

TENTH GUAM LEGISLATURE
1969 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 255

Introduced by _____
R. F. Taitano

AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 15 TO TITLE
XIV OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE OF GUAM TO
CREATE A GUAM PLACE NAME COMMISSION.

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

2 Section 1. A new Chapter 15 is hereby added to Title
3 XIV of the Government Code of Guam to read as follows:

4 "CHAPTER 15
5 GUAM PLACE NAME COMMISSION

6 Section 13999. Definitions:

7 (a) 'Commission' means the Guam Place Name
8 Commission.

9 (b) A 'place name' is an official name given
10 to places in the territory of Guam by the Commission.

11 (c) A 'place' is a site, geographic feature,
12 area, or district bearing or capable of bearing
13 a single name for descriptive and other purposes.

14 (d) 'Executive Director' means the Director
15 of the Department of Land Management.

16 Section 13999.1. Guam Place Name Commission. The
17 Territorial Planning Commission shall be the Guam Place Name
18 Commission.

19 Section 13999.2. Powers of the Commission. The
20 Commission shall be authorized to:

21 (a) Establish place names for all places
22 within the jurisdiction of the government of Guam,
23 on the basis of the following: Historical and cultural
24 background; community usage; and suitability.

25 (b) Prepare and promulgate regulations, pursuant
26 to the Administrative Adjudication Act, establishing
27 the methods by which it shall exercise its powers
28 herein.

29 (c) Cooperate with the Department of Education,
30 the University of Guam, the Guam Museum, and civic

1 and religious clubs and organizations interested in
2 the program of providing appropriate place names
3 for Guam, in drafting and using a coherent, culturally
4 sound, and historically accurate set of criteria for
5 selecting place names;

6 (d) Change any place name previously given to
7 or used for any place within Guam when such place name
8 is inappropriate, unhistorical, confusing, or other-
9 wise unsuitable in the light of the criteria es-
10 tablished for territorial place names.

11 (e) Utilize to the maximum extent feasible
12 Chamorro words in selecting place names with a view
13 toward preserving the use of Chamorro and maintaining
14 the Chamorro designation for places in Guam; provided,
15 however, that in addition to preserving Chamorro place
16 names in current usage, the Commission shall utilize
17 Chamorro in naming new places not now bearing place
18 names.

19 (f) Restore to the maximum extent feasible the
20 ancient Chamorro spellings and pronunciations to
21 place names now misspelled and mispronounced.

22 Section 13999.3. Future place names. No person or
23 agency of government may give any name to any place within
24 Guam without the approval and concurrence of the Commission.

25 Section 13999.4. Commission Staff Personnel. The
26 Executive Director shall perform such services and exercise
27 such powers as may be prescribed by the Commission. The
28 Commission may, by resolution, authorize the employment of
29 such expert consultants and clerical assistance as its work
30 requires."

31 Section 2. This Act is an urgency measure.