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From: Speaker's Office <speaker@guamlegislature.org>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 6:28 PM
To: Clerks Office
Cc: Rennae Meno
Subject: Messages and Communications
Attachments: GoG-Public Law No. 35-122.pdf; GoG-Veto Bill No. 133-35 (COR).pdf; GoG-Public Law No. 35-120.pdf; GoG-Public Law No. 35-121.pdf; GoG-Public Law No. 35-118 and Public Law No. 35-119.pdf; GoG-Veto Bill No. 207-35 (COR).pdf

12/11/20	5:25 PM	12/11/20	Substitute Bill No. 217-35 (COR), signed into law as Public Law No. 35-118; Substitute Bill No. 218-35 (COR), signed into law as Public Law 35-119.	Office of the Governor of Guam	35GL-20-2501
12/11/20	5:25 PM	12/11/20	Substitute Bill No. 253-35 (COR), signed into law as Public Law No. 35-120.	Office of the Governor of Guam	35GL-20-2502
12/11/20	5:25 PM	12/11/20	Substitute Bill No. 285-35 (COR), signed into law as Public Law No. 35-121.	Office of the Governor of Guam	35GL-20-2503
12/11/20	5:25 PM	12/11/20	Substitute Bill No. 206-35 (COR), signed into law as Public Law No. 35-122.	Office of the Governor of Guam	35GL-20-2504
12/11/20	5:25 PM	12/11/20	Bill No. 133-35 (COR), Vetoed.	Office of the Governor of Guam	35GL-20-2505
12/11/20	5:25 PM	12/11/20	Bill No. 207-35 (COR), Vetoed.	Office of the Governor of Guam	35GL-20-2506

Sinseru yan Minagåhet,

Office of the Speaker • Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Committee on Public Accountability, Human Resources & the Guam Buildup

35th Guam Legislature
I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Guam Congress Building | 163 Chalan Santo Papa | Hagatna, GU 96910
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contained in this transmission is strictly PROHIBITED. If you have received this transmission in error, please immediately notify us by replying to speaker@guamlegislature.org and delete the message immediately. Thank you very much.

Gumai pribilehu yan konfedensia este siha na mensåhi. Solo espesiåtmente para hågu ma entensioña pat ma aturisa para unrisibi. Sen prubidu kumu ti un ma aturisa para manribisa, na'setbe, pat mandespåtcha. Yanggen lachi rinisibu-mu nu este na mensåhi , put fabot ago' guatu gi I numa'huyong gi as speaker@guamlegislature.org yan despues destrosa todu siha I kopian mensåhi. Si Yu'os ma'åse'.

UFISINAN I MAGA'HÅGA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
MAGA'HÅGA • GOVERNOR

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
SIGUNDO MAGA'LÅHI • LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

December 11, 2020

35GL-20-2502
Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes
DEC 11 2020
Time 5:25 ✓
Received By:

HONORABLE TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Speaker
I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
35th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Re: **<u>Substitute Bill No. 253-35 (COR)</u> - An Act to *Amend* § 28202 of Article 2, Chapter 28, Title 17, Guam Code Annotated, Relative to Grandfathering Existing Merit Award Recipients from the Changes in Benefits made in Public Law 34-151 and Requiring the Application of the Merit Award to Tuition and Fees, and to Allow for Other Forms of Financial Aid to Cover Other Aspects of the Total Cost of Attendance, in Order to Ensure the Success of our Merit Scholars**

Dear Madame Speaker:

The merit scholarship program was designed to empower exemplary high school students to pursue higher education, in an effort to invest in a better future for our island. Public Law 34-151 required that federal Pell Grant benefits be applied to a student's tuition and costs before merit scholarship awards. However, students with existing awards were unable to access the same level of funding available at the time they first received their award, and some, particularly our students from lower income households, face a difficult challenge adjusting their existing need to the change in award structure and available funding. Substitute Bill No. 253-35, now known as ***Public Law No. 35-120***, ensures that students with existing awards through these two programs will be able to continue their education with the same funding structure, so they may complete their education with the same support they and their families have come to rely on, and provides prospective recipients of both awards the ability to plan effectively for their futures.

Senseramente,

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
I Maga'hågan Guåhan
Governor of Guam

Enclosure: Substitute Bill No. 253-35 (COR) *nka P.L. 35-120*

cc via email: *Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*
Compiler of Laws

RICARDO J. BORDALLO GOVERNOR'S COMPLEX • HAGÅTÑA, GUAM 96910
P.O. BOX 2950 • HAGÅTÑA, GUAM 96932
671.472.8931 • 671.477.4826/6

I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2020 (SECOND) Regular Session

CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO *I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN*

This is to certify that **Substitute Bill No. 253-35 (COR) "AN ACT TO *AMEND* § 28202 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 28, TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO GRANDFATHERING EXISTING MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS FROM THE CHANGES IN BENEFITS MADE IN PUBLIC LAW 34-151 AND REQUIRING THE APPLICATION OF THE MERIT AWARD TO TUITION AND FEES, AND TO ALLOW FOR OTHER FORMS OF FINANCIAL AID TO COVER OTHER ASPECTS OF THE TOTAL COST OF ATTENDANCE, IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF OUR MERIT SCHOLARS,"** was on the 1st day of December 2020, duly and regularly passed.

Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Speaker

Attested:

Amanda L. Shelton
Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* this 1st day of December, 2020, at 4:33 o'clock P.M.

Assistant Staff Officer
Maga'håga's Office

APPROVED:

Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
I Maga'hågan Guåhan

Date: 12/11/20

Public Law No. 35-120

Jessica Cruz
RCVD AT CENTRAL FILES
DEC 1 '20 PM4:33
2020-12257

I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2019 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 253-35 (COR)
As amended by the Committee on General
Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing;
and substituted and amended on the Floor.

Introduced by: Amanda L. Shelton
Joe S. San Agustin
Telena Cruz Nelson
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
William M. Castro
Régine Biscoe Lee
Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD
James C. Moylan
Louise B. Muña
Sabina Flores Perez
Clynton E. Ridgell
Telo T. Taitague
Jose "Pedo" Terlaje
Therese M. Terlaje
Mary Camacho Torres

AN ACT TO *AMEND* § 28202 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 28, TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO GRANDFATHERING EXISTING MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS FROM THE CHANGES IN BENEFITS MADE IN PUBLIC LAW 34-151 AND REQUIRING THE APPLICATION OF THE MERIT AWARD TO TUITION AND FEES, AND TO ALLOW FOR OTHER FORMS OF FINANCIAL AID TO COVER OTHER ASPECTS OF THE TOTAL COST OF ATTENDANCE, IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF OUR MERIT SCHOLARS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that Public Law 34-151 was passed by *I Liheslatura* on December 17, 2018, and

enacted into law on December 28, 2018, which changed the merit award benefit in law so that the Federal Pell Grant awarded to a student under 20 U.S.C. § 1070a of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, would apply first before the merit award, which would pay the remaining tuition and fees to recipients at the University of Guam. However, merit award recipients were unaware of the bill or the public hearing, and the subsequent passage of the bill and the change in their benefits until August 2019.

This change significantly altered the financial status of many merit award recipients who had signed a contract with a certain financial aid formulation in mind. Many of them planned and counted on a stable amount of financial aid from the merit award; however, the application of the Federal Pell Grant on a variety of expenses in addition to tuition and fees, such as, books and supplies, room and board, and transportation, decreases the amount of aid, if any, received under the merit award. Because the merit award is applied toward tuition and fees, students may be unable to pay for rent or transportation expenses incurred as they travel to and from the University. This may also affect their graduate and doctoral pursuits. Furthermore, to change the award distributed while maintaining the years of service required without their consent is a clear violation of their contract; and many students had worked hard in high school in order to obtain the merit award with this benefit in mind.

It is, therefore, the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to have the merit award encompass the total cost of attendance to ensure that students on the current benefit schedule graduate with their expected benefit level.

Section 2. § 28202 of Article 2, Chapter 28, Title 17, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *amended* to read:

"**§ 28202. Benefits.**

Students entitled to awards pursuant to this Article shall receive the following benefits:

(a) Tuition and Fees at the University of Guam and the Guam Community College. Tuition and fees for each academic year will be paid by the Student Financial Assistance Fund for a period of not more than four (4) years in an undergraduate program at either the University of Guam, or the Guam Community College, or both. Merit award recipients, including recipients that sign the University of Guam Merit Award Promissory Note and Merit Award Rules and Regulations contract effective as of the *Fanuchånan* Semester of 2020, who are eligible for and receive the Federal Pell Grant under 20 U.S.C. § 1070a of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, shall have their merit award applied to their tuition and fees first for each academic year.

(b) Stipend. Award recipients are entitled to a monthly stipend to be disbursed in nine (9) monthly installments during the academic year, as follows:

(1) First Year and Second Year Students: Three Hundred Dollars ($300.00) per month.

(2) Third Year and Fourth Year Students: Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00) per month.

(c) Allowance for Textbooks and School Supplies. Each student receiving an award under this Article beginning with students who sign the contract beginning in the *Fanuchånan* Semester of 2020 at the University of Guam or the Guam Community College shall be entitled to an additional Three Hundred Fifty Dollars ($350.00) per semester for textbooks and school supplies.

(d) Optional Inter-Session Allowed.

(1) Summer Semester. Each student shall be entitled to tuition for full time enrollment, fees, and textbooks.

(2) Between Fall and Spring Semesters. Each student shall be entitled for tuition for full time enrollment, fees, and textbooks. Students attending inter-session between Fall and Spring Semesters shall not be entitled to an additional stipend."