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
348-38 (LS)	Shelly V. Calvo	AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW SECTION 85113.2 OF CHAPTER 85, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERAN ARTS ACCESS FUND; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "VETERAN ARTS FOR WELLNESS ACT OF 2026."	8/7/26 11:57 a.m. ^8/17/26 11:14 a.m.	8/20/26	Committee on Finance and Government Operations.	Request: 8/20/26 8/27/26	10/15/26 2:00 p.m.	11/19/26	

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

November 18, 2026

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. 348-38 (LS) ***As Introduced***

Buenas yan Håfa Ådai Speaker,

Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report on **Bill No. 348-38 (LS)** – Shelly V. Calvo – An Act To Add A New Section 85113.2 Of Chapter 85, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, Relative To Establishing The Veteran Arts Access Fund; And To Cite This Act As The "Veteran Arts For Wellness Act Of 2026."

Committee votes are as follows:

_____ TO DO PASS

_____ TO NOT PASS

5 TO REPORT OUT ONLY

_____ TO ABSTAIN

_____ TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE

COMMITTEE ON RULES
RECEIVED:
November 18, 2026 6:42 p.m.
Marie Crisostomo

Senseremente,

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

OFFICE OF SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
259 MARTYR STREET, HAGATNA GUAM 96910 | TEL: 671-989-9554 | SENATOR.DUENAS@GUAMLEGISLATURE.GOV
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COMMITTEE REPORT

BILL NO. 348-38 (LS)

INTRODUCED BY:

Shelly V. Calvo

"AN ACT TO ADD A NEW SECTION 85113.2 OF CHAPTER 85, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERAN ARTS ACCESS FUND; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "VETERAN ARTS FOR WELLNESS ACT OF 2026."

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

November 10, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Members**
Committee on Finance and Government Operations

From: **Senator Christopher M. Dueñas**
Chairperson, Finance and Government Operations

Subject: **Committee Report on Bill No. 348-38 (LS)** ***As Introduced***

Transmitted herewith for your consideration is the Committee Report on **Bill No. 348-38 (LS)** – Shelly V. Calvo – **An Act To Add A New Section 85113.2 Of Chapter 85, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, Relative To Establishing The Veteran Arts Access Fund; And To Cite This Act As The "Veteran Arts For Wellness Act Of 2026."**

This report includes the following:

- Copy of COR Referral of Bill No. 348-38 (LS)
- 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. 348-38 (LS), *As Introduced*
- 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 Christopher M. Dueñas
Chairperson, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

OFFICE OF SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
259 Martyr Street, Hagatna Guam 96910 | Tel: 671-989-9554 | senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov
LIKE AND FOLLOW @SENATORDUENAS

COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

August 20, 2026

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

Attorney Darleen E.H. Phillips
Legislative Legal Counsel

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

Subject: **Referral of Bill No. 348-38 (LS)**

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. 348-38 (LS)** - Shelly V. Calvo. – "AN ACT TO ADD A NEW SECTION 85113.2 OF CHAPTER 85, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERAN ARTS ACCESS FUND; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "VETERAN ARTS FOR WELLNESS ACT OF 2026."

Please ensure that the subject bill is referred to the Committee on Finance and Government Operations chaired by Senator Christopher M. Dueñas. I also request that the same be copied to the Prime Sponsor of the subject bill, to the Office of Finance and Budget (OFB) 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.

Karl Pangelinan <karl.p@guamlegislature.gov>

First Notice of Public Hearing - Oct 15, 2026 / 2pm

Karl Pangelinan <karl.p@guamlegislature.gov> Thu, Oct 8, 2026 at 2:00 PM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 8, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

From: Senator Christopher M. Dueñas
Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Re: First NOTICE of Public Hearing on October 15, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, October 15 2026,** beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

The agenda is as follows:

- Bill No. 239-38 (LS) - AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 24117 TO ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 24, TITLE 11, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXEMPTING OWNER-OCCUPIED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES FROM PROPERTY TAXATION OF UP TO THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS ($350,000).

- Bill No. 347-38 (LS) - AN ACT TO AMEND §1303.1 OF TITLE 5 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; AND TO FURTHER AMEND § 41103 OF CHAPTER 41 OF TITLE 17 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED AND TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH AN ACCOUNT FOR DEPARTMENT OF INTEGRATED SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES (DISID) TO RECEIVE AND EXPEND GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS.

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If you would like to participate in the Public Hearing listed above or submit written testimony, please contact the Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas for further assistance via email at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov or by phone at (671) 989-9554.

In compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), all government activities, programs, and services are accessible to individuals with disabilities. *If you or anyone you know requires assistance or special accommodations to participate in the public hearing, please contact the Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas at the contact information provided above.*

The Public Hearing will be broadcast LIVE on local television (GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117) and streamed online through I Liheslaturan Guåhan's YouTube Channel (@guamlegislaturemedia).

1N Pubilc Hearing - 101526 2pm.pdf
360K

First Notice of Public Hearing 10/15/26 - 2pm

PRINT

First Notice of Public Hearing 10/15/26 - 2pm

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 10/08/2026 02:00 PM

Posted by: Karl Pangelinan

Public Hearing Date: 10/15/2026 02:00 PM

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUENAS (/notices?division_id=267)

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

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

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 8, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

From: Senator Christopher M. Dueñas
Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Re: First NOTICE of Public Hearing on October 15, 2026

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Bill No. 239-38 (LS) (https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20239-38%20(LS)%20Referred%20Version.pdf) – **Sen Shelly V. Calvo –** AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 24117 TO ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 24, TITLE 11, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXEMPTING OWNER-OCCUPIED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES FROM PROPERTY TAXATION OF UP TO THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS ($350,000).

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Bill No. 348-38 (LS) (https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20348-

GUAM LEGISLATURE
AUDIO VISUAL DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Office Submitting Request: Office of Sen. Chris Duenas

Date of Request: 10/08/26

POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Ashley Shinohara Contact #: 671-989-9554

Email: senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS

Notice Type: ☒ Public Hearing ☐ Informational Briefing ☐ Roundtable Discussion

☐ Oversight Hearing ☐ Committee Meeting ☐ Other: _____

Notice Title / Bill(s) / Resolution(s) / Appointment:
PH Notice for Bills 239, 347, & 348-38 (LS)

Date of Event: 10/15/26 Start Time: 2:00 PM AM/PM

End Time: 5:00 PM AM/PM

Location: Public Hearing Room

MEDIA HANDLING

Recording Format: ☒ MP4 ☐ MP3 ☐ Other: _____

Delivery Method: ☐ Email ☐ USB Drive ☐ Cloud Link ☐ Other: _____

CERTIFIED BY AV:

Name: Zack Quinata Signature: FOR ZACK / JOESIR.

Posted on/Air Date: 2026/10/08 - 2026/10/15

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Notice of Public Hearing

Thursday, October 15, 2026, 2:00 P.M.

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a public hearing on **Thursday, October 15, 2026,** beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

The agenda is as follows:

- Bill No. 239-38 (LS) – Shelly V. Calvo - AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 24117 TO ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 24, TITLE 11, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXEMPTING OWNER-OCCUPIED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES FROM PROPERTY TAXATION OF UP TO THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS ($350,000).

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- Bill No. 348-38 (LS) - Shelly V. Calvo - AN ACT TO ADD A NEW SECTION 85113.2 OF CHAPTER 85, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERAN ARTS ACCESS FUND; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "VETERAN ARTS FOR WELLNESS ACT OF 2026."

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

In compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), all government activities, programs, and services are accessible to individuals with disabilities. ***If you or anyone you know requires assistance or special accommodations to participate in the public hearing, please contact the Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas for further assistance via email at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov or by phone at (671) 989-9554.*** For any digital media presentations, please submit to our office **48 hours** prior to the hearing.

The Public Hearing will be broadcast LIVE on local television (GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117) and streamed online through *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* YouTube Channel (@guamlegislaturemedia).

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Karl Pangelinan <karl.p@guamlegislature.gov>

Second Notice of Public Hearing: October 15, 2026 - 2pm

Karl Pangelinan <karl.p@guamlegislature.gov> Tue, Oct 13, 2026 at 2:00 PM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

From: Senator Christopher M. Dueñas
Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Re: Second NOTICE of Public Hearing on October 15, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, October 15, 2026,** beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

The agenda is as follows:

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Second Notice of Public Hearing 10/15/26 - 2pm

PRINT

Second Notice of Public Hearing 10/15/26 - 2pm

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 10/13/2026 02:00 PM

Posted by: Karl Pangelinan

Public Hearing Date: 10/15/2026 02:00 PM

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUENAS (/notices?division_id=267)

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

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

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 13, 2026

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From: Senator Christopher M. Dueñas
Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

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Bill No. 348-38 (LS) (https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20348-

Introduced_Bill%20No.%20[illegible]38%20(LS)%20Referred%20Version.pdf) – **Sen Shelly V. Calvo –** AN ACT TO ADD A NEW SECTION 85113.2 OF CHAPTER 85, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERAN ARTS ACCESS FUND; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "VETERAN ARTS FOR WELLNESS ACT OF 2026."

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The Public Hearing will be broadcast LIVE on local television (GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117) and streamed online through I Liheslaturan Guåhan's YouTube Channel (**@guamlegislaturemedia (https://www.youtube.com/@GuamLegislatureMedia)**).

This ad was paid with funds by the Committee of Finance and Government Operations.

Introduced_Bill%20No.%20[illegible]38%20(LS)%20Referred%20Version.pdf) – **Sen Shelly V. Calvo –** AN ACT TO ADD A NEW SECTION 85113.2 OF CHAPTER 85, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERAN ARTS ACCESS FUND; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "VETERAN ARTS FOR WELLNESS ACT OF 2026."

If you would like to participate in the Public Hearing listed above or submit written testimony, please contact the Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas for further assistance via email at **senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov (mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov)** or by phone at (671) 989-9554.

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PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA
15 October 2026 - Guam Congress Building

2:00pm

The agenda is as follows:

· **Bill No. 239-38 (LS) – Sen Shelly V. Calvo – AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 24117 TO ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 24, TITLE 11, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXEMPTING OWNER-OCCUPIED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES FROM PROPERTY TAXATION OF UP TO THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS ($350,000).**

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If you would like to participate in any of the Public Hearings listed above or submit written testimony, please contact the Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas for further assistance via email at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov or by phone at (671) 989-9554.

In compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), all government activities, programs, and services are accessible to individuals with disabilities. If you or anyone you know requires assistance or special accommodations to participate in the public hearing, please contact the Office of Senator Jesse A. Lujan at the contact information provided above.

The Public Hearings will be broadcast LIVE on local television (GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117) and streamed online through *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*'s YouTube Channel (@guamlegislaturemedia).

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahån

Date: Oct 15, 2026 | **Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas** | **Time: 2:00 p.m.**

Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Bill #348-38 - SVC - AN ACT TO ADD A NEW SECTION 85113.2 OF CHAPTER 85, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERAN ARTS ACCESS FUND; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "VETERAN ARTS FOR WELLNESS ACT OF 2026."

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Marlene Rivo	WPVC Foundation				x	x	
2	Angie Taitague	CAHA				x	x	
3	Ms. Tenorio	Veteran Artist			x			
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								

Testimony for Bill No. 348-38 (LS) – An Act to Add a New Section 85113.2 of Chapter 85, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, Relative to Establishing the Veterans Arts Access Fund; and to Cite this Act as the "Veteran Arts for Wellness Act of 2026".

As an Army Veteran who served 26.5 years, I fully support this initiative to establish parallel to the Veteran's Affairs Creative Arts Therapies. There is a total of four programs under the VA Health Care Creative Arts Therapies;

- **Art Therapy** – therapeutic artmaking for trauma, illness, and personal development
- **Dance/Movement Therapy** – movementbased psychotherapy
- **Drama Therapy** – theatre techniques for mental health and personal growth
- **Music Therapy** – evidencebased music interventions for individualized goals These therapies support rehabilitation, emotional expression, motivation, and community reintegration.

I was the featured female veteran during the Guam Women' s Health Outreach held from July 22 – 23, 2025. One of the break-out event was Sip "N Dip in which the VA provided all the supplies and the venue. Fast forward, as one of the Co-Founders and current President of the Western Pacific Veterans Community (WPVC) Foundation, I had hoped to add this event as one of the activities during our annual Career Transition Workshop. However, we do not have access to funding to implement and/or add the event, but it isn't lost in our Team.

This Bill, when passed will enable access to funding to implement the four programs under the Creative Arts Therapies without having to always look for means either via fundraising, grants, private donations, etc. and demonstrate a commitment from island leaders towards a promise made to us veterans that you'll continue to be our partner in advancing our quality of lives. It also sends a strong message to our veteran community which states, "We see you. We appreciate the sacrifices you have made for our island, community and on behalf of our people. Thank you!"

Marlene C. Rivo
Co-Founder/President
WPVC Foundation
"Veterans Helping Veterans"

GUAM COUNCIL ON THE arts & humanities AGENCY

GUAM COUNCIL ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES AGENCY
Kahan I Kutturan Guahan

Honorable Lourdes Leon Guerrero
Maga' håga'
Governor of Guam

Honorable Joshua Tenorio
Segundo Maga' lahi
Lieutenant Governor of Guam

Angie R. Taitague
Eksåkåtihu Direktot
Executive Director

The Honorable Senator Shelly V. Calvo,
Chairperson of the Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration
38th Guam Legislature

Subject: Bill No. 348-38 (LS)- Veterans Arts for Wellness

Håfa Adai, Oversight Chairwoman Senator Calvo and Members of the Committee,

as the Executive Director of the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency (CAHA). I am writing today to express full support for Bill No. 348-38 (LS), also known as the "Veteran Arts for Wellness Act of 2026."

Bill No. 348-38 (LS) will establish the Veteran Arts Access Fund to assist our local veterans.

At CAHA, we know that the arts promote healing and recovery. Creative arts programs give veterans a powerful outlet to navigate PTSD, service-connected injuries, and the transition back to civilian life.

This new fund will provide sustainable support for dedicated art programs tailored specifically for veterans. CAHA stands ready to collaborate closely with local artists and veteran organizations to ensure these resources directly benefit those who have served our island and nation.

Supporting creative wellness for our veterans honors our commitment to their long-term well-being through proven, therapeutic avenues. On behalf of CAHA, I respectfully request the committee's favorable consideration and passage of Bill No. 348-38 (LS).

Si Yu'os ma'åse', for your time, consideration, and continued advocacy for the arts and our veteran community.

Angie Taitague

Executive Director

COMMITTEE VOTE SHEET

Bill No. 348-38 (LS) - ***As Introduced*** – Shelly V. Calvo – ***An Act To Add A New Section 85113.2 Of Chapter 85, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, Relative To Establishing The Veteran Arts Access Fund; And To Cite This Act As The "Veteran Arts For Wellness Act Of 2026."***

Committee Members	Signature	TO DO PASS	TO NOT PASS	TO REPORT OUT ONLY	TO ABSTAIN	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE
Senator Christopher M. Dueñas *Chairperson*	CMD			X		
Senator V. Anthony Ada *Vice Chairperson*	E-Vote			X		
Senator Frank F. Blas, Jr. *Member*						
Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane *Member*	E-Vote			X		
Senator Jesse A. Lujan *Member*						
Senator Vincent A.V. Borja *Member*	E-Vote			X		
Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes *Member*						
Senator Joe S. San Agustin *Member*	E-Vote			X		

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Karl Pangelinan <karl.p@guamlegislature.gov>

Urgent E-Vote - Bill #348-38 (LS) - SVC

5 messages

Karl Pangelinan <karl.p@guamlegislature.gov> Wed, Nov 18, 2026 at 3:08 PM
To: cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>

Håfa Ådai Committee Members!

Please see attached Committee Report for **Bill No. 348-38 (LS)** - **SVC** - AN ACT TO ADD A NEW SECTION 85113.2 OF CHAPTER 85, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERAN ARTS ACCESS FUND; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "VETERAN ARTS FOR WELLNESS ACT OF 2026."

Indicate your preferred action:

- 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.

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Regards,
Karl Pangelinan

CR B348-38 (LS).pdf
8344K

Office of Legislative Secretary <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov> Thu, Nov 19, 2026 at 9:23 AM
To: Karl Pangelinan <karl.p@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc: cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov, Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>

To report out only.
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Biba Guam,
Isaiah Aguon
Special Assistant to the Senator

Office of Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs
163 W. Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov
671-989-2572

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Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com> Wed, Nov 18, 2026 at 3:24 PM
To: Karl Pangelinan <karl.p@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc: cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov, Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>

To report out. Thanks!

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, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
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> To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to cmdcommittee+unsubscribe@guamlegislature.gov.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov> Wed, Nov 18, 2026 at 3:27 PM
To: "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>
Cc: Karl Pangelinan <karl.p@guamlegislature.gov>, cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov, Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>

To report out
[Quoted text hidden]
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Office of Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada
38th Guam Legislature
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Guam Congress Building, 2nd Floor
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910
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Email: vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov

[Quoted text hidden]

Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com> Wed, Nov 18, 2026 at 6:18 PM
To: "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Karl Pangelinan <karl.p@guamlegislature.gov>, cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov, Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>

To Report Out Only..

Si Yu'os Ma'åse',

Caden Nathaniel Ong Poblete
Office of Senator Vincent A.V. Borja
671-969-8423
caden.poblete@guamlegislature.gov
DNA Building Suite 502, Hagatna

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COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

Committee on Finance and Government Operations
Senator Chirstopher M. Dueñas, Chairman

I. OVERVIEW

Bill 348-38 (LS) was introduced by Senator Shelly V. Calvo on August 17, 2026 and referred to the Committee on Finance and Government Operations by the Committee on Rules on August 20, 2026. The Committee held a public hearing on October 15, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. in the Guam Congress Building's Public Hearing Room.

Notices for the hearing were posted on the Government Public Notices Portal and distributed via email to all senators and major media outlets on October 8, 2026 (5-day notice) and again on October 13, 2026 (48-hour notice).

II. SENATORS PRESENT

Christopher M. Dueñas, Chairman
Shelly V. Calvo, Author
Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao

III. ORAL TESTIMONY:

Ms Tenorio (Vet Artist)

APPEARED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE:

Ms. Tenorio (Vet Artist) / Written testimony provided by Angie Taitague and Marlene Rivo

IV. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The public hearing for Bill 347-38 (LS) was called to order at **2:00PM.** Discussions on Bill 347-38 (LS) began immediately following the conclusion of Bill 239-38 (LS).

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRMAN: So now we will move to the final bill on the agenda, Bill 348-38 (LS). Senator Calvo you're recognized at this time.

SENATOR SHELLY V. CALVO: Thank you Mr. Chair. We will now discuss Bill No. 348-38, a measure I introduced to establish the Veterans Arts Access Fund and create a more reliable pathway for therapeutic arts programming for veterans with service-connected disabilities. I would also like to acknowledge CAHA and GBHWC, which submitted testimony to the Chair, as well as a veteran who is present today in the People's House and whom I believe will also be offering testimony. I appreciate your presence and your willingness to help us examine both the programmatic and fiscal implications of this measure. At the heart of this bill is a simple idea: healing does not always happen in the same way for everyone. For some veterans, creative expression can be part of that process. This bill recognizes that therapeutic art can provide meaningful opportunities for healing, connection, and community reintegration, while also helping reduce isolation and support mental wellness. Bill No. 348-38 would establish the Veterans Arts Access Fund within CAHA, with the fund administered in coordination with the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center as well as the Guam Museum. It would support adaptive visual and performing arts workshops, public exhibitions featuring veteran artists, trauma-informed arts instructors and facilitators, training, and accessibility services such as ASL interpretation and tactile guidelines. The bill also positions the fund as the designated account for future federal grant opportunities, including the VA Adaptive Sports Grant Program or any successor program. CAHA would be authorized to apply for, receive, and administer those funds in partnership with veteran-serving organizations to help Guam prepare for future funding opportunities. The measure includes an initial $50,000 General Fund appropriation for program planning, stakeholder coordination, grant-readiness activities, and eligible participant costs for veterans with service-connected disabilities. For me, this bill is about creating access before opportunities are lost. Federal grant windows open and close, and Guam should be prepared to compete when those opportunities become

available. It is also about making sure that veterans who may benefit from these programs are not excluded because of cost, accessibility barriers, or the absence of a coordinated local structure. Today, I look forward to hearing from our agencies, stakeholders, and community members on whether this framework is workable, whether the proposed funding level is sufficient, how accessibility can be built into the program from the beginning, and what safeguards should be included to ensure that every dollar is used responsibly. Most importantly, I hope we keep the focus on the veterans this measure is intended to serve. Those who served our country deserve more than our gratitude. They deserve meaningful opportunities to heal, reconnect with the community, create, and participate fully in community life. I look forward to the testimony, whether presented in person or submitted by email, and to the recommendations offered today. *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'*, Mr. Chair, and thank you.

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRMAN: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'*, Senator Calvo. At this time, we do have someone signed up to testify, Ms. Tenorio. Is that correct? Would you like to come forward and testify on the bill? Thank you. Please push the button there, pull the microphone closer to you, identify yourself for the record, and you may proceed.

VETERAN ARTIST / TESTIFIER: *Håfa Adai*. Honorable Chairperson and members of the Committee, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the bill sponsor, Senator Shelly Vargas Calvo, for introducing Bill No. 348-38. I am grateful that the well-being of our veterans and the value of artistic expression are being recognized through this legislation. I am here, despite my social anxiety disorder, in strong support of the spirit and intent of this bill. I believe art can provide veterans with a meaningful outlet for expression, a sense of purpose, and an opportunity to reconnect with themselves and their communities. For some of us, creating art is more than a hobby or a profession. It is a way of coping, communicating, and finding meaning in our experiences. I believe the bill could go further in addressing the practical realities and actual circumstances we face, particularly the financial barriers that can prevent us from participating in the very opportunities intended to support us. As an independent disabled veteran artist, I know that being given an opportunity to exhibit one's work does not necessarily mean being able to afford it. Artists may be required to pay application fees and other exhibition-related expenses. When artwork is sold, commissions can also take

a substantial portion of the proceeds, sometimes as much as 40 percent. These costs can be especially burdensome for artists who are already dealing with financial, physical, or personal challenges. I ask the Committee to consider whether this legislation can provide assistance not only for creating and exhibiting artwork, but also for defraying reasonable exhibition costs and sales commissions. I understand that galleries and exhibition spaces have operating expenses. I am not suggesting that these institutions should be deprived of the income they need to operate. Rather, I hope the bill can provide a way to help eligible veteran artists offset some of these costs, whether through subsidies or other practical forms of assistance. In particular, I hope the Committee reconsiders any provision that excludes sales commissions from eligible assistance. If the purpose of this legislation is to support veterans through art, then that support should extend beyond simply providing an opportunity to display their work. It should also help make that opportunity financially accessible and allow veterans to retain a more reasonable share of the proceeds from their work. I also hope the program will recognize artistic expression in its many forms, including visual arts, poetry, songwriting, music, and creative writing. Veterans express themselves differently, and the program should be broad enough to accommodate those differences. Finally, I encourage the adoption of clear guidelines and reporting requirements regarding how program funds are used, what assistance is provided, and whether veterans are genuinely benefiting from the opportunities made available to them. I offer these recommendations with respect and appreciation for the bill's sponsor and everyone working to advance this measure. My intention is to help strengthen it so that its benefits truly reach the veterans it seeks to serve. Thank you for recognizing the value of art in veterans' wellness and for giving disabled veteran artists like me an opportunity to contribute to this discussion. I hope this bill moves forward and that, with thoughtful improvements, it becomes a meaningful and sustainable source of support for our veteran artists. If I may add, I would also like to thank Senator Shelly Calvo for being one of the few people who brought me out of my self-imposed seclusion and encouraged me to share my art again. This was long before she became a senator. Because of that, I know and feel that this bill is not being introduced simply because it is part of her legislative work, but because she genuinely cares and it comes from a good and caring heart. Thank you.

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Tenorio. I also wanted to let everyone know that we received testimony in favor of the bill from Marlene C Rivo, Co-Founder and President of WPVC, Veterans Helping Veterans. We also received favorable testimony from the Executive Director of the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency (CAHA), Ms. Angie R. Taitague. So, Madam Senator, you have certainly built some support for this measure. At this time, I'll ask whether you have any questions for your friend and colleague here.

SENATOR SHELLY V. CALVO: Fellow artist—and for those who may not know, she is one of the great artists we have here on Guam. MC, I took note of the recommendations you mentioned earlier in your testimony. I just wanted to clarify: you proposed adding poetry, songwriting, and what was the third one?

VETERAN ARTIST / TESTIFIER: Creative writing. There are art forms that are created but not necessarily performed, so they do not fall under performing arts.

SENATOR SHELLY V. CALVO: Yes. Thank you for that input. Another item I noted was your recommendation regarding offsetting costs. Can you please expound on that?

VETERAN ARTIST / TESTIFIER: Perhaps the fund could help defray some of those costs. For example, speaking from my own experience, during my previous solo exhibit, I paid $100 just to exhibit, and on top of that, there was still a 20% commission on every sale I made. So, as artists, we do not receive the full proceeds from the sale of our work because either 20% or, in some cases, 40% may be deducted.

SENATOR SHELLY V. CALVO: Is that specifically for visual art?

VETERAN ARTIST / TESTIFIER: For visual arts, yes, ma'am.

SENATOR SHELLY V. CALVO: Do you think other forms of art are also subject to similar costs, or is that mainly for visual art exhibitions?

VETERAN ARTIST / TESTIFIER: Yes, other forms may also have associated costs. If I may add, I also write songs. If I go to a recording studio, I may be charged around $150 per hour. Then, of course, there is also the cost of hiring a singer or other production-related expenses. So, if there is a program where we can receive support or financial assistance for those kinds of expenses, that would also fall under what I mean by offsetting costs. But speaking mainly as a visual artist, the 20% and 40% commissions really take a significant portion of what would otherwise be the proceeds from the sale of our work.

SENATOR SHELLY V. CALVO: I wanted to ask—during the pandemic, that was when I actually picked up a paintbrush again and started—

VETERAN ARTIST / TESTIFIER: No, no, it was way before that.

SENATOR SHELLY V. CALVO: Sorry, I was going to ask you another question. Go ahead.

VETERAN ARTIST / TESTIFIER: No, I started again when we met and you were introduced to me by my sister. You encouraged me to return to art, and that gave me a kind of boost. It made me think, "What if I do this again?" I had actually been part of the Guam art community long before that. Not to reveal my age, but even before CAHA, when it was still known as Insular Arts—I used to work with Tony Lamerena V. That was way before. After that, I secluded myself for a time, until I met you again. So, I know this is not simply one of those things you have to do as part of your role. I know you genuinely care, and that this comes from your heart.

SENATOR SHELLY V. CALVO: Thank you for that. You're welcome. And you did your exhibit at Infinity, if I remember correctly.

VETERAN ARTIST / TESTIFIER: Yes, that was the first one.

SENATOR SHELLY V. CALVO: Yes, I remember that.

VETERAN ARTIST / TESTIFIER: Actually, that was the second one.

SENATOR SHELLY V. CALVO: That was the second one. I just wanted to clarify the costs you mentioned earlier, because those pricing structures may also be applicable to this Veterans Arts Fund. You mentioned 20%.

VETERAN ARTIST / TESTIFIER: Yes. For my last solo exhibit, I paid $100 just to hold the exhibit. Then there was an agreement or contract providing that 20% of each sale would be taken. If I exhibit at the museum, then 40% may be taken.

SENATOR SHELLY V. CALVO: So, the 20% is for CAHA?

VETERAN ARTIST / TESTIFIER: Yes.

SENATOR SHELLY V. CALVO: And the 40% is if it is exhibited at the museum?

VETERAN ARTIST / TESTIFIER: Yes.

SENATOR SHELLY V. CALVO: And both the 20% and 40% are deducted from the sale of the artwork?

VETERAN ARTIST / TESTIFIER: Yes. What happens is that, because of those commissions, we are compelled to adjust the prices of our artwork. But the higher we price our work, the less accessible it becomes to potential buyers. As a result, we may lose the possibility of making a sale.

SENATOR SHELLY V. CALVO: I will take all of your suggestions into consideration and see how we can work within those parameters.

VETERAN ARTIST / TESTIFIER: Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR SHELLY V. CALVO: I really do not have many more questions. There is a noble intent behind this bill, and I know from what you expressed earlier that art has helped you personally. More assistance geared toward therapeutic support, particularly for veterans, could be very beneficial to our community, which has a significant veteran population and many veteran families. Before you go, however, and for the record, because you mentioned names from the past, I also want to let the people of Guam know that one of the great artists we had here on Guam,

who later moved away, has passed on. I would like to recognize Mr. Raleigh Cepeda, who was truly a great pillar of Guam's art community. God bless his soul.

VETERAN ARTIST / TESTIFIER: We are heartbroken.

SENATOR SHELLY V. CALVO: A lot of artists are heartbroken over Mr. Cepeda's passing. I wanted to mention it because Mr. Raleigh Cepeda was a pillar of the art community here on Guam for decades. He had so many students who are now grown adults, and some may not yet be aware of his passing. I just wanted to put that on the record so that everyone who knew Mr. Cepeda can offer prayers for him and his family during this difficult time.

VETERAN ARTIST / TESTIFIER: Thank you.

SENATOR SHELLY V. CALVO: On that note, thank you so much, MC, and thank you, Mr. Chair.

VETERAN ARTIST / TESTIFIER: Thank you, Mr. Chair and Senator.

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRMAN: Thank you, MC, and God bless you and your family. Please stay safe during the inclement weather that is coming our way. Senator, if you would like to close on this bill, I will then close the hearing.

SENATOR SHELLY V. CALVO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you to everyone who participated today, whether in person or by submitting letters of support. I would like to thank MC for her in-person testimony, as well as CAHA for its support of this bill. I would also like to thank Ms. Marlene Revo on behalf of Veterans Helping Veterans, and Ms. Angie Taitague of CAHA. Thank you for all the perspectives offered today regarding implementation, accessibility, program management, and the practical needs of veterans. This bill is intended to serve veterans and their families. Bill No. 348-38 is about creating a structure that allows Guam to be ready when funding opportunities arise, while also making sure that veterans with service-connected disabilities have access to programs that support healing, expression, and connection. The bill creates a dedicated Veterans Arts

Access Fund, provides an initial appropriation for planning and grant readiness, and requires annual reporting on program activities, expenditures, fund balances, and veteran participation. That accountability matters, but the purpose behind the numbers matters just as much. For some veterans, the path toward wellness may involve painting, music, performance, storytelling, or other forms of creative expression. What matters is that the opportunity exists, that it is accessible, and that it is supported in a responsible and sustainable way. These opportunities should be available to members of our island community. The testimony we heard today will help us determine whether the proposed structure is strong enough, whether additional coordination is needed, and whether any amendments should be made before this bill moves forward. As the sponsor, I remain committed to working with CAHA and the other relevant agencies, including GBHWC, which may refer clients to these programs as part of their wellness efforts, to ensure that this measure is practical, transparent, and centered on the veterans it is intended to serve. Our veterans have given so much in service to our country and our island. If this legislation can help create even one more pathway toward healing, connection, and dignity, then it is worth pursuing carefully and thoughtfully. Thank you again to everyone who testified, submitted comments and testimony, and contributed to today's session. *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'*, Mr. Chair. I truly appreciate you and your team for hearing my bills. Thank you, and God bless you all.

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRMAN: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* Senator Calvo. And this will conclude today's public hearing. The committee will continue to accept written testimony on Bill No.s 239,374,348 within 5 calendar days from today which may be addressed to Senator Chris Dueñas as Chairman of the Committee and mail to 163 W. *Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña* Guam 96910. You may also email your testimonies to senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov. This public hearing is now adjourned and the time is 3:28 p.m. *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'.* And to the people of Guam please be safe during this storm and may God bless you and all of our families. *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* we are adjourned.

[COMMITTEE ENDED DISCUSSIONS ON BILL 348-38 (LS) AND ADJOURNED THE HEARING AT 3:28 P.M.]

III. FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations finds Bill No. 348-38 (as heard) to be supported by the measure's intent, public testimony, and stakeholder input. This includes establishing the Veteran Arts Access Fund within the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency (CAHA), administered in coordination with the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center and the Guam Museum, to support adaptive visual and performing arts workshops, public exhibitions, trauma-informed instructors, and accessibility services for veterans with service-connected disabilities.

The Committee ***finds*** the Bill No. 348-38 as heard.

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations recommends that Bill No. 348-38 (LS) - Shelly V. Calvo - AN ACT TO ADD A NEW SECTION 85113.2 OF CHAPTER 85, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERAN ARTS ACCESS FUND; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "VETERAN ARTS FOR WELLNESS ACT OF 2026, be reported with the recommendation To Report Out Only.

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

Bill No. 348-38 (LS)

Introduced by: Shelly V. Calvo 

AN ACT TO ADD A NEW SECTION 85113.2 OF CHAPTER 85, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERAN ARTS ACCESS FUND; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "VETERAN ARTS FOR WELLNESS ACT OF 2026."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "Veteran Arts for Wellness Act of 2026."

SECTION 2. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that therapeutic arts programs offer meaningful pathways for healing, expression, and community reintegration for veterans with service-connected disabilities. These programs foster resilience, reduce isolation, and promote mental wellness through creative engagement.

Historically, such programs have been supported through federal arts funding, including grants administered by agencies like the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). However, federal support for the arts has significantly declined, narrowing access to traditional funding channels and disproportionately impacting small jurisdictions like Guam.

In response, Guam must identify alternative federal funding sources to sustain and expand therapeutic arts programming for disabled Veterans. One such opportunity is the VA Adaptive Sports Grant Program, administered by the National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events Office (NVSP&SE), which includes support for trauma-informed arts instruction and public exhibitions.

While the application window for the FY2025 VA Adaptive Sports Grant (VA-SPORTS-25) has closed, Guam must proactively prepare for the next grant cycle to ensure eligibility, readiness, and stakeholder coordination.

I Liheslatura additionally finds that the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency (CAHA) is uniquely positioned to serve as the lead applicant and administrator for federal adaptive arts grants. As a nonprofit-designated agency under Guam law, CAHA meets the eligibility criteria outlined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for grant recipients. Moreover, CAHA has a proven track record in organizing public arts programming, coordinating cultural exhibitions, and managing grant-funded initiatives in partnership with local and national stakeholders.

CAHA's institutional experience, fiscal accountability, and community engagement capacity make it an ideal steward for the federal adaptive arts funds. Its collaboration with the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC), the Guam Museum, and veteran-serving organizations will ensure that adaptive arts programming is trauma-informed, culturally grounded, and accessible to all eligible veterans.

Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* is to establish and fund the Veteran Arts Access Fund as a dedicated account to support adaptive arts initiatives for veterans, including those eligible for future federal grants. By creating a locally administered fund, Guam affirms its commitment to veteran wellness, cultural

accessibility, and grant-readiness, ensuring that no veteran is left behind due to shifting federal priorities.

SECTION 3. A new § 85113.2 of Chapter 85, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *added* to read:

"**§ 85113.2. Veteran Arts Access Fund.**

(a) Establishment of the Veteran Arts Access Fund. There is hereby established within the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency (CAHA) a special account to be known as the "Veteran Arts Access Fund" (Fund).

(1) The Fund shall be administered by CAHA in coordination with the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC) and the Guam Museum.

(2) The Fund shall be used exclusively to support therapeutic arts programs for veterans with service-connected disabilities, including but not limited to:

(A) Adaptive visual and performance arts workshops;

(B) Public exhibitions featuring veteran artists;

(C) Trauma-informed arts instruction and facilitator training; and

(D) Accessibility services such as ASL interpretation and tactile guides.

(b) Designation as Grant Receiving Account. The Fund shall serve as the designated account for the receipt and management of federal funds awarded to Guam under the VA Adaptive Sports Grant Program (VA-SPORTS-26) or any successor program.

(1) CAHA is authorized to apply for, receive, and administer such federal funds in a nonprofit capacity, in partnership with GBHWC and other veteran-serving organizations.

(2) All expenditures from the Fund shall be subject to audit and reporting requirements consistent with federal grant conditions and local fiscal policy.

(c) Initial Appropriation. The sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Veteran Artist Fund for Fiscal Year 2026. These funds shall be used to support program planning, stakeholder coordination, and grant readiness activities in anticipation of the VA Adaptive Sports Grant Fiscal Year 2026 cycle. The funds shall also be used to subsidize any fees charged to veterans with service-connected disabilities by CAHA for participation in arts programming or grant-supported activities, excluding commission fees on artwork sales.

(d) Reporting and Oversight.

(1) CAHA shall submit an annual report to the Speaker of the Guam Legislature detailing:

(A) Program activities and outcomes;

(B) Grant expenditures and fund balances; and

(C) Veteran participation metrics.

(2) The Speaker may refer the report to the appropriate standing committee for review and may convene oversight hearings as necessary to ensure transparency, impact, and alignment with the Fund's purpose.

SECTION 4. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon enactment.

SECTION 5. Severability. If any provision of this Act or its application to any person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without

the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are severable.

COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

August 27, 2026

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. 348-38 (LS)**

Håfa Adai!

Find the attached, Fiscal Note for the following bill:

Bill No. 348-38 (LS).

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. 348-38 (LS)

AN ACT TO ADD A NEW SECTION 85113.2 OF CHAPTER 85, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERAN ARTS ACCESS FUND; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "VETERAN ARTS FOR WELLNESS ACT OF 2026."

Department/Agency Appropriation Information		
Dept./Agency Affected: Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency	**Dept./Agency Head:** Angie Taitague (Director)	
Department's General Fund (GF) appropriation(s) to date: Operations - $772,866; Guam Territorial Band - $45,000		**$817,866**
Department's Other Fund appropriation(s) to date:		**$0**
Total Department/Agency Appropriation(s) to date:		**$817,866**

Fund Source Information of Proposed Appropriation	General Fund:	(Specify 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	$0

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

Analyst: _____ Date: 8/26/2026
Aubrey Olivia Reyes, BMA I

Director: _____ Date: AUG 27 2026
Lester L. Carlson, Jr., Director

Notes:
1/ See attached comments.

BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH
COMMENTS ON BILL NO. 348-38 (LS)

Bill No. 348-38 (LS) is an act to add a new Section 85113.2 of Chapter 85, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated; relative to establishing the Veterans Arts Access Fund; and to cite this Act as the "Veteran Arts for Wellness Act of 2026."

Per the proposed legislation's findings and intent, the Guam Council of Arts and Humanities Agency (CAHA) meets the eligibility criteria outlined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for grant receipts, particularly the VA Adaptive Sports Grant Program, administered by the National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events Office (NVSP&SE), which includes support for trauma-informed arts instruction and public exhibitions. It is the intent of *I Liheslatura* to establish and fund the Veteran Arts Fund as a dedicated account to support adaptive arts initiatives for veterans, including those eligible for future federal grants.

Per Section 3 of the proposed legislation, the Fund shall be administered by CAHA in coordination with the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC) and the Guam Museum, and shall be used exclusively to support therapeutic arts programs for veterans with service-connected disabilities. Additionally, the Fund shall serve as the designated account for the receipt and management of federal funds awarded to Guam under the VA Adaptive Sports Grant Program (VA-SPORTS-26) or any successor program.

Bill No. 348-38 (LS) proposes the initial appropriation of $50,000 from the General Fund to the Veteran Arts Access Fund for Fiscal Year 2026, and shall be used to support program planning, stakeholder coordination, and grant readiness activities in anticipation of the VA-SPORTS for Fiscal Year 2026 cycle. The Fund shall also be used to subsidize any fees charges to veterans with service-connected disabilities by CAHA for participation in arts programming or grant-supported activities, excluding commission fees on artwork sales.

Per testimony received from CAHA (attached), the agency appreciates the intent of the legislation. However, to comply with the mandates proposed in the Bill, CAHA requires dedicated and recurring local funding to hire additional personnel. CAHA stated that the agency currently operates with a core team of four full-time employees who are at maximum operational capacity, adding that the current administrative workload leaves no capacity for existing staff to absorb new operational or regulatory tasks. To comply with the requirements in the proposed legislation, CAHA stated it would need to establish additional positions for administrative, compliance, and program management support. Without the needed funding to recruit and retain these full-time positions, compliance is operationally unfeasible. CAHA recommends that the proposed legislation include an explicit appropriation earmarked for CAHA personnel expansion to ensure proper staffing to fulfill the new mandates. Additional comments and testimony were requested by the Bureau from GBHWC and the Guam Museum; however, no response has been given to date.

The estimated cost impact to the Government of Guam is $50,000 from the General Fund for Fiscal Year 2026. It should be noted that the Bill is not specific as to which fiscal year such General Fund appropriation is from. Additionally, CAHA stated that there would be personnel costs required to comply with the proposed legislation. However, absent pertinent information from CAHA (i.e., number of personnel needed), the Bureau cannot ascertain the exact fiscal impact at this time.

GUAM COUNCIL ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES AGENCY
Kahan I Kutturan Guahan

Honorable Lourdes Leon Guerrero
Maga' hâga'
Governor of Guam

Honorable Joshua Tenorio
Segundo Maga' lahi
Lieutenant Governor of Guam

Angie R. Taitague
Eksåkåtibu Direktot
Executive Director

Hafa Adai! Director Carlson,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding the fiscal impact of Bill No. 348-38 (LS), the "Veteran Arts for Wellness Act of 2026."

While the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency (GCAHA) appreciates the intent of this legislation, the agency must formally submit a testimony of significant fiscal impact. To comply with the mandates established by this bill, GCAHA requires dedicated and recurring local funding to hire additional personnel.

GCAHA currently operates with a core team of four full-time staff members who are at maximum operational capacity managing existing grant projects and meeting compliance and reporting mandates for both local and federal partners, such as the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

The current administrative workload leaves no capacity for existing staff to absorb new operational or regulatory tasks. Enacting this bill without an increase to our baseline personnel budget would jeopardize current programs. To satisfy the new requirements, CAHA would need to establish additional positions for administrative, compliance, and program management support. Without funding to recruit and retain these full-time employees, compliance is operationally unfeasible.

Therefore, GCAHA respectfully requests that if this legislation advances, it includes an explicit appropriation earmarked for CAHA personnel expansion to ensure proper staffing to fulfill the new mandates.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,

Angie Taitague

Angie Taitague, Executive Director
Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency