

I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2005 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 194 (EC)

Introduced by:

L.A. Leon Guerrero *LHG*
J.T. Won Pat *JTW*

AN ACT TO HONOR GUAM'S FIRST NATIVE PHYSICIAN, DR. RAMON MANALISAY SABLAN BY NAMING THE NORTHERN REGION COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DEDEDO, THE "DR. RAMON M. SABLAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER," BY ADDING A NEW §845 TO ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 1, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guahan*

finds that the late Dr. Ramon Manalisay Sablan was Guam's first doctor of medicine. He was a respected educator, politician, statesman, linguist and musician. Dr. Sablan was the product of Guam's public schools. After formal education on island, Sablan qualified for a government scholarship and attended Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College at Stillwater in 1919. There, he studied pathology and bacteriology, and had a special interest in tuberculosis.

After Sablan completed undergraduate studies, he returned back to his native Guam, taught and later served as a high school principal. In addition, he assisted in organizing the Guam Teacher's Association, and was editor of the Guam Recorder. At the same time, Sablan found himself involved in local politics. He served as Speaker of the Guam Congress' House of Assembly. While serving in the Guam Congress' House of Assembly, he presented a case along with two other Guam Congressmen to members of the United States House of Representatives as to why Chamorros should be granted United States citizenship.

1 Following his service in the Guam Congress, Sablan received another
2 government scholarship in the early 1930's to attend the University of
3 Louisville Medical School. Upon completion of his medical studies, he again
4 returned to Guam and established a practice. Even in the midst of the Japanese
5 occupation of the island, Sablan secretly managed to maintain his practice. Dr.
6 Sablan was able to treat people and perform surgery if it was required. Under
7 the control of Japanese occupiers, the hospital had become mismanaged and
8 over-loaded with patients. As a result, Dr. Sablan researched the health
9 conditions of Guam and issued a paper entitled, "A Plea for Better Health
10 Conditions," which discussed possible remedies to the worsening conditions of
11 the time.

12 Immediately after the war, Dr. Sablan was placed in charge of the
13 Hospital for Pulmonary Tuberculosis. He would remain on Guam up until 1951,
14 when he relocated to California.

15 In addition to his numerous contributions to the people of Guam, Dr.
16 Sablan also composed the Guam Hymn which to this day remains an integral
17 part in Guam's history.

18 Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslatura* to pay tribute and recognize the
19 late Dr. Ramon Manalisay Sablan by naming the Northern Region Community
20 Health Center in the Municipality of Dededo, administered by the Department
21 of Public Health and Social Services in his honor.

22 **Section 2. Naming of the Northern Region Community Health**
23 **Center.** A new §845 is hereby added to Article 1, Chapter 8 of Title 1, Guam
24 Code Annotated, to read as follows:

25 **"§845. Dr. Ramon M. Sablan Community Health Center.** The
26 Northern Region Health Center, located in the Municipality of Dededo, Guam,
27 shall hereafter be known as the "Dr. *Ramon M. Sablan Community Health*
28 *Center.*" Any provisions in the laws of Guam referring to the Northern Region
29 Health Center are hereby deemed to read the "Dr. *Ramon M. Sablan*
30 *Community Health Center.*" *I Maga'lahaen Guahan*, the Director of the
31 Department of Public Health and Social Services, the Mayor of Dededo and the

1 Dededo Municipal Planning Council, shall cause to be erected appropriate
2 nameplates or signs designating the Northern Region Health Center as the “Dr.
3 *Ramon M. Sablan Community Health Center.*” Further, at such ceremony as *I*
4 *Maga’lahen Guahan*, the Director of Public Health and Social Services and the
5 Mayor of Dededo and members of the Dededo Municipal Planning Council
6 deem appropriate, the “Dr. *Ramon M. Sablan Community Health Center,*” shall
7 be officially named and a plaque bearing the name, picture and brief history of
8 the contributions of the late Dr. Ramon M. Sablan to the people of Guam shall
9 be affixed within a suitable spot in or on the building.”

10 **Section 3. Severability.** If any of the provisions of this Act or the
11 application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity
12 shall not affect any other provision or application of this Act which can be
13 given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the
14 provisions of this Act are severable.