

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
129-38 (COR) As amended by the Committee Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation and Hagåtña Restoration; and further amended on the Floor.	Shelly V. Calvo Therese M. Terlaje Chris Barnett Telo T. Taitague Frank F. Blas, Jr. Tina Rose Muña Barnes V. Anthony Ada Joe S. San Agustin Vincent A.V. Borja William A. Parkinson Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao Christopher M. Dueñas Sabrina Salas Matanane Jesse A. Lujan Sabina Flores Perez	AN ACT TO <i>ADD</i> A NEW § 1041 TO CHAPTER 10, TITLE 1, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING FEBRUARY 21 OF EACH YEAR AS HA'ÁNEN HILA' NÁNA (MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY)	4/24/25 2:39 p.m.	4/30/25	Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and Hagåtña Restoration.	Request: 4/30/25 Waiver: 5/2/25	5/9/25 9:00 a.m.	5/13/25 As Amended.	Motion to append to the Committee Report No Objections 5/30/25
	SESSION DATE	TITLE	DATE PASSED	TRANSMITTED	DUE DATE	PUBLIC LAW NO.	DATE ASSIGNED	NOTES	
	5/27/25	AN ACT TO <i>ADD</i> A NEW § 1041 TO CHAPTER 10, TITLE 1, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING FEBRUARY 21 OF EACH YEAR AS HA'ÁNEN HILA' NÁNA (MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY).	6/3/25	6/5/25	6/17/25	38-29	6/17/25	Received: 6/18/25 Mess and Comm. Doc. No. 38GL-25-0734	

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR

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

38GL-25-0734
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
FRANK F. BLAS JR.

Transmitted via Email to: speakerblas@guamlegislature.org

June 17, 2025

JUN 17 2025

Time: 4:44 pm
Recd: [Signature]

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. 129-38 (COR), "AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 1041 TO CHAPTER 10, TITLE 1, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING FEBRUARY 21 OF EACH YEAR AS HA'ÅNEN HILA' NÅNA (MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY)."

Bill No. 130-38 (COR), "AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTION 1000(a) AND §§ 1025 AND 1037 OF CHAPTER 10, TITLE 1, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; AND TO AMEND THE TITLE AND § 88102 OF CHAPTER 88, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ADOPTING CHAMORU ORTHOGRAPHY FOR OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS, AND TO UPDATING THE ENABLING ACT OF I KUMISION I FINO' CHAMORU YAN I FINA'NÅ'GUEN I HISTORIA YAN I LINA'LA' I TAOTAO TÅNO'."

Håfa Adai Mr. Speaker,

Bill No. 129-38 (COR) and Bill No. 130-38 (COR) reaffirms our duty to protect, promote, and ensure the longevity of the *CHamoru* language (*I Fino' CHamoru*) a language that carries the heartbeat of our history, the wisdom of our ancestors, and the collective voice of our people.

For decades, we have witnessed the gradual decline in the use of indigenous languages around the world. Guam is no exception. Despite the resilience of our people, the survival of *I Fino' CHamoru* remains uncertain, facing the pressures of modernity, globalization, and linguistic displacement. Yet, in the face of these challenges, we do not retreat. Through the establishment of *Ha'ånen Hila' Nåna* (Mother Language Day) and the formal adoption of *CHamoru* orthography in official records, we ensure that our language is not merely spoken, but preserved in governance, enshrined in law, and respected in public discourse.

These acts are more than administrative corrections, they are a recognition that language is intrinsic to sovereignty, that the authenticity of our heritage must be reflected in the statutes that govern our people. The renaming of Guam's official holidays using *CHamoru* linguistic standards is a testament to our respect for accuracy, dignity, and representation. The strengthening of *I Kumision i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nå'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tåno'* (the Commission on *CHamoru* Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) ensures that we uphold our duty to educate, advocate, and fortify *I Fino' CHamoru* for generations to come.

To: The Hon. Frank Blas, Jr., *Speaker*
Fr: The Hon. Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *Governor of Guam*
Date: June 17, 2025
Re: Bill No. 129-38 (COR) and Bill No. 130-38 (COR)

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To some, these changes may seem small. To us, they are vital. Every name, every phrase, every written word reflects the spirit of our people. As we observe this day each year, we honor the strength and resilience of our community by reinforcing our pledge to keep *I Fino' CHamoru* alive in our schools, homes, workplaces, and government institutions. These measures align our island with the global movement to protect and uplift indigenous languages, ensuring that our heritage remains safeguarded through active learning and engagement.

As I affix my signature to these Acts, I do so with the certainty that our people will continue to fight for our language, not as a mere relic of the past, but as a living, breathing expression of who we are.

For these reasons, I sign Bill No. 129-38 (COR) into law as **Public Law No. 38-29** and Bill No. 130-38 (COR) as **Public Law No. 38-30**.

Senseramente,



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
I Maga'hågan Guåhan
Governor of Guam

Enclosure(s): Bill No. 129-38 (COR) nka P.L. 38-29
Bill No. 130-38 (COR) nka P.L. 38-30

cc via email: *Honorable* Joshua F. Tenorio, *Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*, Lt. Governor of Guam
Compiler of Laws



38GL-25-0734
Messages and Communications

RECEIVED
COMMITTEE ON RULES
June 18, 2025

2:51 p.m.

Marie Crisostomo

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

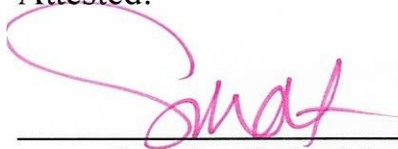
CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN

This is to certify that **Bill No. 129-38 (COR)**, "AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 1041 TO CHAPTER 10, TITLE 1, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING FEBRUARY 21 OF EACH YEAR AS *HA'ÅNEN HILA' NÅNA* (MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY)," was on the 3rd day of June 2025, duly and regularly passed.



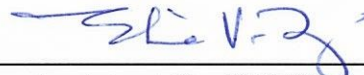
Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Speaker

Attested:



Sabrina Salas Matanane
Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* this 5th day of June,
2025, at 4:56 o'clock P.M.



Assistant Staff Officer
Maga'håga's Office

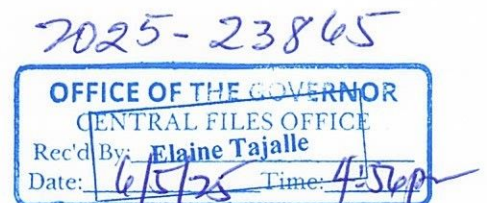
APPROVED:



Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
I Maga'hågan Guåhan

Date: 6/17/2025

Public Law No. 38-29



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

Bill No. 129-38 (COR)

As amended by the Committee Child Welfare, Youth Affairs,
Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts,
Culture, Historic Preservation and *Hagåtña* Restoration;
and further amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

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

**AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW § 1041 TO CHAPTER 10, TITLE
1, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO
ESTABLISHING FEBRUARY 21 OF EACH YEAR AS
HA'ÅNEN HILA' NÅNA (MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY).**

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 that the *CHamoru* language—*I Fino' CHamoru*—is an essential and irreplaceable
4 element of Guam's identity, cultural heritage, and spiritual legacy. More than a tool
5 for communication, the *CHamoru* language carries the values, worldviews, stories,

1 and ancestral wisdom of the *CHamoru* people, shaping how generations have
2 understood their environment, relationships, and responsibilities.

3 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* recognizes the observance of *Ha'ånen Hila' Nåna*
4 (Mother Language Day) as part of a broader effort to celebrate and sustain
5 indigenous languages worldwide. These observances align with the United Nations'
6 declaration of 2022–2032 as the “International Decade of Indigenous Languages,”
7 which seeks to draw global attention to the critical status of indigenous languages
8 and the urgent need to safeguard them.

9 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that language is a living expression of
10 culture, and its preservation is vital to the survival of a people’s history and identity.
11 *I Liheslatura* recognizes that the continued decline in everyday use and
12 intergenerational transmission of the *CHamoru* language places at risk not only the
13 language itself, but also the collective memory and resilience of the *CHamoru*
14 people. Therefore it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to affirm the importance
15 of cultivating a deeper understanding and use of the *CHamoru* language in homes,
16 schools, and communities through the observance of *Ha'ånen Hila' Nåna* (“Mother
17 Language Day”) on February 21 of each year as a call to preserve, revitalize, and
18 celebrate the central role of indigenous languages, especially *I Fino' CHamoru*, in
19 ensuring linguistic diversity and the cultural vitality of Guam.

20 **Section 2.** A new § 1041 of Chapter 10, Title 1, Guam Code Annotated, is
21 hereby *added* to read as follows:

22 **“§ 1041. *Ha'ånen Hila' Nåna* (Mother Language Day).**

23 (a) February 21 of each year is officially declared as *Ha'ånen Hila'*
24 *Nåna* (Mother Language Day) to promote the preservation, revitalization, and
25 celebration of indigenous languages, with special recognition of the *CHamoru*
26 language as the native tongue of the people of Guam.

1 (b) *I Maga'håga / Maga'låhi* is authorized and requested to issue a
2 Proclamation to observe *Ha'ånen Hila' Nåna* (Mother Language Day) and to
3 raise awareness of the importance of linguistic diversity and cultural heritage.

4 (c) *I Kumision I Fino' CHamoru yan I Fina'nå'guen i Historia yan*
5 *i Lina'la' Taotao Tåno'* (Commission on *CHamoru* Language and the
6 Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) may
7 plan and make appropriate arrangements for the observance of this day; and *I*
8 *Kumision* may delegate such planning to any other appropriate entity.”

9 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Act shall become effective upon enactment.

10 **Section 4. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
11 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity shall not
12 affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without
13 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are
14 severable.