

MINA' BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN

TWENTY-NINTH GUAM LEGISLATURE

155 Hessler Place, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

December 31, 2008

The Honorable Felix P. Camacho I Maga'lahen Guåhan Ufisinan I Maga'lahi Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Maga'lahi Camacho:

Transmitted herewith are Bill Nos. 31(ÉC), 253(EC), 256(EC), 370(LS), 371(LS), 379(EC), 390(LS), 394(LS), & 403(LS); and Substitute Bill Nos. 225(LS), 248(LS), 305(EC), 314(EC), 368(LS), 389(LS) & 397(EC) which were passed by *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* on December 30, 2008.

Sincerely,

TINA ROSE MUNA BARNES

Senator and Secretary of the Legislature

Enclosures (16)

I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN 2008 (SECOND) Regular Session

CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO I MAGA'LAHEN GUÅHAN

This is to certify that **Bill No. 31 (EC)**, "AN ACT TO REINSTATE THE ONE-STEP MERIT PAY INCREASE FOR GRADUATES OF THE PEDRO 'DOC' SANCHEZ SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, THROUGH *AMENDING* SUBSECTION (e) AND *ADDING* A NEW SUBSECTION (g) TO §15906, ARTICLE 9, CHAPTER 15, TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED," was on the 30th day of December, 2008, duly and regularly passed.

I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN 2007 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 31 (EC)

As amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

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Frank F. Blas, Jr.

Edward J.B. Calvo
B. J.F. Cruz
James V. Espaldon
Mark Forbes
Judith P. Guthertz, DPA
Frank T. Ishizaki
J. A. Lujan
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
v. c. pangelinan
R. J. Respicio
Dr. David L.G. Shimizu
Ray Tenorio
J. T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

A. B. Palacios, Sr.

AN ACT TO REINSTATE THE ONE-STEP MERIT PAY INCREASE FOR GRADUATES OF THE PEDRO 'DOC' SANCHEZ SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, THROUGH AMENDING SUBSECTION (e) AND ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION (g) TO §15906, ARTICLE 9, CHAPTER 15, TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the economic condition of Guam is exhibiting some signs of improvement and increased business activity. This positive economic trend should enable the government of Guam to restore educational incentives which were created to encourage public employees to pursue higher education and training that will

enhance their service and contribution in the public sector. A particular incentive that was initially discontinued in 1998 as a result of austerity measures 2 implemented government-wide at the time was the merit pay increase for graduates of the Pedro "Doc" Sanchez Scholarship Program. 4

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This incentive benefit is the one-step merit pay adjustment for government of Guam employees who graduate under the Pedro "Doc" Sanchez Scholarship Graduates of the program receive a degree in Public or Business Program. Administration, with an assurance that the participating employee possesses the knowledge and skills to be effective and responsible public servants, thus deserving of a one-step merit pay increase. The goal of the Pedro "Doc" Sanchez Scholarship Program is to establish a workforce of well-educated and trained public administrators who will, upon completion of their degree, remain employed with the government of Guam and further apply their knowledge and expertise in their respective agencies. The net effect of this program would be a skilled and educated workforce that will provide more efficient and effective government services to the people of Guam.

Therefore, it is the intent of I Liheslaturan Guåhan to recognize the importance of insuring that the government of Guam continues to encourage its employees, in particular the supervisors and administrators, to pursue increased educational training opportunities through the Pedro "Doc" Sanchez Scholarship Program. In return, an incentive would be applied to the compensation of the employee through the restoration of a one-step merit pay increase.

Section 2. Subsection (e) of §15906, Article 9, Chapter 15, Title 17, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *amended* to read:

"(e) Upon the effective date of this Act, the grantee will be eligible for a mandatory pay merit increase upon graduation. The grantees entered into the program, as evidenced with the awarding of an undergraduate or graduate degree in Public Administration or Business Administration by the University of Guam, shall be entitled to receive a one-step merit pay raise from the department, agency, office, autonomous or semi-autonomous instrumentality of the government of Guam or the Judiciary in which he or she is employed effective FY2008 following official certification by the University of Guam that the grantee has completed all degree requirements.

Government Employees who were enrolled in the Pedro "Doc" Sanchez Scholarship Program and graduated with a degree between the enactment of Public Law 23-111 and the enactment of this Section who would otherwise have received the one-step merit pay raise, *shall* be entitled to the same incentive benefit, provided that the employee is an active employee at the time of enactment of this Section and the merit pay increase *shall not* be retroactive. Awarding of the one-step merit pay raise *shall* be subject to the availability of funds."

Section 3. A new subsection (g) is hereby *added* to §15906, Article 9, Chapter 15, Title 17, Guam Code Annotated, to read as follows:

"(g) The provisions of subsection (e) of this Section *shall not* apply to any new enrollees of the Pedro "Doc" Sanchez Program after December 31, 2008."