

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

Bill No. 185-37 (LS)

Introduced by:

Chris Barnett 

AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 83117, CHAPTER 83, TITLE 12, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO REQUIRING ANY NEW HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTED PURSUANT TO *THE GUAM TWENTY-FIRST (21ST) CENTURY HEALTHCARE CENTER ACT OF 2021* TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN THE VILLAGE OF TAMUNING.

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that
3 75% of the island's medical clinics are located in the village of Tamuning including
4 the SDA clinic, PMC, FHP Medical Center and the Guam Medical Plaza, Sagua
5 Mañagu and Håfa Adai Specialists. The reason the village of Tamuning makes sense
6 is because the Guam Memorial Hospital is located in this village. Commutes
7 between the clinics and GMH are often less than 5 to 10 minutes; less time driving,
8 more time for patients.

9 Both the Guam Medical Association and the Guam Medical Society as well as
10 individual practitioners have made it known that the preferred location for any new
11 hospital is Tamuning. Currently, the Guam Medical Plaza is less than a two-minute
12 drive by ambulance to the GMH emergency room. The Guam Medical Plaza is
13 home to Guam's largest surgicenter, a dialysis clinic and an interventional radiology
14 facility. In the event there is a life-threatening emergency at any of these clinics, it
15 will take much longer to get patients to the ER if the hospital were moved to another
16 village. The longer it takes, the more lives will be put at risk.

1 The enabling legislation for a new hospital, *The Guam Twenty-First (21st)*
2 *Century Healthcare Center Act of 2021* (Ch. 83, 12 GCA), has only one option. It
3 requires that a hospital, the Department of Public Health and Social Services and the
4 Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center be located in the same facility or
5 campus. The size and parking requirements make it difficult find a location large
6 enough in the village of Tamuning where most private clinics are located.

7 It is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to require that any hospital, built
8 pursuant to *The Guam Twenty-First (21st) Century Healthcare Center Act of 2021*,
9 be located in the village of Tamuning. It is further the intent of *I Liheslaturan*
10 *Guåhan* to allow for separate DPHSS and GBHWC facilities in the event that
11 building a single campus or facility is found to be impractical.

12 **Section 2.** A new § 83117 is *added* to Chapter 83, Title 12, Guam Code
13 Annotated to read as follows:

14 **“§ 83117. Hospital Must be Located in Tamuning**

15 Notwithstanding any other provision of law or of this Chapter, any hospital
16 facility constructed pursuant to this Chapter must be built in the village of Tamuning.
17 Options includes building new facilities or the renovating the existing Guam
18 Memorial Hospital. In the event that the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness
19 Center and the Department of Public Health and Social Service cannot, for any
20 reason, be collocated with the hospital facility, such facilities may be located in
21 separate areas of Guam. If the option for either the renovation of the existing Guam
22 Memorial Hospital (GMH) facility or a new standalone hospital is selected, such
23 renovations to (GMH) or construction of a new facility may be financed and
24 constructed pursuant to Chapter 68, 12 GCA.”