

**MINA' TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN**  
2009 (FIRST) Regular Session

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Bill No. 129 (COR)

Introduced by:

Committee on Tourism,  
Cultural Affairs, Youth  
and Public Broadcasting  
at the request of the 27<sup>th</sup>  
Guam Youth Congress

**AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 7 OF THE GUAM  
CODE ANNOTATED.**

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

**Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guahan* finds that due to low numbers of candidates and voters participating in Youth Congress elections, and the persistent low number of representatives in recent Youth Congresses, that the Guam Code Annotated needs to be revised in order to adapt to the circumstances that lead to the persistence of the low turnout and participation.

By law, there should be a maximum number of *fifty one* representatives elected from public and private high schools, municipalities, the University of Guam, and the Guam Community College. In the current Twenty-Seventh Guam Youth Congress, there are less than fifteen. In the municipality of Dededo, which is the largest municipality in terms of population, there are suppose to be three representatives, yet in the past three elections, there have been no more than one running and being elected. Some municipalities and high schools have no representation. In the Twenty-Fifth Guam Youth Congress, there were no representatives from George Washington High School and John F. Kennedy High School. And no village representatives from

Tamuning, Ordot-Chalan Pago, Barrigada, Mangilao, Yona, Umatac, Merizo, Santa Rita, Talofofo, and Inarajan. In the Twenty-Seventh Guam Youth Congress, there are currently no representatives from George Washington High School, John F. Kennedy High School, Father Duenas High School, Academy of Our Lady of Guam, and the Guam Community College and again from villages such as Tamuning, Mangilao, Barrigada, Mongmong-Toto-Maite, Yona, Santa Rita, Inarajan, and Ordot-Chalan Pago. Average voter turnout for most villages and schools that did participate in the most recent general election was about fifteen, with the highest turnout being in Merizo at nearly fifty votes cast. Rarely has it been the case in the recent Youth Congresses where fifty one representatives have been elected.

Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guahan* to provide the youth of Guam with a more clarified and consistent means of election process to the Youth Congress as well as to reflect that change in the numbers of representatives by increasing the stipends of the youth congress representatives that shall be elected in the future.

**Section 1.** §7101. of Chapter 7GCA is hereby amended to read:

There is within the Legislative Branch of the Government of Guam, a ~~youth Congress~~ Youth Senate, and to further amend the entirety of Chapter 7 to reflect that change.

**Section 2.** §7103. of Chapter 7 GCA is hereby amended to read:

The Congress shall be composed of not to exceed ~~fifty one (51)~~ twenty five (25) members, to be known as ~~Representatives~~ youth Senator, to be elected from the areas listed below:

1. ~~Village Representation:~~

a. ~~One (1) representative from each organized village with a population of below 5,000.~~

b. ~~Two (2) representatives from each village with a~~

1           ~~population between 5,000 and 10,000.~~

2           ~~c. Three (3) representatives from each village over 10,000.~~

3           1. Northern Guam: to represent the Municipalities of Dededo,  
4           Yigo, and Tamuning; as well as all private and public high  
5           Schools within those municipalities.

6           a. Eight (8) Representatives

7           2. Central Guam: to represent the Municipalities of  
8           Mongmong-Toto-Maite, Ordot-Chalan Pago, Piti, Hagatna,  
9           Agana-Heights, Yona, Barrigada, and Mangilao; as well as  
10           all private and public high schools within those  
11           municipalities.

12           a. Seven (7) representatives

13           3. Southern Guam: to represent the Municipalities of Agat,  
14           Santa Rita, Umatac, Merizo, Inarajan, and Talofofo; as  
15           well as all private and public schools within those  
16           Municipalities.

17           a. Six (6) representatives

18           4. University of Guam

19           a. Three (3) representatives

20           5. Guam Community College

21           a. One (1) representative

22           **Section 3.**   §7104. of Chapter 7 GCA is hereby amended to read:

23           No person shall be eligible to vote for a Representative or sit in the Congress  
24           who has not attained the age of fourteen (14) years prior to the inauguration of the  
25           Youth Congress, or who will be twenty-five (25) years ~~prior~~ at the expiration of the  
26           term for which he seeks to qualify as a voter or as a member, or who has been

1 convicted of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude and has not received a  
2 pardon restoring his civil rights.

3 **Section 4.** §7107. of Chapter 7 GCA is hereby amended to read:

4 General election to the Youth Congress shall be held on the third Monday in  
5 October commencing October, 1994 and every two (2) years thereafter. The  
6 ~~election for school representatives will be conducted by the school principal of the~~  
7 ~~public or private junior or senior high schools and by the President of the~~  
8 ~~University of Guam at the school which the eligible electorate attends, and at~~  
9 ~~which the electorate are officially enrolled, and each voter shall be entitled to vote~~  
10 ~~by private ballot for the number of candidates allotted their school as is provided in~~  
11 ~~§7103 of this Code. The election for village representatives will be conducted by~~  
12 ~~the village mayor for the eligible electorate residing within the village boundaries,~~  
13 ~~and each voter shall be entitled to vote for the number of candidates allotted this~~  
14 ~~village as is provided in §7103 of this Code. The eligible electorate may vote in~~  
15 ~~both, the school and village elections. The elections for all representatives shall be~~  
16 ~~conducted by the office of the Chairperson of the Committee on Youth of I~~  
17 *Liheslaturan Guahan.*

18 Candidates for election may run as members of a political party or as  
19 independents, all such candidates to have received by petition from the eligible  
20 youth electorate at least ~~fifty (50)~~ thirty (30) signatures. Names of candidates on  
21 ballots shall appear as provided in §7105 of Title 3, Guam Code Annotated.

22 It shall be the responsibility of the ~~school principal, the President of the~~  
23 ~~University of Guam, or the village Mayor,~~ office of the Chairperson of the  
24 Committee on Youth of I Liheslaturan Guahan to provide forms for petitions,  
25 ballots and tally sheets, the necessary ballot boxes and personnel to supervise the  
26 election, count and tally the ballots.

1        Elections shall take place at polling sites around the island to be designated by  
2        the Chairperson of the Committee on Youth.

3        The elections shall be advertised to the general public for a period starting five  
4        days before the actual election, with information on whose running, the office the  
5        candidates are running for, and the polling sites and polling times.

6        Results of the election will be certified by ~~the Mayor, school principal, or the~~  
7        President of the University of Guam Chairperson of the Committee on Youth of I  
8        Liheslaturan Guahan, as appropriate, within three (3) working days after the  
9        election to the Secretary of the Guam Legislature, who shall verify the results, and  
10       certify the election of members to the Youth Congress. Results shall be published  
11       on all media outlets and the websites of the members of I Liheslaturan Guahan.

12       **Section 5.** To create a new §7107 (a),(b),(c),(d) that shall read:

13       (a)    The date for candidates to pick up their petitions shall be the last  
14       Monday of August from the Office of the Chairperson of the  
15       Committee on Youth; this date shall be made public at least five  
16       days prior to the last Monday of August.

17       (b)    The candidates shall have a period of three weeks to garner the  
18       required number of signatures and to turn their petitions in to the  
19       Office of the Chair of the Committee on Youth.

20       (c)    The Office of the Chair of the Committee on Youth shall have no  
21       more than three (3) working days to verify the signatures and to  
22       inform the candidates if they were successful in getting on the  
23       ballot.

24       (d)    Candidates who are successful shall have a period of at least two weeks  
25       to campaign before the election.

26       **Section 6.** §7110 of Chapter 7 GCA is hereby amended to read:

1       Representatives of Congress shall be compensated at the rate of ~~Twenty-Five~~  
2       ~~dollars (\$25)~~ Forty-Five dollars (\$45) for each regularly monthly or special session  
3       they attend.

4       **Section 7. Severability.** If any provision of this Law or its application to any  
5       person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity  
6       shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Law which can be given  
7       effect without the invalid provisions or application and to this end the provisions of  
8       this Law are severable.