



I HAGAN FAMALAO'AN GUAHAN

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July 7, 2021

Honorable Speaker Therese M. Terlaje  
Chairperson, Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture  
36<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature  
Guam Congress Building  
163 Chalan Santo Papa  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Subject: **Written testimony Re: Bill 112-36 (COR)**

Håfa Adai Chairperson,

Si Yu'os Ma'åse' for the opportunity to provide testimony. We are the indigenous CHamoru Women's Association, I Hagan Famalao'an Guahan (IHFG).

We come before you all to express our **support** for **Bill No. 112-36 (COR)**.

There appears to be layers of complexities regarding Bill No. 112 that surely require careful consideration possibly unknown to the layperson's comprehension of medical practice. Despite these complexities, we stand firmly in support of the bill and its intention to provide a more equitable means for the people of Guam to file medical malpractice claims. We especially support this bill due to its design of fair, impartial and financially accessible methods for all members of the community who seek protection.

We can imagine the financial burden on families seeking to have their claims considered. We can empathize with those already burdened with the expenses of medical procedures. What more for those who cannot afford the current arbitration process and have no other means to seek justice for an injury due to negligence. This bill acknowledges and addresses the reality of the financial struggles of our low socio-economic families.

In addition to providing equal and due process for low socio-economic families, we support the anticipated assisted outcomes that will aid our valued medical professionals by providing a

vetting process to ensure mitigation of frivolous lawsuits while not negatively affecting the current standard of care that is being practiced.

IHFG's mission as an organization is to promote the social welfare of *Guåhan* and her people. Two specific traditional CHamoru systems that drive our work for the island are *Fa'taotao*, to treat others with utmost respect as a member of humanity, and *Inaguaiya*, to be loving.

Thank you to the legislative members who support the passage of Bill No. 112. We ask you all for your continued efforts in working towards a more *Fa'taotao* and *Inaguaiya* community for the people of Guam.

*Un dangkolo na si Yu'os ma'åse'.*

*Kon respetu,*  
I Hagan Famalao'an Guåhan