

I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN  
2011 (FIRST) REGULAR SESSION

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Bill No. 198-31 (0A)

Introduced by:

Chris M. Dueñas  
A.A. Yamashita, Ph.D. *ay*

**AN ACT TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE 14 TO DIVISION 3 OF CHAPTER 15, TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR ECONOMICALLY-DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS; PROVIDING FUNDING SOURCES FOR THE PROGRAM; AND, CITING THIS ACT AS THE “EVERY CHILD IS ENTITLED TO A HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.”**

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

**Section 1. Legislative Intent.** A review of the financial assistance programs available to students planning to attend the University of Guam indicates two main themes -- academic achievement and awards based upon a concentration in a specific field of study. The “*Every Child is Entitled to a Higher Education Scholarship Program*” will continue to acknowledge academic achievement as a main theme and factor in the eligibility for assistance to be offered herein. However, its focus will be to provide economically-disadvantaged students with the ability to experience higher education in hopes that the students assisted will seek out other financial means to remain in school, determine a course of study, and complete a degree program. The emphasis of offering an enticement to experience higher education could be the difference between a person who needs to immediately work to support his family and who cannot afford the costs to attend the University of Guam, and a person who can be of greater benefit to his family with both an exposure to higher education and, perhaps, a college degree.

**Section 2. A new Article 14 is added to Division 3 of Chapter 15, Title 17, Guam Code Annotated to read:**

**“ARTICLE 14.  
“EVERY CHILD IS ENTITLED TO**

1                   ***A HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM***

2   § 151401.     The *Every Child is Entitled to a Higher Education Scholarship Program*: Creation.

3   § 151402.     Administration of Program.

4   § 151403.     Rules and Regulations.

5   § 151404.     Selection Committee.

6   § 151405.     Academic Advisor and Program Contract.

7   § 151406.     Scholarships.

8   § 151407.     Same: Benefits.

9   § 151408.     Reporting Requirements.

10 **§ 151401.     The *Every Child is Entitled to a Higher Education Scholarship Program*:**  
11 **Creation.** There is hereby created the *Every Child is Entitled to a Higher Education Scholarship*  
12 *Program*. Awards granted under this Article *shall* be granted for AY2012-2013 and thereafter.

13 **§ 151402.     Administration of Program.** The University of Guam Board of Regents *shall*  
14 administer this program pursuant to § 15102 of this Chapter.

15 **§ 151403.     Rules and Regulations.** All rules and regulations adopted *prior* to the enactment of  
16 this Article *shall* remain effective *unless* they are *amended or repealed* by the Board in a manner  
17 consistent with § 15105 of this Chapter.

18 **§ 151404.     Selection Committee.** (a) The President of the University *shall* annually establish an  
19 Evaluation and Selection Committee (the Committee). The Committee *shall* conduct interviews for  
20 the purpose of selecting scholarship recipients under the programs listed within this Article. The  
21 passing of the oral interviews and the meeting of established University of Guam entrance and  
22 academic requirements *shall* constitute the primary criteria for selection of scholarship recipients.  
23 The Board may prescribe additional qualifications for admission to the scholarship programs.

24           (b) Applications for the *Every Child is Entitled to a Higher Education Scholarship Program*  
25 *shall* be received by April 30 of every year and applicants *shall* be interviewed at a time and place  
26 designated by the Committee *prior* to June 30. Awards *shall* be granted *prior* to July 30 in a written  
27 notice to the selected applicant, and the applicant's school administrator, if applicable.

28 **§ 151405.     Academic Advisor and Program Contract.** Each program scholarship recipient  
29 *shall* have an academic advisor who, with the student, *shall* develop a complete academic plan that  
30 would result in the granting of the applicable degree within the prescribed period of time. This plan

1 shall be examined by the appropriate University official, as determined by the Board, and upon  
2 approval, shall constitute a contract between the student and the University.

3 **§ 151406. Scholarships.** The *Every Child is Entitled to a Higher Education Scholarship*  
4 *Program* shall consist of students who have declared their intention to attend the University of  
5 Guam. Scholarship may be awarded to eligible students who meet the following criteria:

6 (a) *bona fide* residents of Guam;

7 (b) citizens *or* permanent resident aliens of the United States;

8 (c) seniors *or* graduates of an accredited high school with a cumulative grade point  
9 average of *not less than* 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, *or* its equivalent;

10 (d) Official acceptance to the University of Guam in accordance with its admissions  
11 policies;

12 (e) Demonstrate financial need, which shall be determined by regulations authorized  
13 by § 15105 of Article 1 of this Chapter. In addition, the applicant must complete a 'Free Application  
14 for Federal Student Aid' ('FAFSA') form as documentary evidence of need;

15 **§ 151407. Same: Benefits.** (a) Students entitled to scholarships pursuant to § 151406 of this  
16 Article shall receive the following benefit: a scholarship in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars  
17 (\$5,000.00), issued in two (2) equal installments of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2500.00)  
18 each, with each installment payable at the beginning of the semester.

19 **§ 151408. Reporting Requirements.** A report shall be submitted to the Speaker of *I*  
20 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* no later than three (3) weeks after the start of each semester which, at the  
21 very least, shall contain the following information: the total number of recipients for that semester,  
22 sorted by new and continuing recipients; the total number of recipients that completed their degree  
23 program in the *prior* semester; the total amount expended for the *prior* semester for any activity  
24 related to the program; and any other information that *I Liheslatura* will deem helpful in the review  
25 of the program.”

26 **Section 3. Funding Sources.** Funding to administer and conduct the program in this  
27 Article may come from any or all of the following sources:

28 (a) direct appropriation by *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* for the express purpose of funding the  
29 program created by this Article;

30 (b) public investments from GEDA’s Qualifying Certificate Program, not already  
31 dedicated for a particular use;

- 1 (c) company donations to a “Qualified Tuition Program, also known as a 529 program”  
2 made available to eligible employees for re-investment and development; and  
3 (d) any other source of funding for which the use of money for the purposes herein is  
4 consistent with law.

5 The Program shall make every effort to award up to Five Hundred (500) scholarships annually.

6 **Section 4. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the “*Every Child is Entitled to a*  
7 *Higher Education Scholarship Program*”.

8 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment.