bill as a pathway to build upon and reinforce existing services that already assist veterans and their families in pursuing their academic and career goals.

Bill 202-38 reflects Guam's longstanding appreciation for the sacrifices of our veterans and their families. By helping reduce remaining financial barriers to higher education, the bill supports pathways that benefit not only individual students but also the island's long-term workforce capacity.

GCC already maintains a comprehensive support system for veterans, including:

- **Veteran Education Benefits processing**, with staff who guide students through federal programs such as Chapters 30, 33, 35, 1606, and 1607.
- **Special tuition reduction opportunities** for qualifying veterans, service members, and their families.
- **A Veterans Club** that provides peer support and helps ease the transition into academic life.

These programs have served our military community effectively for many years. Bill 202-38 presents an opportunity to augment these existing supports with additional local tuition assistance, ensuring that veterans and dependents who may not fully qualify for federal

funding—or who face unmet needs—have additional pathways to access higher education at GCC and UOG.

While federal programs remain the primary source of educational assistance for veterans, some families continue to face gaps in coverage. Local support authorized through Bill 202-38 would strengthen accessibility by filling these gaps, thereby reducing financial stress and increasing enrollment opportunities.

Supporting veterans and their families in completing post-secondary education contributes to Guam's overall workforce development efforts. By improving access to training and degree programs, the bill helps ensure that more residents are prepared to meet the island's evolving economic needs.

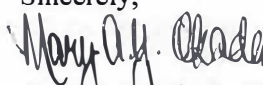
Military service impacts not only the veteran but also their dependents. Ensuring that spouses and eligible children can access additional educational support acknowledges their role and provides them with opportunities that can improve family stability and future career prospects.

To ensure that the bill effectively complements current institutional resources, I respectfully offer the following suggestions:

1. **Expand Outreach and Awareness Efforts**
Encourage coordinated outreach, including collaboration with the Guam Vet Center and other veteran-service organizations, to ensure that eligible individuals are well informed about both federal and local benefits.
2. **Program Evaluation and Reporting**
Include provisions for periodic reporting to the Legislature on program utilization and effectiveness. This will help ensure transparency, inform future improvements, and prevent unnecessary duplication of existing services.

In closing, the Guam Community College supports our veterans and their families. We support Bill 202-38 as a thoughtful step toward reinforcing Guam's commitment to its veterans and their families. By enhancing and building upon the strong veteran-support structure already in place at Guam Community College, this legislation can help expand educational opportunities while strengthening the island's workforce and community well-being.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Mary A.Y. Okada, Ed.D.
President



Office of Senator

Vincent A. V. Borja

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

DNA BUILDING
SUITE 502
238 ARCHBISHOP FLORES ST.
HAGATNA, GUAM 96910
TEL 671-969-8423

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, LIBRARIES
AND PUBLIC
BROADCASTING

COMMITTEE VOTE SHEET

Bill No. 202-38 (COR) As Amended – AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5 OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE “GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT”.

Committee Members	INITIAL	TO DO PASS	TO NOT PASS	TO REPORT OUT ONLY	TO ABSTAIN	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE
Senator Vincent A.V. Borja <i>Chairperson</i>	<i>VVB</i>	✓				
Senator Tina Muña Barnes <i>Vice Chairperson</i>	E-VOTE 12/31/25	✓				
Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr. <i>Member</i>	E-VOTE 12/30/25			✓		
Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada <i>Member</i>	E-VOTE 12/31/25			✓		
Legislative Secretary Sabrina Salas Matanane <i>Member</i>	E-VOTE 12/30/25			✓		
Senator Shelly Calvo <i>Member</i>	E-VOTE 12/30/25	✓				
Senator Christopher Duenas <i>Member</i>	E-VOTE 12/30/25			✓		
Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao <i>Member</i>	E-VOTE 12/31/25			✓		
Senator Joe S. San Agustin <i>Member</i>	E-VOTE 12/30/25			✓		



Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>

Request for E-Vote: Bill 202-38 (COR)

9 messages

Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>

Tue, Dec 30, 2025 at 3:03 PM

To: "Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Muna Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>, "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Office Senator Bri <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

Buenas yan Háfa Adai, Honorable Committee Members,

In light of the upcoming legislative session, please see the attached committee report of **Bill No. 202-38 (COR)- As Amended by the Committee on Education, Libraries, and Public Broadcasting** – Vincent A.V. Borja – Frank F. Blas, Jr. – Shelly V. Calvo – Sabrina Salas Matanane – Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao – Tina Rose Muña Barnes – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5 OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE “GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT”.

Please indicate your preferred action, based on the following options:

- **TO DO PASS**
- **TO NOT PASS**
- **TO REPORT OUT ONLY**
- **TO ABSTAIN**
- **TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE**

Please submit your response **ASAP**. Your responses will be logged into the vote sheet which will be submitted as part of the final Committee Report to the Committee on Rules.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse',

**Caden Nathaniel Ong Poblete****Policy Intern***Office of Senator Vincent A.V. Borja*

671-969-8423

caden.poblete@guamlegislature.gov

DNA Building Suite 502, Hagatna

 CR Bill 202-38 (COR).pdf
10010K

Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

Tue, Dec 30, 2025 at 3:08

<office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

PM

To: Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>

Cc: "Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada"

<vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Muna Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>,

Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, Chris Duenas

<senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>, "Joe

S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>

To report out only.

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Biba Guam,

Isaiah Aguon

Director of Strategic Communications

**Office of Legislative Secretary****SENATOR SBRINA SALAS MATANANE***I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guahan* | 38th Guam Legislature

Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

163 W. Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

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Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>

Tue, Dec 30, 2025 at 3:09 PM

To: Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>, "Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>,

"Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Muna Barnes

<senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Shelly Calvo

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<office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>, "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>

To report out only

--

**Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas***Chairman, Committee on Government Finance and Operations*

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

(671) 989-9554

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Speaker Frank Blas Jr. <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>

Tue, Dec 30, 2025 at 3:19 PM

To: Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of

Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>, "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada"

<vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Muna Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>,

Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>, "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>

To Report Out Only



Speaker, Frank F. Blas, Jr.

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan 38th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagatña

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Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>

Tue, Dec 30, 2025 at 3:36 PM

To: Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>

Cc: "Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Muna Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>, Office Senator Bri <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

To Report Out Only

The Office of Senator Joe S. San Agustin

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan

38th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagatña, Guam 96910

T: (671) 989-5445 F: (671) 969-6737 E: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com

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Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

Tue, Dec 30, 2025 at 5:12 PM

To: "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>

Cc: Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>, "Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Muna Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>, Office Senator Bri <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

To do pass

Respectfully,



Office of the People • Senator Shelly V. Calvo

Majority Whip & Chairwoman

Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration

38th Guam Legislature

163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T +1 (671) 989-5682

E officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov

[Quoted text hidden]

Senator Tina Rose Muña-Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>

Wed, Dec 31, 2025 at 8:00 AM

To: Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>, "Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>, Office Senator Bri <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

to do pass

[Quoted text hidden]

Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Wed, Dec 31, 2025 at 9:02 AM

To: Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>

Cc: "Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Muna Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Office Senator Bri <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

To Report Out Only

[Quoted text hidden]

Office of Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard
38th Guam Legislature
[120 Father Duenas Avenue](#) Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
(671) 647-1409/1411

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>

Wed, Dec 31, 2025 at 9:04 AM

To: Senator Tina Rose Muña-Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>, "Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>, Office Senator Bri <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

To report out only

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Office of Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada

38th Guam Legislature

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Hagåtña, Guam 96910

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COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

Committee on Education, Libraries and Public Broadcasting

Senator Vincent Anthony V. Borja, Chairman

I. OVERVIEW:

The **Committee on Education, Libraries and Public Broadcasting** convened a Public Hearing on **Bill 202-38 (COR)**, on Tuesday **December 9, 2025** at **9:00AM** in the Guam Congress Building's Public Hearing Room.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENTS:

Public Hearing Notices were posted to the Government Public Notices Portal and disseminated via electronic mail to all senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on **December 1, 2025** (5-Day Notice), and again on **December 4, 2025** (48-Hour Notice).

SENATORS PRESENT:

Vincent A.V. Borja, Chairman

Telo T. Taitague

ORAL TESTIMONY:

Joe San Agustin, Director, Guam Office of Veterans Affairs

Dr. Sharleen Santos Bamba, Senior President, UOG

Rachel Field, Vice President of Finance, UOG

Jonathan Savares, Veteran

Tim Puzan, United States Airforce (USAF) Veteran

WRITTEN TESTIMONY:

Dr. Sharleen Santos Bamba, Senior President, UOG

Dr. Mary Okada, President, GCC

Dr. Ronald McNinch, University of Guam Professor

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION:

The public hearing for Bill No. 202-38(COR) began at **9:52AM**

SENATOR VINCENT ANTHONY V. BORJA, CHAIRPERSON:

Hafa Adai and Good Morning. Thank you everyone for being here with us today. Today's date is **December 9, 2025**. This morning's public hearing held by the Committee on Education, Libraries and Public Broadcasting is called to order. The time is now **9:01AM**.

Before we begin there are some housekeeping matters that I will briefly discuss so we can get right to work. The first Notice of this public hearing was disseminated to all senators and media outlets on **December 1st, 2025** with its second notice disseminated on **December 4th, 2025**.

Notices of this hearing were also made available on Kandit News Group, the Guam Legislature's Website, our Legislative Calendar, and the Government of Guam's Public Notice Portal.

Today's public hearing is being broadcast live on the Guam Legislature YouTube Channel, and the transcript will be filed with the Committee on Rules and be made available on the Guam Legislature website.

Today, we will hear testimony on:

Doc. No. 38GL-25-1364 – The Appointment of David J.N. Camacho served as a member, for the Guam Academy Charter Schools Council, as a Retired Teacher – Representative, for a term of Three (3) Years; From the Date of Confirmation.

Doc. No. 38GL-25-1369 – The Appointment of Evangeline M. Cepeda to serve as a Member, Guam Academy Charter Schools Council, General Public – Representative, Three (3) Years; From Date of Confirmation

&

Bill No. 202-38 (COR) – AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5 OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE “GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT.”

And in that order.

At this time I now... I have no colleagues. I was going to welcome my colleagues. But before we begin, we'll remind everyone in attendance of I Liheslaturan Guahan's general rules of conduct. Individuals testifying shall first be recognized by the Chairperson before speaking and shall state their full name for the record. Questions and testimony shall be confined to the substance or nature of today's agenda. Personal inferences to the character or motive of any senator or individual testifying are not permitted.

Pursuant to Section 11.07 of the 38th Guam Legislature's Standing Rules. A Chairperson may order the removal from a hearing of a Committee or a Subcommittee of any person who is not a Member of *I Liheslaturan Guahan* and who fails to observe proper decorum. Any violation to this general rule of conduct will result in immediate removal from this public hearing room.

With that said, we will now proceed to hear testimony on the first item of the agenda which will be: The appointment of Mr. Camacho.

[START OF BILL 202-38 (COR) PUBLIC HEARING] [53:37]

SENATOR VINCENT A.V BORJA, CHAIRMAN:

Thank you. Yeah, we're going to go ahead and start. We are now back from— Huh. Oh, yeah. We're going to start. We're going to start. If we can take a seat so that we can. Thank you. We're now back from recess. The time is now 9:52 and we'll proceed with the next item on the agenda which is Bill Number 202-38 COR introduced by Senator Vincent A. V. Borja an act to add a new chapter 56 to division 5 of title 17 Guam Code Annotated relative to establishing the Guam Veterans Higher Education Benefits Act.

I will now proceed with my opening remarks. Buenas, Senator Taitague, thank you for joining us and members of the public. We're here today to receive testimony on Bill 202-38, the Guam Veterans Higher Education Benefits Act. A measure grounded in gratitude, responsibility, and the love for the men and women who have worn the uniform. You know, when I first got out of the Army, like many who transition, I wanted to live somewhere I could build a future for my family. A future that honored the sacrifice that my service had asked of me. And to be honest, I looked at places that offered better benefits because when you're starting over, your safety net is what matters.

Across many states, veterans receive a wide range of support, tax relief, hiring preferences, fee waivers, and in many cases, access to state funded higher education benefits once federal benefits run out. Those programs exist because those states made a decision. If you serve this nation, we will help you rebuild your life. Here in Guam, we offer a small set of benefits. A driver's license fee waiver, veterans license plates, and a property tax exemption, but only for veterans who are 100% disabled. They are helpful, yes, but they are surface level. They don't change a family's trajectory. They don't open doors to opportunity, and they don't help someone build a career, start a business, or finish a degree.

And Guam, despite sending more young men and women into the military than most places in the United States, we offer no higher education benefit for veterans or their dependents once federal benefits are exhausted. If your GI Bill or Post 9/11 runs out, it doesn't apply to your dependent or doesn't cover a second degree or certificate. You're on your own. And that gap isn't just administrative. It's emotional and it's deeply personal. Because service members don't come home asking for handouts. They come home asking for a chance. They come home trying to figure out how to provide for their family, to turn discipline into employment, sacrifice into stability, and trauma into a future.

And this bill is one answer that Guam has never provided. What this bill does and what it does not do is it proposes a tuition waiver at UOG and GCC for qualified veterans and their dependents only when federal benefits have been exhausted or unavailable.

To be clear, this bill does not stack benefits. Veterans cannot use both. They must use their federal benefits first and the local waiver only applies when federal benefits are completely gone. So, not only is this bill not a burden, it's designed to be fiscally responsible, efficient, and targeted. It fills the gap, and it doesn't duplicate what the VA already provides.

How this helps Guam. When veterans succeed, Guam succeeds. Veterans become teachers, nurses, police officers, IT professionals, and business owners. They don't just take, they contribute. They don't just work, they lead. They don't just live here, they make Guam stronger, safer, and more resilient.

Bill 202-38 is not a giveaway. It's a promise kept. It's us saying we don't just thank you for your service. We're here to honor you with action. To the veterans and families, thank you for your sacrifices, your courage, and your hope. Guam is a better place because you have served. And now we must serve you.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase to Senator Taitague who has joined us and to my colleagues who have signed on to co-sponsor this bill. And now we'll go ahead and open up the floor for testimony. We'll start with Senator, uh, Director San Agustin. Thank you for joining us.

JOSE SAN AGUSTIN, DIRECTOR, GUAM OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:

Good morning. Mr. Chair, Senator Borja, and Senator Taitague. My name is Jose Agustin, the director of the Guam Office of Veterans Affairs, and thank you for introducing this Bill 202. It's an act to add a new Chapter 56 to Division 5 of Title 17 Guam Code Annotated relative to establishing the Guam Veterans Higher Education Benefit Act. As you have stated earlier Mr. Senator, the veterans when they're in active duty and likewise 9/11, many of those benefits do expire.

9/11, for example, expires in 36 months after service. But also with the Veterans Education Program, those service members that opted to take that program are only the ones that benefit from it, you know, at a young age. Sometimes these young service members don't think they need it, but those privileges only arrive when the service member does opt to take that benefit and many of them don't.

What I like is the spirit of the bill. The spirit of the bill which intends to provide the venue or the path to allowing and encouraging veterans and their family members to further advance their education through college.

I do have some concerns on this bill, but I want to reiterate the importance when we talk about spouses and veterans, because the spouse and veteran, the spouse and the child, I'm sorry, are also impacted due to the service of that veteran.

And how is it impacted as a 30-year Marine veteran? I've seen it. And it took me a while to actually see how leaving home for so many months into years impacts the sacrifices and the suffering that I leave behind which my wife and then the kids have to endure. Where's my dad? Why isn't my dad here?

So I just want to try to draw a picture for many of the folks that might not really understand. Hey, it's only the veteran that served. Why is this entitled to the spouse and the child? Because they too had sacrifice in the service of their loved ones while deployed.

So I just wanted to make sure that that's clear because that was bothering me last night when I was thinking about it, just to make sure that the community, we that are going to provide this good deed to the veterans and their family understand how does this connect to the spouse and the children and I'll tell you it does and I still see that impact when a service member deploys how the spouse has to deal with the home front and the kids and all that stuff but I wanted, because you modeled this to the Hazelwood model act and what now concerns me is I'm talking on behalf of the government of Guam, but also I'm talking on behalf of our veterans and their family.

And you know, as I'm reading it, you know, I'm lucky John is here because I said, "What does it mean by no further appropriation?" and John just told me there's no funding and so, you know, we're going to end up having the University of Guam, right, and GCC absorb the funds.

I'll let them discuss their part, but for my part on this I like the intention and the spirit, the intention of this bill as the government of Guam. Sponsoring the government of Guam and the veterans, I will support this bill if the legislature funds it.

And so with that, there's a lot of very accurate detailed information shared here, but what caught my attention is the Hazelwood Act is a state funded education benefit. And so the rest of the stuff, it's self-explanatory. I will take it that the body and GCC and University of Guam will follow.

My part here is just to be able to provide once it's passed and once the Guam Community College and GCC does their part is to ensure that I have the mechanism to be able to provide them all the documents that this individual is a veteran and they do qualify and whatnot and whatnot.

But my biggest part for this and I will say again to this body that the government and as a veteran representing the veterans I will support this bill if the body is going to fund it. That's all I have sir.

SENATOR VINCENT A.V. BORJA, CHAIRMAN:

Thank you Mr. San Agustin. Dr. Sharleen Santos-Bamba you can proceed.

DR. SHARLEEN SANTOS-BAMBA, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF GUAM:

Buenas. Håfa Adai, Senator Borja, Senator Taitague, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. I have with me at the table to my right, Interim Vice President for Administration and Finance, Miss Rachel Field, and to her immediate right from the Financial Aid Office, Program Coordinator, Miss Stephanie Ora. They are here today to provide any kind of responses for questions that may arise following this testimony.

To be clear and transparent, I did submit this testimony in writing, but I asked to read it into the record today. Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Bill 202-38 defined as an act to add a new Chapter 56 to Division Five of Title 17 Guam Code Annotated which is intended to establish the Guam Veterans Higher Education Benefits Act.

At the University of Guam, we are proud of the veteran students who are part of our Triton community. Our institution has long been committed to offering services that support their successful transition to civilian and academic life and access to quality education at affordable rates.

Bill 202-38's intention of providing qualifying veterans with tuition assistance through tuition waivers at UOG is in line with our efforts in honoring veterans for their service by creating military friendly campus environments which include assisting them to overcome financial barriers that may delay or derail their educational goals.

The University of Guam commends the introduction of this proposed legislation and we would like to provide some recommendations on making Bill 202-38 more impactful before the bill is passed and becomes law. Our recommendations are as follows.

Proposed section 56103 subsection A lists qualifying veterans and their dependent children or spouses as eligible for exemption from payment of tuition at an institution. And according to section 56106 subsection B, the costs associated with the tuition exemptions shall be absorbed by the institutions as a civic and public duty.

As of the current Fanuchånan and fall 2025 semester, UOG student population consists of 64 veterans and 164 dependents. If fully absorbed by the university, this could result in 1.2 million in tuition waivers. Because of the potential amounts, we ask that only qualifying veterans be considered for the tuition exemptions.

Part of UOG's responsibilities is listed in proposed section 56105 subsection A, quote, Establish and amend internal policies and administrative procedures as required to ensure full compliance with the provisions of this chapter, and proposed section 56106, subsection C, paragraph 1, quote, develop and publish clear procedures for the application and processing of tuition exemptions consistent with institutional enrollment timelines and course availability.

We are committed to doing this work, but completing these provisions will require time as we must first assess existing processes, convene the appropriate cross departmental committees, seek the necessary approvals, and ensure that staff are trained on the new policies. These steps are essential to ensure accurate administration of the tuition waiver benefit.

As such, we respectfully request an implementation window or a phased effective date of no later than April 1, 2026 to allow the institution adequate time to establish the operational framework needed to carry out the provisions of the bill.

Bill 202-38 does not include any provisions addressing what happens when a veteran who avails of the tuition exemption benefit fails or withdraws from his or her classes. We recommend that in the event of withdrawal, students should pay back the tuition amount used. The collected funds should be put into SFAP funds.

We also recommend that all federal veterans benefits in addition to federal title 4 funds be exhausted before exemption. The University of Guam acknowledges the sacrifices that our veterans make for our island community and the nation, as well as their contributions of exceptional leadership, insight, and experience to our higher education classrooms.

We have seen firsthand how financial assistance can make the difference between a veteran completing their degree or halting their studies due to financial strain. I also want to stress, Senator, my father is a veteran. My father-in-law is a veteran. All my brothers-in-law are veterans. And at the time, I did not have that kind of opportunity. My father did not have that benefit for me, and that's okay. I'm okay today.

However, we recognize the importance of our veterans and what they have contributed to our community and the value that they bring to society. Thus, legislative measures from our local government that intend to bridge the gap between federal benefits and the full cost of college tuition are indispensable.

And while UOG supports such measures, we must reiterate the need to address the concerns we have shared in our testimony today regarding Bill 202-38.

We would also like to emphasize that implementing legislation such as Bill 202-38 further stresses the importance of maintaining and increasing funding for higher education through government appropriations in order to better serve the members of our community.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase. I am Sharleen Santos-Bamba Senior Vice President and Provost. Thank you.

SENATOR VINCENT A.V BORJA, CHAIRMAN:

Thank you Dr. Sharleen Santos-Bamba. Mr. Savarez, You can proceed.

JONATHAN SAVAREZ:

Buenas yan Håfa Adai, Senator, thank you for introducing this bill. My name is Jonathan Savarez and I support this bill. I am a combat veteran. I was medically retired from the Army in 2010 and I attended the University of Guam.

But coming back with the different disabilities that I had, I didn't know the path that I was going to, I needed to go in, I wanted to go into. I thought and I believed that I wanted to do this. I thought and I wanted and I believed that I wanted to do that.

And by the time I finished at the University of Guam, I was one of those students who had to walk away. Who had to walk away from the University of Guam because my tuition assistance was done. My Post 9/11 was exhausted by the time I finally realized, okay, I want to be, I want to go into this program.

I went into voc rehab, but it's such a limited program. And then that, because of the short amount of time that Vocational Rehabilitation which is another program that veterans can avail of, that exhausted. This would have closed this, a bill like this would have closed the gap to, and I'm not the only veteran who has walked away from the University of Guam because my tuition assistance has expired.

I know. I know that. I know that this happened for people at the Guam Community College, for people who were attending UOG, and we don't want to, I don't want to see another veteran, any more veterans walk away from higher education because it's a financial issue.

What's not being talked about and what hasn't been addressed right now is let's talk about the families, the families who suffer, who have to deal with the deployments, who have to deal with the medical issues that the veterans are coming back with, PTSD, TBI, and they're having to go through the struggles, a different kind of struggle, and let's not neglect those families.

If we need to find the funding mechanism to put this in play so at least we can honor not just the veteran, but the families who take care of the home front.

And I appreciate Ms Bamba's bringing that up, talking about her. She is a product of veterans. But man, you know how many more veteran kids, veterans and families of veterans, can benefit, lives can be benefited if we can get them educated instead of staying at home because they're worried about taking care of the veteran because they're going through their disabilities. The kids they don't have, they can't absorb the financial burden because living on the threshold at 100%. You're not going to qualify.

You may not qualify for tuition assistance. But, and we know with the rising cost of living on Guam, everything is getting more expensive and veterans and their families, most of them are living on fixed incomes.

This helps close that budgetary gap in homes to get these kids educated so they don't have to raise their right hand and leave Guam. They don't have to serve. I want to see our people stay here. Create talent out of GCC and build talent at GCC and UOG. Keep our talent home. They don't have to go serve in active duty like Sergeant Major over here and I had to do as well as yourself, Senator.

Let's build our talent. Let our sacrifices, of people like, of every veteran who has raised their right hand, let that sacrifice resonate with their families. Let's build a home front that makes sense. Let's build the talent that's there because I'll tell you kids of veterans, they understand perseverance. They understand all the trials and tribulations that happen from watching, from watching it, watching while they're growing up.

They know how to get through that adversity and go through the university, at the university level. You're going to have to deal with the adversity. But we don't want that financial burden to be the adversity that stops them from moving forward.

Thank you very much.

SENATOR VINCENT A.V. BORJA, CHAIRMAN:

Thank you, Mr. Savarez. Mr. Pusan, if you'd like to, you're here to provide oral testimony. Yes, if you could come up to the and have a seat, if you could just state your name and if you're representing an organization or just your testimony. Okay, I'm on.

TIM PUSAN, GUAM UNITED STATES AIR FORCE VETERANS ASSOCIATION:

Okay. Senator, thank you for the opportunity to testify for this bill. I am Tim Pusan. I'm a 44-year retired veteran of the armed forces, 34 of which were with the Guam National Guard. So, I spent

basically a lifetime in the military and right now I'm here on behalf of the Guam United States Air Force Veterans Association. I'm the president of that organization and we are fully in support of the bill.

We appreciate the fact that you're recognizing the contributions of veterans from Guam that have gone off to serve for whatever duration, come back and they want to continue their education here, but are limited in certain ways because of financial needs and stuff.

And I appreciate the fact that you're also taking into account the taxpayer because this shouldn't be a free chicken. So, the veterans should first off be using all their veteran benefits first before they start to use this particular benefit that you'd be providing. So, I certainly appreciate that as well. As a taxpayer, I'd like to see that my money is well spent.

I'm very jazzed to see that we're including GCC, UOG. I would suggest that perhaps this body also looks into the Guam Trades Academy as another body that certainly provides good education on the trades type fields that a lot of us are into.

So by the way, for myself, I've been attending classes at Guam Trades as an electrician and I'm learning a whole lot. So I need to have a skill besides what I had in the military that'll benefit me and not get me killed at the same time shocking myself. So when I've done that.

So again, appreciate that as well. So how I see this bill is you're hitting a home run with this bill. Great. That's a great at bat. But what I would like to see is I'd like to see you hit a grand slam. So here's some other players on base.

So, here's where we really need some help, I think, as well. And again, you're looking at Guam veterans. You should also be looking at Guam National Guard and Reserves. Those men and women, sons and daughters of Guam that are currently serving, choose to remain here, but are ready to serve wherever the nation needs them. And also for the National Guard's part, wherever the government needs them.

And so, that's an additional benefit. And again, there's educational benefits for currently serving veterans, currently serving members of the Guam National Guard.

So, here's where the gap is on this particular bill that you can look at filling. So, let's say I'm a new enlistee in the Guam Army National Guard. I have not deployed. I haven't gone anywhere yet. So, I don't have a DD214 for that veteran service. I haven't served 180 days of active service yet. So, I'm kind of left out of this one.

And so, if we include our Guam National Guard and reserve members, I think that would fill that particular gap. You put a bunch of players more on base.

They have to use whatever veterans benefits and whatever military benefits they get from having enlisted, bonuses, things like that for education, and then they're covered.

And I don't want to see a young man or young woman struggling to try to do their military service in the National Guard reserves by taking away one weekend a month and a couple weeks during the summer and trying to somehow put all together the finances to try to make this happen for them.

Get them that bachelor's degree, associates degree, the trade certificate, master's degree, you know, this would be a really big help.

So then I'm going to sum it up. That is my full testimony. I'll also submit written testimony as well. Really appreciate the chance to say my piece and good luck with this, Senator.

[\[QUESTIONS & ANSWER\] \[1:19:00\]](#)

SENATOR VINCENT A.V BORJA, CHAIRMAN:

Thank you for that and thank you for showing up today. And so now we'll just move over to questions. And this is really just more for the university. What are some of the tuition waiver programs that the university currently has, whether it be for employees, I know there's the manamko' one, right?

DR. SHARLEEN SANTOS-BAMBA, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF GUAM:

Thank you for that question. So for academic personnel that's one, so their children, their dependents excuse me, get a tuition waiver to be included in addition to the senior citizen or the manamko' program. Now those particular amounts and costs are deducted from our overall tuition revenue collections off the gross of that.

Now those are the two kinds of programs we have already. To be clear just to share some information for FY26 the Student Financial Aid Program allocation was 3.5 million and that was exhausted. We have like no pennies left over after the fiscal year. We have 67% of our student population receiving some form of financial aid already. So that's UOG's population in a nutshell.

Now, I think that it would be beneficial to consider that if this bill is passed into law as is, it may be a good idea to fund it separately and apart from SFAP to ensure that the funds are there and that it does not become an unfunded mandate. But we support, we support the bill and we support our veterans.

SENATOR VINCENT A.V. BORJA, CHAIRMAN:

You know, and I guess my question and I think I asked you this before was when we look at the number of veterans currently attending university under the Post 9/11 or the Montgomery GI Bill, because this is, you know, the mindset behind this was they would have to use that, right?

So bottom line is a veteran is going to go to the University of Guam. They're going to have to use their GI Bill which will pay for tuition, the \$500 book stipend, the housing allowance which doesn't go to you guys but goes into the community, is that we're not projecting that it's going to cost that same amount, right?

And then we're also, I think given the mindset or even just the thinking behind this, even when we look at the drop in enrollment, that we're not going to see an instant jump in the number of people that take advantage of this benefit. Would you guys be able to tell us how many, you wouldn't be able to point out like veterans from dependent, right? Or would you be able to point that out? How many, would you happen to know how many dependents that are using the GI Bill?

DR. SHARLEEN SANTOS-BAMBA, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF GUAM:

Yes, we should. Just for this semester alone, we had dependents alone, it was 164 dependents.

SENATOR VINCENT A.V. BORJA, CHAIRMAN:

What was the, what was the cost for employees or their dependents in regards to what does that cost the university annually or even per semester? What's the average cost?

RACHEL FIELD, VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE, UNIVERSITY OF GUAM:

Thank you very much Senator for that question. So a rough estimation of the 164 plus the 60 academic personnel. Oh the academic personnel we budget about \$250,000 a year but we spend about half. So the rest kind of go back into whatever we're having to expense.

SENATOR VINCENT A.V. BORJA, CHAIRMAN:

Does this cost, is this reflected in the budget that you guys submit?

RACHEL FIELD, VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE, UNIVERSITY OF GUAM:

It's reflected in our net tuition calculation. That's part of our general operations request. But it's not part of the government of Guam appropriation portion.

SENATOR VINCENT A.V. BORJA, CHAIRMAN:

Yeah, because I think it's going to be hard for us and what I'm thinking which is why there isn't a funding mechanism, because I mean when you look at even the amount of veterans that even if

this bill was to pass into law and I as a veteran was going to sign up for classes, it's just like even back when I signed up at the University of Guam it was Post 9/11 or Pell Grant, although you can use both right, because you're just collecting it. Back then I was, you know, living on my own but the thing is that you're not, I could not, and then just me thinking as a veteran living on Guam where cost of living is very high is that you're not going to forego the Post 9/11 to just get free tuition right because again the bill is not going to include fees.

And so I think for me at least and at least with conversation within the committee is that we're not necessarily, and maybe we can amend or we will amend it to at least have a semester to kind of collect data to see whether or not there is a huge impact and what that funding needs to be because I mean you've all been here longer than me.

You know, not everybody's going to jump at giving more money to the university. I mean, I'm all for it. You know, I fully stand behind this bill and if it, you know, I think for me there's no money that we can or dollar amount that I can say, that we can say it's worth to put this bill into law so that we can support our veterans.

I will do everything we can to ensure that this bill passes and ensure that it's sustainable with the funding mechanism. It really is just going to come down to what that number is because I mean even if we start with a pot of money that just stays locked, right? And then it just continues to roll over is something that we can also look into and you know that's a deeper conversation. But it's hard for us to, like even when we talked initially, we look at what is really going to be the true cost, right? Because we're saying use Post 9/11 because even if they have it and their dependent wants to attend school and take advantage of this benefit, they would still have to use their parents' GI Bill.

So, I don't think I have any other questions because really it really just comes down to that big question. We will obviously take into consideration some of the proposed amendments. I think the family member that's going to be a tough one, right? Because that was really the true intent because we know again most veterans are going to use their Post 9/11 and then the Post 9/11 the other thing too is that we'll see if this passes is that Post 9/11 only covers up to 36 months. It doesn't cover a full four-year enrollment and so that would be something too as well.

Go ahead.

DR. SHARLEEN SANTOS-BAMBA, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF GUAM:

You're absolutely right. And so this bill would be extremely beneficial to the vet, right, with regard to when the 36 months, 36 months runs out. I want to include also that in addition to exhausting the veterans federal, federal benefits to also include the title 4 funding in exhausting those funds as well. Thank you.

SENATOR VINCENT A.V. BORJA, CHAIRMAN:

Thank you. Did you have something?

JONATHAN SAVAREZ, VETERAN:

Yes, if I may. So I, we, I agree with you Dr. Bamba. I also want to make sure that you exhaust all the title four, your Pell Grant, your Post 9/11, Vocational Rehab. So there are other programs and I think that as long as those things are exhausted, what I do not want to waiver from is the benefit for the families.

I don't think that's, you know, looking at the Hazel Act that's how a lot, and I've talked, and it's not just the Hazel Act out of Texas. This is happening in California through, I think there's probably what six or eight jurisdictions in the states that do something like this and it's actually a thing for the veterans families to move forward and I don't want to compromise that, you know I, and I think that most veterans on Guam don't want to see that compromised either. Thank you.

SENATOR VINCENT A.V. BORJA, CHAIRMAN:

And I agree. I think you know for me the intent was not because I want to mirror all the other states but when you look at like the very patriotic states, it's, you know, education benefits, license plates, tax exemptions, most a lot on property tax exemptions.

Not that we want to be like them, but if it's one thing that we tout the most about Guam is that we have one of the highest, you know, enlistment rates across the United States.

And I think this would be the icing on the cake in ensuring that we show our appreciation to the veterans.

So, thank you for you guys. Thank you for coming down today for your testimony and you know UOG will continue to work, you know work on ensuring that this is not just an unfunded mandate or you know something for people to talk about and

This will now conclude the public hearing for the appointment of David Camacho and Evangeline Cepeda and Bill Number 202-38. The committee will continue to accept written testimony on these bills within seven days from today which may be addressed to myself, Senator Vincent Borja, Committee on Education or mail to DNA building suite 502 238 Archbishop Flores Street, Hagåtña Guam or you can also send it to contact@senatorvinceborja.com,

This morning's public hearing is now adjourned and the time is now **10:27**. Have a good day everyone.







III. FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee on Education, Public Libraries, and Public Broadcasting hereby reports Bill 202-38 (COR) *As Amended by the Committee on Education, Libraries, and Public Broadcasting* – Introduced by Senator Vincent A.V. Borja - AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5 OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE “GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT”. with the recommendation **TO REPORT OUT ONLY.**

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

Bill No. 202-38(COR)

Introduced by:

Vincent A. V. Borja 
Frank F. Blas, Jr. 
Shelly V. Calvo 
Sabrina Salas Matanane 
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao 
Tina Rose Muña Barnes 

**AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5
OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE
TO ESTABLISHING THE “GUAM VETERANS HIGHER
EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT.”**

1 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that
3 the people of Guam owe a profound debt of gratitude to the veterans who entered
4 the U.S. Armed Forces from Guam, and to their spouses and dependents, for their
5 distinguished service and immense sacrifice. While federal educational assistance
6 programs provide valuable support, it is the finding of this body that the
7 establishment of a distinctly local benefits program is a moral imperative that
8 demonstrates Guam’s unwavering commitment to honoring and supporting its
9 veterans and their families.

10 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that, with a significant veteran population
11 residing on Guam, many of whom, along with their families, encounter substantial
12 financial obstacles to accessing higher education, it is in the public interest to remove
13 such barriers. Providing these educational benefits is not merely an act of gratitude

1 but a strategic investment in the intellectual capital and economic prosperity of our
2 island. By enhancing access to higher education at the University of Guam and the
3 Guam Community College, this Act will directly contribute to a more skilled and
4 capable workforce, fostering economic growth and ensuring our veterans and their
5 families can achieve their full potential.

6 Therefore, it is the express purpose of this Act to establish the “Guam
7 Veterans Higher Education Benefits Act.” This legislation is designed to provide
8 meaningful tuition assistance, modeled after effective programs such as the Texas
9 Hazlewood Act, yet carefully tailored to the fiscal and institutional framework of
10 Guam. It is the intent of this Legislature that the Act be implemented without
11 requiring new appropriations, by leveraging existing institutional capacities for
12 tuition waivers at the University of Guam and the Guam Community College.

13 **Section 2.** A *new* Chapter 56 is added to Division 5 of Title 17, Guam Code
14 Annotated, to read as follows:

15 “Chapter 56

16 Guam Veterans Higher Education Benefits Act.

17 § 56101. Short Title.

18 § 56102. Definitions.

19 § 56103. Educational Benefits.

20 § 56104. Eligibility Requirements and Limitations.

21 § 56105. Administration.

22 § 56106. Implementation.

23 **§ 56101. Short Title.**

24 This Chapter shall be known as the “Guam Veterans Higher Education
25 Benefits Act”

26 **§ 56102. Definitions.**

27 As used in this Chapter, the following terms shall mean:

1 (a) “Commission” means the Commission on Post-Secondary
2 Education

3 (b) “Dependent” means:

4 (1) A spouse; or

5 (2) A child who:

6 a. Is 25 years old or younger on the first day of the
7 semester or term for which the exemption is claimed;

8 and

9 b. Was claimed as a dependent on a federal income tax
10 return filed for the preceding year

11 (c) “Qualifying Veteran” means a person who:

12 (1) At the time of entry into the U.S. Armed Forces, was a
13 resident of Guam or officially declared Guam as their home
14 of record;

15 (2) Received an honorable discharge from military service;

16 (3) Completed a minimum of one hundred eighty-one (181)
17 days of active duty service, exclusive of any time spent in
18 basic training;

19 (4) Is a legal resident of Guam at the time of application for
20 benefits under this Chapter; and

21 (5) Meets at least one (1) of the following criteria:

22 a. Served on active duty during a period of war or armed
23 conflict as officially designated by the United States
24 Congress;

25 b. Was killed in action;

26 c. Died while in service;

27 d. Is officially listed as missing in action;

1 e. Has been determined to be totally and permanently
2 disabled for the purpose of unemployability by the
3 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; or

4 f. Has a service-connected disability rating of no less
5 than thirty percent (30%) as determined by the U.S.
6 Department of Veterans Affairs.

7 (d) “Institution” shall mean the University of Guam and the Guam
8 Community College.

9 (e) "Tuition" shall mean the fees charged by an institution for
10 enrollment in a course, but does not include any other fees,
11 charges, or costs, such as student activity fees, laboratory fees, or
12 the cost of books and instructional materials.

13 **§ 56103. Educational Benefits.**

14 (a) The following persons, subject to the requirements and limitations of this
15 Chapter, shall be exempt from the payment of tuition at an Institution:

16 (1) Qualifying veterans; and

17 (2) Dependent children or spouses of qualifying veterans

18 (b) The tuition exemption provided under this Chapter:

19 (1) At the undergraduate level, shall not exceed a lifetime total of
20 ninety (90) credit hours per Qualifying Veteran, which may be
21 used by the veteran or allocated to one (1) or more eligible
22 dependents. No individual may receive more than eighteen (18)
23 credit hours of tuition exemption per academic semester

24 (2) At the graduate level, shall not exceed a lifetime total of thirty (30)
25 credit hours. Such exemption shall be limited to master’s degree
26 programs, except that professional doctoral programs may qualify

1 if designated by the Commission on Post-Secondary Education as a
2 critical workforce shortage area;

3 (3) Shall apply only to charges for tuition as defined in §56102(e) and
4 shall not cover student fees, laboratory charges, instructional
5 materials, or other incidental costs;

6 (4) Shall not be applied to repeated courses beyond one additional
7 attempt;

8 (5) Shall be contingent upon space being available in a course after all
9 tuition-paying students have completed registration; and

10 (6) Shall only be available to a Qualifying Veteran or their dependent
11 after all applicable federal veterans' educational benefits providing
12 tuition assistance have been fully exhausted.

13 **§ 56104. Eligibility Requirements and Limitations.**

14 (a) To be eligible for and to maintain benefits under this Chapter, a person
15 must:

16 (1) Be admitted and enrolled at an Institution;

17 (2) Maintain satisfactory academic progress toward a degree or
18 certificate program, as defined by the policies of the respective
19 Institution, and possess a cumulative grade point average of no
20 less than 2.5 for undergraduate programs and 3.0 for graduate
21 programs;

22 (3) Attest that they have exhausted all eligibility for any federal
23 veterans' educational benefits that provide tuition assistance
24 prior to receiving a waiver under this Chapter; and

25 (4) Not be in default on any student loan made or guaranteed by
26 the government of Guam;

1 (b) Benefits conferred by this Chapter shall be subject to the following
2 limitations:

3 (1) The provision of a tuition exemption shall be contingent upon
4 space being available in a course after all tuition-paying
5 students have completed registration;

6 (2) This Chapter does not guarantee admission into any academic
7 program, course, or Institution;

8 (3) The benefit is subject to all course capacity limits and program
9 enrollment restrictions established by the Institution;

10 (4) A tuition exemption shall not be granted for any course that has
11 reached its maximum enrollment capacity or for which a
12 waitlist of tuition-paying students exists.

13 **§ 56105. Administration.**

14 (a) The Commission shall promulgate such rules and regulations as are
15 necessary for the administration of this Chapter. The University of Guam
16 and the Guam Community College shall establish and amend internal
17 policies and administrative procedures as required to ensure full
18 compliance with the provisions of this Chapter.

19 (b) The government of Guam entity responsible for veterans affairs shall
20 provide necessary assistance in the verification of a veteran's status,
21 service record, and eligibility for benefits under this Chapter upon request
22 by an Institution.

23 **§ 56106. Implementation.**

24 (a) The benefits prescribed by this Chapter shall be implemented and
25 provided by the University of Guam and the Guam Community College
26 through a tuition waiver mechanism;

1 (b) It is the express intent of the Legislature that the implementation of this
2 Chapter shall require no additional appropriation from the General Fund.
3 The costs associated with the tuition exemptions shall be absorbed by the
4 Institutions as a civic and public duty.

5 (c) The University of Guam and the Guam Community College shall each:

6 (1) Develop and publish clear procedures for the application and
7 processing of tuition exemptions consistent with institutional
8 enrollment timelines and course availability;

9 (2) Submit a report to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* no later than ninety (90)
10 days after the end of each academic year, detailing the number of
11 beneficiaries served, the total number of credit hours exempted, and
12 the calculated value of the tuition waived;

13 (3) Implement control measures to ensure that the granting of
14 exemptions under this Chapter does not result in the displacement
15 of any tuition-paying student from any course or program.

16 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
17 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity
18 shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect
19 without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of the
20 provisions of this Act are severable

21 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Act shall become effective upon enactment.

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

Bill No. 202-38(COR)

As Amended by the Committee on Education,
Libraries, and Public Broadcasting

Introduced by:

Vincent A. V. Borja
Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Shelly V. Calvo
Sabrina Salas Matanane
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Tina Rose Muña Barnes

**AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5
OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE
TO ESTABLISHING THE “GUAM VETERANS HIGHER
EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT.”**

1 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that
3 the people of Guam owe a profound debt of gratitude to the veterans who entered
4 the U.S. Armed Forces from Guam, and to their spouses and dependents, for their
5 distinguished service and immense sacrifice. While federal educational assistance
6 programs provide valuable support, it is the finding of this body that the
7 establishment of a distinctly local benefits program is a moral imperative that
8 demonstrates Guam’s unwavering commitment to honoring and supporting its
9 veterans and their families.

10 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that, with a significant veteran population
11 residing on Guam, many of whom, along with their families, encounter substantial
12 financial obstacles to accessing higher education, it is in the public interest to remove

1 such barriers. Providing these educational benefits is not merely an act of gratitude
2 but a strategic investment in the intellectual capital and economic prosperity of our
3 island. By enhancing access to higher education at the University of Guam and the
4 Guam Community College, this Act will directly contribute to a more skilled and
5 capable workforce, fostering economic growth and ensuring our veterans and their
6 families can achieve their full potential.

7 Therefore, it is the express purpose of this Act to establish the “Guam
8 Veterans Higher Education Benefits Act.” This legislation is designed to provide
9 meaningful tuition assistance, modeled after effective programs such as the Texas
10 Hazlewood Act, yet carefully tailored to the fiscal and institutional framework of
11 Guam. It is the intent of this Legislature that the Act be implemented without
12 requiring new appropriations, by leveraging existing institutional capacities for
13 tuition waivers at the University of Guam and the Guam Community College.

14 **Section 2.** A *new* Chapter 56 is added to Division 5 of Title 17, Guam Code
15 Annotated, to read as follows:

16 “Chapter 56

17 Guam Veterans Higher Education Benefits Act.

18 § 56101. Short Title.

19 § 56102. Definitions.

20 § 56103. Educational Benefits.

21 § 56104. Eligibility Requirements and Limitations.

22 § 56105. Administration.

23 § 56106. Implementation.

24 **§ 56101. Short Title.**

25 This Chapter shall be known as the “Guam Veterans Higher Education
26 Benefits Act”

27 **§ 56102. Definitions.**

1 As used in this Chapter, the following terms shall mean:

2 (a) “Commission” means the Commission on Post-Secondary
3 Education

4 (b) “Dependent” means:

5 (1) A spouse; or

6 (2) A child who:

7 a. Is 25 years old or younger on the first day of the
8 semester or term for which the exemption is claimed;

9 and

10 b. Was claimed as a dependent on a federal income tax
11 return filed for the preceding year

12 (c) “Qualifying Veteran” means a person who:

13 (1) At the time of entry into the U.S. Armed Forces, was a
14 resident of Guam or officially declared Guam as their home
15 of record;

16 (2) Is a legal resident of Guam at the time of application for
17 benefits under this Chapter; and

18 (3) Served in the active military, naval, air service to include
19 and was discharged or released there from under conditions
20 other than dishonorable. Qualifying Veteran includes
21 veterans of the Guam Combat Patrol, the United States
22 Insular Force, Philippine Scouts of World War II, and the
23 United States Armed Forces.”; or

24 (4) Is a current member in good standing or a former member
25 who received an honorable discharge from the Guam
26 National Guard or a Reserve Component of the U.S Armed
27 Forces, regardless of active duty time served; and

1 (d) "Institution" shall mean the University of Guam, and the Guam
2 Community College.

3 (e) "Tuition" shall mean the fees charged by an institution for
4 enrollment in a course, but does not include any other fees,
5 charges, or costs, such as student activity fees, laboratory fees, or
6 the cost of books and instructional materials.

7 **§ 56103. Educational Benefits.**

8 (a) The following persons, subject to the requirements and limitations of this
9 Chapter, shall be exempt from the payment of tuition at an Institution:

10 (1) Qualifying veterans; and

11 (2) Dependent spouses and children may be included only if
12 sufficient institutional capacity exists, as determined by the
13 Commission on Post-Secondary Education through rulemaking.

14 (b) The tuition exemption provided under this Chapter:

15 (1) At the undergraduate level, shall not exceed a lifetime total of
16 ninety (90) credit hours per Qualifying Veteran, which may be
17 used by the veteran or allocated to one (1) or more eligible
18 dependents. No individual may receive more than eighteen (18)
19 credit hours of tuition exemption per academic semester

20 (2) At the graduate level, shall not exceed a lifetime total of thirty (30)
21 credit hours. Such exemption shall be limited to master's degree
22 programs, except that professional doctoral programs may qualify
23 if designated by the Commission on Post-Secondary Education as a
24 critical workforce shortage area;

25 (3) Shall apply only to charges for tuition as defined in §56102(e) and
26 shall not cover student fees, laboratory charges, instructional
27 materials, or other incidental costs;

1 (4) Shall not be applied to repeated courses beyond one additional
2 attempt;

3 (5) Shall be contingent upon space being available in a course after all
4 tuition-paying students have completed registration; and

5 (6) Shall only be available to a Qualifying Veteran after all applicable
6 federal veterans' educational benefits and other federal tuition
7 assistance programs, including federal Title IV financial aid, have
8 been fully exhausted.

9 **§ 56104. Eligibility Requirements and Limitations.**

10 (a) To be eligible for and to maintain benefits under this Chapter, a person
11 must:

12 (1) Be admitted and enrolled at an Institution;

13 (2) Maintain satisfactory academic progress toward a degree or
14 certificate program, as defined by the policies of the respective
15 Institution, and possess a cumulative grade point average of no
16 less than 2.5 for undergraduate programs and 3.0 for graduate
17 programs;

18 (3) Attest that they have exhausted all eligibility for any federal
19 veterans' educational benefits that provide tuition assistance
20 prior to receiving a waiver under this Chapter; and

21 (4) Not be in default on any student loan made or guaranteed by
22 the government of Guam;

23 (b) Benefits conferred by this Chapter shall be subject to the following
24 limitations:

25 (1) The provision of a tuition exemption shall be contingent upon
26 space being available in a course after all tuition-paying
27 students have completed registration;

1 (2) This Chapter does not guarantee admission into any academic
2 program, course, or Institution;

3 (3) The benefit is subject to all course capacity limits and program
4 enrollment restrictions established by the Institution;

5 (4) A tuition exemption shall not be granted for any course that has
6 reached its maximum enrollment capacity or for which a
7 waitlist of tuition-paying students exists.

8 (c) If a recipient withdraws from or fails a course for which a tuition
9 exemption was granted, the recipient shall be responsible for repayment
10 of waived tuition, unless otherwise waived for good cause as defined by
11 Commission rule. Such reimbursed funds shall be deposited into the
12 Student Financial Aid Program (SFAP) fund of the respective Institution.

13 **§ 56105. Administration.**

14 (a) The Commission shall promulgate such rules and regulations as are
15 necessary for the administration of this Chapter. The University of Guam
16 and the Guam Community College shall establish and amend internal
17 policies and administrative procedures as required to ensure full
18 compliance with the provisions of this Chapter.

19 (b) The government of Guam entity responsible for veterans affairs shall
20 provide necessary assistance in the verification of a veteran's status,
21 service record, and eligibility for benefits under this Chapter upon request
22 by an Institution.

23 **§ 56106. Implementation.**

24 (a) The benefits prescribed by this Chapter shall be implemented and
25 provided by the University of Guam and the Guam Community College
26 through a tuition waiver mechanism;

27 (b) The University of Guam, the Guam Community College shall each:

- 1 (1) Develop and publish clear procedures for the application and
2 processing of tuition exemptions consistent with institutional
3 enrollment timelines and course availability;
4 (2) Submit a report to I Liheslaturan Guåhan no later than ninety (90)
5 days after the end of each academic year, detailing the number of
6 beneficiaries served, the total number of credit hours exempted, and
7 the calculated value of the tuition waived;
8 (3) Implement control measures to ensure that the granting of
9 exemptions under this Chapter does not result in the displacement
10 of any tuition-paying student from any course or program.

11 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, benefits under this Chapter
12 shall be implemented no earlier than April 1, 2026, to allow Institutions
13 adequate time to establish administrative procedures.

14 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
15 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity
16 shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect
17 without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of the
18 provisions of this Act are severable

19 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Act shall become effective upon enactment.

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

Bill No. 202-38(COR)

**As Amended by the Committee on Education,
Libraries, and Public Broadcasting**

Introduced by:

Vincent A. V. Borja
Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Shelly V. Calvo
Sabrina Salas Matanane
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Tina Rose Muña Barnes

**AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5
OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE
TO ESTABLISHING THE “GUAM VETERANS HIGHER
EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT.”**

1 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that
3 the people of Guam owe a profound debt of gratitude to the veterans who entered
4 the U.S. Armed Forces from Guam, and to their spouses and dependents, for their
5 distinguished service and immense sacrifice. While federal educational assistance
6 programs provide valuable support, it is the finding of this body that the
7 establishment of a distinctly local benefits program is a moral imperative that
8 demonstrates Guam’s unwavering commitment to honoring and supporting its
9 veterans and their families.

10 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that, with a significant veteran population
11 residing on Guam, many of whom, along with their families, encounter substantial
12 financial obstacles to accessing higher education, it is in the public interest to remove

1 such barriers. Providing these educational benefits is not merely an act of gratitude
2 but a strategic investment in the intellectual capital and economic prosperity of our
3 island. By enhancing access to higher education at the University of Guam and the
4 Guam Community College, this Act will directly contribute to a more skilled and
5 capable workforce, fostering economic growth and ensuring our veterans and their
6 families can achieve their full potential.

7 Therefore, it is the express purpose of this Act to establish the “Guam
8 Veterans Higher Education Benefits Act.” This legislation is designed to provide
9 meaningful tuition assistance, modeled after effective programs such as the Texas
10 Hazlewood Act, yet carefully tailored to the fiscal and institutional framework of
11 Guam. It is the intent of this Legislature that the Act be implemented without
12 requiring new appropriations, by leveraging existing institutional capacities for
13 tuition waivers at the University of Guam and the Guam Community College.

14 **Section 2.** A *new* Chapter 56 is added to Division 5 of Title 17, Guam Code
15 Annotated, to read as follows:

16 “Chapter 56

17 Guam Veterans Higher Education Benefits Act.

18 § 56101. Short Title.

19 § 56102. Definitions.

20 § 56103. Educational Benefits.

21 § 56104. Eligibility Requirements and Limitations.

22 § 56105. Administration.

23 § 56106. Implementation.

24 **§ 56101. Short Title.**

25 This Chapter shall be known as the “Guam Veterans Higher Education
26 Benefits Act”

27 **§ 56102. Definitions.**

1 As used in this Chapter, the following terms shall mean:

2 (a) "Commission" means the Commission on Post-Secondary
3 Education

4 (b) "Dependent" means:

5 (1) A spouse; or

6 (2) A child who:

7 a. Is 25 years old or younger on the first day of the
8 semester or term for which the exemption is claimed;

9 and

10 b. Was claimed as a dependent on a federal income tax
11 return filed for the preceding year

12 (c) "Qualifying Veteran" means a person who:

13 (1) At the time of entry into the U.S. Armed Forces, was a
14 resident of Guam or officially declared Guam as their home
15 of record;

16 (2) Received an honorable discharge from military service;

17 (3) Completed a minimum of one hundred eighty one (181)
18 days of active duty service, exclusive of any time spent in
19 basic training;

20 (4)(2) Is a legal resident of Guam at the time of application for
21 benefits under this Chapter; and

22 (5) Meets at least one (1) of the following criteria:

23 a. Served on active duty during a period of war or armed
24 conflict as officially designated by the United States
25 Congress;

26 b. Was killed in action;

27 c. Died while in service;

- 1 ~~d. Is officially listed as missing in action;~~
2 ~~e. Has been determined to be totally and permanently~~
3 ~~disabled for the purpose of unemployability by the~~
4 ~~U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; or~~
5 ~~f. Has a service-connected disability rating of no less~~
6 ~~than thirty percent (30%) as determined by the U.S.~~
7 ~~Department of Veterans Affairs.~~

8 (1) At the time of entry into the U.S. Armed Forces, was a
9 resident of Guam or officially declared Guam as their home
10 of record;

11 (2) Is a legal resident of Guam at the time of application for
12 benefits under this Chapter; and

13 (3) Served in the active military, naval, air service to include
14 and was discharged or released there from under conditions
15 other than dishonorable. Qualifying Veteran includes
16 veterans of the Guam Combat Patrol, the United States
17 Insular Force, Philippine Scouts of World War II, and the
18 United States Armed Forces.”; or

19 (4) Is a current member in good standing or a former member
20 who received an honorable discharge from the Guam
21 National Guard or a Reserve Component of the U.S Armed
22 Forces, regardless of active duty time served; and

23 (d) “Institution” shall mean the University of Guam, and the Guam
24 Community College.

25 (e) "Tuition" shall mean the fees charged by an institution for
26 enrollment in a course, but does not include any other fees,

1 charges, or costs, such as student activity fees, laboratory fees, or
2 the cost of books and instructional materials.

3 **§ 56103. Educational Benefits.**

4 (a) The following persons, subject to the requirements and limitations of this
5 Chapter, shall be exempt from the payment of tuition at an Institution:

6 (1) Qualifying veterans; and

7 ~~(2) Dependent children or spouses of qualifying veterans.~~

8 (2) Dependent spouses and children may be included only if
9 sufficient institutional capacity exists, as determined by the
10 Commission on Post-Secondary Education through rulemaking.

11 (b) The tuition exemption provided under this Chapter:

12 (1) At the undergraduate level, shall not exceed a lifetime total of
13 ninety (90) credit hours per Qualifying Veteran, which may be
14 used by the veteran or allocated to one (1) or more eligible
15 dependents. No individual may receive more than eighteen (18)
16 credit hours of tuition exemption per academic semester

17 (2) At the graduate level, shall not exceed a lifetime total of thirty (30)
18 credit hours. Such exemption shall be limited to master's degree
19 programs, except that professional doctoral programs may qualify
20 if designated by the Commission on Post-Secondary Education as a
21 critical workforce shortage area;

22 (3) Shall apply only to charges for tuition as defined in §56102(e) and
23 shall not cover student fees, laboratory charges, instructional
24 materials, or other incidental costs;

25 (4) Shall not be applied to repeated courses beyond one additional
26 attempt;

1 (5) Shall be contingent upon space being available in a course after all
2 tuition-paying students have completed registration; and

3 (6) Shall only be available to a Qualifying Veteran after all applicable
4 federal veterans' educational benefits and other federal tuition
5 assistance programs, including federal Title IV financial aid, have
6 been fully exhausted.

7 **§ 56104. Eligibility Requirements and Limitations.**

8 (a) To be eligible for and to maintain benefits under this Chapter, a person
9 must:

10 (1) Be admitted and enrolled at an Institution;

11 (2) Maintain satisfactory academic progress toward a degree or
12 certificate program, as defined by the policies of the respective
13 Institution, and possess a cumulative grade point average of no
14 less than 2.5 for undergraduate programs and 3.0 for graduate
15 programs;

16 (3) Attest that they have exhausted all eligibility for any federal
17 veterans' educational benefits that provide tuition assistance
18 prior to receiving a waiver under this Chapter; and

19 (4) Not be in default on any student loan made or guaranteed by
20 the government of Guam;

21 (b) Benefits conferred by this Chapter shall be subject to the following
22 limitations:

23 (1) The provision of a tuition exemption shall be contingent upon
24 space being available in a course after all tuition-paying
25 students have completed registration;

26 (2) This Chapter does not guarantee admission into any academic
27 program, course, or Institution;

1 (3) The benefit is subject to all course capacity limits and program
2 enrollment restrictions established by the Institution;

3 (4) A tuition exemption shall not be granted for any course that has
4 reached its maximum enrollment capacity or for which a
5 waitlist of tuition-paying students exists.

6 (c) If a recipient withdraws from or fails a course for which a tuition
7 exemption was granted, the recipient shall be responsible for repayment
8 of waived tuition, unless otherwise waived for good cause as defined by
9 Commission rule. Such reimbursed funds shall be deposited into the
10 Student Financial Aid Program (SFAP) fund of the respective Institution.

11 **§ 56105. Administration.**

12 (a) The Commission shall promulgate such rules and regulations as are
13 necessary for the administration of this Chapter. The University of Guam
14 and the Guam Community College shall establish and amend internal
15 policies and administrative procedures as required to ensure full
16 compliance with the provisions of this Chapter.

17 (b) The government of Guam entity responsible for veterans affairs shall
18 provide necessary assistance in the verification of a veteran's status,
19 service record, and eligibility for benefits under this Chapter upon request
20 by an Institution.

21 **§ 56106. Implementation.**

22 (a) The benefits prescribed by this Chapter shall be implemented and
23 provided by the University of Guam and the Guam Community College
24 through a tuition waiver mechanism;

25 ~~(b) It is the express intent of the Legislature that the implementation of this~~
26 ~~Chapter shall require no additional appropriation from the General Fund.~~

1 ~~The costs associated with the tuition exemptions shall be absorbed by the~~
2 ~~Institutions as a civic and public duty.~~

3 ~~(e)~~ (b) The University of Guam, the Guam Community College shall each:

4 (1) Develop and publish clear procedures for the application and
5 processing of tuition exemptions consistent with institutional
6 enrollment timelines and course availability;

7 (2) Submit a report to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* no later than ninety (90)
8 days after the end of each academic year, detailing the number of
9 beneficiaries served, the total number of credit hours exempted, and
10 the calculated value of the tuition waived;

11 (3) Implement control measures to ensure that the granting of
12 exemptions under this Chapter does not result in the displacement
13 of any tuition-paying student from any course or program.

14 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, benefits under this Chapter
15 shall be implemented no earlier than April 1, 2026, to allow Institutions
16 adequate time to establish administrative procedures.

17 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
18 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity
19 shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect
20 without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of the
21 provisions of this Act are severable

22 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Act shall become effective upon enactment.



COMMITTEE ON RULES

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Chairperson
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
38th Guam Legislature

October 22, 2025

To: **Rennae V. C. Meno**
Clerk of the Legislature

From: **Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada** 
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Subject: **Fiscal Note for Bill No. 202-38 (COR)**

Håfa Adai!

Find the attached, Fiscal Note for the following bill:

Bill No. 202-38 (COR).

I also request that the same be sent to the respective Chairperson of the Standing Committee, to which this bill has been referred. Kindly copy the same to Management Information Services (MIS) for posting on our website.



**Bureau of Budget & Management Research
Fiscal Note of Bill No. 202-38 (COR)**

AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 56 TO DIVISION 5 OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED. RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE "GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT."

Department/Agency Appropriation Information

Dept./Agency Affected: University of Guam / Guam Community College		Dept./Agency Head: Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez, President Dr. Mary Okada, President	
Department's General Fund (GF) appropriation(s) to date:		UOG: \$47,023,391	GCC: \$14,891,858
Department's Other Fund appropriation(s) to date:	UOG: Healthy Futures Fund (\$3,000,000) Guam Educational Facilities Fund: (\$500,000) Total: \$3,500,000	GCC: Manpower Development Fund \$8,471,562	
Total Department/Agency Appropriation(s) to date:		UOG: \$50,523,391	GCC: \$23,363,420

Fund Source Information of Proposed Appropriation

	General Fund:	Special Fund:	Total:
FY 2025 Unreserved Fund Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 2026 Adopted Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 2026 Appro. (P.L. 38-60)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sub-total:	\$0	\$0	\$0
Less appropriation in Bill	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total:	\$0	\$0	\$0

Estimated Fiscal Impact of Bill

	One Full Fiscal Year	For Remainder of FY 2026 (if applicable)	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Special Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	1/	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

- Does the bill contain "revenue generating" provisions?
If Yes, see attachment // Yes /X/ No
- Is amount appropriated adequate to fund the intent of the appropriation?
If no, what is the additional amount required? \$ _____ /X/ N/A // Yes // No
- Does the Bill establish a new program/agency?
If yes, will the program duplicate existing programs/agencies? /X/ N/A // Yes // No
Is there a federal mandate to establish the program/agency? // Yes // No
- Will the enactment of this Bill require new physical facilities? // Yes // No
- Was Fiscal Note coordinated with the affected dept/agency?
If no, indicate reason: /X/ Yes // No
/X/ Requested agency comments not received by due date: Guam Community College // Other

Analyst: Michelle Pineda Date: 10/22/25 Director: Lester L. Carson, Jr., Director Date: OCT 22 2025

Notes:
1/ See Additional Comments.

BUREAU OF BUDGET & MANAGEMENT RESEARCH
COMMENTS ON BILL NO. 202-38 (COR)

Bill No. 202-38 seeks to add a new Chapter 56 to Division 5 of Title 17, Guam Code Annotated, relative to establishing the “Guam Veterans Higher Education Benefits Act.” The proposed legislation is designed to provide meaningful tuition assistance to qualifying veterans and their dependents, without requiring new appropriations from the General Fund, by leveraging existing institutional capacities for tuition waivers at the University of Guam (UOG) and the Guam Community College (GCC).

The legislation specifies that qualifying veterans or their dependents shall be exempt from paying tuition at UOG and GCC. However, this exemption shall not cover student fees, laboratory charges, instructional materials, or other incidental costs. Additional limitations to the educational benefits include: 1.) No individual shall exceed a lifetime total of ninety (90) credit hours, and no more than eighteen (18) credit hours of tuition per academic semester at the undergraduate level, 2.) at the graduate level, the exemption shall not exceed a lifetime total of thirty (30) credits and shall be limited to master’s degree programs. The Bill adds that the provision of a tuition exemption shall be contingent upon availability after all tuition-paying students have completed registration and after all federal veterans’ educational benefits providing tuition assistance have been exhausted. Qualifying students must also keep a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 for undergraduate programs and 3.0 for graduate programs.

Based on comments received from the University of Guam, the institution expresses its support for this Bill. However, UOG further adds that if their current student population of 64 veterans and 164 dependents were to be fully absorbed, it anticipates a fiscal impact of \$1.2M in tuition waivers. Because of the potential amounts, UOG proposes that only veterans be considered for the tuition exemption, and agrees that recipients should exhaust both federal and local benefits before availing of the proposed tuition waiver. UOG also asserts that while it supports these efforts, implementing such programs stresses the importance of maintaining and increasing funding for higher education through government appropriations. The Bureau has also reached out to GCC for their comments/testimony, but has not received a response as of the date of this fiscal note. Therefore, a specific fiscal impact for the proposed tuition waiver from GCC cannot be ascertained at this time.