

I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
BILL STATUS

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	FISCAL NOTES	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
157-37 (COR)	Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas	AN ACT TO AMEND § 6101 OF CHAPTER 6, TITLE 3, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO INCREASING THE NUMBER OF SENATORS OF I LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN TO TWENTY-ONE.	7/31/23 10:57 a.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2023 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 157-37 (COR)

Introduced by:

Dwayne T. D. San Nicolás 

**AN ACT TO AMEND § 6101 OF CHAPTER 6, TITLE 3, GUAM
CODE ANNOTATED; RELATIVE TO INCREASING THE
NUMBER OF SENATORS OF *I LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* TO
TWENTY-ONE.**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM.

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the number of senatorial seats in *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* do not provide adequate representation for the growing population of our island. In our Organic Act of Guam, the number of senators intended by the authors of the Act to serve our island and represent her populace is a number up to twenty-one; and our Legislature, up until the 24th Legislature, had twenty-one senators serving our island needs and interests. *Guåhan* was under the guidance of twenty-one senators for forty-eight years. In 1996, it was decided that the number of our senators should be reduced to the number it is now, all because it was considered that the representation in our Legislature was not in proportion to the small population of our island at the time. The decision to change in the number of our senators disregards the many decades that the island was governed by twenty-one senators, a period in our island's history that some believe our government had a closer relationship with the People. The population of *Guåhan* during the time our island had twenty-one senators was also much smaller

1 compared to the population now, implying and meaning that our island was much
2 better represented by our legislative body and was undoubtedly better served as well,
3 as our residents had more elected officials to voice their concerns to. With a growing
4 and a much higher population than it had decades prior, our island's representation
5 in *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* needs to adjust to this growth because growth in
6 population means growth in interests and concerns of the populace. Increasing the
7 number of our senators will not only increase representation in our Legislature, but
8 also foster a closer relationship between the government and the residents of our
9 island.

10 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* also finds that having more senators in *I Liheslaturan*
11 *Guåhan* will increase the number of individuals to address and remedy the issues of
12 our island. Increasing the number of our senators will increase the number of public
13 servants beholden to the People of *Guåhan* and allow our island to address the
14 interests of the residents and the many issues that abound more efficiently. With
15 twenty-one senators, there will be more officials to oversee the many agencies of our
16 government, which would create more efficient and focused committees to pressure
17 these agencies into fulfilling their mission to the people. An increased number of
18 senators in *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* would also open up more avenues for our
19 residents to vocalize their concerns and interests to the government, as well as having
20 more officials to reach out to the populace to hear their needs. Increasing the number
21 of senators in *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* will enhance the outreach of the body and allow
22 our residents more access to voice their concerns and interests to our government.

23 With this legislation, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* intends to increase the number
24 of the senators in *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* from fifteen back to twenty-one in order to
25 provide more representation in the body, foster a closer relationship between the
26 People and the government, and provide the island more public servants to serve its
27 needs and address concerns. Enacting this legislation would hopefully revert the

1 island back to the time when its residents had a close and meaningful relationship
2 with its legislature and the government.

3 **Section 2.** § 6101 of Chapter 6, Title 3, Guam Code Annotated is hereby
4 amended to read as follows:

5 **“§ 6101. *Liheslaturan Guåhan* (Guam Legislature), Description.**

6 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* shall be a unicameral body consisting of ~~fifteen~~
7 ~~(15)~~ twenty-one (21) Members who are elected at large and as provided by
8 law”.

9 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon the following
10 Senatorial election subsequent to the enactment of this Act.