

I Mina'trentai Siette Na Lihelaturan Guåhan
BILL STATUS

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	FISCAL NOTES	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
284-37 (LS)	Tina Rose Miñha Barnes Joe S. San Agustin Roy A. B. Quinata Frank Blas, Jr. Christopher M. Dueñas Jesse A. Lujan	AN ACT TO <i>APPROPRIATE</i> NINE HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$966,925) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE GUAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR THE FUNDING OF THE WESTERN INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (WICHE) PROFESSIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM (PSEP) SCHOLARSHIPS.	4/25/24 3:41 p.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2024 (SECOND) Regular Session

Bill No. 284-37 (LS)

Introduced by:

Tina Rose Muña Barnes 
Joe S. San Agustin 
Roy A.B. Quinata 
Frank F. Blas, Jr. 
Christopher M. Duenas 
Jesse A. Lujan 

AN ACT TO *APPROPRIATE* NINE HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$966,925) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE GUAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR THE FUNDING OF THE WESTERN INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (WICHE) PROFESSIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM (PSEP) SCHOLARSHIPS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. In 2016, under Gov. Eddie Calvo and Guam WICHE Commissioner Vince Leon Guerrero, Guam became a member of the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education. The Guam Legislature, through then-Speaker Tina Muna Barnes, as a member of the WICHE Advisory Committee, took the benefits of this membership a step further and secured a grant that allowed college students from across the Pacific to access in-state tuition savings at the undergraduate and graduate levels at over 160 colleges and universities across the Western United States.

Through WICHE's tuition programs, during the 2022-23 academic year, Guam residents saved \$1.39 million; Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana

1 Islands residents saved \$1.51 million; Federated States of Micronesia residents
2 saved \$283,376; Republic of the Marshall Islands residents saved \$19,212; and
3 Republic of Palau residents saved \$18,426.

4 Spurred by the passage of the *Biråda* Act (P.L. 36-88), the Guam Community
5 College sought participants for another WICHE program that grants affordable
6 tuition rates to students seeking professional healthcare degrees and is now in the
7 process of funding nine (9) local Guam residents who have qualified for this
8 financial assistance. It is the intent of the Guam Legislature to provide the necessary
9 funds for these residents to enter into this program, and receive the required
10 education and training that will help Guam improve the quality of healthcare services
11 locally.

12 **Section 2. Appropriation.** Nine Hundred Sixty-Six Thousand, Nine
13 Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$966,925) is appropriated from the General Fund to
14 the Guam Community College to fund the Western Interstate Commission for
15 Higher Education Professional Student Exchange Program scholarships. This
16 appropriation shall remain available until fully expended.

17 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment.