

MINA' TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN  
THIRTIETH GUAM LEGISLATURE  
2010 (SECOND) Regular

Bill No. 465-30(COR)

Introduced by:

FRANK B. AGUON JR. 

AN ACT TO FACILITATE EARLY VOTING FOR GUAM'S ELECTORATE BY ESTABLISHING REGIONAL VOTING SITES OR EXPANDING EXISTING EARLY VOTING ACCOMMODATIONS, BY REQUIRING THE GOVERNOR TO IMMEDIATELY AUTHORIZE AND RELEASE UP TO NINETY DAYS OF THE FY-2011 BUDGET APPROPRIATION FOR THE GUAM ELECTION COMMISSION SPECIFICALLY FOR THIS PURPOSE; AND TO PROVIDE FOR REGIONAL EARLY VOTING SITES IN FUTURE ELECTIONS.

2010 SEP 24 AM 9:55



1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

2 Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent: *I Liheslaturan Guahan*  
3 finds that in the days before the September 4<sup>th</sup> primary election, there was a  
4 record 3,200 plus early voters who cast in-office votes at the Guam Election  
5 Commission's office in GCIC building in Hagåtña.

6 *I Liheslaturan Guahan* further finds that as we approached the  
7 primary, the lines became considerably longer, sometimes requiring an  
8 extended period of time for many to vote, and that this may have  
9 discouraged some from voting. This occurred notwithstanding the

1 excellent efforts of the staff of the Guam Election Commission (GEC)  
2 relative to accommodating early voters in the primary.

3         It is reasonable to anticipate that an even greater number of voters  
4 may wish to participate in the early voting process as we approach the  
5 November General Election. Additionally, the date of the General Election  
6 coincides with All Souls Day, and many may wish to vote early so as to be  
7 able to spend the day fulfilling *obligations* with family members. This  
8 situation can only be addressed through the expansion of early voting  
9 opportunities. For example, but not necessarily limited to, a northern site  
10 to accommodate the villages of Dededo and Yigo, and a strategically  
11 located southern site. This type of expanded program would significantly  
12 increase the number of early voters, and thereby increase voter  
13 participation overall.

14         It is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guahan* to accommodate the people of  
15 Guam by expanding early voter opportunities through the establishment of  
16 at least two (2) regional voting sites in northern and southern Guam,  
17 and/or the expansion of existing early voting accommodations, for the  
18 purpose of absentee voting in the 2010 General Election. The GEC's  
19 existing headquarters in the GCIC building would continue to  
20 accommodate early voting for any who may choose to vote there  
21 regardless of their precinct, as well as manage the overall election process  
22 island-wide.

1 It is further the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guahan* to insure that future  
2 elections provide for regional polling sites for absentee voting by requiring  
3 the establishment of such sites pursuant to law.

4 **Section 2. Authorization to Transfer and Expend Funds for the**  
5 **Establishment of Regional Voting Sites, and/or to expand existing**  
6 **accommodations, for Absentee Voting in the 2010 General Election.** If  
7 determined to be practicable by the Guam Election Commission, and  
8 notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Governor is hereby  
9 required to immediately transfer and authorize the expenditure of up to  
10 ninety (90) days of funding from the Fiscal Year 2011 funds budgeted for  
11 the Guam Election Commission for the purpose of establishing at least two  
12 (2) or more regional voting sites for the purpose of accommodating early  
13 voters, and/or to expand existing early voter accommodations. The  
14 regional voting sites would be in addition to GEC's existing headquarters  
15 in the GCIC building which would continue to serve those wishing to vote  
16 there, as well as manage the overall election process island-wide.

17 **Section 3.** A new §4101.1 is added to Chapter 4 of Title 3, Guam  
18 Code Annotated, to read:

19 **"§ 4101.1. Designation of Regional Absentee Early Polling**  
20 **Places.** The Commission shall, *not less than* thirty (30) days *prior to*  
21 the date set for any regular election, designate, announce and publish  
22 the Official Regional Polling Sites where the ballots for Absent

1 Voting, as provided pursuant to Chapter 10 of Title 3 Guam Code  
2 Annotated, are to be cast in such election. In the case of a runoff  
3 election, the Regional Polling Sites shall be the same as in the election  
4 precipitating the need for a runoff, *unless* determined otherwise by  
5 the Commission.”

6 **Section 4.** A new §10102.1 is added to Chapter 10 of Title 3, Guam  
7 Code Annotated, to read:

8 **“§10102.1. Regional Voting Sites for the Conduct of Absent**  
9 **Voting.** In addition to the conduct of absentee voting at the  
10 Commission’s main office, the Commission shall additionally  
11 provide for the conduct of absentee voting at a minimum of two (2)  
12 regional voting sites. At least one (1) site shall be situated in northern  
13 Guam, and one (1) site in southern Guam. If practicable, additional  
14 sites may be established by the Commission.”

15 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment  
16 into law.