
**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Res. No. 2020 - 001

**Suspending the Priority Field of Study Awards
and the Merit Incentive Awards for the 2020 –
2021 School Year.**

WHEREAS, the SHEFA Program has seen a continuous increase in the number of applicants seeking education financial assistance from an average of 800 to 900 applications received in previous school years, to an average of 1,300 applications most recently for school years 2019 and 2020; and

WHEREAS, funding appropriation to the SHEFA Fund has not tracked the same upward trend to meet the higher demand for educational financial assistance for qualified Saipan and Northern Islands residents seeking post-secondary or higher education, or approved trade or vocational skills certification; and

WHEREAS, noting that no funding has yet been appropriated for Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance in Fiscal Year 2020, despite nearing the end of the third quarter of the fiscal year, which has resulted in SHEFA resources dwindling to a current \$1,377,068.00 available for financial assistance to qualifying students; and


WHEREAS, the limited resources available necessitate measures to conserve resources and focus on allocating financial assistance provided to students by SHEFA to assure support to the widest student population possible and achieve SHEFA's goal of assisting our residents in their educational pursuit and improving our workforce; and

WHEREAS, grant-in-aid awards will continue unchanged and be made available for the Fall 2020 semester for students pursuing postsecondary education in U.S. accredited colleges or universities, trade certification at the Northern Marianas Trades Institute or other approved trade institution, inclusive of on-island, off-island, and online students;

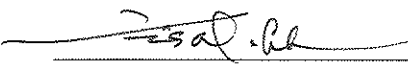
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) program, pursuant to 10 CMC § 3924, do hereby adopt this resolution suspending the Priority Field of Study awards and Merit Incentive awards for the 2020-2021 school year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned directors of the SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (SHEFA) program, in full agreement to the within premises, have hereunder set their hands as consent to and adoption of the foregoing Board of Directors Resolution, to be effective this 4th day of June, 2020, and as aforesaid.

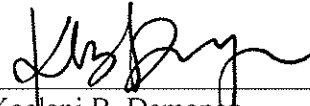
Duly Adopted this 4 day of June 2020




Oscar M. Babauta, Chairman



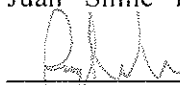
Francisco D. Cabrera
Secretary/Treasurer



Kaelani B. Demapan
Director



Juan "Shine" K. Tenorio, Vice Chairman



Raymond M. Muña
Director

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Res. No. 2021 - 001

Authorizing and Directing Legal Counsel to Prepare Amendments to SHEFA Regulations for Publication in the Commonwealth Register to Allow Active Duty in the Armed Forces of the United States to Satisfy Both the Obligation to Return to Saipan and Work and the Required Service Contribution of Work in the Private or Public Sector in Saipan Imposed by the Current Regulations and Contractual Obligations Binding All SHEFA Recipients.

WHEREAS, Paragraph 8 of the Promissory Note/Memorandum of Agreement Form (MOA) under NMIAC § 165-20.1-205 explicitly lays out the “return-to-Saipan” and “obligation to repay” for all recipients of SHEFA assistance; and

WHEREAS, Paragraph 11 of above-said Promissory Note/Memorandum of Agreement Form currently provides qualified active members of the United States armed forces a deferral benefit from the requirements under Paragraph 8 of said MOA; and

WHEREAS, the SHEFA Board is sensitive to and recognizes the unfathomable and untold sacrifices borne by our men and women in the U.S. armed forces in order that we may enjoy our enduring freedom and liberty; and


WHEREAS, it is the Board’s position that the current deferral benefit under the SHEFA program does not go far enough to compensate our qualified military personnel for their sacrifices or recognize the value to the Commonwealth produced by their military service; and

WHEREAS, the Board has sought legal guidance and assigned this matter to the Committee on Policy and Procedure to study, discuss, and provide the full Board its recommendation, and during the January 28, 2021 Board Meeting, the Board adopted the Committee’s report and recommendation (i) to waive qualified active members of the U.S. armed services from the SHEFA assistance requirement to “return to Saipan and work”; and (ii) to count years of military service as credit towards the required service contribution in the private or public sector here on Saipan; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) program, pursuant to 10 CMC § 3924, do hereby adopt this resolution authorizing and directing legal counsel to prepare amendments to the SHEFA regulations for publication in the Commonwealth Register for the specific purposes stated above.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned directors of the SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (SHEFA) program, in full agreement to the within premises, have hereunder set their hands as consent to and adoption of the foregoing Board of Directors Resolution, to be effective this 28 day of January, 2021, and as aforesaid.


Duly Adopted this 28 day of January, 2021.




Oscar M. Babauta
Chairman



Juan "Shine" K. Tenorio
Vice Chairman



Francisco D. Cabrera,
Secretary/Treasurer



Raymond M. Muña
Director



Kaelani B. Demapan
Director

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Res. No. 2021 - 002

**Establishing Policy for the First Two Years of SHEFA
Assistance Applicable to New Participants.**

WHEREAS, the CNMI Government and the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program continue to be challenged by fiscal austerity and the enhanced health risks of the coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the limited resources available and urgent need for increased local workforce necessitate measures to conserve resources and focus on maximizing support to the widest student population possible and the most fundamental educational needs in support of development of the on-island workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the reliance interests of existing SHEFA participants in continuation of grant-in-aid programs for students already pursuing off-island postsecondary education in U.S. accredited colleges or universities, or trade certification at off-island approved trade institutions, inclusive of online students; and

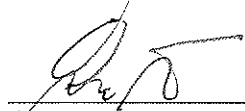
WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the public interest and effective allocation of limited resources to achieve the greatest benefit is best served by adopting a policy requiring first-time SHEFA assistance applicants to undertake their first two (2) years of studies on Saipan, and for the continued suspension of Priority Field of Study awards and Merit Incentive awards; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) program, pursuant to 10 CMC § 3924, do hereby adopt this resolution establishing its policy that new students seeking SHEFA assistance shall be limited during the first two years of postsecondary study to grants-in-aid and other assistance only for studies undertaken in the Commonwealth offered by U.S. accredited colleges or universities in particularly Northern Marianas College, and trade certification at the Northern Marianas Trades Institute or at other approved trade institutions, inclusive of online coursework; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the suspension of Priority Field of Study awards and Merit Incentive awards is hereby is continued until further action by the Board.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned directors of the SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (SHEFA) program, in full agreement to the within premises, have hereunder set their hands as consent to and adoption of the foregoing Board of Directors Resolution, to be effective this 18 day of February, 2021, and as aforesaid.


Duly Adopted this 18 day of February 2021.



Oscar M. Babauta, Chairman

Juan "Shine" K. Tenorio, Vice Chairman

Francisco D. Cabrera
Secretary/Treasurer



Raymond M. Muña
Director



Kaelani B. Demapan
Director