I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN 2009 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 260-30(CUR)

Introduced by:

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F. F. Blas, Jr. T. C. Ada

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 67107 OF CHAPTER **OF** TITLE 10 THE **GUAM** CODE 67. **OF** ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO ALLOWING GREATER **PARTICIPATION OF** VETERAN **ORGANIZATIONS** THE **GUAM** SERVICE IN VETERANS COMMISSION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

2 **Section 1.** Legislative findings and intent. I Liheslaturan Guåhan finds that the Guam Veterans Commission is the "voice" of the many veterans that reside on 3 4 Guam. There are some Veteran Service Organizations that are not recognized by the 5 U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs; however, these Veteran Service Organizations continue to provide support and resources to Guam's veterans and provide and 6 7 invaluable service. These Veteran Service Organizations deserve to be represented on 8 the Guam Veterans Commission which is tasked to provide veterans and their families 9 information regarding benefits and services to the Guam veteran population. 10 allowing all veteran Service Organizations to be represented on the Commission, more 11 Guam veterans and their families will receive information about the services and 12 benefits available to them.

Section 2. Section 67107 of Chapter 67 of Title 10 of the Guam Code Annotated is hereby *amended* to read as follows:

%67107. Guam Veterans Commission. There is hereby established, in the Office of Veterans Affairs, a Guam Veterans Commission which shall consist of one (1) member each from the currently officially chartered Guam chapters of the Recognized Veteran Service Organizations. recognized by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The Commander or designee of each Recognized Veteran Service Organization shall be the representative. Every representative shall serve for the term of the Commander, but not more than two (2) years. If the Commander's term exceeds two (2) years, the service organization shall appoint, by Chapter Executive Council vote, a successor to serve during the term of the incumbent Commander. Should a Recognized <u>Veteran</u> Service Organization have more than one (1) Chapter, then the membership within the Commission shall be rotated among the Commanders of those Chapters, with the order of the rotation decided among those Chapters. Five (5) members shall constitute a quorum. The Commission shall meet quarterly and shall advise the Veterans Affairs Officer regarding matters affecting veterans and eligible claimants regarding Veterans Administrationrelated issues. The Commission shall provide veterans and their families with the opportunity to air grievances for the purpose of effecting corrective action or change to existing policies that affect delivery of benefits and services to the Guam veteran population. The members of the Commission are volunteers and *shall* not receive compensation."

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