

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

Bill No. 794-33 (COR)

Introduced By:

T.R. MUNA BARNES 

**AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FROM FISCAL YEAR
2016 FUND BALANCE OF THE TOURIST ATTRACTION
FUND TO GUAM VISITORS BUREAU FOR *I FANLALAI'AN*
FOR THE PRINTING, PURCHASING, AND DISTRIBUTION
OF CHAMORU LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN.**

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T.M.

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 that the number of Chamoru speakers continues to decline and is under immediate
4 threat of extinction. The average number of “proficient” Chamoru speaker is over
5 the age of 55 years old. Furthermore, with the average life expectancy of Guam’s
6 Chamoru people at 65-70 years, it is conceivable that the language will be extinct
7 by 2025. Efforts must be made to preserve and protect the Chamoru language and
8 culture by encouraging young children to use the Chamoru language in their daily
9 lives.

10 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that many untold stories and cultural
11 practices remain untold and undocumented. These stories and cultural practices
12 should be preserved and put in a format that is accessible to schoolchildren. An
13 increase in diverse Chamoru literature will allow schoolchildren to expand their
14 vocabulary and enhance their understanding of grammar and syntax in the
15 Chamoru language, while learning about cultural practices. Through the work of *I*
16 *Fanlalai'an*, intensive research has been done to discover some of Guam’s unique
17 stories and practices to be placed in literature for schoolchildren.

1 It is, therefore, the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to provide funding for
2 the printing, purchasing, and distribution of Chamoru literature for schoolchildren.

3 **Section 2. Appropriation.** Notwithstanding any provision of law, the sum
4 of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) is hereby appropriated from the
5 unappropriated, unallocated fund balance of the fiscal year 2016 Tourist Attraction
6 Fund to the Guam Visitor's Bureau for *I Fanlalai'an* for the printing, purchasing,
7 and distribution of Chamorro literature for schoolchildren in the Chamoru
8 Language and Culture Program at the Department of Education.

9 **Section 3. Effective Date.** The provisions contained herein shall be
10 effective upon enactment of this Act.

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