

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
218-38 (COR) As amended on the Floor.	Shelly V. Calvo	AN ACT TO <i>ADD</i> A NEW § 421 TO CHAPTER 4, TITLE 1, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MANDATING THE OFFICIAL USE OF THE SPELLING "CHAMORU" IN PLACE OF "CHAMORRO" IN GUAM LAW, POLICY, AND PUBLIC DOCUMENTS, AND TO REQUIRE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS CHANGE BY ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PUBLIC EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS.	11/7/25 8:40 a.m.	11/17/25	Committee on Finance and Government Operations.	Request: 11/17/25 11/25/25	1/20/26 2:00 p.m.	3/3/26	
	SESSION DATE	TITLE	DATE PASSED	TRANSMITTED	DUE DATE	PUBLIC LAW NO.	DATE SIGNED	NOTES	
	3/23/26	AN ACT TO <i>ADD</i> A NEW § 421 TO CHAPTER 4, TITLE 1, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MANDATING THE OFFICIAL USE OF THE SPELLING "CHAMORU" IN PLACE OF "CHAMORRO" IN GUAM LAW, POLICY, AND PUBLIC DOCUMENTS, AND TO REQUIRE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS CHANGE BY ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PUBLIC EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS.	3/27/26	3/27/26	4/8/26	38-113	4/8/26	Received: 4/8/26 Mess and Comm. Doc. No. 38GL-26-2181	



UFISINAN I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

38GL-26-2181
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
FRANK F. BLAS JR.

APR 08 2026

Time: 4:22pm
Received: dukkoblan

Transmitted via Email to: speakerblas@guamlegislature.org

April 8, 2026

THE HON. FRANK BLAS, JR., Speaker
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
38th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Re: Bill No. 218-38 (COR), "AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 421 TO CHAPTER 4, TITLE 1, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MANDATING THE OFFICIAL USE OF THE SPELLING "CHAMORU" IN PLACE OF "CHAMORRO" IN GUAM LAW, POLICY, AND PUBLIC DOCUMENTS, AND TO REQUIRE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS CHANGE BY ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PUBLIC EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS."

Håfa Adai Mr. Speaker,

This bill affirms a truth that has guided our people for generations, that language is not only a means of communication, but an expression of identity and inheritance. The spelling "*CHamoru*" reflects the sound and spirt of our people more faithfully than the colonial-era form it replaces. It is the spelling identified as more consistent with the pronunciation and orthographic practice and upheld by scholars, cultural practitioners, and the many families who continue to breathe life into *I Fino' CHamoru*.

This act brings the Government of Guam into alignment with that lived reality. It directs agencies, schools, and public institutions to adopt the "*CHamoru*" spelling and establishes a working group to guide implementation, ensuring accuracy and consistency across government.

As we take this step, we echo the values expressed in our *Inifresi* - a promise recited by our people, grounding them in who we are and where we come from. The pledge begins with "*Ginen i mas takhilo' gi Hinasso-ku, i mas takhalom gi Kurason-hu...*", translated as 'From the highest of our thoughts and the deepest of our hearts'. Those lines remind us that cultural stewardship is not an abstract expression, but a commitment carried in our thoughts and actions. By adopting "*CHamoru*" as the official spelling, we honor that commitment. We affirm our responsibility to protect and defend *i Hinengge, i Kottura, i Lengguahi* - the beliefs, culture, and language that defines us as a people.

To: The Hon. Frank Blas, Jr., *Speaker*
Fr: The Hon. Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *Governor of Guam*
Date: April 8, 2026
Re: Bill No. 218-38 (COR)

Page 2 of 2

Un dāngkolo na si Yu'os ma'āse to the many advocates, educators, and *manāmkō* who have worked for decades to strengthen and preserve our language. May this Bill serve as a step towards ensuring that our language and the identity it carries, endures for generations to come.

For these reasons, I sign Bill No. 218-38 (COR) into law as **Public Law No. 38-113**.

Senseramente,



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO

I Maga'hāgan Guāhan

Governor of Guam

Enclosure(s): Bill No. 218-38 (COR) nka P.L. 38-113

cc via email: *Honorable* Joshua F. Tenorio, *Segundo Maga'lāhen Guāhan*, Lt. Governor of Guam
Compiler of Laws



38GL-26-2181
Messages and Communications

RECEIVED
COMMITTEE ON RULES
April 9, 2026

11:26 a.m.

Marie Crisostomo

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

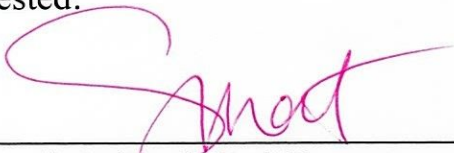
CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN

This is to certify that **Bill No. 218-38 (COR)**, "AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 421 TO CHAPTER 4, TITLE 1, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MANDATING THE OFFICIAL USE OF THE SPELLING "CHAMORU" IN PLACE OF "CHAMORRO" IN GUAM LAW, POLICY, AND PUBLIC DOCUMENTS, AND TO REQUIRE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS CHANGE BY ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PUBLIC EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS," was on the 27th day of March 2026, duly and regularly passed.



Frank F. Blas, Jr
Speaker

Attested:



Sabrina Salas Matanane
Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* this 27 day of March 2026, at 8:24 o'clock P.M.

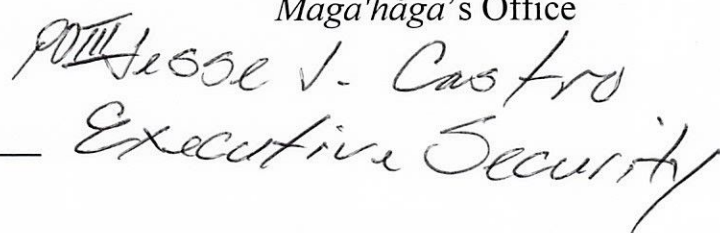


Assistant Staff Officer
Maga'håga's Office

APPROVED:



Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
I Maga'hågan Guåhan

PTU 
Executive Security

Date: 4/8/2026

Public Law No. 38-113

2026-25730
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CENTRAL FILES OFFICE
Rec'd By: Jessica Dydaseb
Date: 3/30/26 Time: 10:05 AM

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

Bill No. 218-38 (COR)

As amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

Shelly V. Calvo _____
V. Anthony Ada
Chris Barnett
Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Vincent A.V. Borja
Christopher M. Dueñas
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Jesse A. Lujan
Tina Rose Muña-Barnes
William A. Parkinson
Sabina Flores Perez
Sabrina Salas Matanane
Joe S. San Agustin
Telo T. Taitague
Therese M. Terlaje

AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW § 421 TO CHAPTER 4, TITLE 1, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MANDATING THE OFFICIAL USE OF THE SPELLING “CHAMORU” IN PLACE OF “CHAMORRO” IN GUAM LAW, POLICY, AND PUBLIC DOCUMENTS, AND TO REQUIRE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS CHANGE BY ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PUBLIC EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS.

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 that the term CHamoru more accurately reflects the pronunciation and orthography
4 of the Indigenous people, language, and culture of Guam and the Mariana Islands.

1 The term Chamorro is a Spanish colonial-era spelling that does not align with the
2 orthographic conventions adopted by CHamoru language scholars, educators, and
3 community advocates.

4 *I Liheslatura* further finds that the adoption of CHamoru over Chamorro has
5 been widely embraced by cultural institutions, educational curricula, and CHamoru
6 language revitalization efforts. Therefore, to affirm Guam’s commitment to cultural
7 preservation and Indigenous self-determination, the official spelling used in statutes,
8 government publications, educational materials, and signage shall be updated to
9 CHamoru.

10 Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan* to provide justification and cultural
11 context supporting the formal adoption of the spelling “CHamoru” in place of
12 “Chamorro” across official government documents, statutes, educational materials,
13 and agency names.

14 **Section 2.** A new § 421 is hereby *added* to Chapter 4, Title 1, Guam Code
15 Annotated, to read as follows:

16 **“§ 421. Adoption of “CHamoru” Orthography in All Official**
17 **Uses Within the Government of Guam**

18 (a) For the purposes of this Act, “CHamoru” shall mean the people,
19 language, and culture indigenous to Guam and the Mariana Islands.

20 (b) The Compiler of Law is authorized to collaborate with the
21 *Kumisión I Fino' Chamoru Yan I Fina'nå'guen* of Guam on the proposed
22 replacements.

23 (c) All line agencies, autonomous and semi-autonomous
24 government entities, and public educational institutions shall:

25 (1) Use the term CHamoru in all official documents, signage,
26 websites, correspondence, and programs going forward;

1 (2) Phase out usage of Chamorro in existing materials within
2 eighteen (18) months from the enactment of this Act;

3 (3) Collaborate with the Department of CHamoru Affairs and
4 the Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the
5 History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam for correct
6 orthographic usage.

7 (d) The Office of Technology and the Department of Administration
8 shall coordinate with all agencies to ensure that digital systems and
9 communications reflect the updated terminology.”

10 **Section 3. Creation of an Implementation Working Group.**

11 There is hereby established an interagency Working Group on CHamoru
12 Terminology Implementation (WGCTI), to be co-chaired by the Department of
13 CHamoru Affairs and the Department of Administration. The WGCTI shall:

14 (1) Issue technical guidance on orthographic usage;

15 (2) Provide training or informational materials to agencies and
16 educators;

17 (3) Submit a report to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* no later than one (1)
18 year from enactment on progress and challenges in implementation.

19 **Section 4. Funding.** Funding for implementation may be drawn from
20 existing agency operational budgets, cultural preservation grants, or appropriated
21 through subsequent legislation. Agencies are encouraged to incorporate these costs
22 into budget requests.

23 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon enactment.

24 **Section 6. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
25 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity shall not
26 affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without

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