

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2023 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 69-37 (COR)

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje

Chris Barnett

Relative to supporting the growth of CHamoru Language Medium education and instruction in Guam, by strengthening CHamoru language medium teacher training, curriculum development and assessment in our schools, and community and leadership commitment, engagement, and collaboration in our community.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF *I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN*:

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed in Resolution 71/178, the year beginning on January 1, 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages to draw attention to the critical loss of Indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote Indigenous languages and to take further urgent steps at the national and international levels, and invited UNESCO to serve as the lead agency; and

WHEREAS, the Biden Administration is considering the development of a 10-year National Plan on Native Language Revitalization. The Plan would lay out a long-term, all-of-government strategy that works with Tribal Nations and, as appropriate, non-profit organizations, subject-matter experts, and other entities for the revitalization, protection, preservation, and reclamation of Native Languages; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Native American Languages Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-477) is the
2 policy of the United States to: (1) Preserve, protect, and promote the rights and freedom
3 of Native Americans to use, practice, and develop Native American languages; (2)
4 Allow exceptions to teacher certification requirements for Federal programs, and
5 programs funded in whole or in part by the Federal Government, for instruction in
6 Native American languages when such teacher certification requirements hinder the
7 employment of qualified teachers who teach in Native American languages, and to
8 encourage State and territorial governments to make similar exceptions; and (3)
9 Encourage and support the use of Native American languages as a medium of
10 instruction in order to encourage and support Native American language survival,
11 educational opportunity, increased student success and performance, increased student
12 awareness and knowledge of their culture and history, and increased student and
13 community pride; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the *MAGA'LÅHI HURAO-Sagan Linahyan I Lina'la' Fino'*
15 *CHamoru* (also known as Chief Hurao Academy) was established in 2005 as a full-
16 immersion CHamoru language program on Guam, whose mission is to provide, “the
17 place to rediscover your CHamoru roots through immersion language and cultural
18 activities in a family environment.” The Chief Hurao Academy has been successful in
19 increasing the number of fluent speakers in our community; and who have been the
20 pipeline in partnership with the GDOE *Faneyåkan* in the writing of the curriculum; and
21 training and guiding the six-year pilot immersion program; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the CHamoru Heritage Commission Act of 2016 created within the
23 government of Guam the Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the
24 History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam, some of whose duties and
25 purposes are as follows: (a) continually study and update the orthographic rules of the
26 CHamoru language; and to provide notification to public and private institutions of

1 updates to the CHamoru orthography; (b) consult with government leaders and others
2 in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands who are interested in the
3 standardization of the CHamoru language orthography and seek to recognize and
4 establish agreement relevant to the orthography, as well as existing regional differences;
5 (c) advise public and private institutions, broadcast and written media, to include
6 magazines and individuals, on issues related to the alignment of both spoken and written
7 media, publications, signage and manuscripts with the grammatical and orthographic
8 rules established by the Commission; (d) provide requisite updates to the CHamoru-
9 English Dictionary; and (e) establish a CHamoru translation service for public and
10 private entities and individuals, broadcast and written media, with an appropriate fee
11 structure for such services; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Department of Education, aims to “provide high quality
13 language learning instruction to produce CHamoru speakers and support teacher
14 certification and the professional learning of CHamoru instructors to strengthen the
15 Department’s CHamoru language revitalization programs and activities.” In its aim to
16 develop fluent and proficient generations in the CHamoru language, GDOE established
17 its *Faneyåkan Sinipok CHamoru* Immersion pilot program in school year 2019-2020 at
18 P. C. Lujan Elementary School. in Radio, Barriagada. The program currently provides
19 CHamoru language medium instruction in all academic subject areas for students from
20 kindergarten through the third grade. The program is part of the CHamoru Studies and
21 Special Projects Division providing educational programs that aim to revive and
22 maintain the language and culture of the indigenous people of Guam; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Community College and the University of Guam have
24 ongoing teacher training programs that develop fluency, proficiency, and the skills
25 necessary to support teacher education in CHamoru language medium instruction. The

1 College and the University are committed to articulation between programs to establish
2 a pathway for teachers regardless of their entry point to higher education; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the CHamoru Language Educators' Consortium (CLEC) was
4 convened in 2022 to address the need for reform of our current policy framework on
5 CHamoru language education and instruction. The CLEC is comprised of
6 representatives from the *Maga'låhi Hurao- Sagan Linahyan I Lina'la ' Fino'* CHamoru
7 (Chief Hurao Academy), Guam Community College, Guam Department of Education,
8 *I Kumisión I Fino' CHamoru*, and University of Guam; and

9 **WHEREAS**, CHamoru Language Medium education and instruction is a full-
10 immersion method of language revival. Research has shown that full-immersion or the
11 total-immersion methods of language revival is the best option for producing fluent
12 speakers for a threatened language; and

13 **WHEREAS**, *I Kumisión I Fino' CHamoru* convened a two-day Indigenous
14 Languages Summit from February 10-11, 2023, at the Leo Palace Resort themed, *Ti*
15 *Atrasasåo!* (It's Not too Late!) with presenters from the Commonwealth of the Northern
16 Mariana Islands, Hawai'i, and New Zealand shared their strategies for indigenous
17 language revitalization. The summit engaged CHamoru language stakeholders and
18 policy makers to discuss a way forward to normalize the use of the CHamoru language;
19 now therefore, be it

20 **RESOLVED**, that *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* hereby urges the CHamoru Language
21 Educators' Consortium and member representative, *Maga'låhi Hurao- Sagan Linahyan*
22 *I Lina'la' Fino' CHamoru* (Chief Hurao Academy), Guam Community College, the
23 Guam Department of Education, *I Kumisión I Fino' CHamoru*, the University of Guam,
24 all CHamoru language stakeholders, policy makers, and *I Maga'hågan Guahan*, to
25 make recommendations within ninety (90) days, of how the full development of

1 CHamoru Language Medium education and instruction in Guam can be supported by
2 each of these government and private entities; and be it further

3 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Siette Na*
4 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people
5 of Guam, support the growth of CHamoru Language Medium education and instruction
6 in Guam, by strengthening CHamoru language medium teacher training, curriculum
7 development and assessment in our schools, and community and leadership
8 commitment, engagement and collaboration in our community; and be it further

9 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of Committee on Rules
10 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
11 the same be thereafter transmitted to the CHamoru Language Educators' Consortium;
12 *Maga'låhi Hurao- Sagan Linahyan I Lina'la' Fino' CHamoru* (Chief Hurao Academy),
13 Guam Community College, Guam Department of Education, *I Kumisión I Fino'*
14 *CHamoru*, and University of Guam; and to the Honorable Lourdes Leon Guerrero, *I*
15 *Maga'hågan Guåhan*.