

I MINA'TRENTAITRES NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
2016 (SECOND) Regular Session

Bill No. ~~406~~-33 (COR)

Introduced by:

J. T. Won Pat, Ed.D.
Tina Muña Barnes

AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW CHAPTER 88 TO TITLE 5 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO RE-ESTABLISHING AND FUNDING *I KUMISION I FINO' CHAMORU* (THE CHAMORU LANGUAGE COMMISSION) AS *I KUMISION I FINO' CHAMORU YAN I FINA'NA'GUEN I HISTORIA YAN I LINA'LA' I TAOTAO TÁNO* (THE COMMISSION ON CHAMORU LANGUAGE AND THE TEACHING OF THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF GUAM).

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. A new Chapter 88 of Title 5 Guam Code Annotated is hereby added to read:

“Chapter 88

THE COMMISSION ON CHAMORU LANGUAGE AND THE TEACHING OF THE
HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF GUAM

- §88101. **Short Title.**
- §88102. **Establishment.**
- §88103. **Composition.**
- §88104. **Governance and Organization.**
- §88105. **Duties and Purpose.**
- §88106. **Support Services.**
- §88107. **Appropriation.**
- §88108. **Severability.**

§88101. **Short Title.** This Chapter may be cited as the “Chamoru Heritage Commission Act of 2016.

1 **§88102. Establishment.** There is established under the Government of Guam, an
2 autonomous agency, the Commission on Chamoru Language and the Teaching of the
3 History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam, which shall be devoted to
4 performing the duties and purpose set forth in this act.

5 **§88103. Composition.** The Commission shall consist of:

- 6 (a) The President of *I Dipåtamenton I Kaohao Guinahan Chamoru* (The Department
7 of Chamoru Affairs) or a representative;
- 8 (b) Two (2) members from *I Unibetsedåt Guåhan* (The University of Guam) and two
9 (2) members from the Guam Department of Education *Dibision Inestudion*
10 *Chamoru yan I Espisiát na Prugråma Siha* (Chamoru Studies and Special
11 Projects Division), who are fluent and proficient in the Chamoru language, and
12 active in its cultivation and preservation through either education or through
13 involvement in their institutions' respective Chamoru language programs;
- 14 (c) Two (2) members, appointed by the Legislative Chairperson with oversight over
15 Culture/Cultural Affairs who are fluent and proficient in the Chamoru language,
16 and have been actively engaged in its promotion and preservation; and
- 17 (d) Two (2) members appointed by *I Maga'låhin Guåhan* (The Governor of Guam),
18 who are fluent and proficient in the Chamoru language, and actively engaged in
19 its promotion and preservation.

20 **§88104. Governance and Organization**

- 21 (a) The President of *I DipåtamentonI Kaohao Guinahan Chamoru* shall serve as
22 the Convener of the Commission until one among the Commission's
23 composition is voted upon by its members to serve as the Commission's
24 Chairperson.
- 25 (b) The Commission, from the date it first convenes, shall have 180 days to
26 establish Rules of Conduct and propose an Organizational Structure and Budget
27 to the Guam Legislature for approval.
- 28 (c) Commission Members shall serve a term of four (4) years, commencing with the
29 date of appointment and until their successors are appointed and qualified.
30 Members may serve multiple terms.

1 (d) Members shall meet in regular session at least once a month and in special
2 session as the Chairperson may deem necessary. The Chairperson shall be
3 counted for a quorum. Five (5) members shall constitute a quorum, and five (5)
4 affirmative votes are required for the transaction of all business. All meetings of
5 the Commission shall be open to the public as provided by law.

6 (e) The Commission shall annually elect from among its members a Chairperson
7 and Vice-Chairperson. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings, act as
8 spokesperson and perform other duties as the Commission shall direct. The
9 Vice-Chairperson shall succeed to the duties of the Chairperson in the absence or
10 inability of the Chairperson. From among its members, the Commission may
11 select a secretary and any other officers, which it may deem necessary, to serve
12 on an annual basis.

13 (f) Each member shall receive Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for attendance at any meeting
14 of the Commission but this stipend shall *not* apply to more than two (2) meetings
15 in any one (1) calendar month. No members shall receive any other
16 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for actual travel, subsistence, and out-of-
17 pocket expenses incurred in the discharge of responsibilities, including
18 authorized attendance at meetings held off-island, subject to the prior approval of
19 the Commission.

20 (g) The Commission may hire employees and contract services as approved in its
21 annual appropriation and in accordance with its Organizational Rules and
22 Regulations.

23 **§88105. Duties and Purpose.**

24 (a) Continually study and update the orthographic rules of the Chamoru language;
25 and to provide notification to public and private institutions of updates to the
26 Chamoru orthography;

27 (b) Consult with government leaders and others in the Commonwealth of the
28 Northern Mariana Islands who are interested in the standardization of the
29 Chamoru Language Orthography and seek to recognize and establish agreement
30 relevant to the orthography, as well as existing regional differences;

- 1 (c) Advise public and private institutions, broadcast and written media, to include
2 magazines and individuals, on issues related to the alignment of both spoken and
3 written media, publications, signage and manuscripts with the grammatical and
4 orthographic rules established by the Commission;
- 5 (d) Provide requisite updates to the Chamoru-English Dictionary;
- 6 (e) Establish a Chamoru Translation Service for public and private entities and
7 individuals, broadcast and written media with an appropriate fee structure for such
8 services;
- 9 (f) Develop standardized, culturally relevant curricula for mandated courses in
10 Guam's schools and institutions of higher learning related to Guam's history,
11 language, and culture;
- 12 (g) Conduct research, publish, and produce multi-media and print materials relating
13 to the Chamoru language, history and culture;
- 14 (h) Coordinate with the Department of Education and other educational institutions,
15 including private schools and businesses, on Guam to insure the appropriate use
16 of the adopted standardized Chamoru Orthography and Grammar;
- 17 (i) Provide training to promote increased understanding of the Chamoru Heritage;
- 18 (j) Function as a clearing house for accurate representations and interpretations of
19 Chamoru Language, History and Culture;
- 20 (k) Work with *I Sagan Plãnu Siha yan Emfotmasion* (The Bureau of Statistics and
21 Plans) to plan and conduct a survey, which may seek to determine the existing
22 number of Chamoru speakers, and/or the existing number of children learning
23 Chamoru and the occurrence of intergenerational transmission, which may be
24 used to direct Chamoru revitalization programs efforts;
- 25 (l) Serve as the *Kumision I Nã'an Lugât* (Guam Place Name Commission): develop
26 and implement a coherent, culturally sound and historically accurate set of criteria
27 for selecting place names, and coordinate with the Guam Land Use Commission,
28 the Chamoru Land Trust Commission, the Department of Education, the
29 University of Guam, the Guam Community College, the Village Mayors,
30 *Dipãttamenton I Kaohao Guinahan Chamoru*, and with other civil and religious

1 organizations interested in providing appropriate place names for Guam and
2 consistency in signage;

3 (m) Study ancient Chamoru terminology and pronunciation of place names, and
4 restore aforementioned pronunciation with the current Chamoru orthography; and

5 (n) Perform general reviews and evaluations as imposed by the Government of
6 Guam.

7 **§88106. Support Services.** The Commission is hereby authorized to use, and the
8 Department of Education, University of Guam and Department of Chamoru Affairs are hereby
9 directed to make available, their facilities. The Department of Education, University of Guam
10 and Department of Chamoru Affairs shall also make available personnel and logistical assistance
11 as the Commission may require carrying out its functions.

12 **§88107. Appropriation.** The Commission shall report annually to the Legislature the
13 results of its work and shall submit an annual operating budget to carry out the Commission's
14 tasks as mandated by law. The Commission is hereby authorized to request such appropriation
15 from the Legislature.

16 **§88108. Severability.** If any of the provisions of this Act or the application thereof to
17 any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision or
18 application of this Act, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application,
19 and to this end the provisions of this Act are severable.”