

Guam Academy Charter Schools Council
#3 Deans Circle, Micronesian Language Institute
University of Guam
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(671) 735-2193; (671) 727-5522

August 26, 2015

The Honorable Nerissa Bretania Underwood, Ph.D.
Senator, *I Mina'Trentai Tress na Liheslaturan Guåhan*
Chairperson, Committee on Early Learning, Juvenile Justice,
Public Education and First Generation Initiatives
155 Hesler Place, Suite 104
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

33-15-0791
Office of the Speaker
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D

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

RE: August 20, 2015 Communication and P.L. 32-219

Dear Senator Underwood:

Buenas yan háfa adai, Senator Underwood.

Si Yu'os ma'åse' for your letter of August 20, 2015. Please know that I have personally distributed to the Guam Academy Charter Schools Council members their copies of your letters to Chairwoman Fe Ovalles and myself.

The Council is well aware of the enrollment caps established for both schools, *iLearn* and Guahan Academy Charter Schools, for FY 2014-2015. School Year (hereinafter referred to as SY) 2015-2016 began on August 14, 2015. Violation of P.L. 32-219 did not apply to *iLearn* due to their lower enrollment for SY 2014-15; however, 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 start of SY 2015-16. It is the Council's stance that the over enrollment was done in good faith in anticipation of the Council approved recommendation, and in the interest of affording students whose parents elect to send them to Guahan Academy that opportunity.

As an explanation of the challenge of annual fiscal year funding October 1 – September 30 with a School Year starting August, and after examining this challenge posed to both Charter Schools, the Council proposes the following:

Amend P.L. 32-219 to reflect the new academic year to start on July 1 to accommodate the new School Year's enrollment increase as proposed by each school right at the onset of the new school year.

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This amendment will eliminate the annual predicament of starting the new school year with the possibility of violating the Charter Schools' enabling legislation.

I believe that the recommendation provided is a reasonable approach to address a quirk in the authorized increase to SY 2015-2016 school year versus the October to September fiscal year period.

Un gof dāngkolo na si Yu'os ma'āse'.

Astaki,



Rosa Salas Palomo

Chair, Guam Academy Charter Schools Council

cc: ✓ Speaker, *I Mina' Trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan*
Vice-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