

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
BILL STATUS

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	FISCAL NOTES	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
319-38 (COR)	V. Anthony Ada	AN ACT TO <i>ADD</i> A NEW ARTICLE 18 TO CHAPTER 22, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE GUAM DISASTER RELIEF FUND TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE FUNDING FOR DISASTER RESPONSE AND DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO RESIDENTS.	5/13/26 2:55 p.m. 5/20/26 11:12 a.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2026 (SECOND) Regular Session

Bill No. 319-38 (COR)

Introduced by:

V. Anthony Ada 

**AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW ARTICLE 18 TO CHAPTER
22, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE
TO ESTABLISHING THE GUAM DISASTER RELIEF
FUND TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE FUNDING FOR
DISASTER RESPONSE AND DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO
RESIDENTS**

1 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 that Guam remains highly vulnerable to typhoons and other natural disasters that
4 can cause significant disruption to families, homes, and essential services. For
5 decades, the Government of Guam, along with island residents and businesses, has
6 relied on federal disaster assistance and emergency appropriations to respond to
7 these events; however, such assistance may take time to materialize, leaving
8 residents in need of immediate support in the critical days following a disaster.

9 The Legislature further finds that while the Rainy-Day Fund, established in
10 the Guam Code Annotated, provides an important fiscal safeguard against revenue
11 shortfalls and emergencies, it is subject to statutory limitations and appropriation
12 requirements and is not specifically designed to provide rapid, dedicated funding
13 for direct relief to residents. As a result, delays in funding availability can hinder
14 the timely deployment of essential local programs and services, including food
15 distribution, access to clean water, temporary shelter, and other necessities.

16 The Legislature also recognizes that, in advance of recent storm threats,
17 emergency appropriations have been required to prepare for and respond to

1 potential impacts, including the reallocation of funds previously dedicated to other
2 critical government services. While such actions reflect the government’s
3 commitment to respond, they also highlight the absence of a dedicated funding
4 source for disaster relief and the resulting strain placed on existing programs and
5 services.

6 It is therefore the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to establish a Disaster
7 Relief Fund that ensures resources are available in advance of emergencies,
8 enabling the immediate creation and deployment of local relief programs to support
9 affected residents. This Fund is designed to prioritize direct assistance and rapid
10 response efforts, while maintaining strong fiscal discipline through structured
11 funding mechanisms, clear limitations on use, and requirements for replenishment
12 over time, including through federal reimbursements. By establishing a dedicated,
13 locally controlled funding source, this Act seeks to complement, rather than
14 replace, the Rainy Day Fund, reduce reliance on delayed federal assistance,
15 strengthen Guam’s disaster preparedness and resilience, and ensure that residents
16 receive timely support when it is needed most.

17 **Section 2.** A new Article 18 is hereby *added* to Chapter 22 of Title 5, Guam
18 Code Annotated to read as follows:

19 **“ARTICLE 18**

20 **DISASTER RELIEF FUND**

- 21 § 221801. Creation.
- 22 § 221802. Separate Fund and Account.
- 23 § 221803. Purpose and Authorized Uses.
- 24 § 221804. Emergency Access Authority.
- 25 § 221805. Deposits and Funding Mechanism.
- 26 § 221806. Administration.

1 § 221807. Reporting Requirements.

2 § 221808. Investment.

3 **§ 221801. Creation.**

4 There is hereby created, separate and apart from the other funds of the
5 Government of Guam, a reserve fund to be known as the “Disaster Relief Fund” (the
6 “Fund”).

7 **§ 221802. Separate Fund and Account.**

8 The Disaster Relief Fund shall not be commingled with the General Fund or
9 any other fund of the Government of Guam and shall be maintained in a separate
10 bank account.

11 **§ 221803. Purpose and Authorized Uses.**

12 (a) Monies in the Disaster Relief Fund shall be expended only, upon
13 appropriation by law, for the following purposes:

14 (1) To Provide relief and assistance to residents affected by a
15 local or federal declaration of disaster or emergency, including, but not
16 limited to temporary housing, food, water, and essential supplies;

17 (2) Fund disaster response and recovery activities, including
18 debris removal, emergency protective measures, and restoration
19 support for essential services;

20 (3) Support costs necessary to meet local matching requirements
21 for federally declared disaster assistance programs; and

22 (4) Other necessary expenses directly related to disaster response
23 and relief arising from a declared disaster or emergency, as determined
24 by law.

25 (b) For purposes of this Article, “declared disaster or emergency” shall
26 mean a state of emergency or disaster declared by the Governor of Guam
27 pursuant to applicable Guam law, and may include events that do not receive

1 a federal disaster declaration; provided, however, that such term shall not
2 include any public health emergency declared pursuant to Chapter 19, Title
3 10, Guam Code Annotated (the Emergency Health Powers Act).

4 (c) the Fund shall not be used for general government operations,
5 recurring expenditures, or to offset unrelated General Fund obligations,
6 including personnel costs not directly attributable to disaster response.

7 (d) No funds shall be transferred from the Disaster Relief Fund by the
8 Governor pursuant to transfer authority, except as otherwise provided by law.

9 **§ 221804. Emergency Access Authority.**

10 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law, upon the declaration of a
11 state of emergency by the Governor of Guam, the Governor is authorized to
12 expend from the Disaster Relief Fund an amount not to exceed Ten Million
13 Dollars (\$10,000,000) in the aggregate per declared emergency, or such lesser
14 amount as may be available, for purposes consistent with § 221803 of this
15 Article unless authorized by *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*.

16 (b) Any expenditure pursuant to this Section shall be reported to *I*
17 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* within ten (10) business days after such expenditure is
18 made.

19 (c) Any additional expenditures from the Fund beyond the amount
20 authorized in § 221804(a) of this Article shall require an appropriation by *I*
21 *Liheslaturan Guåhan*.

22 **§ 221805. Deposits and Funding Mechanism.**

23 (a) Annual appropriations to the Disaster Relief Fund shall be made
24 from General Fund revenues in an amount not less than one percent (1%) of
25 such revenue; provided, however, that priority shall first be given to meeting
26 the funding requirements of the Rainy-Day Fund pursuant to Article 9 of this
27 Chapter.

1 (b) Notwithstanding § 221805 (a) of this Article, if the Rainy-Day Fund
2 has not yet reached its required funding level, appropriations to the Disaster
3 Relief Fund may still be made, as determined by I Liheslaturan Guåhan,
4 provided that funding for the Rainy-Day Fund is concurrently maintained.

5 (c) Deposits shall continue annually until the balance of the Disaster
6 Relief Fund reaches Fifty Million Dollars (\$50,000,000), exclusive of
7 amounts subject to reappropriation under § 221805(e) of this Article.

8 (d) In the event that expenditures reduce the balance of the Fund below
9 Fifty Million Dollars (\$50,000,000), deposits pursuant to § 221805(a) of this
10 Article shall resume and continue annually until such balance is restored.

11 (e) All federal reimbursements, insurance recoveries, and any other
12 funds received by the Government of Guam that are attributable to
13 expenditures made from the Disaster Relief Fund shall be deposited into the
14 Fund; provided, however, that any amounts in excess of Fifty Million Dollars
15 (\$50,000,000) shall remain subject to appropriation by I Liheslaturan
16 Guåhan, and may be transferred to the General Fund or other funds of the
17 Government of Guam, as may be provided by law.

18 **§ 221806. Administration.**

19 The Director of Administration shall account for and administer the Disaster
20 Relief Fund. The Director shall maintain all books, records, files, and accounts of
21 the Fund.

22 **§ 221807. Reporting Requirements.**

23 The Director of Administration shall prepare quarterly reports reflecting the
24 financial condition, deposits, expenditures, and balances of the Disaster Relief Fund.
25 Such reports shall be transmitted to I Liheslaturan Guåhan and the Governor not
26 later than thirty (30) days after the end of each fiscal quarter. In addition, a report

1 detailing all expenditures made pursuant to § 221804 of this Article shall be
2 submitted within thirty (30) days following the termination of a declared emergency.

3 **§ 221808. Investment.**

4 The Director of Administration shall invest money in the Disaster Relief Fund
5 in any type of investment approved for the Guam Retirement Fund. All proceeds and
6 income derived from such investments shall be deposited into the Disaster Relief
7 Fund.”