



**I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
2011 (FIRST) Regular Session**

Bill No. 89-31 (LS)

Introduced by:

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**AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 4112 TO CHAPTER 4 OF
DIVISION 1, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED,
RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE GUAM EARLY
LEARNING COUNCIL FOR GUAM'S EARLY
CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM.**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.

I Liheslaturan Guahan finds Executive Order No. 2008-03, signed 09 April 2008, established the Early Learning Council (hereinafter “Council”) for Guam's Early Childhood Comprehensive System. The Guam Early Learning Council’s composition, goals and objectives, and roles and responsibilities focus upon the efficient and effective delivery of services and supports to young children, birth to five, and their families. Early Childhood Education, however, is defined as birth through eight and will be the age frame referred to in this act.

E.O. No. 2008-03 states that the Council was created because there exists a need to establish an Early Learning Council to support the coordination and collaboration of agencies and organizations, both public and private, serving young children (ages birth through eight) and their families.

I Liheslatura finds that it is scientifically established that positive social

1 emotional, physical, language, intellectual, and spiritual/moral experiences for
2 young children, most especially between birth to eight years of age, are necessary
3 and critical for promoting and nurturing the overall developmental needs of a child.

4 Research on brain development has clearly indicated that the first years of
5 life are particularly critical to a child's healthy development, readiness to enter
6 school, read at grade level, graduate from high school and succeed.

7 There is strong, scientific evidence that quality health care and education-
8 services during neonatal to eight years of age has a direct impact on economic
9 development - saving communities money by preventing future expenses for
10 remedial education, incarceration, and cash assistance.

11 The responsibility for providing quality health care and education-services
12 has traditionally been the responsibility of organizations at the state/local level
13 requiring definitive vision, clear mission, strong partnerships, and collaboration.

14 *I Liheslatura* further finds that programs that address the early health care
15 and education of Guam's youngest children are fragmented, lack coordinated
16 planning, overlap in some instances, and leave substantive gaps in other instances.
17 Programs providing early health care and education-services should be coordinated
18 and structured to maximize efficiency, simplify and expand accessibility to quality
19 health care and educational programs, and provide a maximum return for Guam
20 taxpayers' investments.

21 Governmental programs must collaboratively develop and implement
22 effective, efficient and coordinated service delivery to ensure that all of Guam's
23 youngest children are given an equal opportunity to reach their full potential.
24 Governance, which comprises traditions, institutions and processes that determine
25 how power is exercised; how constituents are given a voice; how decisions are
26 made on issues of mutual concern; and how quality and accountability are
27 integrated, are vital components of any early childhood comprehensive system. It

1 is practical and beneficial to Guam's children that issues affecting their wellbeing
2 be considered at the highest level of the island's government.

3 Guam has established the vision that: "*All of Guam's young children will*
4 *have healthy minds, bodies, and spirits as the foundation for lifelong success,*" and
5 the mission is to support each child (birth to eight) in reaching his/her full potential
6 through a healthcare and education system that is accessible, comprehensive,
7 integrated, and responsive to diverse cultures that is developed in collaboration
8 with families and communities.

9 Guam through Project Tinituhon – a federal grant awarded by the US
10 Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources and Services
11 Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau to Guam Public Health Social
12 Services– established five goals in support of this vision and mission as stated in
13 the Implementation Plan. Guam, through Project Tinituhon, has begun the
14 activities of the Implementation Plan for Guam's Early Childhood Comprehensive
15 System, bringing together key child serving agencies, both public and private in
16 health care and education to be more responsive to the evolving and complex needs
17 of all children birth to eight and their families.

18 National legislation, Public Law 110-134 "Improving the Head Start Act of
19 2007" mandates the establishment of a State Advisory Council on Early Childhood
20 Education and Care for children birth to school entry, and Guam Head Start
21 Program is a vital and active participant of Project Tinituhon.

22 Lastly, *I Liheslatura* finds that continued implementation and sustainability
23 of the Early Childhood Comprehensive System to meet the goals for young
24 children and their families requires strong support and commitment at all levels of
25 the government and community.

26 **Section 2.** A new § 4112 is added to Title 10 of the Guam Code
27 Annotated to read:

1 **“§ 4112. Composition of Early Learning Council Membership.**

2 1) Members of the Early Learning Council will comprise of representatives
3 from key child serving agencies including government agencies and private
4 organizations, directly and indirectly involved in supporting the quality health care
5 and education of children birth to eight and their families, to develop a
6 coordinated, efficient, and cost-effective Early Childhood Comprehensive System:

- 7 a. Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC);
- 8 b. Non-profit organizations providing services and supports to children,
9 birth to eight, and their families;
- 10 c. Private Child Care Providers;
- 11 d. Guam Medical Society;
- 12 e. Department of Public Health and Social Services;
- 13 f. Guam Department of Education;
- 14 g. Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse;
- 15 h. Guam Department of Labor;
- 16 i. University of Guam;
- 17 j. Guam Community College;
- 18 k. Guam Memorial Hospital;
- 19 l. Guam Legislative Chairpersons, including but not limited to,
20 committees on Education, Health and Human Services;
- 21 m. Catholic Social Services;
- 22 n. At a minimum, three (3) Parent Representatives;
- 23 o. Mayors Council of Guam;
- 24 p. Sanctuary, Inc.; and
- 25 q. Superior Court of Guam.

26 2) Co-chairmanship of the Council will be shared between the First Lady of
27 Guam and Project Director of *Project Tinituhon*, Guam's Early Childhood

1 Comprehensive System.

2 **(a). Goals and Objectives of the Early Learning Council.**

3 1) The Council has the following as its goals:

- 4 a. To serve as the required state council for Guam's Head Start
5 Program;
- 6 b. To increase supports and services for young children and their
7 families by strengthening cross-agency coordination, involving
8 public and private entities, to ensure delivery of comprehensive
9 services for young children and their families; and
- 10 c. To expand and refine Guam's Policy Agenda for Early Learning-
11 Birth to Eight.

12 2) The Council has the following objectives to support these goals:

- 13 a. Strengthen collaboration among governance entities that oversee
14 and coordinate subsystems;
- 15 b. Leverage funding streams to maximize resources;
- 16 c. Develop and implement a mechanism for cross-agency data
17 collection for monitoring and reporting;
- 18 d. Create cross-agency standards for child and family outcomes;
- 19 e. Define professional development structures to ensure an
20 appropriately skilled systems workforce; and
- 21 f. Expand awareness of and access to parent education and family
22 supports.

23 **(b). Roles and Responsibilities.**

24 1) The Council will oversee and ensure the effective and efficient
25 collaboration within Guam's Early Childhood Comprehensive System and is
26 empowered to:

- 27 a. Make recommendations on the most effective policy direction and

1 methods to improve the coordination, quality, and delivery of
2 quality health care and education services for young children on
3 Guam;

- 4 b. Critically examine and prioritize funding in support of child and
5 family outcomes;
- 6 c. Promote and support the acquisition of funding opportunities,
7 through government and private organizations, in support of the
8 overall vision and mission of the Early Childhood Comprehensive
9 System;
- 10 d. Provide input to the Strategic Management Team of Guam's Early
11 Childhood Comprehensive System to ensure the collaboration and
12 integration of data collection and evaluation, leveraging of
13 resources and funding, and public awareness and education on the
14 importance of early childhood;
- 15 e. Provide the Governor and Legislature with an annual "State of
16 Early Childhood Health and Education on Guam" Brief;
- 17 f. Establish policies and procedures for the efficient and effective
18 decision-making processes in support of their responsibilities; and
- 19 g. Regularly review goals and objectives to ensure they are
20 responsive and relevant to the evolving needs of Guam's youngest
21 children and their families.

22 2) Carry out the responsibilities mandated and outlined in the national
23 legislation, "Improving Head Start for School, Readiness Act of 2007" (P.L.
24 110-134), Section 642B and others assigned by the Governor of Guam."