

Office of the Governor of Guahan

P.O. Box 2950 Hagåtña, Guahan 96932
TEL (671) 472-8931 · FAX (671) 477-4826

Felix P. Camacho
Governor
Michael W. Cruz, M.D.
Lieutenant Governor

2010 FEB 16 PM 2:00
FEB 15 2010

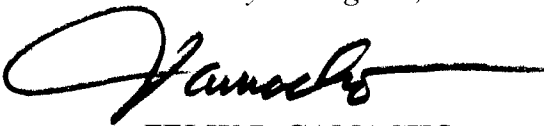
The Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.
Speaker
Mina' Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guahan
155 Hessler Street
Hagåtña, Guahan 96910

Dear Speaker Won Pat:

Transmitted herewith is proposed legislation entitled, "AN ACT RELATIVE TO CHANGING THE OFFICIAL NAME OF GUAM TO ITS NAME IN THE CHAMORRO LANGUAGE, NAMELY 'GUAHAN'," for consideration by *I Liheslaturan Guahan*.

Passage and enactment of the legislation will rename Guam to Guahan. Guahan is Chamorro for Guam. Guahan can be translated to signify a place of resources. Guahan represents the island, the ancient Chamorros and their way of life. As such, I request *I Liheslaturan Guahan* to enact the proposed legislation.

Sinseru yan Magåhet,



FELIX P. CAMACHO
I Maga'låhen Guahan
Governor of Guahan

Attachment: copy of Bill

30-18-0151
FEB 15 2010
Ed Pocaique

**I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN
2010 (SECOND) Regular Session**

Bill No. __ (___)

Introduced by:

By request of *I Maga'lahaen
Guahan* in accordance with the
Organic Act of Guam

**AN ACT RELATIVE TO CHANGING THE OFFICIAL NAME OF
GUAM TO ITS NAME IN THE CHAMORRO LANGUAGE,
NAMELY "*GUAHAN*".**

1 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** Guam is referred to as
2 *Guahan* in the Chamorro language. *Guahan* is "a place that has" i.e., a place of
3 resources. *Guahan* is all all-encompassing.

4 According to the Guam Historian of the government of Guam, the
5 etymology of *Guahan* could be derived from the base word, *guaha*. *Guaha* means,
6 there is, have, exist. The final "n" is a grammatical marker which denotes
7 "possession off." Thus *guaha* plus the "n" marker for possessive quality implies,
8 "a place of resources." The "n" grammatical feature of *Guahan* is a similar feature
9 of most of the Mariana Islands- Saipan, Tinian, Agrigan, Agrihan, Pagan,
10 Aalamagan , Sarigan, Guguan. Unlike *Guahan*, it is difficult to decipher the base
11 word Guam or its etymology.

12 Words instill ownership and in most modern proceedings, the word *Guahan*

1 instills indigenous ownership. This is obvious in the historic and cultural
2 connection of the Chamorro people of Guam to the land, wind and ocean. *Guahan*
3 is akin to the Hawaiian *Ohana* or *Hui* family and indicative of *inafa'maolek* culture
4 of the Chamorro people.

5 Guam was predominately referred to as *Guahan* from 1521 until 1898. In
6 1898, the Treaty of Paris signed by Spain and the United States of American
7 referred to the island as Guam. Thereafter, a Naval Governor of Guam requested
8 that the official designation of the island be “Isle of Guam”.

9 *I Liheslatura* finds that *Guahan* represents *I Chamorro* and their way of life.
10 To truly reflect the Island and her indigenous people, *I Liheslatura* finds that Guam
11 shall be renamed and designated as *Guahan*.

12 **Section 2.** Guam shall herein after be *Guahan* and shall be the official
13 designation of the Island. All references to Guam shall be renamed or understood
14 to refer to *Guahan*.