

SEVENTH GUAM LEGISLATURE
1964 (SECOND) Regular Session

CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO THE GOVERNOR

This is to certify that Bill No. 334, "An Act to add Chapter 13 to Title XII of the Government Code of Guam to provide for the creation of a commission on the Chamorro Language which commission shall study the origin, describe the grammar, and assist in preserving the use of the Chamorro Language", was on the 7th day of July, 1964, duly and regularly passed.

A. B. WON PAT
Speaker

ATTESTED:

F. T. RAMIREZ
Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 1964 at _____ o'clock _____ P.M.

RUDOLPH G. SABLAN
Acting Secretary of Guam

APPROVED:

TIMOTHY F. L. GUERRERO
Governor of Guam

DATED: _____

SEVENTH GUAM LEGISLATURE
1964 (SECOND) Regular Session

Bill No. 334

Introduced by A. B. Won Pat

AN ACT TO ADD CHAPTER 13 TO TITLE XII OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE OF GUAM TO PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION OF A COMMISSION ON THE CHAMORRO LANGUAGE WHICH COMMISSION SHALL STUDY THE ORIGIN, DESCRIBE THE GRAMMAR, AND ASSIST IN PRESERVING THE USE OF THE CHAMORRO LANGUAGE.

WHEREAS, the ancient Chamorro language, which has been spoken on Guam from its colonization by the Chamorro race hundreds of years ago, is threatened with extinction due to the rapid inroads of English and the increasing emphasis on contemporary American culture in which Chamorro plays no part; and

WHEREAS, the language of the Chamorro is one of the few legacies left to the people of Guam by the original colonizers thereof and therefore deserves preservation for that reason alone; and

WHEREAS, the Chamorro language is, in addition, a supple and beautiful language which lends itself well to singing and poetry, thereby playing a vital part in the cultural life of the territory; and

WHEREAS, despite the importance of this language--so basic to the unique culture of Guam--there is no worthwhile or in any way adequate treatise or authority on the language of the Chamorro; and that, therefore, although there are purported experts in the language, none have any real authority upon which to base such claim, and there is no general agreement as to the proper usages within the language nor agreed definitions of many of its words; now therefore

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

2 Section 1. Chapter 13 is hereby added to Title XII of the
3 Government Code of Guam to read as follows:

4 "CHAPTER 13

5 COMMISSION ON CHAMORRO LANGUAGE

6 Section 11950. Creation of Commission. There is hereby
7 established the 'Commission on the Chamorro Language', to con-
8 sist of five (5) members, all citizens of the United States
9 and residents of Guam who must be conversant in the Chamorro

1 advice and consent of the Legislature for a term of three (3)
2 years; provided, however, that of the members first appointed,
3 one shall serve for one year, two for two years, and two for
4 three years.

5 Section 11951. Duties of Commission. It shall be the
6 duty of the Commission to study the antecedents, describe
7 the grammar and prescribe good usages for the Chamorro
8 language, and to prepare a modern and up-to-date Chamorro-
9 English dictionary.

10 Section 11952. Facilities of Department of Education
11 and College of Guam. The Commission is hereby authorized
12 to use, and the Department of Education and the College of
13 Guam are hereby directed to make available, the facilities
14 of said department and said college in carrying out the
15 duties of the Commission, and shall also furnish such
16 personal and logistic assistance as the Commission shall
17 need to carry out its functions.

18 Section 11953. Report to the Legislature: Appropriations.
19 The Commission shall annually report to the Legislature
20 the results of its work in preserving the Chamorro
21 language and in the event appropriations are needed to
22 carry out its tasks, the Commission is hereby authorized
23 to request the same of the Legislature which is authorized
24 to make such appropriations as are called for to carry out
25 the purposes of this Chapter."

26 Section 2. Chapter II of Title XII of the Government Code of
27 Guam as enacted by Public Law 39 of the Seventh Guam Legislature, approved
28 June 19, 1963, is hereby renumbered Chapter 12.

29 Section 3. This Act is an urgency measure.