

I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
BILL STATUS

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	FISCAL NOTES	NOTES
113-35 (LS)	Tina Rose Muña Barnes	AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE GUAM VISITORS BUREAU FOR THE <i>HURÃO</i> ACADEMY CHAMORU LANGUAGE "IMMERSION" PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM.	4/24/19 11: 08 a.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI KUATRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2019 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 113 -35 (COR/LS)

Introduced by:

Tina Rose Muña Barnes

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE GUAM VISITORS BUREAU FOR THE HURÅO ACADEMY CHAMORU LANGUAGE “IMMERSION” PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM.

2019 APR 24 AM 11:08
Ju

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the *CHamoru* language is at risk of extinction. The number of *CHamoru* speakers continues to decline with the average number of “proficient” *CHamoru* speakers being over the age of fifty-five (55) years old. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization’s (UNESCO) classifies a language as being severely endangered when the language is spoken by grandparents and older generations and when the parent generation may understand it, but they do not speak it to children or among themselves. Furthermore, a language is critically endangered when grandparents speak the language partially and infrequently. These trends are seen in our society among the *CHamoru* people on Guam. The *CHamoru* language can be considered severely or critically endangered and may become extinct by the year 2025.

Established in 2005, *Huråo* Academy is the first “full-immersion” *CHamoru* language program to meet the needs of a community struggling to preserve its language by continuing its mission “to promote and perpetuate the *CHamoru* language and culture in honor of the past, for present and future generations, through

1 community immersion education and other programs in support of this mission.”
2 The *Hurão* Academy has served over four thousand (4000) students in its short
3 history, and has a wait list of parents wanting their children to participate in this
4 program. The *Hurão* Academy sees that in order to provide an effective language
5 program, consistent exposure to and practice of the *CHamoru* language should be
6 integrated in every subject in class starting at the preschool level.

7 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that language immersion methodologies
8 have proven to be successful for language restoration in a number of communities
9 around the world. One (1) model is the *Aha Punana Leo* Pre-School in Hawaii,
10 which surrounds pre-school age children in an environment conducive to learning
11 their native language. The *Hurão, Inc.*, dba *Hurão* Academy, is building on the *Aha*
12 *Punana Leo* Pre-School’s model to teach the *CHamoru* language to the next
13 generation of *CHamoru* speakers.

14 *I Liheslaturan Guahan* further finds that in 2017 seed funding was provided
15 to the *Hurão* Academy for the *Nene* Academy pilot. The concept was proven to be
16 successful with 41 applicants in the *Nene* Academy’s inaugural year. Unfortunately,
17 many applicants had to be turned away due to their limited capacity. Hiring and
18 training educators skilled in immersion techniques and developing a chamorro
19 immersion curriculum was a challenge for the *Nene* Academy. However, due to
20 interest in the *Nene* Academy from the public, the Academy is seeking to expand
21 services to keep up with demand.

22 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that the increase in fluency of the
23 *CHamoru* language creates a greater awareness of the *CHamoru* culture. This will
24 further develop and enhance our tourism industry, filling a growing trend in a type
25 of traveler called the “experiential traveler” who visits destinations to experience the
26 unique culture of the native people. The most valuable and unique tourism asset our
27 island has, separating us from other similar destination, is our *CHamoru* culture.

1 Developing our cultural resources goes hand in hand with developing our tourism
2 industry.

3 It is, therefore, the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to support the *Huråo*
4 Academy’s development of a *CHamoru* language “immersion” pre-school program.

5 **Section 2. Appropriation.** Notwithstanding any provision of law, for Fiscal
6 Year 2019, the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) shall be
7 appropriated from the Tourist Attraction Fund to Guam Visitors Bureau for the
8 *Huråo* Academy and the *Huråo* Academy’s *CHamoru* language “immersion” pre-
9 school program.

10 **Section 3. Effective Date.** The provisions contained herein *shall* be effective
11 upon enactment of this Act.

12