

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
74-35 (COR)	Tina Rose Muña Barnes	AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM, RELATIVE TO CREATING AND FUNDING THE ISLAND SUSTAINABILITY OUTREACH AND ACTION (ISOA) PROGRAM.	4/4/19 3:32 p.m.						

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

Bill No. **74** -35 (CORALS)

Introduced by:

Tina Rose Muña Barnes

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM, RELATIVE TO CREATING AND FUNDING THE ISLAND SUSTAINABILITY OUTREACH AND ACTION (ISOA) PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the impacts of climate change on the people and island of Guam are impending and there have been local and regional efforts supporting the idea that addressing the adverse impacts of climate change are needed at a local and/or municipal level. Focus of research and analyses on the scientific and technical aspects of climate change and how these issues relate to Guam are necessary in order to move forward with taking action. Such expertise can be found locally here on Guam.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan further finds that such adverse impacts to the natural environment of Guam include rises in the ocean temperature and oceanic acidity threatening Guam's coral reef and other marine ecosystems, further exacerbating marine life such as hundreds of species of reef-dwelling fish, shellfish, rays, and sharks that rely on a healthy coral reef habitat for survival. Additionally, a rising sea level brings higher potential for coastal flooding, erodes beaches, and submerges low-lying areas. Coastal infrastructure such as the Port Authority of Guam and other facilities may be vulnerable to such impacts.

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1 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that the United Nations Environmental
2 Program (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)'s jointly
3 established Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the leading
4 international body for the assessment of climate change, approved a Special Report
5 on October 8, 2018 prepared by contributions from thousands of experts and
6 government reviewers worldwide entitled, *Global Warming of 1.5°C, an IPCC*
7 *special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels*
8 *and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of*
9 *strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable*
10 *development, and efforts to eradicate poverty.* In a summary and release issued by
11 the IPCC, it states that report found that limiting global warming to 1.5°C would
12 require rapid and far-reaching transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings,
13 transport, and cities.

14 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that there has been acknowledgement by
15 the Executive Branch of the government of Guam to coordinate a systemwide and
16 long-range planning on how to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change from
17 a governmental perspective through Executive Order No. 2015-08 which created the
18 Guam Climate Change Task Force and the Climate Change Advisory Committee
19 under the Office of the Governor. Through such initiatives, priorities have been
20 established to protect Guam's economy and natural resources, build resilience in
21 Guam's infrastructure, promote responsible development and sustainable practices,
22 reduce vulnerabilities from regional climate migration, enhance disaster risk
23 management, and revise and influence policy-making. Additionally, education and
24 outreach through village and business resiliency workshops were proposed projects.

25 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds Public Law 34-017, the Guam Climate
26 Change Preparedness and Resiliency Act, created the Guam Council on Climate
27 Change Preparedness and Resiliency (Guam C³PR) which was established for the

1 sole purpose of developing policy direction and recommendations relative to
2 ensuring that the government of Guam focuses its vast resources on preparing and
3 planning for, and mitigating, adverse impacts of climate change on Guam.

4 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that in addition to local efforts, there has
5 been continued regional efforts and support for addressing the adverse impacts
6 climate change will have on Guam. The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
7 Environment Programme (SPREP) released its Strategic Plan for 2017-2026 on
8 March 6, 2017 of which includes representatives from Guam SPREP’s Vision of ‘A
9 resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in
10 harmony with our cultures’ contemplates strategies to achieve goals of sustainable
11 development in the Pacific. The SPREP Strategic Plan includes enhancing public
12 awareness and mobilizing public action as well as technical knowledge and
13 communication as actionable items necessary to achieve regional goals.

14 Additionally, in 2015, the Department of the Interior, the Office of Insular
15 Affairs, and the White House Council on Environmental Quality, held a Stakeholder
16 Meeting relative to climate change in the United States Insular Areas which included
17 climate change status report updates and identified gaps in climate change resources
18 and data to include the need for climate-related professional and technical positions
19 in community agencies, the need for community level data and environmental
20 measurements and monitoring networks.

21 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that the University of Guam has become
22 a leader in the pursuit of knowledge and information on climate change through its
23 efforts such as the Center for Island Sustainability and its hosting of the Western
24 Pacific Coral Reef Institute, representation at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
25 Environment Programme, managing of the Sea Grant Program, hosts of the Pacific
26 Islands Climate Science Center, and many other programs and plans.

1 Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, as a result of numerous
2 recommendations from local and regional associations and groups, that an Island
3 Sustainability Outreach and Action (ISOA) Program be created and administered by
4 the University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant Program with
5 having the option of partnering with the Mayors' Council of Guam. Such program
6 shall be funded by the Recycling Revolving Fund in fiscal year 2020 to achieve the
7 goals of community and municipal outreach toward educating and preparing the
8 people of Guam at the most intimate level, of the need for sustainable practices,
9 engagement in societal and governmental actions and programs, and the importance
10 of knowing and understanding the adverse impacts of climate change on Guam.

11 **Section 3. The Island Sustainability Outreach and Action Program.**

12 (a) **Creation and Administration.** There is hereby created under the
13 administrative authority of the University of Guam, the Island Sustainability
14 Outreach and Action (ISOA) Program. The ISOA Program *shall* be a program
15 managed by the Center for Island Sustainability and/or the University of
16 Guam Sea Grant Program, or successor program(s). Funding to the ISOA
17 Program *shall* be prioritized to the Sea Grant Program if such funds can be
18 leveraged as local matching funds to secure additional federal Sea Grant
19 Funding.

20 (b) **Purpose.** The ISOA Program's main purpose and goals are to
21 coordinate and conduct research, outreach, and educational programs at the
22 village and municipal level on Guam relative to climate change and
23 environmental sustainability initiatives to further enhance the knowledge and
24 awareness on Guam of the adverse impacts of climate change. The ISOA
25 Program *may* partner with the Mayors' Council of Guam to establish a
26 Memorandum of Understanding or Agreement to achieve the purpose and
27 goals herein.

1 (c) **Funding.** Beginning on October 1, 2019, the sum of Three Hundred
2 Fifty Thousand Dollars (**\$350,000**) is hereby appropriated from the Recycling
3 Revolving Fund to the University of Guam for the sole purpose of funding the
4 operations of the Island Sustainability Outreach and Action Program between
5 October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020. The appropriation herein *shall*
6 *not* lapse and *shall* continue until fully expended. The sum appropriated herein
7 is authorized for use as a local matching requirement for the Sea Grant
8 Program or successor program as a Federal Grants-in-Aid.

9 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Act *shall* become effective upon enactment.

10 **Section 4. Severability.** *If* any provision of this Act or its application to any
11 person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity *shall not* affect other provisions
12 or applications of this Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision
13 or application and to this end the provisions of this Act is severable.