

Guam Academy Charter Schools Council
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33-15-0790
Office of the Speaker
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D

August 26, 2015

The Honorable Benjamin J. Cruz
Vice-Speaker, *I Mina'Trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan*
Chairperson, Committee ^{on} Appropriations and Adjudication
155 Hesler Place, Suite 107
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Date: 08-27-15
Time: 8:25 AM
Received By: [Signature]

RE: Guam Academy Charter Schools FY 2015-2016 Budgets and Budget Law

Dear Vice-Speaker Cruz:

Buenas yan háfa adai, Vice-Speaker Cruz.

As you are well aware of per Senator Nerissa Bretania Underwood's letter of August 20, 2015, Guahan Academy Charter School is in violation of P. L. 32-219. Due to the lower enrollment of *iLearn* Academy Charter School during School Year 2014-2015, this does not apply to them.

As of this date, Guahan Academy has an enrollment of 626 students, 26 students over the approved FY 2014-2015 budget of 600. Guahan, in anticipation of the number of students recommended by [the] Council at the submission of the Charter Schools' budget on January 20, 2015, enrolled over 600 students at the onset of SY 2015-2016. The over enrollment of 40 students reflects the Council's approved recommendation.

As Chair, I discussed Senator Underwood's concern with Principal Mary B. Mafnas on August 19, 2015 who assured me that Guahan will no longer enroll new students, and will not replace any withdrawals.

At our Council meeting today, we reviewed Substitute Bill 37-33 (COR) passed by *I Mina'Trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan* on August 24, 2015 and transmitted the same day to the Honorable Edward J. B. Calvo, Governor of Guam.

Chapter II, Part I, Section 2 states:

"...Five Hundred Dollars (**\$5,500**) per enrollee of the Academy Charter Schools chartered by the Guam Academy Charter Schools Council, not to exceed six hundred (600) students for the *Guahan* Academy Charter School and four hundred fifty (450) for the

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iLearn Academy Charter School as recommended by the Guam Academy Charter Schools Council,..."

The reference to Chapter II, Part I, Section 2 makes specific reference "as recommended" is an unfortunate oversight given [the] Council, in fact, it recommended 640 students for Guahan Academy and 450 for *iLearn Academy* .

In light of the potential perennial violation of the enabling legislation as a result of the anticipated enrollment growth for each charter school, the Council offers the following recommendations:

1. Amend FY 2014-2015 Budget Act, P.L. 32-219, to reflect July 1, 2015 hiring for August start date,
2. Amend FY 2015-2016 Budget Act to provide funding for GACS capped at 640 and *iLearn* capped at 450 for October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016, and
3. After GACS Council reviews and transmits FY 2016-2017 Budget and the Legislature passes and Governor signs into law, [the] Council kindly requests of your Committee to consider amending language to allow the new school year to start on July 1 each FY thereafter.

Please call me should you have any questions.

Un gof dangkolo na si Yu'os ma'ase'.

Astaki,



Rosa Salas Palomo

Chair, Guam Academy Charter Schools Council

cc: Governor of Guam

- ✓ Speaker, *I Mina' Trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan*
- All Senators, *I Mina' Trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan*
- All Members, Guam Academy Charter School Council
- Board of Trustees, Guahan Academy Charter School
- Board of Trustees, *iLearn Academy Charter School*
- Superintendent, Guam Department of Education