

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
277-38 (COR)	Tina Rose Muña-Barnes	AN ACT TO <i>AMEND</i> § 12901 AND ADD A NEW §§ 12907 AND 12908 ALL OF ARTICLE 9 CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING AND REGULATING ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE ASSISTANTS.	2/12/26 1:45 p.m.	2/20/26	Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs.	Request: 2/20/26 2/27/26			




COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

February 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. 277-38 (COR)**

Håfa Adai!

Find the attached, Fiscal Note for the following bill:

Bill No. 277-38 (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. 277-38 (COR)**

AN ACT TO AMEND § 12901 AND ADD A NEW §§ 12907 AND 12908 ALL OF ARTICLE 9 CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING AND REGULATING ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE ASSISTANTS.

Department/Agency Appropriation Information

Dept./Agency Affected: Department of Public Health & Social Services	Dept./Agency Head: Theresa C. Arriola, Director
Department's General Fund (GF) appropriation(s) to date: Operations (\$59,693,405); Health Insurance Premiums for Foster Children (\$2,359,215); Child Protective Services Program (\$2,220,129); Bureau of Social Services Administration (\$7,558,215); Grants for Homelessness (\$500,000)	\$72,330,964
Department's Other Fund appropriation(s) to date: Environmental Health Fund (\$1,586,489); Health Professional Licensing Office Revolving Fund (\$333,181); Office of Vital Statistics Revolving Fund (\$224,713); DPHSS Sanitary Inspection Revolving Fund (\$481,089); Healthy Futures Fund for Guam Cancer Registry (\$389,144)	\$3,014,616
Total Department/Agency Appropriation(s) to date:	\$75,345,580



Fund Source Information of Proposed Appropriation

	General Fund:	(Specify Special Fund):	Total:
FY 2025 Unreserved Fund Balance		\$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?
If Yes, see attachment | | / / Yes | / X / No |
| 2. Is amount appropriated adequate to fund the intent of the appropriation?
If no, what is the additional amount required? \$ _____ | / X / N/A | / / Yes | / / No |
| 3. Does the Bill establish a new program/agency?
If yes, will the program duplicate existing programs/agencies?
Is there a federal mandate to establish the program/agency? | / X / N/A | / / Yes
/ / Yes
/ / Yes | / X / No
/ / No
/ 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:
/ / Requested agency comments not received by due date | | / X / Yes | / / No |
| | / / Other: | | |

Analyst:  Tyler Bautista, BMA II	Date: 02/25/2026	Director:  Lester L. Carlson, Jr., Director	Date: FEB 27 2026
--	------------------	--	-------------------

Notes:
1/ See attached comments.

BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH
COMMENTS ON BILL NO. 277-38 (COR)

The proposed legislation intends to amend § 12901 and add a new §§ 12907 and 12908 all of Article 9 Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated to authorize and regulate acupuncture and oriental medicine assistants.

Per the proposed legislation, Guam faces healthcare workforce limitations, including a shortage of licensed practitioners relative to patient demand, resulting in increased strain on existing providers and reduced access to care. The proposed legislation seeks to establish a narrowly defined Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Assistant role, with clear limitations on scope of practice and mandatory training, certification, and on-premise supervisions to promote patient safety and professional accountability. Further, the proposed legislation seeks to address the workforce shortages and increased patient demand by authorizing a regulated Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Assistant role that performs limited, non-invasive support tasks under supervision. Lastly, the proposed legislation stipulates that the Guam Board of Allied Health Examiners shall adopt rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of the new §§ 12907 and 12908 and may investigate complaints, suspend or revoke certifications, and impose discipline as authorized by law.

Per correspondence from the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), the proposed legislation will not compromise the current processes; however, it will result in a substantial and permanent increase in administrative volume. To maintain operational integrity across processing, compliance, and public coordination, the DPHSS identifies a requirement of one to two (1-2) additional full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, each classified as a Program Coordinator I. The additional staff is needed to ensure that the office can effectively meet the expanded mandates as proposed. The estimated cost impact for the hiring of two (2) additional FTEs is \$123,602, inclusive of fringe benefits.