

I MINA'TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2014 (SECOND) Regular Session

Bill No. 285-3.2 (COR)

Introduced By:

T.R. MUÑA BARNES

2014 MAR -6 AM 10:50

AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION (DOA) FOR WESTCARE PACIFIC ISLANDS FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSES OF CONDUCTING INTENSE OUTREACH ACTIVITIES, PROVIDING INFORMATIONAL AND REFERRAL SERVICES TO ALL VETERANS ON GUAM.

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 that Guam is an extraordinary participant in the United States military having
4 attained the honor of having the highest number of theatre veterans during the
5 Vietnam Conflict in the 1970s. Furthermore, it is evident today that Guam
6 residents continue to demonstrate their patriotism based on the high numbers of
7 men and women joining all branches of the U.S. military service. Of its population
8 of 313 million, the United States has about 7% designated as veterans. Following
9 that trend, Guam estimates a slightly higher percentage of local soldiers at
10 approximately 12,000 veterans out of the 160,000 island population.

11 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that there is a great need on Guam to
12 organize and ensure veteran's access to needed services. It is expected that many
13 of the soldiers who face war and conflicts will experience trauma and may need
14 readjustment and transition services once they return home. At the present time,

1 notwithstanding the limited services that are available from the federal
2 government, there are no formal outreach, informational and referral services
3 available locally to assist Guam veterans.

4 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that in January 2014, 600 Guam soldiers
5 returned to their families, their communities and their employers. Furthermore, if
6 action is not taken now there will be no comprehensive system over and beyond
7 the limited services that are available from the federal government for those
8 persons transitioning back to their homes and places of employment. This is
9 especially true for veterans who are not retirees from the U.S. military further
10 limiting services to these individuals who represent the majority of veterans living
11 on Guam.

12 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that Westcare Pacific Islands currently
13 has a program known as *The Early Intervention & Transition Assistance Program*
14 *for Veterans (EITAP)* which provides brief interventions, referrals, outreach and
15 follow-up for veterans in Guam, as well as the Commonwealth of the Northern
16 Mariana Islands. In conducting extensive, culturally competent outreach activities
17 at community health fairs, family fun events, job fairs and other local activities, the
18 *EITAP* will attract veterans in need of services and link them with the appropriate
19 community resource.

20 It is therefore the intent of the *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to support all veterans
21 of Guam by authorizing an appropriation from the General Fund to the Department
22 of Administration (DOA) for Westcare Pacific Islands for the specific purposes of
23 conducting intense outreach activities, providing informational and referral
24 services to all veterans on Guam.

25 **Section 2. Appropriation to the Department of Administration.** The
26 sum of One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (**\$150,000**) is hereby
27 appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Administration (DOA)

1 for Westcare Pacific Islands for the specific purpose of conducting intense
2 outreach activities, providing informational and referral services to all veterans on
3 Guam. Furthermore, this appropriation *shall* be used to provide supportive group
4 sessions; community activities for veterans and their families to assist them in
5 building their capacity to adequately and more successfully re-adjust to
6 employment, education and family life. Westcare Pacific Islands *shall* submit
7 quarterly reports to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and to the Governor of
8 Guam. Such report *shall* include statistics of persons contacted and served, as well
9 as recommendations for policy and programs as a result of the intervention with
10 veterans and their families.

11 **Section 3. Severability.** The provisions outlined in this Act are declared
12 to be separate and severable. The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph,
13 subdivision, section or portion of this statute, or the invalidity of the application
14 thereof to any person or circumstance *shall not* affect the validity of the remainder
15 of this statute or the validity of its application to other persons or circumstances.

16 **Section 4. Effective Date.** The provisions contained herein *shall* take
17 effect immediately upon the enactment of this Act.