

VICE SPEAKER BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ
Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication
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I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THE 33RD GUAM LEGISLATURE
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NOV 21 2016

The Honorable Judith T. Won Pat
Speaker
I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan
33rd Guam Legislature
155 Hesler Place
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

VIA: The Honorable Rory J. Respicio
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

RE: Committee Report on Bill No. 317-33 (COR) As Amended by the Committee

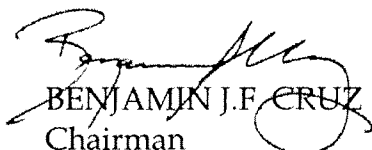
Dear Speaker Won Pat:

Transmitted herewith is the Report of the Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication on **Bill No. 317-33 (COR) As Amended by the Committee - D.G. Rodriguez, Jr. / B.T. McCreddie / T. R. Muña Barnes / R. J. Respicio**—"An act to authorize *I Maga'lahaen Guahan* to transfer up to Seventy Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$72,500) from any General Fund appropriation in Part IV of Chapter II, Parts II, III and IV of Chapter III, and Chapter V of Public Law 33-185 to the Department of Administration to fund Guam's proportionate share of its annual dues to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) for school year 2016-2017."

Committee votes are as follows:

3 TO DO PASS
____ TO NOT PASS
4 TO REPORT OUT ONLY
____ TO ABSTAIN
____ TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE

Sincerely,


BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ
Chairman

2016 NOV 21 10:24



COMMITTEE REPORT

Bill No. 317-33 (COR), As Amended by the Committee

“An act to authorize *I Maga'lahren Guahan* to transfer up to Seventy Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$72,500) from any General Fund appropriation in Part IV of Chapter II, Parts II, III and IV of Chapter III, and Chapter V of Public Law 33-185 to the Department of Administration to fund Guam’s proportionate share of its annual dues to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) for school year 2016-2017.”

VICE SPEAKER BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ

Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication
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I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guahan

THE 33RD GUAM LEGISLATURE

155 Hesler Place, Suite 107, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

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NOV 21 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Members
FROM: Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication

SUBJECT: Committee Report on Bill No. 317-33 (COR) As Amended by the Committee

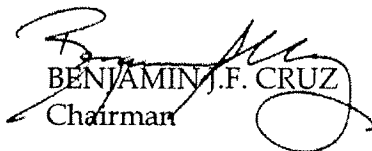
Transmitted herewith for your consideration is the Committee Report on **Bill No. 317-33 (COR) As Amended by the Committee** - D.G. Rodriguez, Jr. / B.T. McCreddie / T. R. Muña Barnes / R. J. Respicio--"An act to authorize *I Maga'lahen Guahan* to transfer up to Seventy Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$72,500) from any General Fund appropriation in Part IV of Chapter II, Parts II, III and IV of Chapter III, and Chapter V of Public Law 33-185 to the Department of Administration to fund Guam's proportionate share of its annual dues to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) for school year 2016-2017."

This report includes the following:

- Committee Vote Sheet
- Committee Report Digest
- Bill No. 317-33 (COR), As Introduced
- Bill No. 317-33 (COR), As Amended by the Committee
- Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet
- Copies of Submitted Testimony & Supporting Documents
- COR Referral of Bill No. 317-33 (COR)
- Fiscal Note Requirement
- Notices of Public Hearing
- Public Hearing Agenda
- Related News Reports

Please take the appropriate action on the attached voting sheet. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ
Chairman

SENATOR BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ, VICE SPEAKER

Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication
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I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THE THIRTY-THIRD GUAM LEGISLATURE

155 Hesler Place, Suite 107, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
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COMMITTEE VOTING SHEET

Bill No. 317-33 (COR) - D.G. Rodriguez, Jr. / B.T. McCreddie / T. R. Muña Barnes / R. J. Respicio- "An act to authorize *I Maga'lahren Guahan* to transfer up to Seventy Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$72,500) from any General Fund appropriation in Part IV of Chapter II, Parts II, III and IV of Chapter III, and Chapter V of Public Law 33-185 to the Department of Administration to fund Guam's proportionate share of its annual dues to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) for school year 2016-2017." - As Amended by the Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS	SIGNATURE	TO DO PASS	TO NOT PASS	TO REPORT OUT ONLY	TO ABSTAIN	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE
CRUZ, BENJAMIN J.F. Chairperson				✓		
AGUON, Jr., FRANK B. Vice Chairperson	4/18/16 	✓				
WON PAT, Ed.D., JUDITH T. Speaker and <i>Ex-Officio</i> Member						
MUÑA BARNES, TINA ROSE Member		✓				
RODRIGUEZ, Jr., DENNIS G. Member						
SAN NICOLAS, MICHAEL, F.Q. Member				✓		
UNDERWOOD, Ph.D., NERISSA B. Member				✓		
ADA, V. ANTHONY Member				✓		
MORRISON, THOMAS A. Member		✓				
TORRES, MARY C. Member						



COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

Bill No. 317-33 (COR), As Amended by the Committee - D.G. Rodriguez, Jr. / B.T. McCreadie / T. R. Muña Barnes / R. J. Respicio- "An act to authorize *I Maga'lahren Guahan* to transfer up to Seventy Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$72,500) from any General Fund appropriation in Part IV of Chapter II, Parts II, III and IV of Chapter III, and Chapter V of Public Law 33-185 to the Department of Administration to fund Guam's proportionate share of its annual dues to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) for school year 2016-2017."

I. OVERVIEW

Bill No. 317-33 (COR) was introduced by Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr. on May 13, 2016 and subsequently referred to the **Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication** on the same day.

The Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication convened a public hearing on Thursday, September 29, 2016, beginning at 5:00PM in the Guam Legislature Public Hearing Room. The hearing for **Bill No. 317-33 (COR)** began at 5:04 PM and ended at 6:42 PM.

Public Notice Requirements

All legal requirements for public notices were met, with requests for publication sent to all media and all Senators on September 21, 2016, and September 27, 2016, via email. Copies of the hearing notices are appended to the report.

Senators Present

Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz, Chairperson

Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr., Bill's Sponsor

Appeared Before the Committee

Dr. Robert A. Underwood, University of Guam, President

Mr. Rodney J. Jacob, Parent/Attorney, Calvo Fisher and Jacob

Mr. James Lujan, Treasurer, Guam Federation of Teachers

Mr. Marco Jacob, Student, Father Dueñas Memorial School

Mr. Michael Pangelinan, Parent

Mr. Bob Kelley, Director of College Guidance, St. John's School

Mr. Derick Baza Hills, 611 Tutorial

Dr. Nahalowaa, Project Director at the College Pathway Program, Guam Department of Education

Dr. Elizabeth Rosario, Counselor, George Washington High school

Mr. Eric B. Palacios, *Special Assistant to the Governor on Education, Environment and Natural Resources, Office of the Governor*

Mr. Luke Bukikosa, *Student, George Washington High School*

Mr. Glen Aguilar, *Student, George Washington High School*

Submitted Written Testimony

Dr. Robert A. Underwood, *University of Guam, President*

Mr. Rodney J. Jacob, *Parent/Attorney, Calvo Fisher and Jacob*

Mr. James Lujan, *Treasurer, Guam Federation of Teachers*

Mr. Marco Jacob, *Student, Father Dueñas Memorial School*

Mr. Joseph A. Garcia, *President, Western Interstate Commission of Higher Education*

Mr. Bob Kelley, *Director of College Guidance, St. John's School*

Mr. Derick Baza Hills, *611 Tutorial*

Dr. Leah Beth Nahalowaa, *Project Director at the College Pathway Program, Guam Department of Education*

Dr. Elizabeth Rosario, *Counselor, George Washington High school*

II. TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

Chairman Benjamin J.F. Cruz called the hearing to order and announced Bill No. 317-33 as the sole item on the agenda. He proceeded by allowing Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr. to make a sponsor statement as the main author of the bill.

Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.:

"Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for the opportunity to hear public testimony on Bill 317-33. Bill 317 is an act to appropriate up to seventy two thousand five hundred dollars (\$72,500) from the fiscal year 2017 General Fund revenues for Guam's membership into the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) relative to providing affordable tuition rates for Guam's undergraduate students at over 150 institutions who are part of the WICHE network.

Mr. Chairman, this was introduced early in the year, sometime around May in hopes that we could perhaps include it to the 2016 fiscal year budget. And so, I'll work with your committee, Mr. Chairman to make the determination where we will be able to perhaps identify a revenue source for this. Because as we all know, the fiscal 2017 budget is passed. And every dollar is accounted for, but we will work closely with you to identify where we can pull from.

I also want to recognize one of my interns who worked in my office during the summer, really, who really helped put this together is in the audience today, Mr.

Marco Jacob. Marco, thank you very much. He's a senior at Father Duenas. He worked in my office over the summer. And he took the lead in getting me to really buy into this, get excited about it, and move it forward.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, two years ago, this body asked a resolution supporting membership into WICHE. And so what this bill does is really taking us to the finish line and really get us to start getting our students here affordable tuition rates at public colleges especially those programs that are not offered here on Guam. I gotta say, University of Guam (UOG) is as they say the "natural choice." I have a 20-year-old daughter who is there her second year. [I'm] very proud that she's a UOG and that we'll continue to have that as our university and continue to support our university. But this really is really looking at the bigger picture and being able to get the students, and their parents who support them, affordable tuition rates and at the very end being able to come back home here and bear the fruits of their labor. So I look forward to the testimony for today. Thank you."

Chairman Cruz:

"Thank you. And I know that President Underwood has another commitment so I'll allow him to testify first and then excuse him."

President Robert A. Underwood:

"Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and Senator Rodriguez. And I really want to congratulate all the interest that is pretty obvious from the presence of students and congratulate them for their testimony."

Dr. Underwood proceeded to read from his written testimony (appended to this report)

Chairman Cruz thanked Dr. Underwood for his testimony and asked Senator Rodriguez if he had any questions. There being no questions, Chairman Cruz excused Dr. Underwood from the public hearing. The chairman then called on the next panel of speakers to provide testimony.

Mr. Rodney Jacob:

"Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you, Senator Rodriguez. It's very much appreciated you holding this hearing, considering what is a very important matter. First of all, a little bit of background. You can tell, this is my son, Marco Jacob. And as a dad, I have a lot of interest in this and you'll see a lot of moms and dads in the audience expressing their support because of a reality that

college costs a lot of money. And I'm going to show a presentation that gives, in a very brief time, an overview of the dangers of college debt and how WICHE addresses that in a way that I think everybody on Guam can get behind.

"I want to thank Dr. Underwood for supporting WICHE. I really think it's important to take the words to heart of his testimony that programs like this are about capacity building and when Mr. Chairman and your colleagues give some statistics, I want to point out a letter from WICHE itself, the president of WICHE, that's being submitted, has real important information in it about how WICHE furthers the goal. One of them is an interesting statistic about Guam itself which indicated that 26% of Guam residents hold associates degrees or higher. But the U.S. average is 39%. So it's important to work with all of our available institutions of higher learning: UOG and GCC. And those that give us capability, particularly, these 160 universities and colleges in the western United States. It is about capacity building. I want to say an amen to what Dr. Underwood expressed about their budget allocation, because it's really important about making sure that this priority of higher education is addressed in a really growing, struggling world.

"The other two things I just want you to know about my background is that I've sat on the Board of Regents at Georgetown University for six years. My term ended eighteen months ago. We, at that private university in Washington DC, were dealing with issues of fifty to sixty thousand dollars of just tuition, meaning private education could cost as much as a quarter of a million dollars for just a college degree. And that was very difficult for us as we knew that that was crushing the dreams of our kids. And consumer report just came out last month with this headline that says "I kind of ruined my life by going to college." And it's all about debt and the realities of that debt. And what we're trying to address.

"The last bit of background and you'll see how that ties in is that currently, I'm the chairman of the board of Xavier high school in Chuuk, which is a sixty year old iconic Jesuit catholic high school on the island of chuuk that has educated citizens of FSM and the region for a long time. And our struggle is how do we get those kids into 4-year schools? That offer important degrees that offer for our region. And you will be happy to find that WICHE has offered membership to all of the island governments in a way that will end up reducing our costs on Guam. So with that, let me turn to the screen

[Mr. Jacob begins referencing his PowerPoint Presentation (*slides appended to this report*)]:

"Some things that Senator Rodriguez wanted me to point out: Fact - Not all

programs and majors are available at all schools. You have to do your research. You have to go online and see what's available. Example: Unfortunately for Marco who's interested in University of Arizona, going back to where his grandpa went to school, the only school that's offered there is engineering. He may not sign up for engineering, so his degrees may have to look at another university. But for example, University of Las Vegas Nevada, they have almost any degree you can imagine. Hawaii is the same way. Colorado State, I looked at. Great programs like nano science, computer engineering, things like that. You have to be a great student to get this fabulous discount, so you have to search. But we did want to point out that for those who might think that everything is available at the university, that's not true. But there's a huge amount available in this program justifying its fee.

"The second is that some universities have caps. So people would need to go in and find out what that is and apply early. And last, I want to point out that I was very surprised that at the University of Hawaii, the Pacific Island scholarship exemption which I was Googling the other day, offers one hundred fifty percent in state tuition to students from the pacific islands. But I found out that Guam is exempted from the Pacific Island Scholarship exemption. So kids from as far away as, now we know because of FestPac, Wallace and Futuna Islands, literally can get one hundred fifty percent of University of Hawaii, and so can the CNMI, Samoa, and the FSM. This actually supplements that and gives us the same rates. Alright?

"And I also want to acknowledge the parents and the students who we've all been working with and my son Marco who's really my inspiration in doing this. And I want to thank Senator Rodriguez for bringing this bill to the floor and for Vice Speaker Cruz for letting us speak and giving us this consideration. It's very important; it's about capacity building, and it's about our future and I think that it's a wonderful opportunity and I hope this legislative body will adopt it. "

Chairman Cruz:

"Thank you. We'll get to the rest of the testimonies. Don't leave because we may have some questions. Mr. Lujan?"

Mr. James Lujan:

"Good evening, Senator Cruz and Senator Rodriguez. My name is James Lujan. I am with the Guam Federation of teachers and I believe I submitted a formal testimony of support of this bill. I'm also a candidate for the Guam Education Board this coming election 2016."

Mr. Lujan reads from his written testimony (*appended to this report*)

Mr. Lujan:

“In another note, speaking from my experience, reciprocity from the United States would be great for us not only because our kids can go to school over there and reap the rewards and benefits that the schools over there offer, but it also can extend back to us. And that’s what reciprocity is, that you share the benefits. And I believe that funding this bill would do exactly that in the future where we can set up our athletic programs, our social programs, for example band. People have talent on the island that can actually get scholarships from those universities. [They] are not just relying on scholarships from Guam, just being on the Top 10 of Merit. But they can actually apply using the talents that they have and in the same respect, we can probably be a feeder system to some of those schools, you know.

“And that would be good for our families which I believe the other islands are doing for their citizens, which is why they’re on Guam. And that’s the basis I’m looking at. It was hard for me, to go out there and go to school. I don’t come from a rich family, you know. I did it on my own, I raised money on my own, and I left. But it was still tough because I had to live to be able to go to school over there. So I feel for this bill. On a personal note, I want to extend congratulations to these kids who are trying to find a way to get educated. I hope they come back. Because that’s the whole mission of sending them out for better education. On the intelligent side of things, it would be good for Guam because then, we have the adults who will seek higher education and return. And I believe in terms of the academic world when you go around looking for jobs, you want that cloud having experience from different institutions not just one solely, unlike here on Guam.

“A good portion of adults getting there degree from the university end up getting their masters and their doctorates from the University of Guam not to say that that’s bad but the enrichment value pretty much stays the same, compared to leaving the island and getting themselves absorbed into different types of environments and communities out there and bringing back the knowledge to Guam. We always state that you know we need... our talent seems to leave and we seem to now want to hire anyone else but local. But we still look outside of Guam to absorb the better ways of doing things for our community. Maybe this is the way, the reciprocity. Is to get our kids to go out there and see what’s out there and bring it back, you know. Hopefully we can design a way that we can ensure that. Thank you.

Chairman Cruz:

“Thank you.”

Mr. Marco Jacob:

“Good evening, Vice Speaker. We have a letter from Guam’s Students to support Bill 317 for WICHE membership to support affordable tuition.”

Mr. Jacob reads from the students’ written testimony (*appended to this report*).

Mr. Jacob proceeds to read the testimony provided by WICHE President Joseph A. Garcia (*appended to this report*).

Chairman Cruz:

“Thank you very much for reading that into the record because I know the listening audience needed to know that information. Thank you for reading that into the record. It answered every question that I had. So...unless you had any questions, Senator Rodriguez...”

Senator Rodriguez:

“Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I just want to make it clear, too. Guam had a conditional approval. So I just want to get that into the record too that in terms of who would benefit, if and when we do pass this and get them the payment for the fee. Are the students in the system now, in terms of WICHE schools, going to benefit immediately? Is that to your understanding?”

Mr. Rodney Jacob:

“Well first of all, you expressed what I think is the good news. Guam’s membership has been approved separate to the funding. So CNMI did the hard work of membership and in the spring time, WICHE approved Guam’s subject to funding. So really all it is the payment of the funds and then we’re in. And the other question you asked is, who qualifies? 2017-18 freshmen for four years going forward. Those in the system do not automatically qualify but WICHE has given us assurances that they will encourage the institutions that enroll our students that are in the system, encourage them to avail of one time WUE discount because that’s joint.

“But to answer your question, it’s not for sure for those in the system, but they’ll

be a lot of help and a lot of momentum to get them in and I say we're better off with it trying to encourage scholarship money than without it, leaving them out there without option. Does that answer your question?"

Chairman Cruz:

"And I think this conditional membership with possibilities...I got an email from a parent who says that her daughter at [University of Hawaii at Manoa] is already getting the benefits. The parent was trying to figure out how that happened but she was glad and was supportive of the bill."

Mr. Rodney Jacob:

"That's terrific news. That's great news."

Chairman Cruz:

"It was: 'Not sure why but my daughter was already offered this program at UH seemingly without the need for the bill but I support it.'"

Senator Rodriguez:

"I think what may happen is that, if you go to the WICHE web site, Guam is already indicated as a member so if the admission office takes a look and goes, "Okay." And not know what the details are.

"I also just want to recognize Eric Palacios, who works with the Governor on Education and move this forward. After we did that resolution and working with you folks and really trying to get that application in, which is as WICHE understands is conditional and subject to disapproval as well."

Chairman Cruz:

"Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Lujan, Mr. Jacob, and Mr. Jacob. I have signed up to give oral testimony, Mr. Derick Baza Hills, Mr. Bob Kelley, and Mr. Pangelinan. Please. Why don't you go ahead and start, Mr. Pangelinan."

Mr. Michael Pangelinan:

"Thank you, Vice Speaker Cruz and Senator Rodriguez. I want to thank you very much for introducing this bill. I think the father and son team from the Jacob family really gave a presentation with so much detail that I don't really have a lot

to add in terms of substance. But just to give my own comment and support of this effort. Just my own personal experience, I've lived in Guam most of my life but I spent most of my school years in California where I lived, where I grew up. And I went to a public university in California.

"Because I was a California resident, I had in state tuition and my parents didn't have money to give for college so I had to put myself through school, for tuition and working full time. I was able to get through school and get my undergraduate degree without any debt. And I think when I look through that, it was a lot of hard work, and I think the reason I was able to do that was because I went to a public university with in state tuition. And I know a lot of stories from my friends who came from Guam and went to school in the states who didn't have that [outcome], you know, they came out of school with a lot of undergraduate debt. And I can't imagine that kind of debt. And just as Mr. Jacob has mentioned, the opportunities that you may have to pass up because you're focused on having choices in life based on money you're going to get paid just so you can afford to pay back what you owe. I look back at my experience and this legislation is...what's good about it is what it provides is tangible, immediate, and direct benefits to Guam families and it puts Guam kids in the same position I was in when I was a California resident and getting that benefit. They can have that benefit and they can choose from one hundred and fifty schools. Some of the best schools in the U.S. are public schools are on this WICHE list. And just to be able to have the opportunity and not be restricted, the type of work that you do, where you live, where you work, you have that freedom of choices based on what makes you happy and not how much money you're going to get paid in order to pay back you debt.

"So that being able to put Guam kids on an even playing field with kids throughout the U.S. was really the right way to go. It's such an immediate benefit, with a long term effect on their lives, on their futures, give them the freedom to come back to Guam and not have to worry about the particular salary they're looking to make when they return because they're going to have the freedom to choose. And I thank you again for introducing this and I look forward to hearing all the success stories as a result of this great bill that you've introduced. Thank you."

Chairman Cruz:

"It might have been a long time ago but when you were working at the court, you had one of those law clerks, I think you were there, who was only able to do one year with us because she went to go and work for a bigger firm in the states. Her debt was one hundred and ninety thousand dollars, \$190,000, fifteen years

ago.”

Mr. Pangelinan:

“I don’t know that particular person but I’ve heard a lot of similar stories. When I was going to school, in the early 90’s when I graduated, tuition wasn’t nearly what they are now. I can’t even imagine.”

Chairman Cruz:

“I remember when you were clerking, I thought you left about the same time I did. And I thought maybe you remembered that one student who wanted to stay but couldn’t afford to stay with the salary here because her debt was one hundred ninety. And I’ve been hearing now that there are some with over two hundred thousand [in debt].”

Mr. Bob Kelley:

“They spend the rest of their careers trying to pay back...”

Chairman Cruz prompted Mr. Kelley to testify.

Mr. Kelley:

“Thank you, Vice Speaker, thank you Senator Rodriguez. I’ve submitted written testimony and both young Mr. Jacob and Mr. Jacob did a wonderful job of outlining what I had there at the risk of skipping the written testimony. I’m the Assistant Head of School at St. John’s School but for eighteen years, I’ve been the Director of College Guidance there. So I’ve been involved in getting kids into college for a long time and helping them pay. And a couple of the caviats that Mr. Jacobs outlined that not all schools offer all of the majors. I was able to contact some of my colleagues of the other schools on the island, and get some interesting information. At St. John’s, our most popular western public schools aren’t actually on the list are University of California, with the exception of UC Mers*** [audio incomprehensible] and University of Washington, do not participate, but obviously, if we had this tuition benefit some of those places, some of those applications will be diverted.

“The past four years we’ve had three students attend a participating schools, New Mexico State, UH Hilo, Southern Utah University. Notre Dame, reports that over the past five years, they’ve had 11 students attend 6 of the participating. And I don’t actually know which majors those kids are in in Notre Dame. The

other schools...I only spoke to Senator Rodriguez about this this week. The other schools haven't gotten their statistics back to me, but I will update you as soon as get those statistics. So already, that's 14 kids who would be at those schools. And the one concern that some might have would be the impact on UOG. Would our students then leave UOG and try to attend some of these schools? That's always difficult to say.

"I did speak to the counselor at Okkodo high school, and Okkodo has a large enrollment at UOG. One of the largest public high schools enrolled at UOG and she's under the belief, as Mr. Jacobs pointed out, that annually, savings at UH Manoa would be 15,000 dollars, which would still mean a cost of 30,000 dollars, for an out of state kid would 45,000 dollars. With the savings of 15,000, the overall cost of attendance would still be 30,000 dollars and there would still be other financial aid that would be available to them, but that still may be too much for some of the kids from economically depressed areas and UOG would still have enrollment from those. As what President Underwood and Mr. Jacobs pointed out, there's still plenty of other programs besides the WICHE, and those would include the graduate program. You two just discussed the relief from two other programs. Three or four of the lawyers here are from UH law school. That could save dramatic amounts of money there. But also the access to other research, the access to other programs that would be for administrators and other education management officials would be phenomenal as well. The 72,500 dollar expense, I think would be easily justified if you look at the savings and the access to other programs."

Chairman Cruz:

"Thank you very much and thank you for your initial research. I'm sure the academy can speak for itself and FD can give you their stats and that should cover about everybody except Harvest. But thank you for your testimony. Mr. Hills."

Mr. Derick Baza Hills:

"I'm neither opposed or in support of the bill."

Mr. Hills proceeded to read from his written testimony (*appended to this report*).

Chairman Cruz:

"Thank you very much. A number of people marked their support for the bill. Are there any others who wish to provide oral testimony at this time? You're

more than welcome to come up. Mr. Palacios. Dr. Elizabeth. And Leah Beth. Go ahead."

Dr. Leah Beth Nahalowaa:

"Good evening Vice Speaker and Senator Rodriguez. Thank you for allowing us to be here. I am Dr. Nahalowaa, Project Director at the College Pathway Program at GDOE. And we are very excited to support this bill. And our question was, why we only found out about this program now. As you know, this is the second year we've had our college fair. Last year we had 1000 participants attended our college fair and this year, another 1000 and we exposed them to different colleges. By knowing this program, we now have the opportunity to explore and explain to students the opportunities to go to college. I myself have 140,000 in student loans that I have to pay. And I hope our students won't let my experience happen to them. When this opportunity was brought to us by attorney Jacobs, our counselors talked about it and we're very supportive and we're very... each counselors from our [GDOE] schools will provide this to our students so that they will have the opportunity to apply to these schools. And whenever I talk to my students and advise them about college, I always let them know to go to public universities because it's cheaper and they don't have to get into a lot of student debt. So for today we have our counselor from GW High to provide testimony on this bill, Dr. Rosario."

Dr. Elizabeth Rosario reads from her written testimony (*appended to this report*)

Chairman Cruz: Thank you very much.

Unidentified Parent [name not found in sign-in sheet]:

"Good evening, Vice Speaker Cruz and Senator Rodriguez. My name is Lea (*audio incomprehensible*) and I'm here to represent the moms really that are in favor of having this program set up on Guam. Today, I stand before you to strongly recommend that Guam be part of this program. I am a proud graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa and also took advantage of the decrease in tuition at the time that it was made available to students on Guam. Sadly, that is not the case anymore and I consider myself lucky to have been able to finish at the University of Hawaii at the time when the University of Guam was struggling with accreditation and I remember this very well.

"That's why there were many of us students that left Guam and went to Hawaii and took advantage of that. So I wanted to make sure of that a long time ago. Currently I am a mother of two boys attending JFK High. One is a sophomore

and one is a senior. So bear with me as I talk about my children because I think this is relevant for what we are trying to prove here, to testify. My son Jonathan is a gifted award-winning student with a promising future. He is best known for his artwork and has even placed nationally in the 2012-2013 Lion's Club International Peace Poster Contest, placing 7th among other children around the world. It was truly a great achievement for Guam and himself. He has a GPA of 4.0 and he is active in many extracurricular activities as well as sports, basketball in particular, and has had good grades in science and math, acing his chemistry class and all his algebra classes last year and is currently taking calculus. He is currently president of the chemistry club. He is on the road to a bright future and my husband and I have proudly stood by him and are supporting him during those school years.

"Many people admire him for his achievements. With his achievements, we see where his strengths lay and I am amazed by how far he's come. As you can imagine, we are looking at what options we have at where to send him for college. The cost of college is extremely high in all the top schools we would like to send him and have him attend. He has expressed interest in architectural engineering. And with his technical skills and academic achievements, he's quite the candidate to successfully finish his bachelor's degree with that major. Unfortunately, the reality of funding these top level schools may not happen. We had considered UOG but sadly that major is not offered here. Guam has an abundant smart and talented college bound students. Many of these students are in the same situation as my son. There is a lack of majors offered for those who want to pursue majors like architectural engineering. Parents who work hard and prioritize their kids' education need to have options on how to afford college in off island schools. What can we do? How can we afford the best education? If I could make it happen, it would cost my son Jonathan 200,000 that offer a bachelor's degree in architectural engineering. How is this possible? Grants? Scholarships? Financial aid? It isn't easy. Our island is underserved in so many areas.

"We need to capitalize on our incredible children that can contribute to Guam and can earn their degrees off island. These academically gifted students work hard and are assets to our island. Therefore we should invest in them. This bill will allow families to give their children the best education possible by making it affordable to send them to colleges that provide the education they so desire. They are the future of our island and will give back in so many ways. In two years, my son Nicholas will be in college. You can imagine how that stressed me out. So it'll be an even more challenging task to be able to afford two children going to college at the same time. With your support of this bill, parents like myself will feel confident that we have done the best job that we could do to

encourage the best and the brightest that Guam has to offer. After all, our children are our future. I ask that you make these dreams a reality. Please support this bill that would provide the means for our children to achieve their goals and make their dreams a reality. Thank you."

Chairman Cruz:

"Thank you very much for your testimony, on behalf of all mothers. Many of them back there are nodding their heads and beaming."

Mr. Eric B. Palacios:

"That's a hard act to follow... But in my official capacity by Governor Calvo as Special Assistant on Education, and one of the first tasks I undertook when I assumed that position, was to work with Senator Rodriguez and Mr. Jacobs to explore the possibility of Guam's membership in WICHE. It didn't take long for me to know the number of benefits that would result of Guam's membership. The list goes on and on, many people before me have eloquently stated the [advantages] of Guam's membership. I am the proud father of two soon-to-be UOG Tritons. And I still see all the benefits that Guam's membership to WICHE will bring to our island and to our kids. The students sitting behind me and the hundred who are not here tonight. There are just too many good reasons to not support and provide funding so that Guam can become officially part of WICHE and with that, I just want to reiterate my support of the membership and I hope that this body approves passage of this bill. Thank you."

Chairman Cruz:

"Thank you very much. And thank you [to the rest of the panel] for serving as counselors to our schools. Are there any students? Come on up. I was hoping to hear from some students."

Mr. Luke Bukikosa:

"Sorry, I apologize if I sound unprofessional, I just found out about this yesterday so I'm going off of improvising. My name is Luke Bukikosa and I am a sophomore at GW and I'm here to represent all students from public, private, and home schools. First off, I want to bring up something my counselor brought up, which is that the tuition rates have increased by 225% since the 1950's. Now I know that back in the day, it may not have been very expensive, but to families these days in high cost of living areas, 225% is a lot. Second of all, I'm not here to argue with Mr. Hills who brought up how important UOG and GCC is, one of

the main reasons why our legislators should approve of this bill is the availability of majors. [Mr. Bukikosa reads from the list of majors offered at UOG.] Next of all, a little bit of personal experience. My sister is 24 years old. She actually had to pass up going to the stateside schools because our family is too high [in the income bracket] and her GPA wasn't high enough to be accepted in the Top 10 [Merit Program]. There are families whose income is not low enough to have these scholarships available to them. Like I don't want to point any fingers but let's say these kids from academy, the kids at FD, the kids are harvest, their parents normally make a higher average income than kids at the public schools. It's such a competitive environment. Because you have almost 150 students vying for spots and out of the 10 maybe on 5 or 3. How many of them would actually get the scholarship? And how much of the tuition does the scholarship actually cover? So please keep that in mind. Thank you.

Chairman Cruz:

"For someone claiming to be unprepared and unprofessional, I think Mr. Jacobs is ready to hire you at his firm. If you don't, we'll have to grab him someplace else, Rodney. That was excellent presentation, young man."

Mr. Glen Aguilar:

"Hello Senator and Vice Speaker. I'm Glen Aguilar and I'm currently a senior at GW. In a few months, I will be going off to college. My testimony is more on a personal note. I'm also the vice president of our environmental club, Marine Mania. I'm also a member of NHS. Among that, I keep up with my grades, straight A's. and I do participate in sports. I'm a very active person. But that is all in hopes that I will get some sort of scholarship to go to an off island college. Although UOG is a more than acceptable, they don't offer the major I want to pursue, which is engineering. They only have a pre engineering course. So ultimately, I'm forced to think of off island choices. Also, I'm not the first person in my family to go to college. Already I have a sister, who's 21, that is going to college at the art institute in Orange County.

"Already, I see the struggles my parents go through paying for my sister's tuition and room and board and all of the expenses. And recently, it came to the point where I had to contribute a little bit just so she is able to live. So yes, it has become a struggle to my family. And that is why I support this bill. I may not be able to cover my total cost of attendance to college off island, but I do hope WICHE will help in this. Thank you."

Chairman Cruz:

"Thank you very much. Any other students? All of you sat here an hour and half and none you want to speak? Any of the teachers? Did you want to come back up, Rodney? Okay."

Mr. Rodney Jacobs:

"I just want to address one timing issue. Now, it's October 1st, on Saturday. This is prime time for college applications. And so if there was any way that the legislature can consider this so that this year's students could know that applying to WICHE schools is a realistic option for them. I think it would be important because college application deadlines usually run around January 1st. so it would be this time period that the class of 2017 really have to be making decisions about their applications.

"And one thing senator Rodriguez asked me was "What happens to kids that are already in the system?" is that that's up to the institution to decide whether they're going to get the benefits, say when they're sophomores [in college]. I would just like the legislature to consider this before January 1st so that our students will know that they can apply to these institutions to avail of the benefits."

Chairman Cruz:

"No, I know. I was trying to find a text message my sister sent me. She said my mother kept all the letters I received when I was in college, and one of the letters was saved from 1969 or 1970 was a typed note from my sister, saying enclosed was the \$10 for the week. I just want to share that with the kids. It has gone up more than 225%. I don't know who's statistics those were. It was 225% when I went to school and that was not in the 50's.

"The other thing I wanted to suggest to all of you is that go to PBS.org and pull up front line from last night, there was an hour and half presentation on the candidates from 2015, talking about the debt. One of the statistics was... what do you think the main concern, the number one concern of students going to college? Food. They're just not able to eat. And one of the statistics says that a huge percentage of college students in the states are homeless. If you want to know how lucky we are, watch the Frontline story from last night and pull up the statistics.

"Thank you everyone for coming. And to all the teachers, principals, and counselors, thank you for all that you do for our students. To all the young people out here, keep up the good work. Make your parents, your school, your

teachers, and our island proud. And remember, regardless or not it is a WICHE scholarship or anything, come back. Okay? Thank you very much. Senator Rodriguez? Your closing statement.”

Senator Rodriguez:

“Just thank you again, Mr. Chairman for allowing this tonight. To everyone, thank you. To the student, gosh, you really inspire me. Especially these last two gentlemen who spoke, for all the work we put into this. It took some emotion out because you didn’t really know where people stood. When you look at the bigger picture, this is something that’s good for the community, but some of the concerns brought up about what this might legitimately do to UOG was something I had to also think about and really consider that.

“But looking at the bigger picture, Mr. Lujan was right, when it’s hiring our own people, we end up bringing people in from off island. But what we offer our kids and hoping they come back, that’s the agreement my wife and I have with our daughter. She’s been pre pharmacy here and when she goes, the deal is you must come back. We’ll support you as much as we could and we made her sign that in blood. As what the vice speaker would say. But again thank you and we’ll work with the vice speaker in getting this out as soon as possible. Thank you.”

On account that there were no further questions nor testimonies, **Chairman Cruz** considered Bill No. 317-33 (COR) heard.

III. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon review of Bill No. 317-33 (COR), As Introduced, the Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication found that Fiscal Year 2017 General Fund Revenues, the proposed source of funding for the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education’s (WICHE) membership fee, was already appropriated with the enactment of Public Law 33-185 on September 10, 2016.

Therefore, the Committee amended the measure’s language to authorize the Governor of Guam to transfer from any General Fund appropriation in Part IV of Chapter II, Parts II, III and IV of Chapter III, and Chapter V of Public Law 33-185 for the \$72,500 membership fee—ensuring Guam’s proportionate share of its annual dues to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

The amended measure attached hereto reflect the following changes:

- The short title is amended as follows:

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE *I MAGA'LAHEN GUAHAN* TO TRANSFER UP TO SEVENTY TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$72,500) FROM ANY GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION IN PART IV OF CHAPTER II, PARTS II, III, AND IV OF CHAPTER III, AND CHAPTER V OF PUBLIC LAW 33-185 TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION TO FUND GUAM'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF ITS ANNUAL DUES TO THE WESTERN INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2016-2017.

- Section 3 of Bill No. 317-33 is amended to read:





"Section 3. Funding Source. *I Maga'lahaen Guahan* is authorized to transfer the sum not to exceed Seventy Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$72,500) from any General Fund appropriation in Part IV of Chapter II, Parts II, III and IV of Chapter III, and Chapter V of Public Law 33-185 to the Department of Administration to fund Guam's proportionate share of its annual dues to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education for school year 2016-2017. Payments to WICHE shall be made no later than December 31, 2016 for Guam's first year membership. The Department of Administration shall, beginning Fiscal Year 2018 submit as a separate line item on its annual budget request the funds necessary to continue Guam's membership into WICHE."

The Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication to which was referred **Bill No. 317-33 (COR)** – D.G. Rodriguez, Jr. / B.T. McCreadie / T. R. Muña Barnes / R. J. Respicio—"An act to authorize *I Maga'lahaen Guahan* to transfer up to Seventy Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$72,500) from any General Fund appropriation in Part IV of Chapter II, Parts II, III and IV of Chapter III, and Chapter V of Public Law 33-185 to the Department of Administration to fund Guam's proportionate share of its annual dues to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) for school year 2016-2017. hereby submits these findings to *I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guahan* and reports out **Bill No. 317-33 (COR)**, **As Amended by the Committee**, with a recommendation TO Report out only.

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

Bill No. 517 -33 ^(cor)

Introduced by:

D.G. RODRIGUEZ, JR. 
B.T. MCCREADIE 
T.R. MUÑA-BARNES 
R.J. RESPICIO 

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE UP TO SEVENTY TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$72,500) FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 GENERAL FUND REVENUES FOR GUAM'S MEMBERSHIP INTO THE WESTERN INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (WICHE) RELATIVE TO PROVIDING AFFORDABLE TUITION RATES FOR GUAM'S UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AT OVER 150 INSTITUTIONS WHO ARE PART OF THE WICHE NETWORK.

2016 MAY 13 PM 1:06 

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 that for six decades the Western Interstate for Higher Education (WICHE) is a
4 regional non-profit organization created by the Western Regional Education Compact
5 to facilitate resource sharing among the higher education systems of western states
6 and to increase accessibility of educational opportunities for students living in
7 WICHE member states and territories. Guam has the opportunity to join New
8 Mexico, Montana, Arizona, Utah, Oregon, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Alaska,
9 Washington, California, Nevada, Hawaii, North Dakota, South Dakota and the
10 CNMI, most of whom have been members since the 1950s, to further these
11 endeavors. Under the Compact, each state commits to support WICHE's operation
12 through annual dues established by the Commission. Member states will be able to
13 benefit by providing undergraduate student residents access to the Western

1 Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) Program. The WUE Program provides a reduced
2 tuition at no more than 150% of the resident tuition rate at over 150 participating two
3 and four year public institutions to all residents of member states. The normal tuition
4 rates for out of state residents of these institutions are at least double or more the
5 resident tuition rates. Graduate students are eligible for resident tuition for numerous
6 educational programs through the WICHE consortium. As a member, our
7 community will have access to following Student Exchange Programs: the Western
8 Undergraduate Exchange (WUE), the Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP),
9 the Professional Student Exchange (PSEP) and WICHE Internet Course Exchange
10 (WICHE ICE).

11 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that WICHE has already undergone the
12 process for approval and has approved membership for the Pacific Island Territories
13 and the Freely Associated State governments. The Commonwealth of the Northern
14 Marianas (CNMI) government is the only island government to join under the
15 Pacific Island Territories and has essentially paved the way for other territories such
16 as Guam to gain approval and membership into WICHE. The annual dues for
17 membership for all Pacific Island Territories and FSM governments is \$145,000,
18 which can be divided proportionately by governments as they join. As the only
19 government to join as a Pacific Island Territory, the CNMI pays an annual due of
20 \$145,000. In its first year, the CNMI savings for 19 students was \$165,000. With
21 Guam's potential membership into WICHE, the annual dues will be split with the
22 CNMI, thereby requiring the government of Guam to annually commit no more than
23 \$72,500.00. It is estimated that Guam will potentially have more than the 19 students
24 the CNMI has enrolled and therefore the savings to Guam students will outweigh
25 the investment of Guam's annual dues. Moreover, for an additional of \$15,000 per
26 member (split proportionally), Guam will be eligible to the benefits under the

1 WICHE Mental Health Program whose mission is 1) to assist members in improving
2 systems of care for mental health consumers and their families, and 2) to advance
3 the preparation of a qualified mental health workforce in the West. Guam has
4 benefitted from WICHE training to support objectives for federal system
5 improvement grants and training in suicide prevention and Mental Health First Aid
6 as well as consultation on accreditation options for inpatient/residential treatment in
7 the past. Membership will permit our community to access WICHE's technical
8 assistance and consultation services under its Mental Health Program.

9 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that the 32nd Guam Legislature passed on
10 February 1, 2014 Resolution 234-32 (COR) relative to supporting Guam's
11 application for membership in the Western Interstate Commission for Higher
12 Education. The unanimously adopted Resolution 234-32 (COR) resolved the people
13 of Guam's support to become active members of WICHE and further urged the
14 government of Guam to work with WICHE to cement Guam's status as a WICHE
15 member.

16 It is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to enter Guam into the Western
17 Interstate Commission for Higher Education, beginning in school year 2016 - 2017
18 in order to provide the opportunity for Guam's students to enroll in two and four
19 year programs by paying no more than 150% of resident tuition rates at participating
20 WICHE institutions, providing resident rate tuition for multiple graduate programs
21 and providing access under all of the Student Exchange Programs (WUE, WRGP,
22 PSEP and WICHE ICE) provided to members under WICHE.

23 It is further the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to join with the CNMI
24 government in order to split the approximately \$145,000 annual dues and to
25 welcome other Pacific Island Territories and Freely Associated State governments
26 to participate in subsequent school years.

1 **Section 2. Guam’s Membership into WICHE.** The Director of the
2 Department of Administration *shall* submit necessary documents, no later than June
3 15, 2016 Guam’s to join the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
4 for beginning school year 2016-2017 as a co-member with the government of the
5 Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island. Guam’s membership shall
6 continue on an annual basis and its proportionate share be adjusted downward with
7 the eventual inclusion of other government’s from the Pacific Island Territories and
8 the Freely Associated States.

9 **Section 3. Appropriation.** The sum not to exceed Seventy Two Thousand
10 Five Hundred Dollars (\$72,500) is hereby appropriated from the Fiscal Year 2017
11 General Fund revenues to the Department of Administration to fund Guam’s
12 proportionate share of its annual dues to the Western Interstate Commission for
13 Higher Education for school year 2016-2017. Payment to WICHE *shall* be made no
14 later than December 31, 2016 for Guam’s first year membership. The Department
15 of Administration shall, beginning in Fiscal Year 2018 submit as a separate line item
16 on its annual budget request the funds necessary to continue Guam’s membership
17 into WICHE.

18 **Section 4. Statistics Report.** The Director of the Department of
19 Administration *shall* formulate a report that provides statistics on the number of
20 Guam students who have enrolled in participating WICHE institutions and the
21 amount of savings each student has saved as a result of the reduced tuition rate. The
22 Statistics Report shall be transmitted to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* on an
23 annual basis.

24 **Section 5. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
25 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity shall
26 not affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without

- 1 the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are
- 2 severable.

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

Bill No. 317-33 (COR)
As Amended by the Committee on
Appropriations and Adjudication

Introduced by:

D.G. RODRIGUEZ, JR.
B.T. MCCREADIE
T.R. MUÑA-BARNES
R.J. RESPICIO

**AN ACT TO AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE *I MAGA'LAHEN*
GUAHAN TO TRANSFER UP TO SEVENTY TWO
THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$72,500) FROM
ANY GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION IN PART IV OF
CHAPTER II, PARTS II, III, AND IV OF CHAPTER III, AND
CHAPTER V OF PUBLIC LAW 33-185 TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION TO FUND GUAM'S
PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF ITS ANNUAL DUES TO THE
WESTERN INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR HIGHER
EDUCATION FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2016-2017.**

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

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3 that for six decades the Western Interstate for Higher Education (WICHE) is a
4 regional non-profit organization created by the Western Regional Education
5 Compact to facilitate resource sharing among the higher education systems of
6 western states and to increase accessibility of educational opportunities for students
7 living in WICHE member states and territories. Guam has the opportunity to join
8 New Mexico, Montana, Arizona, Utah, Oregon, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho,
9 Alaska, Washington, California, Nevada, Hawaii, North Dakota, South Dakota and
10 the CNMI, most of whom have been members since the 1950s, to further these
11 endeavors. Under the Compact, each state commits to support WICHE's operation

1 through annual dues established by the Commission. Member states will be able to
2 benefit by providing undergraduate student residents access to the Western
3 Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) Program. The WUE Program provides a reduced
4 tuition at no more than 150% of the resident tuition rate at over 150 participating
5 two and four year public institutions to all residents of member states. The normal
6 tuition rates for out of state residents of these institutions are at least double or more
7 the resident tuition rates. Graduate students are eligible for resident tuition for
8 numerous educational programs through the WICHE consortium. As a member,
9 our community will have access to following Student Exchange Programs: the
10 Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE), the Western Regional Graduate Program
11 (WRGP), the Professional Student Exchange (PSEP) and WICHE Internet Course
12 Exchange (WICHE ICE).

13 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that WICHE has already undergone the
14 process for approval and has approved membership for the Pacific Island
15 Territories and the Freely Associated State governments. The Commonwealth of
16 the Northern Marianas (CNMI) government is the only island government to join
17 under the Pacific Island Territories and has essentially paved the way for other
18 territories such as Guam to gain approval and membership into WICHE. The
19 annual dues for membership for all Pacific Island Territories and FSM
20 governments is \$145,000, which can be divided proportionately by governments as
21 they join. As the only government to join as a Pacific Island Territory, the CNMI
22 pays an annual due of \$145,000. In its first year, the CNMI savings for 19 students
23 was \$165,000. With Guam's potential membership into WICHE, the annual dues
24 will be split with the CNMI, thereby requiring the government of Guam to
25 annually commit no more than \$72,500.00. It is estimated that Guam will
26 potentially have more than the 19 students the CNMI has enrolled and therefore the

1 savings to Guam students will outweigh the investment of Guam's annual dues.
2 Moreover, for an additional of \$15,000 per member (split proportionally), Guam
3 will be eligible to the benefits under the WICHE Mental Health Program whose
4 mission is 1) to assist members in improving systems of care for mental health
5 consumers and their families, and 2) to advance the preparation of a qualified
6 mental health workforce in the West. Guam has benefitted from WICHE training
7 to support objectives for federal system improvement grants and training in suicide
8 prevention and Mental Health First Aid as well as consultation on accreditation
9 options for inpatient/residential treatment in the past. Membership will permit our
10 community to access WICHE's technical assistance and consultation services
11 under its Mental Health Program.

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14 application for membership in the Western Interstate Commission for Higher
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16 people of Guam's support to become active members of WICHE and further urged
17 the government of Guam to work with WICHE to cement Guam's status as a
18 WICHE member.

19 It is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to enter Guam into the Western
20 Interstate Commission for Higher Education, beginning in school year 2016 - 2017
21 in order to provide the opportunity for Guam's students to enroll in two and four
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23 participating WICHE institutions, providing resident rate tuition for multiple
24 graduate programs and providing access under all of the Student Exchange
25 Programs (WUE, WRGP, PSEP and WICHE ICE) provided to members under
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2 government in order to split the approximately \$145,000 annual dues and to
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4 to participate in subsequent school years.

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8 Education for beginning school year 2016-2017 as a co-member with the
9 government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island. Guam’s
10 membership shall continue on an annual basis and its proportionate share be
11 adjusted downward with the eventual inclusion of other government’s from the
12 Pacific Island Territories and the Freely Associated States.

13 **Section 3. Funding Source.** *I Maga'lahren Guahan* is authorized to transfer
14 the sum not to exceed Seventy Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$72,500)
15 from any General Fund appropriation in Part IV of Chapter II, Parts II, III and IV
16 of Chapter III, and Chapter V of Public Law 33-185 to the Department of
17 Administration to fund Guam's proportionate share of its annual dues to the
18 Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education for school year 2016-2017.
19 Payments to WICHE shall be made no later than December 31, 2016 for Guam's
20 first year membership. The Department of Administration shall, beginning Fiscal
21 Year 2018 submit as a separate line item on its annual budget request the funds
22 necessary to continue Guam’s membership into WICHE.

23 **Section 4. Statistics Report.** The Director of the Department of
24 Administration *shall* formulate a report that provides statistics on the number of
25 Guam students who have enrolled in participating WICHE institutions and the
26 amount of savings each student has saved as a result of the reduced tuition rate.

1 The Statistics Report shall be transmitted to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*
2 on an annual basis.

3 **Section 5. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to
4 any person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such
5 invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be
6 given effect without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the
7 provisions of this Act are severable.

SENATOR BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ, VICE SPEAKER

Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication
 senator@senatorbjcruz.com | www.senatorbjcruz.com



I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guahan
THE THIRTY-THIRD GUAM LEGISLATURE

155 Hesler Place, Suite 107, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
 T: (671) 477-2520/1 | F: (671) 477-2522

PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-IN SHEET

5:00 PM, Thursday, September 29, 2016
 Guam Legislature Public Hearing Room • Hagåtña, Guam

Bill No. 317-33 (COR) - D.G. Rodriguez, Jr. / B.T. McCreddie / T. R. Muña Barnes / R. J. Respicio - "An act to appropriate up to seventy two thousand five hundred dollars (\$72,500) from the fiscal year 2017 General Fund revenues for Guam's membership into the Western Insterstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) relative to providing affordable tuition rates for Guam's undergraduate students at over 150 institutions who are part of the WICHE network."

NAME	AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION	POSITION		TESTIMONY		PHONE NO.	EMAIL ADDRESS
		SUPPORT	OPPOSE	WRITTEN	ORAL		
RODNEY JACOB		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	646 9355	
Dr. ROBERT UNDERWOOD	UOG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	735-2990	
James LeDunn	GFT / Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	488 3761	
PETER MONTAUDUA	PARENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	687-1982	
DINA JACOB	PARENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	788-1198	
Arlene Dalmacio	parent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	689-0821	
Marco Jacob	student	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	686-3710	
Dana Dalmacio	Student	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	689-1272	dalmaciobdunn@yahoo.com
Jaycie Chan	student	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	489-6000	
Alfred Bardallo	student	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	489-3550	alfredbardallo@gmail.com
Isidro Orut	student	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	486-7436	
Jeff Maasban	student	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	988-6680	
Christopher Reyes	student	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	487-6405	cgrreyes@gmail.com
Frezza Gombolal	Student	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	487-8813	frezza44@gmail.com

SENATOR BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ, VICE SPEAKER

Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication
 senator@senatorbjcruz.com | www.senatorbjcruz.com



I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THE THIRTY-THIRD GUAM LEGISLATURE

155 Hesler Place, Suite 107, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
 T: (671) 477-2520/1 | F: (671) 477-2522

PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-IN SHEET

5:00 PM, Thursday, September 29, 2016

Guam Legislature Public Hearing Room • Hagåtña, Guam

Bill No. 317-33 (COR) - D.G. Rodriguez, Jr. / B.T. McCreddie / T. R. Muña Barnes / R. J. Respicio - "An act to appropriate up to seventy two thousand five hundred dollars (\$72,500) from the fiscal year 2017 General Fund revenues for Guam's membership into the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) relative to providing affordable tuition rates for Guam's undergraduate students at over 150 institutions who are part of the WICHE network."

NAME	AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION	POSITION		TESTIMONY		PHONE NO.	EMAIL ADDRESS
		SUPPORT	OPPOSE	WRITTEN	ORAL		
Gabrielle K. Gonzaga	AOLG NHS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	988-638	gabriele_gonzaga2399@ymail.com
DERICK BAZA HTIS	G71 TUTORIAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	978-4969	clerickhtis@111up.com
Paula Manaloto	AOLG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		paulamanaloto@yahoo.com
Julia Natori	AOLG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Euriah Patacill	AOLG STUDIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		euriah0704@gmail.com
Angelika Nulu	AOLG NHS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Angelika.nulu@hotmail.com
J. Robert Kelley	St. John's School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	788-7231	jkelly@stjohnsguam.com
Liz Mendiga	PARENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7975536	lizmendez@gmail.com
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7975536	lizmendez@gmail.com
MICHAEL PANGELINAN	PARENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	696-9355	mpangelinan@calvaryshar.com
Tristan Castino	FD NHS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8645216	tjcastino17@gmail.com
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
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		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

SENATOR BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ, VICE SPEAKER

Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication
 senator@senatorbjcruz.com | www.senatorbjcruz.com



I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan
 THE THIRTY-THIRD GUAM LEGISLATURE

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NAME	AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION	POSITION		TESTIMONY		PHONE NO.	EMAIL ADDRESS
		SUPPORT	OPPOSE	WRITTEN	ORAL		
Noah Rapelas	Father Duvarans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	488 7559	noahjohnrap@gmail.com
Jose Guevara	Father Puenas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	927-2175	jaque671@gmail.com
Eric Palacios	OOG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Rhea Jose	AOLG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	487-1646	Rheaapjust@gmail.com
Dr. Elisabeth Michihara	GLOHS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	72300-2175	emichihara-rocario@gdoe.net
Dr. Leah Beth Wohlschlag	GDOE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	770479	lorahuls@gdoe.net
Joann Camacho	Parent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	727-4673	Joannchamachow@gmail.com
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
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		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		



**UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
UNIBETSEDÁT GUAHAN**

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
UOG Station, Mangilao, Guam 96923
Telephone: (671) 735-2990 • Fax: (671) 734-2296

Honorable Benjamin F. Cruz
Chair Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication
33rd Guam Legislature
Hagatna GU, 96932

Re: Testimony on Bill 317-33

Dear Senator Cruz,

On behalf of the University of Guam, I want to make sure that the Guam Legislature as the policy-making body for the entire Government of Guam fully comprehends our sentiments on Guam's participation in the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE). The University supports the participation of Guam in WICHE.

Participation in WICHE will afford Guam students the opportunity to attend professional and graduate schools for programs which do not exist in Guam. This is a worthwhile network and can be of enormous benefit to our island especially in programs for the medical and legal professions and highly specialized degrees. This is also a benefit for reduced tuition for undergraduate programs in cooperating institutions. It is important to note that undergraduate program participation is generally capped so that the benefit may not be as extensive as some may believe.

Attending off-island universities and colleges has been seen in recent years as a personal decision which the Government of Guam does not support except in professional and graduate programs which do not exist at the Guam Community College or the University of Guam. This policy is meant to encourage attendance at local institutions. It is also important to note that only one-third of off-island university attendees actually return to the island. The figures are different if they attend UOG. In this case, some 70% of the students who graduate from UOG remain in Guam and the region for their professional lives.

Guam should be part of the WICHE network and attempt to work on some of these issues in order to build a stronger professional base for our island in the future. The financial cost of participation is minimal. However, you should consider the fact that GCC and UOG have received only 60% of their budget allotments for fiscal year 2016. This is a pattern that will likely continue even with the recently passed budget for fiscal year 2017. It would send a positive signal to your own postsecondary institutions that you will not allow the release of the funds for WICHE until budget allocations are current.

Thank you for this opportunity to present my thoughts.

Sinseru yan Magahet,

Si Robert A Underwood
President, UOG

WICHE



Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Access. Collaboration. Innovation.

Key facts about student loans

- 42 million people owe \$1.3 trillion in student debt.
- It is a \$140 billion a year industry
- Student loan may grow bigger over time –unpaid interest is added to principal.
- Normally cannot discharge student loans in bankruptcy.

44% cut back on day to day living expenses,
37% delayed saving for retirement, 28% delayed
buying house, 12% delayed marriage.

47% would reduce student loan if they had to do
it over again.

Key facts about college costs and debt

- Average state school COA is around \$80K for a four year education and for Private schools \$180K
 - In 2016, the average student debt is \$37K (much higher for Guam kids who attend US based colleges)
- 70% of college graduates leave with debt

Oscar Miyashita, CPA & Certified College Planning Specialist
(first/only on Guam certified by NICCP – only about 650 in the US)

SOLUTIONS

BREAKING MYTHS: THE RIGHT SCHOOL/FIT/\$

REGIONAL TUITION DISCOUNT PROGRAMS (WICHE)

SCHOLARSHIPS/GRANTS

Tuition Discount Programs: WUE

- Purpose: Provide undergraduate students opportunity to attend school out of state
- 15 participating states, 148 institutions
- **Reduced out-of-state tuition: 150% of in-state tuition**
- Two-year and four-year colleges
- Most undergraduate fields available
- More options, more affordable!



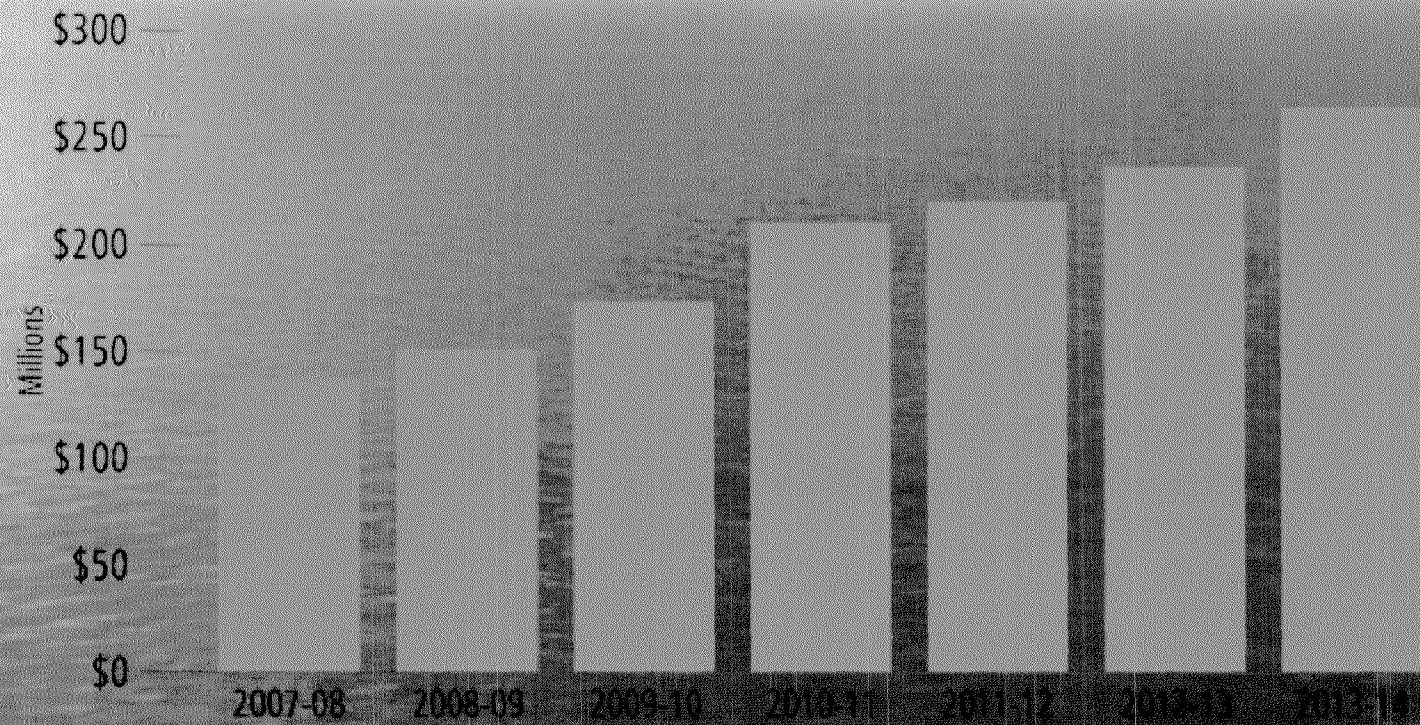


160 Public Universities and Colleges

- University of Hawaii
- Washington State University
- University of Nevada Las Vegas

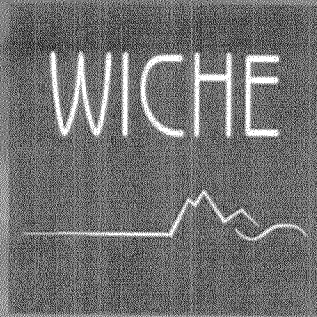
Figure 12. WUE Savings

Savings to families and/or students through participation in WICHE's Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) program have grown substantially in the last several years.



Source: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

	Resident Tuition	WUE Tuition	Nonresident Tuition	Savings to Student
COLORADO				
Adams State University	\$7,698	\$11,547	\$15,960	\$4,413
Colorado Mesa University	\$9,435	\$14,159	\$18,540	\$4,388
Colorado State University, Fort Collins	\$10,550	\$15,825	\$25,010	\$3,185
Colorado State University, Pueblo	\$8,409	\$12,614	\$17,729	\$5,116
Fort Lewis College	\$8,106	\$12,199	\$16,072	\$3,913
Metropolitan State University of Denver	\$7,472	\$11,208	\$18,859	\$7,651
University of Colorado, Colorado Springs	\$10,230	\$15,345	\$20,850	\$5,505
University of Colorado Denver	\$11,340	\$17,010	\$28,020	\$11,010
University of Northern Colorado	\$8,642	\$12,933	\$17,958	\$5,025
Western State Colorado University	\$8,094	\$12,141	\$15,648	\$4,707
Aims Community College	\$2,021	\$3,032	\$12,758	\$9,727
Arapahoe Community College	\$6,165	\$9,248	\$16,062	\$6,815
Colorado Mountain College	\$4,785	\$7,178	\$12,030	\$4,853
Colorado Northwestern Community College	\$6,165	\$6,704	\$6,704	\$0
Community College of Aurora	\$6,165	\$9,248	\$16,062	\$6,815
Community College of Denver	\$6,165	\$9,248	\$16,062	\$6,815
Front Range Community College	\$6,165	\$9,248	\$16,062	\$6,815
Lamar Community College	\$6,165	\$6,704	\$6,704	\$0
Morgan Community College	\$6,165	\$9,248	\$16,062	\$6,815
Northeastern Junior College	\$6,165	\$6,704	\$6,704	\$0
Otero Junior College	\$6,165	\$6,704	\$6,704	\$0
Pikes Peak Community College	\$6,165	\$9,248	\$16,062	\$6,815
Pueblo Community College	\$6,165	\$9,248	\$16,062	\$6,815
Red Rocks Community College	\$6,165	\$9,248	\$16,062	\$6,815
Trinidad State Junior College	\$6,165	\$6,704	\$6,704	\$0
COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS				
Northern Marianas College	\$2,850	\$4,275	\$5,700	\$1,425
HAWAII				
University of Hawai'i, Hilo	\$6,912	\$10,368	\$19,368	\$9,000
University of Hawai'i, Manoa	\$10,344	\$15,516	\$30,696	\$15,180
University of Hawai'i Maui College	\$3,600	\$5,400	\$8,400	\$4,116
University of Hawai'i West Oahu	\$6,912	\$10,368	\$19,368	\$9,000
IDAHO				
Boise State University	\$4,766	\$7,149	\$18,816	\$11,667
Idaho State University	\$5,105	\$7,658	\$18,503	\$10,846
Lewis-Clark State University	\$4,776	\$7,164	\$15,776	\$8,612
University of Idaho	\$5,003	\$7,505	\$19,007	\$11,503
College of Southern Idaho	\$3,600	\$5,400	\$8,400	\$3,000
North Idaho College	\$3,126	\$4,689	\$9,066	\$4,377
MONTANA				
Montana State University, Billings	\$4,397	\$6,595	\$16,307	\$9,712
Montana State University, Bozeman	\$5,330	\$7,996	\$20,323	\$12,328
Montana State University, Northern	\$3,504	\$5,257	\$15,474	\$10,218
Montana Tech, University of Montana	\$4,919	\$7,379	\$17,874	\$10,495
University of Montana, Missoula	\$4,373	\$6,559	\$21,191	\$14,632
University of Montana, Western	\$3,090	\$4,635	\$14,575	\$9,940



OPEN TO ALL ISLAND GOVERNMENTS

- CNMI
- Guam
- RMI
- ROP
- FSM
- Am. Samoa

Your Fiduciary Responsibility

▶ DUES

▶ *Approved amounts*

▶ *FY 15 - \$ 145,000*

- ▶ *Divided by two -- \$72,500*
- ▶ *Divided by three -- \$48,333*
- ▶ *Divided by four -- \$36,250*
- ▶ *Divided by five -- \$29,000*
- ▶ *Divided by six -- \$24,167*

REAL BENEFITS - CNMI

- Currently the annual fee (for all Island/FAS participants) is \$145K.
- The CNMI is paying full amount, as it is currently the only member.

In its first year, the CNMI's savings for 19 students was about \$165k.



THANK YOU

September 29, 2016

The Honorable Judith Won Pat
Speaker, 33rd Legislature
Guam

Re: Bill 17 – 33, In support of Membership to the “Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education”

Dear Senators: D. Rodriguez, B. McCreadie, T. Muna-Barnes, R. Respicio:

My name is James Lujan and I am with the Guam Federation of Teachers and a Candidate for the Guam Education board in this election year 2016.

I am in support of this membership based on my experience and possibly hundreds who have sought higher education not offered on Guam in past time. Futuristically, this membership will open doors of opportunities to the thousands of families who plan and provide an education foundation for their children. In addition, it expands the school districts option of incentive to offer graduating high school students seeking higher learning in vocations or specific fields of interest beyond our borders. Finally, membership may define reciprocity for Guam in the United States of America.

In my experience, I sought a Masters degree in Athletic Administration in the Mainland twice in separate years. I had acquiring graduate credits equivalence to having Masters. The first time, I received a professional technical award from the University of Guam to the University of Nevada Las Vegas. I took one- year unpaid leave from my teaching profession to attend fall classes. The agreements governing the Award were specific. That meant the dollar amount of the award given was set to the amount it will cost me to accomplish my degree. While waiting in Las Vegas for registration day, the University of Las Vegas had approved a tuition hike several months after their basketball team won the national championship. This event might not or might have affected the tuition hike at the time, but I kind of used it as the excuse. However, the increases were tremendously higher than the amount of my award and what I could have paid on my expense knowing I have one a year to accomplish. So, I packed my bags and went home. The second time, I attended Northwest Missouri State University, Missouri. This time, I saved large amount of money and I took 1year unpaid leave from my teaching profession. Tuition was much cheaper than the University of Guam; but I had to pay for out of state fees that equal the cost of credits. In this venture, I was several classes and half a thesis short of graduating I came home and got married. Out of state tuition fees can equal to or be more than the actual cost of credits. Reciprocity can be very helpful for those who seek higher education and can be rewarding economically if not intellectually for our Island.

As my Representatives in the 33rd Guam Legislature, I graciously ask all Senators their support, endorsement and approval of Bill 17-33. Thank You.


James Lujan
P.O.B. 3852 Hagatna, Guam 96932
Phone: 488-3064

**LETTER FROM GUAM'S STUDENTS TO SUPPORT BILL NO. 317-33 FOR WICHE
MEMBERSHIP TO SUPPORT AFFORDABLE TUITION**

Dear Vice Speaker Cruz:

We respectfully write to you as student leaders in Guam's schools to request that the Legislature approve Bill No. 317-33 which will cement Guam's membership in the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). We would like to thank Senator Rodriguez, Senator McCreddie, Senator Muna-Barnes and Senator Respicio for sponsoring Bill No. 317-33 to help make higher education tuition affordable and to provide us access to major universities and college majors through WICHE and to you for permitting this bill to be considered by our Legislature.

Since the 1950s, WICHE has offered access and affordability to students throughout the Western United States, including the CNMI and 16 states. WICHE has approved Guam's membership and the only thing needed to allow us access to WICHE benefits is for Guam to pay the WICHE membership fee. The amount of the dues for Guam is \$72,500, because we will split the membership fee with the CNMI. We hope you will agree that this is a small investment that will pay big dividends for our students and families, and one that will allow us to get an off-island education and return home to Guam to share our knowledge and experience for the continuous improvement of our island.

WICHE's Western Undergraduate Exchange program ("WUE") allows students to attend approximately 150 two and four year colleges for 150% of in-state tuition. Given the high cost of education, this reduced tuition translates to about ten to twenty thousand dollars (\$10,000 - \$20,000) a year per student. Over four-years, this means forty to eighty thousand dollars (\$40,000-\$80,000) in savings for local students pursuing an education off-island. The cost of a higher education is growing each year and there are approximately 150 WUE schools to choose from and an incredibly wide range of majors which may be pursued. See, www.wiche.edu.

While we are grateful that we have access to education loans, the reality is that college debt is crushing the dreams that come with a college degree and sometimes puts even more pressure on our hard working families, especially when a family has more than one student who wants to go to college. College debt today has caused graduates to delay buying a home, getting married, starting a family, investing in retirement and has prevented young people from pursuing small business dreams. For us on Guam, being able to ensure lower costs for off-island education, will help us to return home as we will not have to be concerned about looking to higher paying


jobs in the mainland or Hawaii. WICHE gives us the opportunity to pursue our educational dreams without leveraging our future for our education.

We hope to have the same access and opportunity as our friends in the CNMI. In the first year as a WICHE member, the CNMI saved just 19 students approximately \$165,000. This amount greatly exceeds the cost of the shared annual membership for Guam's inclusion.

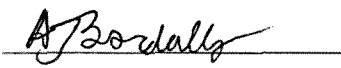
We thank you for your consideration of our request and we hope that our Legislature will pass Bill 317-33.


Very Truly Yours, Father Duenas Memorial School Student Council and National Honor Society


STUCO President



STUCO Vice President



STUCO Treasurer


STUCO Secretary

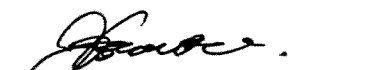

NHS President


NHS Vice President


NHS Treasurer


NHS Secretary


NHS Parliamentarian


NHS Historian



Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

3035 Center Green Drive Suite 200 Boulder, CO 80301-2204 303.541.0200 (ph) 303.541.0291 (fax)

September 27, 2016

Senator Dennis Rodriguez
Office of Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.
176 Serenu Avenue
Tamuning, GUAM

RE: WICHE membership benefits for Guam residents and its workforce

Dear Senator Rodriguez:

I understand that a public hearing will be held on September 29th before the bill approving an appropriation for WICHE membership dues is voted on in the Senate. I am writing to provide information about our organization for you to share with your colleagues.

The Western Regional Education Compact, approved by Congress and signed into law in 1953, created the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE; www.wiche.edu). WICHE is a 16-member regional commission working to boost access to higher education for students and to facilitate the sharing of higher education resources in the western United States. As you know, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands joined WICHE in 2012. We hope to officially welcome Guam as WICHE's newest member as part of the U.S. Pacific Territories and Freely Associated States membership.

WICHE offers a broad menu of programs to help residents of its member states achieve their higher education goals and meet workforce needs. WICHE's programs address: affordable access to undergraduate, graduate and professional healthcare education; the practice, policy, and advocacy of technology-enhanced learning in higher education; higher education policy for informed decision making; access to advocacy for state higher education institutions at the national level; access to a multi-state longitudinal data exchange system to better understand state residents' education and migration patterns; member forums to strategize on common issues of credit transfer, data governance, analysis, and management; and, a wide range of other benefits tailored to the needs of individual members.

Benefits of WICHE Membership. We anticipate Guam's most visible and immediate benefit will be your residents' access to WICHE's Student Exchange Program (SEP). It provides students with access to out-of-state higher education options at a significant tuition savings. More than 37,700 students enrolled in undergraduate, graduate, and professional healthcare programs outside their home states through SEP, saving \$343.3 million in 2015-16. Each program is described below.

www.wiche.edu

ALASKA ARIZONA CALIFORNIA COLORADO HAWAII IDAHO MONTANA NEVADA
NEW MEXICO NORTH DAKOTA OREGON SOUTH DAKOTA UTAH WASHINGTON WYOMING
U.S. PACIFIC TERRITORIES AND FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES

Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE; www.wiche.edu/wue)

- WUE is a tuition discount program for undergraduate students preparing certificates, associates, or bachelors degrees outside of their home state. WUE institutions offer all or most of their majors at 150 percent or less of their resident tuition rate rather than at the generally much higher non-resident rate.
- Some 160 public institutions (community colleges and universities) in the WICHE region participate. See <http://wiche.edu/info/publications/wueHandout.pdf> for a complete list.
- In 2015-16, 35,600 WUE students saved more than \$308.8 million in tuition. Depending on the enrolling institution's tuition, a student can save up to \$16,000 on one year's tuition bill, but **the average savings per student was \$8,667.**
- The WUE program is particularly helpful to students who want to pursue an academic program that may not be available in their home states, such as scientific, medical, or engineering programs.
- Your WICHE membership provides access to WUE for your residents; there are no additional fees. Students pay their own discounted tuition.
- WUE is the largest of the four tuition reciprocity programs in the nation.

Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP; www.wiche.edu/wrgp)

- WRGP is a tuition discount program for graduate students preparing graduate certificates, masters and doctoral degrees outside of their home state.
- Some 410 graduate programs at 60 institutions in the WICHE region participate. See <http://wiche.edu/info/publications/wrgpHandout.pdf> for a complete list of programs.
- In 2015-16, 1,439 students paid resident tuition (instead of nonresident tuition) and saved \$21.1 million; **the average graduate student saved \$14,630.**
- Your WICHE membership provides access to WRGP for your residents; there are no additional fees. Students pay their own resident tuition.
- WRGP provides affordable access to some 140 graduate programs in healthcare including: addiction studies, audiology, biological and biomedical sciences, dental hygiene, epidemiology, health administration, public health, speech-language pathology, and more.
- The 25 mental health-related graduate programs include: clinical psychology, counseling, family psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, school counseling and psychology, social work, and more.
- The 30 graduate nursing programs include: informatics, education, executive leadership and administration, gerontology, community health, and much more.
- Some 25 graduate engineering programs are available, including: aerospace, chemical, electrical, energy systems, environmental, industrial, materials, and more.
- The University of Hawaii at Manoa's School of Law now offers its Juris Doctorate (JD) at the resident tuition rate through WRGP.
- More than 15 graduate programs related to architecture are available, including two MArch programs.
- Most WRGP programs are offered as traditional on campus programs. However, some are delivered online or in a hybrid format that combines online and on campus delivery.

Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP; www.wiche.edu/psep)

- PSEP provides students affordable access to costly professional healthcare programs that aren't offered by a public institution in the student's home state.
- The professional healthcare degrees available are: dentistry, medicine, occupational therapy, osteopathic medicine, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant, podiatry, and veterinary medicine. PSEP provides access to 136 programs at 62 participating institutions. For complete information, see <http://wiche.edu/info/publications/statReport0116.pdf>.

- The student's home state pays a "support fee" to the enrolling institution to buy down tuition costs. Participating states legislate funding; each state determines the number of students they wish to support and which healthcare fields are needed for their local workforce.
- If Guam joins WICHE, PSEP offers a tremendous opportunity to educate healthcare professionals who will return to Guam and serve its residents. Most WICHE states require their PSEP "scholarship" recipients to return home and practice in their profession, typically for four years.

Advancing Higher Education. For more than 60 years, the ethos of WICHE and its programs is this: *Sharing higher education resources and collaboration makes all of our members stronger.* According to the 2010 U.S. Census, only 26 percent of Guam residents hold an associate's degree or higher. Working together, WICHE's goal is to increase the percentage of college-educated Guam citizens to match (or surpass) the U.S. average of 39 percent.

Significant numbers of students seek education off island. According to the most current IPEDS 2014 data, 190 first-time students from Guam enrolled on the mainland. From that number, we could estimate that more than 600 Guam residents study off island in any given year. WICHE's exchange programs could significantly reduce their student debt because Guam residents would no longer have to pay nonresident tuition. We also noticed that many students from Guam are enrolled at private institutions. WICHE's programs give them access to some 160 public institutions that provide quality higher education at very affordable rates. Reducing Guam's graduates' student debt will likely incentivize them to return to Guam and serve the local community.

Furthermore, WUE and WRGP will give Guam residents access to programs not available locally and reduce Guam's dependence on foreign workers. There are a myriad of fields of study that would contribute to growing workforce needs in Guam, particularly in healthcare, engineering and construction management. WRGP is also an opportunity for Guam's educators to increase their educational credentials. We strongly believe that focused collaboration and interaction with the WICHE states will (1) create new opportunities for Guam's faculty and professionals and over the long-term, (2) improve Guam's healthcare system and thereby reduce the outmigration of families seeking specialized healthcare on the mainland.

Guam's local institutions of higher learning do not have to participate in WUE and WRGP as enrolling institutions, but they are eligible and we would encourage them to do so. CNMI's Northern Marianas College joined WUE and uses the program to fill seats in majors where they have excess capacity. Most of our participating institutions find that they benefit from incoming students to a degree that more than offsets any potential loss of resident students.

WICHE Student Exchange Savings and Return on Investment Projections for Guam. To get an idea of how much Guam residents might save using WICHE's WUE and WRGP programs, WICHE staff pulled the most current IPEDS enrollment data available for first-time, degree-seeking undergraduate students. In Fall 2014, 190 Guam residents enrolled on the mainland. Of those, 60 freshmen enrolled in institutions outside of the WICHE region. The majority—130 freshmen—enrolled at institutions located in the WICHE region.

Extrapolating from the 2014 IPEDS data to estimate the *total* number of students enrolled (freshman through seniors), we could assume that a total of 46 Guam residents might enroll at a WUE institution in a given year. Taking the 2014-15 WUE savings data, we calculated that Guam residents paid \$484,488 more for their undergraduate education than they would have paid if Guam were a member of WICHE. Guam's portion of WICHE membership cost is \$72,500 for FY17. If we subtract the cost of WICHE dues (\$72,500) from potential WUE savings for Guam residents (\$484,488), Guam is ahead financially by

\$411,988. Of course, we would also expect that even more Guam residents might take advantage of the opportunity to pursue a program of study outside of Guam as the Student Exchange Programs become more widely known, so the savings would likely increase each year.

CNMI's WICHE Experience. After only three short years as a WICHE member, CNMI is quickly recognizing a significant return-on-investment. In 2015-16, CNMI enrolled 20 students through WUE who saved \$199,343 on their tuition bills and one WRGP graduate student who saved approximately \$14,630. Furthermore, thanks to the reduced tuition rates offered through WUE and WRGP, the CNMI Scholarship Office can assist more students than before, despite its limited funds.

CNMI is also working on legislation to provide state funding to support students preparing their professional healthcare degrees at reduced cost through WICHE's PSEP. They anticipate creating a return-for-service provision whereby professional healthcare graduates must return to CNMI and serve for approximately four years. This will assure that funded students will return and give back to the local community after they graduate.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or if I can be of further assistance as you evaluate the benefits of WICHE membership. We hope to welcome Guam as our newest member this fall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Garcia".

Joseph A. Garcia
President



Benjamin J.F. Cruz <senator@senatorbjcruz.com>

Testimony for Bill 317-33 (COR)

1 message

Bob Kelley <bkelley@stjohnsguam.com>
To: senator@senatorbjcruz.com

Wed, Sep 28, 2016 at 11:50 AM

Testimony in support of **Bill No. 317-33 (COR)**
WICHE/WUE
J. Robert Kelley
Assistant Head of School, St. John's School

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on **Bill No. 317-33 (COR)**. My name is Bob Kelley and I am currently the Assistant Head of School at St. John's School, but for the previous 18 years I had been the Director of College Guidance. I have had the pleasure of working with hundreds of high school students on their quest to attend college, and I have worked closely with college admissions officers over that time.

The proposal of spending \$72,500 to fully participate in the benefits of the WICHE/WUE program seem to be fairly straightforward to the residents of Guam. Looking at the estimated savings chart provided by WICHE on their website, the annual savings could range from a high of \$16,032 at the University of Arizona, to a savings of \$0 at a number of schools in Colorado and the Dakotas. The ability to attend many different public universities on the Western United States for less tuition costs could open new pathways for our students to study a broader range of subjects, which could bring benefits to our community in a number of ways. Studying Parks Management and Recreation at the University of North Dakota for \$7,600 less each year could certainly bring a new viewpoint here, as well as studying Fisheries Management at the University of Alaska Fairbanks while saving \$11,000 annually. Clearly these two examples are cases where the learning may not transfer directly, there are different fishery issues in Alaska than there are here, but the overall lessons certainly could well make an impact on our island.

There are some limitations to the program as well, as the tuition benefit is not universally applied. In some cases there are minimum SAT/ACT scores as well and limits to the number of students from each area that are allowed to use the the WUE program. According to the website:

Your residency alone is does not guarantee you the WUE rate. Some colleges and universities also have additional criteria such as ACT/SAT test scores or high school GPA. WICHE does not set the qualification criteria for WUE applicants, nor do we process applications or participate in the student selection process.

The WUE reduced tuition rate is not automatically awarded to all eligible candidates. Many institutions limit the number of new WUE awards each academic year, so apply early! Consult each institution's profile for admissions requirements and application deadlines.

For example, the University of Southern Utah requires a minimum Eligibility Index of 110 to receive the WUE benefit. The Eligibility Index is a derived from a combination of the SAT/ACT scores and the student's GPA. Interestingly if a student has an Eligibility Index greater than 117, they may be eligible for more lucrative scholarships. Also, some schools will restrict the majors that are eligible, the aforementioned University of Arizona restricts the program solely to its Mining Major, while the University of Hawaii, Manoa (with a annual savings of \$15,180) offers a more comprehensive list of majors in the program.

Another important limitation is that not all public universities from these states are included. In the case of St. John's, our two most popular Public, Western Universities; University of California (except Merced campus) and University of Washington do not participate in the WUE program. Over the past four years we have had three students attend participating schools, New Mexico State University, University of Hawaii, Hilo, and Southern Utah University. Naturally, It could reasonably be inferred that our applications to WUE schools would rise if the cost were to be reduced. In the current senior class, without the mention of WICHE we have a few students who will apply to these schools. I was able to reach out to other schools on Guam and have had some response, from Okkodo, Guam High School, and Academy of Our Lady. The overall impression seems to be that less cost would certainly lead to more enrollment.

A concern that some may have is the potential impact to the University of Guam. The belief being that as off-island tuition becomes less expensive, potential University of Guam students would opt to leave the island rather than attend UoG. As you are aware, many of our families on Guam are in difficult economic situations, and an annual savings of \$15,000 may still not be enough to allow them to attend off-island schools. Additionally many students choose UoG for non-monetary reasons. To be specific, in the past 4 years we have had 5 students attend the University of Guam, in spite of any WICHE/WUE involvement, these students would likely still have attended UoG. Admittedly my case is not typical of most high schools on Guam. In the case of Okoddo High School, which at times over the past years has had the highest percentage of enrollment of all high schools on Guam at UoG, one of the counselors there believes that the savings may not be enough to allow a great migration of Okoddo students away from the University of Guam. Additionally, there is the opportunity for some students from the Western States to come to Guam and study here.

The bulk of this testimony has focused on WUE, but WICHE offers much more than just this tuition benefit. One of their programs is Interstate Passport, which is aimed at having lower division general education courses transfer more easily among member states. They have the Western Regional Graduate Program, healthcare initiatives, and other programs which focus on education from a variety of programs.

I believe this would be an excellent investment for the island that would provide direct benefits to those families who were able to take advantage of the program, and direct benefit to the island's educational institutions, as more students from Guam would be able to develop more skills in more areas and educational leaders at all levels would be able to link to other states' leaders. As stated in the body of the bill, in Saipan's first year of this program, they sent 19 students to these colleges with a substantial savings. If that report is true, then we could certainly extrapolate greater dividends to our community here.

Sincerely,

J. Robert Kelley
Assistant Head of School
St. John's School
Tumon, GU

J. Robert Kelley
Assistant Head of School
St. John's School
Tumon, Guam

Attending institutions on the
Mainland is a privilege and hardly a
right for a large % of local high school
graduates.

We should prioritize the funding gaps at the
NOG & RCC to display a sense of responsibility
to the majority of public school students.

However the Amari legislature may/should seek out a %
of those families that make an income that affords
institutions listed in "WICHE".

* AFFORDABILITY IS KEY

Success is the dream

and on behalf of the students of the NOG & RCC

We need to make their dreams a reality a lot
sooner than later.

▶ We should be working with our
Congresswomen to seek an inclusion in "WICHE"

THROUGH funding I suggest other than tax payers
monies coming out of those who families, students who
work while pulling the double shift to make ends
meet or the single mom or dad burning the
midnight oil to just afford attending NOG OR RCC.
Both natural choices.

DERIAL BAZA HILLS

FOUNDER / OWNER SIX SEVEN ONE TUTORIAL

(771) 998-4909

My name is Dr. Elisabeth Ichihara-Rosario, I am a guidance counselor at George Washington High School. I come to you with an opportunity to provide the students of Guam an amazing chance to pursue postsecondary possibilities. I sit in my office and counsel high school students, some who want to go off-island and are frustrated, sad, because they do not want to burden their parents with financial obligations. Trying to juggle, to figure out how they will fund their exorbitant non-resident tuition. My heart aches for these children. Because they are not only **my** children, they are all **our children**. Bright, amazing students, who could change our island, make a difference, if they could only find a way to fund **their** education, and pursue their post secondary careers off-island. What greatness could be achieved.

WICHE, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, is a conglomeration of states and territories within the United States that reduces tuition for international students. Within this conglomerate are 16 states along the western region of the United States, including Hawaii and Alaska. Being a part of this union assists in affordable education. Working in the public school system for over 20 years, it is apparent that travelling for higher education is very limited because of the financial costs. A public high school student finds that pursuing higher education off island will be greatly assisted through WEU tuition savings. The National Education Association states "...tuition costs have risen by 225% since 1958." Well, to reiterate the increase of 225% in tuition over the last 60 years let me give you the number. On average the cost of an associate degree is \$30,000 dollars, to most that is the price of two used cars, now why would we compare the idea of a car to college tuition? If it takes on average 5 years to pay off the loan for a car, this would equate to 10 years' worth of debt for a college student. A bachelor degree cost on average 45,500 dollars. I propose to you a solution to this financial nightmare, **WICHE**. It reduces the cost for international students to almost 50% percent of that cost. That number is just shy above the residential tuition. This creates an opportunity for our students to experience the world, afford a higher education, and pacify the anxiety of financial instability. Senator Sanders stated "The cost of college education today is so high that many young people are giving up their dream of going to college, while many others are graduating deeply in debt."

Secondly, this is in line with GDOE's State Strategic Plan: A clear Vision for Education On Guam. The first #1Goal is that the **ALL** Guam Department of Education students will graduate from high schools prepared to pursue post-secondary education on- or off island

How can our PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS students accomplish this if their financial resources are severely strained? So many of our high school students will be first generation college students, such as I was. I was also a product of a reciprocity agreement with Hawaii. We won't discuss how long ago that was, but without it, my parents wouldn't have been able to afford to

send myself and sisters to college in Hawaii. We need to offer our students a wider lens to the world, so that they may return to Guam with new skills, knowledge and vision for our island.

I will close now by telling you how you will impact my GECKO students. Unofficially 20% of GWHS students matriculate to colleges or universities. If this legislative body approves this bill, **I know** there will be an increase in that number. My **SENIORS** have been so excited discussing the **scenarios**; they have been exploring the different colleges, and the costs. Even with financial aid, topping out at **\$5,250** it is affordable with WEU rates. What an incredible impact this will have on just not the lives of students, but their families. You are truly making a difference. This is a **GIFT you are handing the children of Guam**, a true scholarship really.

Give the students of Guam a fighting chance to a world of opportunity, allow them to dream. Please support this bill. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak on behalf of this bill. Si Yu'os Ma'aase



COMMITTEE ON RULES

I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan • The 33rd Guam Legislature
155 Hesler Place, Hagåtña, Guam 96910 • www.guamlegislature.com
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Senator
Rory J. Respicio
CHAIRPERSON
MAJORITY LEADER

June 9, 2016

Senator
Thomas C. Ada
VICE CHAIRPERSON
ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

Memorandum

Speaker
Judith T.P. Won Pat, Ed.D.
Member

To: **Rennae Meno**
Clerk of the Legislature

Vice-Speaker
Benjamin J.F. Cruz
Member

From: **Senator Thomas C. Ada** *TC*
Acting Chairperson of the Committee on Rules

Legislative Secretary
Tina Rose Muna Barnes
Member

Subject: **Fiscal Notes and Fiscal Note Waiver**

Senator
Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.
Member

Hafa Adai!

Attached please find the fiscal notes and fiscal note waiver for the bill numbers listed below. Please note that the fiscal notes and fiscal note waiver are issued on the bills as introduced.

Senator
Frank Blas Aguon, Jr.
Member

FISCAL NOTES:

- Bill No. 298-33(COR)
- Bill No. 317-33(COR)
- Bill No. 322-33(COR)
- Bill No. 324-33(COR)
- Bill No. 329-33(COR)

Senator
Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
Member

FISCAL NOTE WAIVER:

- Bill No. 316-33(COR)

Senator
Nerissa Bretania Underwood
Member

V. Anthony Ada
MINORITY LEADER

Please forward the same to MIS for posting on our website. Please contact our office should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Mary C. Torres
MINORITY MEMBER

Si Yu'os ma'åse'!

2016 JUN 10 PM 10:45

**Bureau of Budget & Management Research
Fiscal Note of Bill No. 317-33 (COR)**

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE UP TO SEVENTY TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$72,500) FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 GENERAL FUND REVENUES FOR GUAM'S MEMBERSHIP INTO THE WESTERN INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (WICHE) RELATIVE TO PROVIDING AFFORDABLE TUITION RATES FOR GUAM'S UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AT OVER 150 INSTITUTIONS WHO ARE PART OF THE WICHE NETWORK.

Department/Agency Appropriation Information	
Dept./Agency Affected: Department of Administration	Dept./Agency Head: Christine W. Baeto, Director
Department's General Fund (GF) appropriation(s) to date:	26,721,919
Department's Other Fund (Specify) appropriation(s) to date:	16,797,356
Total Department/Agency Appropriation(s) to date:	\$43,519,275

Fund Source Information of Proposed Appropriation			
	General Fund:	(Specify Special Fund):	Total:
FY 2015 Unreserved Fund Balance		\$0	\$0
FY 2016 Adopted Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 2016 Appro. (P.L. 33-66 thru P.L. 33-149)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sub-total:	\$0	\$0	\$0
Less appropriation in Bill	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total:	\$0	\$0	\$0

Estimated Fiscal Impact of Bill						
	One Full Fiscal Year	For Remainder of FY 2016 (if applicable)	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
General Fund	\$72,500	\$0	\$72,500	\$72,500	\$72,500	\$72,500
(Specify Special Fund)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$72,500	\$0	\$72,500	\$72,500	\$72,500	\$72,500

- Does the bill contain "revenue generating" provisions? // Yes /X/ No
If Yes, see attachment
- Is amount appropriated adequate to fund the intent of the appropriation? // N/A /X/ Yes // No
If no, what is the additional amount required? \$ _____ /X/ N/A
- Does the Bill establish a new program/agency? /X/ Yes // No
If yes, will the program duplicate existing programs/agencies? // N/A // Yes /X/ No
Is there a federal mandate to establish the program/agency? // Yes /X/ No
- Will the enactment of this Bill require new physical facilities? // Yes /X/ No
- Was Fiscal Note coordinated with the affected dept/agency? If no, indicate reason: /X/ Yes // No
/X/ Requested agency comments not received by due date // Other:

Analyst: Virginia Manglona Date: 5/31/16 Director: Jose S. Calvo JUN 03 2016
Virginia Manglona, BMA II Jose S. Calvo, Director

Footnotes:
1/ Bill 317-33 (COR) proposes to appropriate a total of \$72,500 from the FY2017 General Fund (GF) revenues to the Department of Administration. The FY2017 Executive Budget proposes to collect \$899,436,020 in GF revenues. However, it should be noted that projected FY2017 GF revenues are fully earmarked. (Should the proposed legislation become law, it may reduce funding for departmental operations in FY2017.



COMMITTEE ON RULES

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Senator

Rory J. Respicio
CHAIRPERSON
MAJORITY LEADER

May 13, 2016

Senator

Thomas C. Ada
VICE CHAIRPERSON
ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

MEMORANDUM

To: **Rennae Meno**
Clerk of the Legislature

Speaker
Judith T.P. Won Pat, Ed.D.
Member

Attorney Therese M. Terlaje
Legislative Legal Counsel

Vice-Speaker
Benjamin J.F. Cruz
Member

From: **Senator Rory J. Respicio**
Chairperson of the Committee on Rules

Legislative Secretary
Tina Rose Muna Barnes
Member

Subject: **Referral of Bill No. 317-33(COR)**

Senator
Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.
Member

As the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules, I am forwarding my referral of **Bill No. 317-33(COR)**.

Senator
Frank Blas Aguon, Jr.
Member

Please ensure that the subject bill is referred, in my name, to the respective committee, as shown on the attachment. I also request that the same be forwarded to all members of *I Mina'trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*.

Senator
Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
Member

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at 472-7679.

Senator
Nerissa Bretania Underwood
Member

Si Yu'os Ma'åse!

V. Anthony Ada
MINORITY LEADER

Attachment

Mary C. Torres
MINORITY MEMBER

I Mina'Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Received
Bill Log Sheet

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	FISCAL NOTES
317-33 (COR)	Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr. Brant T. McCreddie T. R. Muña Barnes R. J. Respicio	AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE UP TO SEVENTY TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$72,500) FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 GENERAL FUND REVENUES FOR GUAM'S MEMBERSHIP INTO THE WESTERN INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (WICHE) RELATIVE TO PROVIDING AFFORDABLE TUITION RATES FOR GUAM'S UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AT OVER 150 INSTITUTIONS WHO ARE PART OF THE WICHE NETWORK.	05/13/16 1:06 p.m.	05/13/16	Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication			



Dani Reyes <danireyes@senatorbjcruz.com>

FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing – September 29, 2016

Dani Reyes <danireyes@senatorbjcruz.com>

Wed, Sep 21, 2016 at 4:56 PM

To: PH Notice <phnotice@guamlegislature.org>

Cc: "Senator Rory J. Respicio" <cor@guamlegislature.org>, Management Information System <mis@guamlegislature.org>, Clerks <clerks@guamlegislature.org>, "Sergeant-at-Arms (Legislature)" <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>

Bcc: reporters@kuam.com, Sabrina Salas Matanane <sabrina@kuam.com>, Jason Salas <jason@kuam.com>, Krystal Paco <krystal@kuam.com>, Joan Aguon Charfauros <joan@kuam.com>, Ken Quintanilla <kenq@kuam.com>, Isa Baza <isa@kuam.com>, slimtiaco@guampdn.com, kjdaly@guampdn.com, sraymundo@guampdn.com, lcmartinez@guampdn.com, jsantotoma@guampdn.com, editor@postguam.com, gerry@postguam.com, Gerry Partido <gerrypartido@gmail.com>, jackie@postguam.com, john@postguam.com, robert@postguam.com, marvic@postguam.com, K57 <news@k57.com>, clynt@spbguam.com, janela@spbguam.com, roselle@spbguam.com, joanna@spbguam.com, Blake Watson <blake@spbguam.com>, tim@spbguam.com, Patti Arroyo <parroyo@k57.com>, phill@k57.com, Maureen Maratita <publisher@glimpsesofofguam.com>, Bruce Lloyd <managingeditor@glimpsesofofguam.com>, assist_editor@glimpsesofofguam.com, reporter1@glimpsesofofguam.com, Joy White <reporter4@glimpsesofofguam.com>

September 21, 2016

MEMORANDUM

To: All Members / All Senators

From: Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz, Chairman

Re: **FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing – September 29, 2016**

Håfa Adai! The **Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication** will conduct a Public Hearing beginning at **5:00 PM** on **Thursday, September 29, 2016**, in the **Liheslatura Public Hearing Room** with the following schedule:

5:00 PM - PUBLIC HEARING

- **Bill No. 317-33 (COR)** – D.G. Rodriguez, Jr. / B.T. McCreddie / T. R. Muña Barnes / R. J. Respicio – “An act to appropriate up to seventy two thousand five hundred dollars (\$72,500) from the fiscal year 2017 General Fund revenues for Guam’s membership into the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) relative to providing affordable tuition rates for Guam’s undergraduate students at over 150 institutions who are part of the WICHE network.”

Testimonies may be submitted via hand delivery to the Office of Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz at the Guam Legislature; via postal mail to 155 Hesler Street, Hagåtña Guam 96910; or via e-mail to senator@senatorbjcruz.com. Please submit testimonies at least one day prior to the date of the hearing.

All government activities, programs, and services are accessible for people with disabilities in compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Should you or interested parties require assistance or special accommodations to fully participate in this public hearing, please contact Mr. Carlo J. Branch at the Office of the Vice Speaker at 477-2521 or via e-mail at carlo.branch@senatorbjcruz.com.

We look forward to your attendance and participation.

cc: COR
Sgt-at-Arms
MIS
Clerks
Media

–
Dani Reyes
Policy Analyst

Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz

I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guàhan

T 671-477-2520 | F 671-477-2522

<http://www.senatorbjcruz.com>

2 attachments

 **FIRST NOTICE MEMO PH 09212016.pdf**
199K

 **FIRST NOTICE PR PH 09212016.pdf**
183K

VICE SPEAKER BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ

Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication
senator@senatorbjcruz.com | www.senatorbjcruz.com



I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan

THE 33RD GUAM LEGISLATURE

155 Hesler Place, Suite 107, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
T: (671) 477-2520/1 | F: (671) 477-2522

September 21, 2016

MEMORANDUM

To: All Members/All Senators
From: Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz, Chairman

Re: FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing - September 29, 2016

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5:00 PM - PUBLIC HEARING

- **Bill No. 317-33 (COR)** - D.G. Rodriguez, Jr. / B.T. McCreddie / T. R. Muña Barnes / R. J. Respicio - "An act to appropriate up to seventy two thousand five hundred dollars (\$72,500) from the fiscal year 2017 General Fund revenues for Guam's membership into the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) relative to providing affordable tuition rates for Guam's undergraduate students at over 150 institutions who are part of the WICHE network."

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All government activities, programs, and services are accessible for people with disabilities in compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Should you or interested parties require assistance or special accommodations to fully participate in this public hearing, please contact Mr. Carlo J. Branch at the Office of the Vice Speaker at 477-2521 or via e-mail at carlo.branch@senatorbjcruz.com.

We look forward to your attendance and participation.

VICE SPEAKER BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ

Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication
senator@senatorbicruz.com | www.senatorbicruz.com



I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan

THE 33RD GUAM LEGISLATURE

155 Hesler Place, Suite 107, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T: (671) 477-2520/1 | F: (671) 477-2522

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 21, 2016

FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

In accordance with the Open Government Law, P.L. 24-109, relative to notice for public meetings, let this release serve as five (5) days' notice for a Public Hearing by the **Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication** scheduled on **Thursday, September 29, 2016**, in the Guam Legislature Hearing Room in Hagåtña, on the following:

5:00 PM - PUBLIC HEARING

- **Bill No. 317-33 (COR)** - D.G. Rodriguez, Jr. / B.T. McCreddie / T. R. Muña Barnes / R. J. Respicio - "An act to appropriate up to seventy two thousand five hundred dollars (\$72,500) from the fiscal year 2017 General Fund revenues for Guam's membership into the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) relative to providing affordable tuition rates for Guam's undergraduate students at over 150 institutions who are part of the WICHE network."

Testimonies may be submitted in person to the Office of Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz at the Guam Legislature; by postal mail to 155 Hesler Place, Hagåtña Guam 96910; by facsimile to 477-2522; or by e-mail to senator@senatorbjcruz.com. Copies of written testimonies received at least one day before the scheduled date will be available at the hearing.

Individuals requiring assistance or special accommodations should contact Mr. Carlo J. Branch at the Office of the Vice Speaker at 477-2521, or by e-mail at carlo.branch@senatorbjcruz.com.

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Dani Reyes <danireyes@senatorbjcruz.com>

SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing – September 29, 2016

Dani Reyes <danireyes@senatorbjcruz.com>

Tue, Sep 27, 2016 at 4:45 PM

To: PH Notice <phnotice@guamlegislature.org>

Cc: "Senator Rory J. Respicio" <cor@guamlegislature.org>, Management Information System <mis@guamlegislature.org>, Clerks <clerks@guamlegislature.org>, "Sergeant-at-Arms (Legislature)" <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>

Bcc: reporters@kuam.com, Sabrina Salas Matanane <sabrina@kuam.com>, Jason Salas <jason@kuam.com>, Krystal Paco <krystal@kuam.com>, Joan Aguon Charfauros <joan@kuam.com>, Ken Quintanilla <kenq@kuam.com>, Isa Baza <isa@kuam.com>, slimtiaco@guampdn.com, kjdaly@guampdn.com, sraymundo@guampdn.com, lcmartinez@guampdn.com, jsantotoma@guampdn.com, editor@postguam.com, gerry@postguam.com, Gerry Partido <gerrypartido@gmail.com>, jackie@postguam.com, john@postguam.com, robert@postguam.com, marvic@postguam.com, K57 <news@k57.com>, clynt@spbguam.com, janela@spbguam.com, roselle@spbguam.com, joanna@spbguam.com, Blake Watson <blake@spbguam.com>, tim@spbguam.com, Patti Arroyo <parroyo@k57.com>, phill@k57.com, Maureen Maratita <publisher@glimpsesofofguam.com>, Bruce Lloyd <managingeditor@glimpsesofofguam.com>, assist_editor@glimpsesofofguam.com, reporter1@glimpsesofofguam.com, Joy White <reporter4@glimpsesofofguam.com>, christine.baleto@doa.guam.gov, "Dr. Robert Underwood" <raunderwood@uguam.uog.edu>, GuamCC President <gccpresident@guamcc.edu>, jsanchez@gdoe.net, fdms@fatherduenas.com, spcscommunications@gmail.com, info@ndhsguam.com

September 27, 2016

MEMORANDUM

To: All Members / All Senators

From: Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz, Chairman

Re: **SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing – September 29, 2016**

Håfa Adai! The **Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication** will conduct a **Public Hearing** beginning at **5:00 PM** on **Thursday, September 29, 2016**, in the **I Liheslatura Public Hearing Room**, on the following:

5:00 PM - PUBLIC HEARING

- **Bill No. 317-33 (COR)** – D.G. Rodriguez, Jr. / B.T. McCreddie / T. R. Muña Barnes / R. J. Respicio – "An act to appropriate up to seventy two thousand five hundred dollars (\$72,500) from the fiscal year 2017 General Fund revenues for Guam's membership into the Western Insterstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) relative to providing affordable tuition rates for Guam's undergraduate students at over 150 institutions who are part of the WICHE network."

Testimonies may be submitted via hand delivery to the Office of Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz at the Guam Legislature; via postal mail to 155 Hesler Street, Hagåtña Guam 96910; or via e-mail to senator@senatorbjcruz.com. Please submit testimonies at least one day prior to the date of the hearing.

All government activities, programs, and services are accessible for people with disabilities in compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Should you or interested parties require assistance or special accommodations to fully participate in this public hearing, please contact Mr. Carlo J. Branch at the Office of the Vice Speaker at 477-2521 or via e-mail at carlo.branch@senatorbjcruz.com.

We look forward to your attendance and participation.

cc: COR
Sgt-at-Arms
MIS
Clerks
Media

–
Dani Reyes

Policy Analyst

Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz

I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan

T 671-477-2520 | F 671-477-2522

<http://www.senatorbjcruz.com>

2 attachments



SECOND NOTICE MEMO PH 09212016.pdf

195K



SECOND NOTICE PR PH 09212016.pdf

178K

VICE SPEAKER BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ

Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication
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THE 33RD GUAM LEGISLATURE

155 Hesler Place, Suite 107, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T: (671) 477-2520/1 | F: (671) 477-2522

September 27, 2016

MEMORANDUM

To: All Members/ All Senators
From: Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz, Chairman

Re: **SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing - September 29, 2016**

Håfa Adai! The **Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication** will conduct a Public Hearing beginning at 5:00 PM on **Thursday, September 29, 2016**, in the *I Liheslatura Public Hearing Room*, on the following:

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Bill No. 317-33 (COR) – D.G. Rodriguez, Jr. / B.T. McCreadie / T. R. Muña Barnes / R. J. Respicio – “An act to appropriate up to seventy two thousand five hundred dollars (\$72,500) from the fiscal year 2017 General Fund revenues for Guam’s membership into the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) relative to providing affordable tuition rates for Guam’s undergraduate students at over 150 institutions who are part of the WICHE network.”

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We look forward to your attendance and participation.

VICE SPEAKER BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ

Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication
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155 Hesler Place, Suite 107, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 27, 2016

SECOND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the Open Government Law, P.L. 24-109, relative to notice for public meetings, let this release serve as forty-eight (48) hours' notice for a Public Hearing by the **Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication** scheduled on **Thursday, September 29, 2016**, in the Guam Legislature Hearing Room in Hagåtña, on the following:

5:00 PM - PUBLIC HEARING

Bill No. 317-33 (COR) - D.G. Rodriguez, Jr. / B.T. McCreadie / T. R. Muña Barnes / R. J. Respicio - "An act to appropriate up to seventy two thousand five hundred dollars (\$72,500) from the fiscal year 2017 General Fund revenues for Guam's membership into the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) relative to providing affordable tuition rates for Guam's undergraduate students at over 150 institutions who are part of the WICHE network."

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Updated: June 30, 2016

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Updated: June 30, 2016

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VICE SPEAKER BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ

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I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan

THE 33RD GUAM LEGISLATURE

155 Hesler Place, Suite 107, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T: (671) 477-2520/1 | F: (671) 477-2522

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

Thursday, September 29, 2016

Guam Legislature Public Hearing Room • Hagåtña, Guam

5:00 PM

Bill No. 317-33 (COR) – D.G. Rodriguez, Jr. / B.T. McCreadie / T. R. Muña Barnes / R. J. Respicio – “An act to appropriate up to seventy two thousand five hundred dollars (\$72,500) from the fiscal year 2017 General Fund revenues for Guam’s membership into the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) relative to providing affordable tuition rates for Guam’s undergraduate students at over 150 institutions who are part of the WICHE network.”