I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN 2022 (SECOND) Regular Session VOTING RECORD

1	Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco Legislative Session Hall Guam Congress Building February 25, 2022				
Aye	Nay	Not Voting/ Abstained	Out During Roll Call	Absent	Excused
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I = Pass

Clerk of the Legislature

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN 2021 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 170-36 (LS)

As amended by the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing; and further amended in the Committee of the Whole.

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Introduced by:

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Frank Blas Jr.
Joe S. San Agustin
V. Anthony Ada
Tina Rose Muña Barnes

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$250,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT AND/OR THE 2021 GENERAL FUND UNAPPROPRIATED REVENUES TO THE GUAM UNIQUE MERCHANDISE AND ART (GUMA) FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO INCUBATED BUSINESSES GRADUATES OF THE GUMA PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that Guam Unique Merchandise and Art (GUMA) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that has been mentoring and incubating aspiring local artists and cultural entrepreneurs since 2013 - transforming their Guam-centric ideas into self-sustainable businesses.

GUMA developed a sixteen (16)-week training program mentoring Guam's entrepreneurs in marketing and branding, legal and accounting requirements, operations, and a host of other areas crucial to operating a successful business. Upon

graduation, participants receive a certificate of completion and will have developed a complete business plan centered on their product or service; and, over two hundred twenty (220) individuals have graduated from the Entrepreneurial Training Program since 2014.

Graduates are then eligible to apply for GUMA's Incubator Program, which provides equipment, supplies, and operational support for their business startups. Applicants submit their needs and give a presentation to a "Shark Tank" comprised of bankers, lawyers, retailers, accountants, and experienced businessowners. Grants are awarded based on the potential of their business plans and available funds. Awardees are provided mentoring for a two (2)-year incubation period and must maintain a minimum of two (2) employees; and, twenty-eight (28) new small businesses have been incubated through GUMA since 2015, generating \$1.7 Million Dollars in gross revenues and creating eighty-seven (87) new jobs (pre-pandemic estimates). There are currently twenty-two (22) new applications for the incubator support.

In 2020, GUMA was awarded a three (3)-year grant to expand its training program into Guam's nineteen (19) villages specifically for home-based business entrepreneurs with a grassroots approach. In partnership with the Mayors Council of Guam, GUMA is currently developing a hybrid training program for the villages to train "cottage entrepreneurs" and encourage village commerce. The program also features the development of Village Directories of Services and Village Trade Fairs to help market and network the home-based businesses. The pilot program will be launched in the village of *Dededo* in the fourth (4th) quarter of 2021 and will be extended throughout the remaining eighteen (18) villages through 2023. A minimum of one hundred fourteen (114) home-based businesses can be created or expanded through this program, and GUMA is seeking funds to help incubate graduates of this program with start-up support through a competitive process.

I Liheslatura finds that GUMA has proven itself as a sound and successful program that will help to create viable and lasting businesses that will help towards economic expansion and diversity on Guam.

It is, therefore, the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to provide financial assistance to GUMA to help in maximizing its program and provide start-up businesses with the support they may need to achieve success.

Section 2. Appropriation to Guam Unique Merchandise and Art (GUMA). The sum of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) from the revenues received from the earned income tax credit reimbursement for calendar year 2021, pursuant to Section 7530(b) of Chapter 77, Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and Section 9625(a) of U.S. Public Law 117-2, the American Rescue Plan Act, and/or the 2021 General Fund unappropriated revenues, is hereby appropriated to Guam Unique Merchandise and Art (GUMA) for the purpose of sub-grant awards for incubator participants and home-based businesses. These sub-grant awards will provide financial startup support to incubate graduates of the GUMA business program. The appropriation in this Section shall not lapse and shall continue until fully expended. Said appropriation shall not preclude GUMA from receiving other aid or grants to pursue the intent of this Act.

Section 3. Effective Date. This Act shall be effective upon enactment.