Policy 175

GUAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE Board of Trustees

GCC AS A TOBACCO PRODUCT, ELECTRONIC CIGARETTE AND BETELNUT-FREE CAMPUS

WHEREAS, tobacco is a legally available consumer product which kills people when used entirely as intended; and

WHEREAS, second-hand smoke contains poisonous chemicals such as arsenic, hydrogen cyanide, ammonia, and carbon monoxide; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency has classified secondhand smoke as a Group A carcinogen, a substance known to cause cancer in humans, and the EPA does not recognize a safe level of exposure to Group A carcinogens; and

WHEREAS, indisputable scientific evidence exists that links tobacco use and exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke to pulmonary and cardiovascular diseases and cancer; and

WHEREAS, over 60 percent of all Guam cancer deaths are tobacco related; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of Guam's people who smoke is one of the highest of all U.S. states and territories; and

WHEREAS, smoking rates among Guam adults continue to increase despite the fact that over half of the current smokers have recently attempted to quit; and

WHEREAS, 23.3% of middle school students and 31.6% of high school students in Guam are current smokers, according to the 2003 Youth Risk Behavior Survey; and

WHEREAS, Guam Public Law 21-139, Guam's Clean Indoor Air Act of 1992, prohibits smoking in all enclosed public places and requires restaurants to designate at least 50% of their restaurant seating as non-smoking; and

WHEREAS, Guam Public Law 28-20, the Natasha Perez Protection Act of 2005, prohibits smoking in Guam restaurants, except for restaurants that turn into bars late at night; and

WHEREAS, Guam Community College is committed to promoting the health, wellness and social wellbeing of its students, staff, faculty and the people of Guam and the Western Pacific; and

WHEREAS, betelnut and tobacco products, when chewed and expectorated, represent a significant health hazard by increasing the opportunity for exposure to various communicable diseases through saliva and air borne contaminants; and

WHEREAS, the use of any electronic cigarette (e-cigs) devices are prohibited on campus; and

WHEREAS, GCC desires to set a good public example as a responsible, health conscious public institution; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the ban of tobacco products, electronic cigarette (e-cigs) devices, and the use of betelnut on the GCC campus.

Reviewed, no changes: April 8, 2016 Amended & Adopted: May 30, 2013 Resolution No: 6-2013

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