

I MINA'TRENTAI TRES NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2016 (SECOND) Regular Session

Bill No. 238-33 (LS)

Introduced by:

N. B. Underwood, Ph.D. 

AN ACT TO *APPROPRIATE* THE SUM OF TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$250,000) FROM THE UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE OF THE HEALTHY FUTURES FUND AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 TO THE GUAM DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS FOR THE EXPANSION OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OFFERED BY THE COMMUNITY SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT UNIT/RESOURCE CENTERS FOR YOUTHS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guahan* finds that the Department of Youth Affairs (DYA), Community Social Development Unit (CSDU)/Resource Centers, a division of Youth Development was established in August, 1996 to decentralize its casework section and provide community-based outreach, prevention and support services to at-risk youths and their families. In 1998, it expanded its services opening a satellite office in Toto Gardens and shortly thereafter in Talofofu, which eventually relocated to the Pagachao Subdivision in Agat and evolved over the years for both “qualitative” and “quantitative” outreach and preventive programs.

I Liheslaturan Guahan finds that in 2008, the CSDU applied and received a grant from the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority’s (GHURA) Community Development Block Grant to build the Haya Youth Center in Agat and

1 the Lagu Youth Resource Center in Dededo. Their newest facility, Kattan Youth
2 Center in Mangilao, located next to the DYA opened in March 2015.

3 *I Liheslaturan Guahan* finds that throughout the years, the CSDU has
4 offered an array of services, including homework assistance, mentoring, tutoring,
5 computer labs, arts and crafts, gardening, life skills, physical fitness/sports
6 activities, and after-school care for court-involved youths as well as those at-risk in
7 the community. The programs developed are to provide a central community
8 resource center, to be used by youth and their families to enhance the youth's
9 literacy skills, keep the youth out of trouble, thereby increasing self-esteem and
10 decreasing high incidents of youth confinement at DYA, crisis intervention,
11 treatment and rehabilitation. The courts have also recognized the CSDU and refer
12 their wards to the programs and services available shifting from once being more
13 "punitive option" to that of more "treatment oriented". Some of these youth fell
14 through the cracks early in their childhood and now receive proactive, preventive
15 intervention to better increase their chances of success. This not only benefits the
16 youth and their families but our entire community.

17 *I Liheslaturan Guahan* finds the CSDU has a number of community partners
18 including the Family Court and Juvenile Probation Office, Department of
19 Education, Guam Community College, University of Guam, Guam Behavioral
20 Health and Wellness Center, Department of Public Health and Social Services,
21 Guam Police Department (Juvenile Investigations Section), Mayoral Offices,
22 GHURA, Sanctuary, Inc., Big Brothers, Big Sisters, AmeriCorps Volunteers and
23 the Ladder for Success Program.

24 *I Liheslaturan Guahan* finds that based on research students experience a
25 learning loss during extended breaks such as summer, which results in teachers
26 having to spend a few weeks at the beginning of the school year to help students
27 catch up. By providing additional funding the CSDU can implement a summer

1 literacy program. All instructors, staff and student tutors would require training to
2 deliver such services.

3 *I Liheslaturan Guahan* also finds that, based on statistics showing the
4 prevalence of tobacco, alcohol and substance abuse among youths, there is a need
5 for youths to develop life skills that promote physical and mental health and
6 wellness.

7 Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guahan* to appropriate Two
8 Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) from the unreserved fund balance of
9 the Healthy Futures Fund as of September 30, 2015 to the DYA to promote CSDU
10 services that integrate research-based literacy programs with a curriculum that in
11 part, will address health education and prevention of alcohol, tobacco and substance
12 abuse.

13 **Section 2. Appropriation to the Department of Youth Affairs for the**
14 **Community Social Development Unit/Resource Centers, Division of Youth**
15 **Development.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the sum of Two
16 Hundred Fifty-Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) is hereby appropriated from the
17 unreserved fund balance of the Healthy Futures Fund as of September 30, 2015 to
18 the Department of Youth Affairs for the enhancement, expansion of the programs
19 and services provided by the Community Social Development Unit/Resource
20 Centers, Division of Youth Development.

21 Specifically, training areas required for staff and youth participants will
22 include but not be limited to: 1) health education and awareness on tobacco,
23 alcohol and substance abuse prevention; 2) programs for improving overall health
24 and well-being; 3) community-based programs directed towards youth, low-
25 income or at-risk persons and families; and 4) increase student success in
26 academics.

1 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to
2 any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity *shall not* affect other
3 provisions or applications of this Act which can be given effect without the invalid
4 provision or application and to this end the provisions of this Act are severable.