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I MINA' TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN 2009 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 29/ -30 (COR)

Introduced by:

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Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D. T.R. Muna Barnes

AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 15 OF TITLE 17 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS WITHIN THE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

- Section 1. Regulations. §15101 of Chapter 15 of Title 17 of the Guam Code Annotated is hereby *amended* to read:
 - "The following terms whenever used in this Chapter shall have the following meanings, except when the context otherwise requires:
 - (a) *Awards* shall mean all awards for grants and loans provided by this Chapter.
 - (b) *Board* shall mean the Board of Regents of the University of Guam.
 - (c) Fund shall mean the Student Financial Assistance Fund.
 - (d) *Bona Fide resident* shall mean a resident of Guam for a continuous period of *not less* than five (5) years. Proof of residency shall be determined through any two (2) of the following:
 - (i) Copies of filed income tax records for a period of five (5) years;

1	(ii) Certification of validation of income tax filed from
2	the Director of the Department of Revenue and Taxation;
3	(iii) Certified statement from the Guam Election
4	Commission on voter registration for the past three (3)
5	general elections;
6	(iv) Statement of mortgage on principal residence from
7	a financial institution over five (5) year period;
8	(v) Official school transcripts from schools attended on
9	Guam; or
10	(vi) Certification of Residency from Mayor's Office.
11	(e) Financial Need shall mean the difference between the
12	institutional cost of attendance and the Expected Family
13	Contribution as determined by the Free Application for Federal
14	Student Aid.
15	(f) Service Credit shall mean the repayment of award
16	obligation through employment on Guam, upon completion of
17	studies."
18	Section 2. Regulations. §15105 of Chapter 15 of Title 17 of the Guam
19	Code Annotated is hereby amended to read:
20	"§ 15105. Regulations.
21	The Board, subject to the provisions of the Administrative
22	Adjudication Law, shall make regulations pursuant to and not
23	inconsistent with the provisions of this Chapter. All policies, rules, and
24	regulations established by the Board pursuant to the provisions

1	contained within this Chapter shall be made pursuant to the
2	Administrative Adjudication Law."
3	Section 3. Student Loans. Subsection (ii) is hereby added to §15203(b) of
4	Chapter 15 of Title 17 of the Guam Code Annotated to read:
5	"(ii) service credit shall not be used as repayment of loan should the
6	student fail to complete the academic program for which the loan was
7	granted."
8	Section 4. Merit Awards. §15A301(a)(2) of Chapter 15 of Title 17 of the
9	Guam Code Annotated is hereby repealed.
10	Section 5. Merit Awards. §15A302 of Chapter 15 of Title 17 of the Guam
11	Code Annotated is hereby repealed and re-enacted to read:
12	"§ 15A302. Benefits.
13	Students entitled to merit awards pursuant to this Article shall receive
14	the following benefits:
15	(a) Tuition to Attend School. Tuition and fees for each academic
16	year to be paid by the Student Financial Assistance Fund for a period of
17	not more than four (4) years in an undergraduate program at the
18	University of Guam.
19	(b) Allowance for Textbooks. Each student receiving an award
20	under this Article shall be entitled to up to Five Hundred Dollars
21	(\$500.00) per regular semester and up to One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)
22	per summer and inter-session for textbooks to be disbursed prior to the
23	first day that classes begin.
24	(c) Optional Inter-Session Allowed.

(1) Summer. Each student shall be entitled to tuition, fees, and textbooks for inter-session courses on a full-time basis.

- (2) Between Fall and Spring Semesters. Each student shall be entitled to tuition, fees, and textbooks for summer courses on a full-time basis.
- (e) For those authorized to attend school off-Guam as provided for herein, the amount of assistance shall not exceed the amount of assistance for a student attending school at the University of Guam."
- **Section 6. Merit Awards GPA.** Subsection (1) of §15A303 of Chapter 15 of Title 17 of the Guam Code Annotated is hereby *amended* to read:
- "(1) fails to maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 3.0 or its equivalent, except a recipient may be allowed one (1) academic term to regain this average without cancellation of the award, or"
- **Section 7. Merit Awards Service Credit.** Subsection (f) is hereby *added* to \$15A303 of Chapter 15 of Title 17 of the Guam Code Annotated to read:
- "(f) In the event a student fails to meet all requirements under subsections (c)(1) and (c)(2) of §15A301, or fails to complete the academic program for which the award was granted within five (5) years, no service credit shall be granted as repayment of the financial assistance."
- **Section 8. Pro-Tech Awards.** Subsection (a) of §15A401 of Chapter 15 of Title 17 of the Guam Code Annotated is hereby *amended* to read:
- "(a) the applicant must be a bona fide resident of Guam for a continuous period of not less than ten (10) years prior to application, and a United States citizen, or a permanent resident alien, and must have achieved an overall

- grade point average of at least 3.00 in undergraduate studies if pursuing a
- 2 master's graduate degree, or 3.33 in a master's graduate degree program if
- pursuing a doctoral post-graduate degree, or and must have an irrevocable
- 4 letter of acceptance from an U.S. accredited professional school, as recognized
- by the Council on Post Secondary Accreditation ('COPA'), or its successors;"
 - **Section 9 Pro-Tech Awards Service Credit.** Subsection (4) is hereby *added* to \$15A403 of Chapter 15 of Title 17 of the Guam Code Annotated to read:
 - "(4) In the event the student fails to complete the academic program for which the award was granted, service credit *shall not* be used as repayment of benefits."
- Section 10. Article 5 of Chapter 15 of Title 17 of the Guam Code
 Annotated is hereby *repealed*.
 - **Section 11. Quan Memorial Scholarship.** §15603 of Chapter 15 of Title 17 of the Guam Code Annotated is hereby *amended* to read:

"§ 15603. Scholarship.

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The Board is authorized to approve one (1) two (2) scholarships per academic year for undergraduate and/or graduate studies or training, to qualified applicants who have been accepted or admitted into programs leading to a degree in the field of ocean resources scientific studies. The scholarships provided in this Article are subject to the following limitations:

(a) The applicant must be a bona fide resident of Guam and an U.S. citizen or permanent resident alien who has achieved at

least a grade point average of 3.0 in high school or undergraduate studies, or and has received an irrevocable letter of acceptance from an accredited U.S. university, college or professional institute recognized in the fields of ocean resource science, or oceanography.

- (b) The applicant must agree that after completion of the course of studies for which the scholarship was granted, such applicant will remain on or return to Guam to work on Guam for one (1) year, for each year the scholarship is received. the financial assistance shall be repaid as follows:
 - (1) Through service credit of work on Guam or within, commencing within six (6) months following completion of studies, unless extended by the Board of extenuating circumstances, at the rate of one (1) year for every Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) awarded.
 - (2) In the event that any portion of the scholarship is not repaid through service credit pursuant to subsection (b)(1) of this section, the amount unpaid in service credit shall become due and payable. The Board shall establish such rules and regulations prescribing the length and terms of repayment, the interest rate to be charged, the collection of delinquent accounts or in the event of a default.
- (c) The applicant must present to the Board, prior to the granting of the award, satisfactory proof of admission to an

accredited U.S. university, college or professional or technical institute, as a full-time student to pursue a program of study in ocean resource science, or fisheries, maritime industries or maritime law, including studies in:

(1) living resources;

- (2) non-living resources, such as hard seabed materials, geothermal venting, precious minerals, submarine currents and other non-living resources;
 - (3) ocean resource technology;
 - (4) pollutant mitigation technology;
 - (5) fishing and maritime industries;
 - (6) maritime law; and
 - (7) marine biology.
- (d) No scholarship shall be granted under this Article unless the Board has made a written finding that the proposed award, in the specific area of study to be pursued by the applicant, is needed for the development of Guam's ocean resources in the future. The Board shall annually review the fields of study in which ocean resource science scholarships have been awarded, and shall establish a list of priorities for the respective fields of study prior to considering new scholarship applicants. Such findings and list of priorities shall be forwarded to I Liheslaturan Guahan before June 30 of every year."

Section 12. Quan Memorial Scholarship Benefits. Subsection (c) of

§15604 of Chapter 15 of Title 17 of the Guam Code Annotated is hereby amended to read:

"(c) Cap Upon Benefits. The total annual benefits for Item (a)(1) of this Section shall not exceed Twelve Ten Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$12,500.00) (\$10,000). The total annual benefits for Item (a)(2) of this Section shall not exceed Seventeen Fifteen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$17,500.00) (\$15,000)."

Section 13. Nursing Loans. §15801 of Chapter 15 of Title 17 of the Guam Code Annotated is hereby *amended* to read:

"§ 15801. Students Entitled to Loans.

There are established three (3) annual loan awards for graduate studies in nursing, including 'summer-long' programs. Funds appropriated for the purpose of providing annual nurse loan awards, and which are not totally expended may be used in succeeding years so as to increase the number of annual awards or loans. Annual awards shall be given to those applicants who have been accepted or who have been admitted to a graduate program in nursing, including a 'summer-long' program. The awards provided in this Article are subject to the following limitations:

(a) A recipient must be a bona fide resident of Guam and a United States citizen or a permanent resident alien and must have achieved an overall grade point average of <u>at least</u> 3.0, based on a 4.0 maximum grade point system, in such applicant's undergraduate studies or <u>and must have</u> an irrevocable letter of

acceptance from an accredited professional school, admitted to a graduate program in nursing.

- (b) The applicant must agree that after completion of the course of studies for which the award was granted, such applicant will return to work on Guam in the nursing profession for a period of one (1) year for each Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) received under the award.
- (c) The applicant must present to the Board of Regents of the University of Guam (the 'Board') prior to the granting of the award satisfactory proof that such applicant has been admitted as a full-time student to a U.S. accredited college or university offering graduate nursing programs and/or a 'summer-long' program to pursue a graduate degree in nursing.
- (d) The Board shall select recipients of the awards upon the basis of scholastic ability, financial need, aptitude and health as well as the likelihood of the recipient returning for employment in the nursing profession on Guam."
- **Section 14.** Nursing Loans Repayment. Subsection (b)(i) of §15803 of Chapter 15 of Title 17 of the Guam Code Annotated is hereby *amended* to read:
 - "(i) At the rate of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) for each year during which such borrower is employed in the nursing profession on Guam. No amounts under a promissory note executed pursuant to \$15803(a) of this Article this 15603 shall be considered due and payable during the period that any such person is so employed."

Section 15. "Doc Sanchez" Scholarships. Article 9 of Chapter 15 of Title 17 of the Guam Code Annotated is hereby *repealed and re-enacted* to read:

"ARTICLE 9

4 'DOC SANCHEZ' SCHOLARSHIPS

- § 15901. Legislative Intent.
- § 15902. Scope of the Program.
- 7 § 15903. Number of Scholarships.
- § 15904. Selection of Scholarship Recipients.
- § 15905. Responsibility of the Agency.
- § 15906. Responsibility of the Scholarship Recipient.
- § 15907. Benefits.

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- § 15908. Administration.
- § 15909. No Disruption of Government Service.
- § 15910. University of Guam Clearance Required Upon Separation.

§ 15901. Legislative Intent.

The Organic Act of Guam and local law provide that the government of Guam shall establish a career service based on merit and adopt measures to promote morale, efficiency and integrity in the government service. The development and retention of a competent workforce in the supervisory and managerial ranks of the public service is a primary concern of the government. To attain this objective, it is necessary that career government personnel be provided with opportunities for professional academic growth and development. The

purpose of this Act is to establish a government-wide scholarship program in public administration and in other undergraduate degree programs offered at the School of Business and Public Administration, University of Guam, and the graduate programs offered at the University of Guam. It shall be the aim of this program to support qualified career employees of all departments, agencies, offices, autonomous or semiautonomous instrumentalities of the Government of Guam and the Judiciary who desire to take up undergraduate studies in public administration or in other undergraduate degree programs offered at the School of Business and Public Administration, University of Guam. No one person contributed more to the advancement of education on our island than the late Honorable Pedro "Doc" Sanchez. Senator Sanchez had a distinguished career as an educator and as a public administrator along with his other achievements in the private sector. I Liheslatura finds it a fitting memorial to him to name this scholarship program in his honor as a continuing tribute to his numerous, noteworthy contributions on this Territory.

§ 15902. Scope of the Program.

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The Pedro "Doc" Sanchez Professional Scholarship for Career Employees of the Government of Guam shall be available to all classified government employees who belong to the career service of the Government of Guam, including the Judiciary, who desire undergraduate studies in public administration, or in other undergraduate degree programs offered at the University of Guam

subject to the conditions established in §15903 through §15905 of this Chapter.

§ 15903. Numbers of Scholarships.

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Each department, agency, office and autonomous or semiautonomous instrumentality of the Government of Guam and the Judicial Branch may be granted one scholarship for every fifty career employees in the agency at one time for each academic year at the University of Guam. Those agencies with less than fifty career employees may grant one scholarship.

§ 15904. Selection of Scholarship Recipients.

- (a) There shall be annually established a 'Doc Sanchez' Evaluation Committee ('the Committee') composed of the following:
 - (i) two (2) members of the Board of Regents of the University of Guam;
 - (ii) one (1) alumnus of the 'Doc Sanchez' undergraduate program selected by the University of Guam Alumni Association;
 - (iii) one (1) alumnus of the 'Doc Sanchez' graduate program selected by the University of Guam Alumni Association; and
 - (iv) one (1) faculty selected by the Dean of the School of Business and Public Administration.

The Committee shall conduct interviews annually for the purpose of selecting scholarships recipients under this program. The passing of such interviews and a careful evaluation of the government service reward and application packets of the candidates shall be considered in the selection of the scholarship recipients. The passing of the oral interviews, the meeting of established University of Guam entrance and academic requirements, and a demonstrated long-term commitment to excellence in the public service of the government of Guam shall constitute the primary criteria for selection of scholarship recipients. The Board may prescribe additional qualifications for admission to the scholarship program.

- (b) Applications for the 'Doc Sanchez' Scholarship program shall be received by April 30 of every year and applicants shall be interviewed at a time and place designated by the Committee prior to June 30. Awards shall be granted prior to July 30 in a written notice to the selected applicant and his or her department head.
- (c) In instances where the number of nominees of the Judicial Branch or a department, agency, office, autonomous or semi-autonomous instrumentality of the Government of Guam who are eligible for scholarship awards exceeds the scholarship slots which are available pursuant to \$15903 of this Chapter, candidates of that agency who obtained the higher overall ratings shall be preferred over those with lower ratings. Eligible applicants who were not selected for an award due to slot limitations or limited scholarship funds may reapply during the next scholarship application period to reactivate their application.

§ 15905. Responsibility of the Agency.

- (a) Employees enrolled in this program shall be allowed administrative leave with pay to attend classes during working hours. Actual class time shall not be used for the accumulation of overtime, nor compensatory time.
- (b) Agency and Department heads are required to annually report to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* the respective number of employees participating in the 'Doc Sanchez' Program, including the number of credits per semester registered and the total number of annual leave hours granted to each participant. The report shall transmitted no later than June 30 of every year.

§ 15906. Responsibility of the Scholarship Recipient.

- (a) Applicants awarded the undergraduate scholarship shall enroll for an undergraduate degree in Public Administration or in any other undergraduate degree program offered at University of Guam immediately after being awarded the scholarship. Undergraduate scholarship recipients who choose to enroll in a degree program other than Public Administration at the School of Business and Public Administration, in keeping with the intent of the scholarship program, shall be required to minor in Public Administration in order to ensure that all scholarship recipients are professionally trained in modern Public Management techniques. Failure to do so shall result in the automatic forfeiture of the scholarship.
- (b) Applicants shall have worked within the government of Guam for at least three (3) years prior to submission of application.

(c) Upon selection for participation in the 'Doc Sanchez' Scholarship program, continuation of recipients in the program shall be based upon meeting the academic standards of the University of Guam as specified in policies published in the official Undergraduate Bulletin (Catalogue) of the University of Guam. Based upon meeting the academic standards of the University of Guam as published in the Undergraduate Bulletins, 'Doc Sanchez' recipients may enroll in required degree courses during the Fall, Spring, Summer and Intersession semesters.

- (d) Scholarship recipients shall maintain an overall grade point average of at least 3.0.
- (e) Each scholarship recipient shall enroll for not less than six (6) academic units and not more than eighteen (18) academic units per regular fall and spring semesters at the University of Guam during the period of his or her study grant. Scholarship recipients may also enroll in a minimum of three (3) credit hours during the summer and intersession semesters to meet degree requirements. In no case, however, shall a scholarship recipient be allowed more than six (6) consecutive years, from the date of original enrollment, to finish the undergraduate degree from the date of original enrollment, to finish the graduate degree program.
- (f) Each scholarship recipient shall be required to submit progress reports on his or her studies accompanied by a certified grade report to

the head of the agency in which he or she is employed every semester. This report shall contain information on:

- (1) the subjects enrolled in which satisfy undergraduate or graduate degree requirements at the University of Guam;
- (2) subjects completed with the corresponding grades and weights in academic units at the end of every semester; and
- (3) other matters pertinent of the scholarship which shall be required from time to time by the agency head.
- (g) Upon completion of the scholarship program, the recipient shall be required to render service in a department, agency, office, autonomous or semi-autonomous instrumentality of the government of Guam, or in the judicial branch of government of Guam. The required length of service to be rendered shall be for a period of two (2) years for every academic year of scholarship received by the recipient. For purposes of this section, a year of service is equal to twelve (12) months. The recipient, however, may opt to monetarily reimburse the government of Guam for all the expenses paid by the government of Guam, or the autonomous agency that incurred the cost for the recipient, in connection with such study grant.
- (h) If the recipient fails to complete the scholarship program for which the award was granted, or if the recipient fails to fulfill requirements pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, the amount unpaid in service shall become due and payable. The Board shall establish such rules and regulations prescribing the length and terms of

repayment, the interest rate to be charged, and the collection of delinquent accounts regarding the administration of this subsection.

§ 15907. Benefits.

Recipients of the scholarship program pursuant to this Article shall receive the following benefits:

- (a) Payment of tuition and fees pursuant to \$15906(d) of this Chapter;
- (\$250.00) per semester for textbooks to be disbursed prior to the first day of such semester.

Beginning with the academic year 2004-2005, all awards for participants of the scholarship program herein who are employed by autonomous agencies shall be paid for by their respective autonomous agencies as defined by Title 12 of the Guam Code Annotated, except for employees of the Public Broadcasting Corporation Guam who shall continue to have their awards paid for through appropriation by *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*.

§ 15908. Administration.

(a) The University of Guam shall administer the 'Doc Sanchez' Scholarships program and shall be responsible for disseminating scholarship information on a regular basis throughout the government of Guam.

- (b) The University of Guam shall henceforth keep all financial records and all official administrative and academic records dealing with the current and former participants of the scholarship program.
- (c) The University of Guam shall periodically make an assessment of the professional staffing needs of the Government of Guam and the Judiciary and assess the adequacy of the professional undergraduate degree programs and graduate degree programs.

§ 15909. No Disruption of Government Service.

The Director of the agency or department whose employee has been awarded a scholarship under this law shall balance the need to support the scholarship recipient in the minimum number of six (6) credit hours as required by the program per semester to enable the recipient to graduate within six (6) years for an undergraduate degree or three (3) years for a graduate degree and the need to ensure that the agency's or department's operations are not hindered and that government service to the public is not impaired due to the recipient's absence from work because of class schedules.

In balancing these needs, the Director shall have the discretion to approve or disapprove the employee's class schedule, or to limit the number of credit hours enrolled per semester, provided that a written justification is made by the Director concerning the critical need of services by the employee and that government service to the public will be hindered or substantially impaired if the employee's proposed class schedule be approved. The Director shall exercise his or her discretion in

good faith and not unreasonably disapprove or limit employees proposed class schedule unless good cause is shown.

§ 15910. University of Guam Clearance Required Upon Separation.

The heads of all government of Guam agencies and instrumentalities shall require that all employees of their respective agencies who have received scholarship assistance pursuant to this Article obtain a clearance from the University of Guam prior to the employee's separation from employment in the government of Guam. The University of Guam shall grant the clearance if the recipient has:

- (a) repaid the assistance provided through service; or
- (b) repaid the assistance provided; or
- (c) arranged to repay the assistance through a periodic payment plan that complies with Title 17 GCA §15112.

The head of the agency or instrumentality shall not authorize the payment of any accrued and payable leave or release of retirement fund contributions to the employee until he obtains the clearance."

Section 16. Nursing Training. §151002 of Chapter 15 of Title 17 of the Guam Code Annotated is hereby *repealed and re-enacted* to read:

"§ 151002. Benefits.

There are hereby established the following benefits for nursing students at the University of Guam awarded assistance under this Article:

(1) Payment of tuition and fees at the University of Guam;

- (2) Allowance of up to Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per regular semester for textbooks to be disbursed prior to the first day of the semester, and up to One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per summer or inter-session if the recipient is enrolled for summer or inter-session courses;
- (3) As a condition for continuing full entitlement to the benefits provided in this Chapter, recipients must maintain a full-time enrollment, as defined by regulation of the University of Guam, and be of good academic standing. No recipient may receive benefits beyond the number of calendar years normally required to complete such nursing student's program."

Section 17. Nursing Training GPA. §151009 of Chapter 15 of Title 17 of the Guam Code Annotated is hereby *amended* to read:

"§151009. Minimum Grade-Point-Average.

For students entering the Nursing Training Program after the enactment of this Section, the *minimum* cumulative grade-point-average to remain in the program in good standing is '2.5.' 3.0. If the recipient fails to maintain the minimum grade point average requirement, he or she shall be allowed one (1) academic term to regain the average without the cancellation of the award. In the event such a student participating in the Nursing Training Program drops below the minimum cumulative grade-point average herein, the student shall be placed on probation for a period to be determined by the Board of

Regents, but such probationary period shall *not* exceed three (3)
semesters *exclusive* of summers or inter-sessions."

Section 18. Nursing Training Selection. §151009 of Chapter 15 of Title 17 of the Guam Code Annotated is hereby *amended* to read:

"§ 151003. Selection of Trainees.

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The program shall be open to any student who has completed high school, or is otherwise declared been admitted to the School of Nursing at by the University of Guam as eligible for admission to the program; who is a United States citizen or permanent resident alien; and who has been a resident of Guam for at least one (1) year prior to the beginning of the academic semester or term the student is admitted, registered and enrolled in the program. The number of trainees who may enroll in the program annually shall be limited *only* by the capacity of the University of Guam and by funds made available to it by annual appropriation. In the event of limited space and/or funds, priority shall be given to students at the highest level of training and closest to the completion of their program. No student may receive stipends benefits pursuant to §151002 of this Article beyond the number of calendar years normally required to complete a training program. Notwithstanding any other provision of law or administrative rules and regulations, students who hold a Bachelor's Degree in a subject other than nursing shall be eligible for the program, provided that such students meet all other requirements herein."

Section 19. Enactment. Provisions of this Act shall be applicable to awards granted for the Academic Year 2010-2011 and thereafter.

Section 20. Severability. If any provision of this Act or its application to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are severable.