

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

Bill No. 305-30 (CUR)

Introduced by:

B.J.F. Cruz 

**AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 85A TO TITLE 5, GUAM
CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO CREATING THE GUAM
MASTERS AWARD TO RECOGNIZE MASTER
PRACTITIONERS OF GUAM'S TRADITIONAL AND FOLK
ARTS.**

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the
3 history of Guam and the evolution of its culture have shaped and influenced the artistic
4 traditions of the indigenous people. The practice and perpetuation of traditional visual
5 arts, crafts, music, dance and storytelling contribute to the preservation of culture and
6 therefore, to the preservation of the life and values of the community.

7 There exist among the practitioners of Guam's folk and traditional arts those
8 who are considered masters of the art. It is the intent of *I Liheslatura* that such
9 practitioners be given due recognition of their artistry and craftsmanship and their
10 efforts to preserve Guam's rich history and cultural traditions through the practice and
11 perpetuation of their art.

1 It is additionally the intent of *I Liheslatura* to establish in law a set of guidelines
2 and criteria by which to select and judge the worthiness of a candidate for the Guam
3 Masters Award.

4 **Section 2. Creation of the Guam Masters Award.** A new Chapter 85A is added
5 to Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, to read:

6 **“Chapter 85A**

7 **Guam Masters Award**

8 **§85A 101. Short Title.** This Act shall be known and cited as the “Guam
9 Masters Award Act.”

10 **§85A 102. Creation.** There is created within Guam Council on the Arts and
11 Humanities Agency (CAHA) the Guam Masters Award to be given to
12 accomplished practitioners of Guam’s folk and traditional arts who have
13 contributed to the preservation, advancement, and appreciation of their art.

14 **§85A 103. Award Frequency and Limitations.** CAHA shall accept
15 nominations for the Guam Masters Award during the month of April 2010 and
16 every four (4) years thereafter. No more than four (4) awards may be given
17 during each award year. Nominations for the Guam Masters Award may be
18 accepted from any party other than CAHA, members of its staff, management,
19 and Board, or from a prospective award candidate.

20 **§85A 104. Selection Criteria.** Nominees for the Guam Masters Award
21 shall be judged based on the following criteria:

- 22 (a) Exemplary and active practice of a traditional art form.

1 (b) Expertise, consummate skill, and longevity in the promotion
2 and perpetuation of a traditional art form.

3 (c) Contributions to the traditional art form in areas of
4 appreciation, knowledge, teaching, advocacy, and advancement.

5 (d) Evidence of high artistic quality of work and mastery of
6 traditional art form via support materials.

7 (e) Continuing artistic accomplishment.

8 (f) Participation in one's art form via practicing or teaching.

9 (g) Artistic excellence.

10 (h) Benefit to artistic tradition through contributions such as
11 teaching, advocacy, organizing, and preserving important repertoires.

12 (i) Contribution to living cultural heritage.

13 (j) Active engagement in preserving the folk and traditional
14 arts.

15 (k) Increase in opportunities for and public visibility of
16 traditional arts and artists through the nominee's efforts."

17 **§85A 105. Selection Procedures.** The Board of Directors of CAHA shall,
18 by Board policy, establish procedures for the nomination and selection of
19 candidates for the Guam Masters Award.