

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 <i>ADD</i> 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			



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

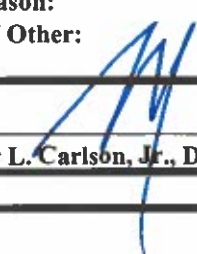
Fund Source Information of Proposed Appropriation

	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

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|---|------------|----------|
| 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 |
| If no, what is the additional amount required? \$ <u>TBD</u> | / X / N/A | / X / No |
| 3. Does the Bill establish a new program/agency? | / X / Yes | / / No |
| If yes, will the program duplicate existing programs/agencies? | / / 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:  <u>Aubrey Ordoñez Reyes, BMA I</u>	Date: <u>8/20/2026</u>	Director:  <u>Lester L. Carlson, Jr., Director</u>	Date: <u>AUG 27 2026</u>
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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 Kutturán Guahan

Honorable Lourdes Leon Guerrero
Maga' hága'
Governor of Guam

Honorable Joshua Tenorio
Segundo Maga' lahi
Lieutenant Governor of Guam

Angie R. Taitague
Eksákátibu 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'áse,

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