

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
206-38 (COR)	Telo T. Taitague	AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), AND § 12206, ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND AMEND § 12207, ALL OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J-1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.	10/10/25 4:04 p.m. 10/22/25 3:59 p.m.	10/24/25	Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs.	Request: 10/24/25 11/4/25	2/11/26 2:00 p.m.	3/3/26 As Amended.	



Office of Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
 Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

February 25, 2026

The Honorable Frank Blas Jr., Speaker
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
 163 Hagåtña, Guåhan
 Chalan Santo Papa

VIA: **The Honorable V. Anthony Ada, Vice Speaker** 
 Chairperson, Committee on Rules


RE: Committee Report on Public Hearing relative to [Bill No. 206-38 \(COR\)](#) As amended. – Telo T. Taitague.
 – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), AND § 12206, ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND AMEND § 12207, ALL OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J-1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

Håfa Adai Speaker Blas,

Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report on Public Hearing relative to [Bill No. 206-38 \(COR\)](#) As amended by the Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs. – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), AND § 12206, ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND AMEND § 12207, ALL OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J-1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

Committee votes are as follows:

- TO DO PASS
- 1 TO NOT PASS
- 6 TO REPORT OUT ONLY
- TO ABSTAIN
- TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE

Sincerely, 
Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane
 Chairwoman, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs



COMMITTEE ON RULES
RECEIVED:
 February 25, 2026 11:41 a.m.
Marie Crisostomo
 Revisions Received:
 February 27, 2026 5:36 p.m.



Office of Legislative Secretary

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

COMMITTEE REPORT

Public Hearing

Bill No. 206-38 (COR) As amended by the Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs. – Telo T. Taitague. – AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), AND § 12206, ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND AMEND § 12207, ALL OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J-1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.



Office of Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

February 25, 2026

To: **ALL MEMBERS**
Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

From: **Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane**
Chairwoman, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

Subject: Committee Report on [Bill No. 206-38 \(COR\)](#) As amended by the Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs. – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), AND § 12206, ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND AMEND § 12207, ALL OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J-1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

Transmitted herewith for your consideration is the Committee Report on [Bill No. 206-38 \(COR\)](#) As amended – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), AND § 12206, ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND AMEND § 12207, ALL OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J-1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

- COR Referral Memorandum
- Notice of Hearing
- Hearing Agenda
- Hearing Sign-in Sheet
- Submitted Testimonies and Supporting Documents
- Committee Report Vote Sheet
- Committee Report Digest
- Copy of Bill No. 206-38 (COR)
- Bill No. 206-38 as amended
- Bill No. 206-38 As amended Markup
- Fiscal Note



Office of Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

Please take appropriate action on the attached vote sheet. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane.

Sincerely,

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane
Chairwoman, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs




COMMITTEE ON RULES

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Chairperson
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
38th Guam Legislature

October 24, 2025

To: **Rennae V. C. Meno**
Clerk of the Legislature

Attorney Darleen Hiton
Legislative Legal Counsel

From: **Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada** 
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Subject: **Referral of Bill No. 206-38 (COR)**

Håfa Adai,

As per my authority as Chairperson of the Committee on Rules and subject to §6.01(d)(1), Rule VI of our Standing Rules, I am forwarding the referral of **Bill No. 206-38 (COR)** – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), § 12206 AND ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND § 12207 (a) (5) TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J-1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

Please ensure that the subject bill is referred to the Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs chaired by Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane. I also request that the same be copied to the Prime Sponsor of the subject bill and to Management Information Services (MIS) for posting on our website.

A copy of the bill is available on our legislative website.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Kamarin Nelson, Committee on Rules Director at 671-472-2461.





Office of Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

February 4, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media

From: Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

Subject: First Notice of Public Hearing: Wednesday February 11, 2026, 2:00 P.M.

Håfa Adai!

The Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday February 11, 2026, beginning at 2:00 P.M., in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building.

The Committee will hear and accept testimony on the following:

2:00 P.M.

[Bill No. 206-38 \(COR\)](#) – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), § 12206 AND ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND § 12207 (a) (5) TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

[Bill No. 238-38 \(COR\)](#) – Vincent A. V. Borja, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Shelly V. Calvo, V. Anthony Ada, Frank F. Blas, Jr., Jesse A. Lujan, Christopher M. Dueñas, Joe S. San Agustin, Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao – “AN ACT TO AMEND §25105 OF CHAPTER 25, DIVISION 2, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO GRANTING EXEMPTION OF TITLE 26 OF THE GUAM ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO SANITARY INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

How to Participate: Written testimony may be delivered to the Office of Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane at the Guam Congress Building, 163 *Chalan Santo Papa Hagåtña*, Guam 96910 or via email to Office.SenatorBri@guamlegislature.gov. The Committee requests that testimonies be submitted at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled hearing. Please confirm your attendance by contacting the Office of Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane via email at Office.SenatorBri@guamlegislature.gov or via voice call at (671) 989-2572.

Special Accommodations: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals requiring assistance or accommodations should contact Annie San Nicolas, at the Office of Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane.

Watch Live/Record: The hearing will be broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117, and streamed online via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed on YouTube. After the hearing, a hearing recording will also be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube.



Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

First Notice of Public Hearing Wednesday February 11, 2026 2:00PM

2 messages

Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

Tue, Feb 3, 2026 at

<office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

4:02 PM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov, Audio / Video <av@guamlegislature.gov>, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>, 38th Committee On Rules <committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov>, mis@guamlegislature.gov

Bcc: ann.sn@guamlegislature.gov, Isaiah Aguon <isaiah.aguon@guamlegislature.gov>, john.mafnas@guamlegislature.gov, senator.sabrina@guamlegislature.gov, sergio.salas@guamlegislature.gov

Håfa Adai!

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Annie San Nicolas

Administrative Officer/Committee Director



Office of Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
 Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs
 163 W. Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
 office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov
 671-989-2572

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PH 02.04 First Notice 2026.02.11.pdf
 359K

Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov> Tue, Feb 3, 2026 at 4:15 PM
 To: Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

Hafa Adai, posted on calendar.

[Quoted text hidden]

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Edward S. Pocaigue, Jr.
 Sergeant-at-Arms
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
 Guam Congress Building, 1st Floor
 163 Chalan Santo Papa
 Hagåtña, Guam 96910
 1-671-969-3514
 sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov

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First Notice of Public Hearing: Wednesday February 11, 2026, 2:00 P.M.


 PRINT

**First Notice of Public Hearing: Wednesday
February 11, 2026, 2:00 P.M.**


PUBLIC HEARING



 **Posted on:** 02/03/2026 03:05 PM

 **Posted by:** Annie San Nicolas, Administrative Office/Committee
Director

 **Public Hearing Date:** 02/11/2026 02:00 PM

 **Department(s):**
GUAM LEGISLATURE (/notices?department_id=92)

 **Division(s):**
OFFICE OF SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE (/notices?
division_id=295)

 **Notice Topic(s):** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?topic_id=74)

 **Types of Notice:** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?type_id=7)

 **For Audience(s):** PUBLIC (/notices?public=1)

 **Share this notice**

The Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday February 11, 2026, beginning at 2:00 P.M., in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building.

The Committee will hear and accept testimony on the following:

2:00 P.M.

Bill No. 206-38 (COR)

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills Introduced 38th/Bill%20No.%20206-](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20206-38%20(COR)%20Referred%20Version.pdf)

38%20(COR)%20Referred%20Version.pdf) – Telo T. Taitague. –

“AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), § 12206 AND ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND § 12207 (a) (5) TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

Bill No. 238-38 (COR)

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills Introduced 38th/Bill%20No.%20238-38%20\(COR\).pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20238-38%20(COR).pdf)

– Vincent A. V. Borja, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Shelly V. Calvo, V. Anthony Ada, Frank F. Blas, Jr., Jesse A. Lujan, Christopher M. Dueñas, Joe S. San Agustin, Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao – “AN ACT TO AMEND §25105 OF CHAPTER 25, DIVISION 2, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO GRANTING EXEMPTION OF TITLE 26 OF THE GUAM ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO SANITARY INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

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(<mailto:Office.SenatorBri@guamlegislature.gov>). The Committee requests that testimonies be submitted at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled hearing. Please confirm your attendance by contacting the Office of Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane via email at **Office.SenatorBri@guamlegislature.gov** **(<mailto:Office.SenatorBri@guamlegislature.gov>)** or via voice call at (671) 989-2572.

Special Accommodations: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals requiring assistance or accommodations should contact Annie San Nicolas, at the Office of Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane.

Watch Live/Record: The hearing will be broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117, and streamed online via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed on YouTube. After the hearing, a hearing recording will also be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube.



Notice of Public Hearing
Wednesday February 11, 2026, 2:00 P.M.

The Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday February 11, 2026, beginning at 2:00 P.M., in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building.

The purpose of this Public Hearing  is to hear the following topic:

Bill No. 206-38 (COR) – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), § 12206 AND ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND § 12207 (a) (5) TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

Bill No. 238-38 (COR) – Vincent A. V. Borja, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Shelly V. Calvo, V. Anthony Ada, Frank F. Blas, Jr., Jesse A. Lujan, Christopher M. Dueñas, Joe S. San Agustin, Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao – “AN ACT TO AMEND §25105 OF CHAPTER 25, DIVISION 2, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO GRANTING EXEMPTION OF TITLE 26 OF THE GUAM ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO SANITARY INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND VETERANS AFFAIRS



How to Participate: Written testimony may be delivered to the Office of Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane at the Guam Congress Building, 163 *Chalan Santo Papa Hagåtña*, Guam 96910 or via email to Office.SenatorBri@guamlegislature.gov. The Committee requests that testimonies be submitted at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled hearing.

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**GUAM LEGISLATURE
AUDIO VISUAL DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST FORM**

Office Submitting Request: Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

Date of Request: February 4 , 2026

POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Annie San Nicolas

Contact #:

Email: ann.sn@guamlegislature.gov

PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS

Notice Type: Public Hearing Informational Briefing Roundtable Discussion

Oversight Hearing Committee Meeting Other: _____

Notice Title / Bill(s) / Resolution(s) / Appointment: 206-38 (COR)

Date of Event: February 11, 2026 Start Time: 2:00 AM/PM

Run Dates: February 4, 2026 to February 11, 2026

Location: Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room

MEDIA HANDLING

Recording Format: MP4 MP3 Other: _____

Delivery Method: Email USB Drive Cloud Link Other: _____

CERTIFIED BY AV:

Name: Joseph Termulo

Posted on/Air Date: 2/4/26-2/11/26

Signature: 



Office of Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

February 7, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media

From: Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

Subject: Second Notice of Public Hearing: Wednesday February 11, 2026, 2:00 P.M.

Håfa Adai!

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2:00 P.M.

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Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

Second Notice of Public Hearing Wednesday February 11, 2026 2:00PM

2 messages

Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

Sun, Feb 8, 2026 at

<office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

4:04 PM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov, Audio / Video <av@guamlegislature.gov>, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>, 38th Committee On Rules <committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov>, mis@guamlegislature.gov

Bcc: john.mafnas@guamlegislature.gov, ann.sn@guamlegislature.gov, senator.sabrina@guamlegislature.gov, sergio.salas@guamlegislature.gov, Isaiah Aguon <isaiah.aguon@guamlegislature.gov>

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Watch Live/Record: The hearing will be broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117, and streamed online via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed on YouTube. After the hearing, a hearing recording will also be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube.

--

Annie San Nicolas

Administrative Officer/Committee Director



Office of Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
 Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs
 163 W. Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
 office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov
 671-989-2572

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PH 02.07 Second Notice 2026.02.11.pdf
 359K

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 To: office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov

Sun, Feb 8, 2026 at 4:04 PM



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Final-Recipient: rfc822; isaiah.aguon@guamlegislature.gov
 Action: failed
 Status: 5.2.1
 Diagnostic-Code: smtp; 550-5.2.1 The email account that you tried to reach is inactive. For more 550-5.2.1 information, go to 550 5.2.1 <https://support.google.com/mail/?p=DisabledUser> d75a77b69052e-506400d28easor27379011cf.4 - gsmtpt
 Last-Attempt-Date: Sat, 07 Feb 2026 22:04:55 -0800 (PST)

noname
 5K


Second Notice of Public Hearing: Wednesday February 11, 2026, 2:00 P.M.


 PRINT

**Second Notice of Public Hearing: Wednesday
February 11, 2026, 2:00 P.M.**


PUBLIC HEARING



 **Posted on:** 02/05/2026 04:28 PM

 **Posted by:** Annie San Nicolas, Administrative Office/Committee
Director

 **Public Hearing Date:** 02/11/2026 02:00 PM

 **Department(s):**
GUAM LEGISLATURE (/notices?department_id=92)

 **Division(s):**
OFFICE OF SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE (/notices?
division_id=295)

 **Notice Topic(s):** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?topic_id=74)

 **Types of Notice:** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?type_id=7)

 **For Audience(s):** PUBLIC (/notices?public=1)

 **Share this notice**

The Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday February 11, 2026, beginning at 2:00 P.M., in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building.

The Committee will hear and accept testimony on the following:

2:00 P.M.

Bill No. 206-38 (COR)

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills Introduced 38th/Bill%20No.%20206-](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20206-38%20(COR)%20Referred%20Version.pdf)

38%20(COR)%20Referred%20Version.pdf) – Telo T. Taitague. –

“AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), § 12206 AND ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND § 12207 (a) (5) TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

Bill No. 238-38 (COR)

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills Introduced 38th/Bill%20No.%20238-38%20\(COR\).pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20238-38%20(COR).pdf)

– Vincent A. V. Borja, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Shelly V. Calvo, V. Anthony Ada, Frank F. Blas, Jr., Jesse A. Lujan, Christopher M. Dueñas, Joe S. San Agustin, Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao – “AN ACT TO AMEND §25105 OF CHAPTER 25, DIVISION 2, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO GRANTING EXEMPTION OF TITLE 26 OF THE GUAM ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO SANITARY INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

How to Participate: Written testimony may be delivered to the Office of Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane at the Guam Congress Building, 163 *Chalan Santo Papa Hagåtña*, Guam 96910 or via email to **Office.SenatorBri@guamlegislature.gov**

(<mailto:Office.SenatorBri@guamlegislature.gov>). The Committee requests that testimonies be submitted at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled hearing. Please confirm your attendance by contacting the Office of Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane via email at **Office.SenatorBri@guamlegislature.gov** **(<mailto:Office.SenatorBri@guamlegislature.gov>)** or via voice call at (671) 989-2572.

Special Accommodations: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals requiring assistance or accommodations should contact Annie San Nicolas, at the Office of Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane.

Watch Live/Record: The hearing will be broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117, and streamed online via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed on YouTube. After the hearing, a hearing recording will also be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube.



Notice of Public Hearing
Wednesday February 11, 2026, 2:00 P.M.

The Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday February 11, 2026, beginning at 2:00 P.M., in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building.

The purpose of this Public Hearing  is to hear the following topic:

Bill No. 206-38 (COR) – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), § 12206 AND ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND § 12207 (a) (5) TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

Bill No. 238-38 (COR) – Vincent A. V. Borja, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Shelly V. Calvo, V. Anthony Ada, Frank F. Blas, Jr., Jesse A. Lujan, Christopher M. Dueñas, Joe S. San Agustin, Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao – “AN ACT TO AMEND §25105 OF CHAPTER 25, DIVISION 2, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO GRANTING EXEMPTION OF TITLE 26 OF THE GUAM ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO SANITARY INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND VETERANS AFFAIRS



How to Participate: Written testimony may be delivered to the Office of Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane at the Guam Congress Building, 163 *Chalan Santo Papa Hagåtña*, Guam 96910 or via email to Office.SenatorBri@guamlegislature.gov. The Committee requests that testimonies be submitted at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled hearing.

Please confirm your attendance by contacting the Office of Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane via email at Office.SenatorBri@guamlegislature.gov or via voice call at (671) 989-2572.

Special Accommodations: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals requiring assistance or accommodations should contact Annie San Nicolas, at the Office of Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane.

Watch Live/Record: The hearing will be broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117, and streamed online via *Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed on YouTube. After the hearing, a hearing recording will also be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube.



**GUAM LEGISLATURE
AUDIO VISUAL DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST FORM**

Office Submitting Request: Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

Date of Request: February 4, 2026

POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Annie San Nicolas

Contact #:

Email: ann.sn@guamlegislature.gov

PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS

Notice Type: Public Hearing Informational Briefing Roundtable Discussion

Oversight Hearing Committee Meeting Other: _____

Notice Title / Bill(s) / Resolution(s) / Appointment: 206-38 (COR)

Date of Event: February 11, 2026 **Start Time:** 2:00 AM/PM

Run Dates: February 4, 2026 to February 11, 2026

Location: Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room

MEDIA HANDLING

Recording Format: MP4 MP3 Other: _____

Delivery Method: Email USB Drive Cloud Link Other: _____

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Name: Joseph Termulo

Posted on/Air Date: 2/4/26-2/11/26

Signature:



Office of Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

February 5, 2026,

TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL:

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Acting HPLO Administrator, DPHSS
breanna.sablan@dphss.guam.gov

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Medical Director, GMHA
ricardo.eusebio@gmha.org

Dr. Nathaniel Berg

Chairperson, Guam Board of Medical Examiners
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David Lubosky

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Theresa Arriola

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doctorshieh@yahoo.com

Douglas Moylan

Attorney General
dmoylan@oagguam.org

Lester Carlson

BBMR
lester.carlson@bbmr.guam.gov

Subject: Invitation to Public Hearing on Wednesday February 11, 2026, at 2:00 P.M.

Håfa Adai,

The Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs has scheduled a Public Hearing on Wednesday February 11, 2026, beginning at 2:00 P.M., in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building. Your attendance is requested to provide insights on the following agenda items:

2:00 P.M.

Bill No. 206-38 (COR) – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), § 12206 AND ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND § 12207 (a) (5) TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING



Office of Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

Bill No. 238-38 (COR) – Vincent A. V. Borja, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Shelly V. Calvo, V. Anthony Ada, Frank F. Blas, Jr., Jesse A. Lujan, Christopher M. Dueñas, Joe S. San Agustin, Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao – “AN ACT TO AMEND §25105 OF CHAPTER 25, DIVISION 2, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO GRANTING EXEMPTION OF TITLE 26 OF THE GUAM ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO SANITARY INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

The Committee requests that all written testimony and presentations be submitted forty-eight (48) hours prior to the hearing. Additionally, you are welcome to invite other officials who may be able to contribute to the discussion.

If your office requires any assistance or accommodation that can be provided by my office or the 38th Guam Legislature, please contact my office via email or voice call.

Should you have any questions or concerns, you may contact my office at 671-989-2572 or email office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov.

Smat

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane
38th Guam Legislature

Cc:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
eddy.reyes@ftfcinc.com,

[REDACTED]
Alexander.Wielaard@grmc.gu
kim.podiatry.gbabe@gmail.com
elaine.cruz@gmha.org
zaldy.tugade@gmha.org
jesse.quenga@gmha.org,
rodalyn.gerardo@gmha.org



Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

Invitation to Public Hearing on Wednesday February 11, 2026 2:00PM

5 messages

Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

Wed, Feb 4, 2026 at
4:05 PM

<office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

To: Breanna Sablan <breanna.sablan@dphss.guam.gov>, "Theresa C. Arriola" <theresa.c.arriola@dphss.guam.gov>, Ricardo Eusebio <ricardo.eusebio@gmha.org>, "Aguon, Joleen, MD" <joleen.aguon@gmha.org>, nberg@guamradiology.com, "jmulloa-heath@gdoe.net" <jmulloa-heath@gdoe.net>, jwonpat@gdoe.net, "mdmafнас@gdoe.net" <mdmafнас@gdoe.net>, D L <dlubofsky@outlook.com>, "Thomas Shieh, MD, FACOG" <doctorshieh@yahoo.com>, david.dellisola@dol.guam.gov, Attorney General Douglas Moylan <dbmoylan@oagguam.org>, info@terlajelaw.com, Lester Carlson <lester.carlson@bbmr.guam.gov>, esther.aquigui@ghs.guam.gov

Cc: Annie Bordallo <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], eddy.reyes@ftfcinc.com, [REDACTED], "Wielaard, Alexander D." <Alexander.Wielaard@grmc.gu>, kim.podiatry.gbahe@gmail.com, elaine.cruz@gmha.org, Zaldy Tugade <zaldy.tugade@gmha.org>, jesse.quenga@gmha.org, Rodalyn Gerardo <rodalyn.gerardo@gmha.org>

Bcc: ann.sn@guamlegislature.gov, john.mafнас@guamlegislature.gov, sergio.salas@guamlegislature.gov, senator.sabrina@guamlegislature.gov

Håfa Adai,

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2:00PM

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Should you have any questions or concerns, you may contact my office at 671-989-2572 or email office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

38th Guam Legislature

--



Office of Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
 Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs
 163 W. Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
 office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov
 671-989-2572

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Final-Recipient: rfc822; jwonpat@gdoe.net

Action: failed

Status: 5.7.1

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<https://support.google.com/a/answer/172179>

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joleen.aguon@gmha.guam.gov

Remote server returned '550 5.7.520 Access denied, Your organization does not allow external forwarding. Please contact your administrator for further assistance. AS(7555)'

Original message headers:

Resent-From: <joleen.aguon@gmha.guam.gov>

ARC-Seal: i=2; a=rsa-sha256; s=arcselector10001; d=[microsoft.com](https://www.microsoft.com); cv=fail;

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ARC-Message-Signature: i=2; a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed; d=[microsoft.com](https://www.microsoft.com);

s=arcselector10001;

h=From:Date:Subject:Message-ID:Content-Type:MIME-Version:X-MS-Exchange-AntiSpam-MessageData-ChunkCount:X-MS-Exchange-AntiSpam-MessageData-0:X-MS-Exchange-AntiSpam-MessageData-1;

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ARC-Authentication-Results: i=2; [mx.microsoft.com](https://www.microsoft.com) 1; spf=softfail (sender ip

is 173.231.203.7) smtp.rcpttodomain=[gmha.guam.gov](https://www.gmha.guam.gov)

smtp.mailfrom=[guamlegislature.gov](https://www.guamlegislature.gov); dmarc=fail (p=none sp=none pct=100)

action=none header.from=[guamlegislature.gov](https://www.guamlegislature.gov); dkim=pass (signature was

verified) header.d=[gmha.org](https://www.gmha.org); dkim=fail (body hash did not verify)

header.d=[guamlegislature.gov](https://www.guamlegislature.gov).20230601.gappssmtp.com; arc=fail (47)

Received: from [CYXPR09CA0004.namprd09.prod.outlook.com](https://www.CYXPR09CA0004.namprd09.prod.outlook.com) (2603:10b6:930:d4::13)

by [SJ0PR09MB9908.namprd09.prod.outlook.com](https://www.SJ0PR09MB9908.namprd09.prod.outlook.com) (2603:10b6:a03:446::12) with

Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_2,

cipher=TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384) id 15.20.9564.16; Wed, 4 Feb

2026 06:06:18 +0000

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(2603:10b6:930:d4:cafe::11) by [CYXPR09CA0004.outlook.office365.com](https://www.CYXPR09CA0004.outlook.office365.com)

(2603:10b6:930:d4::13) with Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_3,

cipher=TLS_AES_256_GCM_SHA384) id 15.20.9587.13 via Frontend Transport; Wed,

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Authentication-Results: spf=softfail (sender IP is 173.231.203.7)

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DKIM-Signature: v=1; a=rsa-sha256; q=dns/txt; c=relaxed/relaxed; d=gmha.org; s=default; h=Content-Type:Content-Transfer-Encoding:Content-ID:Content-Description:Resent-Date:Resent-From:Resent-Sender:Resent-To:Resent-Cc:Resent-Message-ID:In-Reply-To:References:List-Id:List-Help:List-Unsubscribe:List-Subscribe:List-Post:List-Owner:List-Archive; bh=VY2GEHKPXP4yMPDJGrVjPoxTJAMB72KV66jsVNDyv1w=; b=KCxjplMVfCDSqXwt07EsE6o/LdL0zcf55mU1vJneyaHn0RQT9bTqf6w/aD3oNad0DbdYey1283TM8Qsd2bXTC9oQgVvc/g9kbF9MNRxpAvovLuRGt1DRULYDvBu9f18F490mb7p+VeUhhIN0JGsQ5wh517RJxnNhPLQqALINjSZbV1dipiTSWdskBZK00F1ZYE4w2+0FbpJucWjZFI8nuCwyErnB2SHbgU0pZfb0p7zXT2YY0sFov1xDePI0J2ApDdAiP8z/tILDNO6JNZMXGExRJ1XHvXv1+e/V1QBYqm6cwrpj2Isqu0Yg90j8tzqutrMVs17+iDF39diUV5cVIw==;

Received: from outbound-ip76a.ess.barracuda.com ([209.222.82.240]:36432) by secure.gmha.org with esmtps (TLS1.2) tls TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384 (Exim 4.99.1) (envelope-from <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>) id 1vnw1p-000000004rS-2T0X for joleen.aguon@gmha.org; Wed, 04 Feb 2026 16:06:17 +1000

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MIME-Version: 1.0

From: Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

Date: Wed, 4 Feb 2026 16:05:14 +1000

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Subject: Invitation to Public Hearing on Wednesday February 11, 2026 2:00PM

To: Breanna Sablan <breanna.sablan@dphss.guam.gov>,
"Theresa C. Arriola" <theresa.c.arriola@dphss.guam.gov>,
Ricardo Eusebio <ricardo.eusebio@gmha.org>, "Aguon, Joleen, MD" <joleen.aguon@gmha.org>,
nberg@guamradiology.com, "jmulloa-heath@gdoe.net" <jmulloa-heath@gdoe.net>, jwonpat@gdoe.net,
"mdmafnas@gdoe.net" <mdmafnas@gdoe.net>, D L <dlubofsky@outlook.com>,
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Attorney General Douglas Moylan <dbmoylan@oagguam.org>, info@terlajelaw.com,
Lester Carlson <lester.carlson@bbmr.guam.gov>, esther.aguigui@ghs.guam.gov

CC: Annie Bordallo <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], [REDACTED],
eddy.reyes@ttfcinc.com, [REDACTED],
"Wielaard, Alexander D." <Alexander.Wielaard@grmc.gu>, kim.podiatry.gbahe@gmail.com,
elaine.cruz@gmha.org, Zaldy Tugade <zaldy.tugade@gmha.org>, jesse.quenga@gmha.org,
Rodalyn Gerardo <rodalyn.gerardo@gmha.org>

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X-AntiAbuse: Primary Hostname - secure.gmha.org

X-AntiAbuse: Original Domain - gmha.org

X-AntiAbuse: Originator/Caller UID/GID - [47 12] / [47 12]

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joleen.aguon@gmha.guam.gov

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X-MS-Exchange-ForwardingLoop:

joleen.aguon@gmha.guam.gov; f22121ce-aa3c-49fc-bcc6-30e8e1c4eb9d

Original-Recipient: rfc822;joleen.aguon@gmha.guam.gov

Final-Recipient: rfc822;joleen.aguon@gmha.guam.gov

Action: failed

Status: 5.7.520

Diagnostic-Code: smtp;550 5.7.520 Access denied, Your organization does not allow external forwarding. Please contact your administrator for further assistance. AS(7555)

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From: Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>
To: Breanna Sablan <breanna.sablan@dphss.guam.gov>, "Theresa C. Arriola" <theresa.c.arriola@dphss.guam.gov>, Ricardo Eusebio <ricardo.eusebio@gmha.org>, "Aguon, Joleen, MD" <joleen.aguon@gmha.org>, nberg@guamradiology.com, "jmulloa-heath@gdoe.net" <jmulloa-heath@gdoe.net>, jwonpat@gdoe.net, "mdmafнас@gdoe.net" <mdmafнас@gdoe.net>, D L <dlubofsky@outlook.com>, "Thomas Shieh, MD, FACOG"

<doctorshieh@yahoo.com>, david.dellisola@dol.guam.gov, Attorney General Douglas Moylan <dbmoylan@oagguam.org>, info@terlajelaw.com, Lester Carlson <lester.carlson@bbmr.guam.gov>, esther.aguigui@ghs.guam.gov
Cc: Annie Bordallo <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], eddy.reyes@fffcinc.com, [REDACTED], "Wielaard, Alexander D." <Alexander.Wielaard@grmc.gu>, kim.podiatry.gbahe@gmail.com, elaine.cruz@gmha.org, Zaldy Tugade <zaldy.tugade@gmha.org>, jesse.quenga@gmha.org, Rodalyn Gerardo <rodalyn.gerardo@gmha.org>
Bcc:
Date: Wed, 4 Feb 2026 16:05:14 +1000
Subject: Invitation to Public Hearing on Wednesday February 11, 2026 2:00PM

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Håfa Adai,

The Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs has scheduled a Public Hearing on Wednesday February 11, 2026, beginning at 2:00 P.M., in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building. Your attendance is requested to provide insights on the following agenda item:

2:00PM

Bill No. 206-38 (COR) – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), § 12206 AND ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND § 12207 (a) (5) TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J 1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

Bill No. 238-38 (COR) – Vincent A. V. Borja, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Shelly V. Calvo, V. Anthony Ada, Frank F. Blas, Jr., Jesse A. Lujan, Christopher M. Dueñas, Joe S. San Agustin, Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao – “AN ACT TO AMEND §25105 OF CHAPTER 25, DIVISION 2, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO GRANTING EXEMPTION OF TITLE 26 OF THE GUAM ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO SANITARY INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

The Committee requests that all written testimony and presentations be submitted forty-eight (48) hours prior to the hearing. Additionally, you are welcome to invite other officials who may be able to contribute to the discussion.

If your office requires any assistance or accommodation that can be provided by my office or the 38th Guam Legislature, please contact my office via email or voice call.

Should you have any questions or concerns, you may contact my office at 671-989-2572 or email office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov.



Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

38th Guam Legislature

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Office of Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
 Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs
 163 W. Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
 office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov
 671-989-2572

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Invitation PH 2026.02.11.pdf
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Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane
 <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>
 To: "Aguon, Joleen, MD" <joleen.aguon@gmha.org>

Wed, Feb 4, 2026 at 4:25
 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane** <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>
 Date: Wed, Feb 4, 2026 at 4:05 PM
 Subject: Invitation to Public Hearing on Wednesday February 11, 2026 2:00PM

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[Quoted text hidden]

Invitation PH 2026.02.11.pdf
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postmaster@gmha.guam.gov <postmaster@gmha.guam.gov>
 To: office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov

Wed, Feb 4, 2026 at 4:28 PM

Your email couldn't be forwarded from joleen.aguon@gmha.guam.gov to another email address.

joleen.aguon@gmha.guam.gov

Your message wasn't delivered because the recipient's email provider rejected it.

Diagnostic information for administrators:

Generating server: [DM6PR09MB4853.namprd09.prod.outlook.com](https://dm6pr09mb4853.namprd09.prod.outlook.com)

joleen.aguon@gmha.guam.gov

Remote server returned '550 5.7.520 Access denied, Your organization does not allow external forwarding. Please contact your administrator for further assistance. AS(7555)'

Original message headers:

Resent-From: <joleen.aguon@gmha.guam.gov>

ARC-Seal: i=2; a=rsa-sha256; s=arcselector10001; d=microsoft.com; cv=fail; b=xSI/Bi5MrnMLUdntCEW6piF1LHKNCMwo04nCXjee3m7FDoqNNkun1HT02p7/52q+PxxVESGP3eg1fr07IRo2jPvZ0A1h8r3I5wWllyvKVs2tt8/+QoybqJgK7WArTpGcK4THF6rkFpoGcuq74oGDxLbFgj+e9iV1y000xk0VfkCDxTdGRZi7K2uQt9J72BkEY1nhGpRREfUu6CewkJ1YwUqlu+QKia+HWAKifaJGFY3rhLzVpIbTNEFRoR+Yxa4Lxi9Kv1bDEWPXCCCEYNGTtTpTk1Ww8JDezPeT00oH4iYENbFu4RuGK7EY98Adj8qrDz7dXp298kMI45Tm9LC9zfA==

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ARC-Authentication-Results: i=2; mx.microsoft.com 1; spf=temperror (sender ip is 173.231.203.7) smtp.rcpttodomain=gmha.guam.gov

smtp.mailfrom=gulamlegislature.gov; dmarc=temperror action=none header.from=gulamlegislature.gov; dkim=pass (signature was verified) header.d=gmha.org; dkim=fail (body hash did not verify) header.d=gulamlegislature-gov.20230601.gappssmtp.com; arc=fail (47)

Received: from DM6PR09CA0035.namprd09.prod.outlook.com (2603:10b6:5:160::48) by DM6PR09MB4853.namprd09.prod.outlook.com (2603:10b6:5:26a::15) with Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_2, cipher=TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384) id 15.20.9564.16; Wed, 4 Feb 2026 06:26:07 +0000

Received: from DS1PEPF00017E09.namprd09.prod.outlook.com (2603:10b6:5:160:cafe::77) by DM6PR09CA0035.outlook.office365.com (2603:10b6:5:160::48) with Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_3, cipher=TLS_AES_256_GCM_SHA384) id 15.20.9564.16 via Frontend Transport; Wed, 4 Feb 2026 06:26:07 +0000

Authentication-Results: spf=temperror (sender IP is 173.231.203.7) smtp.mailfrom=gulamlegislature.gov; dkim=pass (signature was verified) header.d=gmha.org; dkim=fail (body hash did not verify) header.d=gulamlegislature-gov.20230601.gappssmtp.com; dmarc=temperror action=none header.from=gulamlegislature.gov;

Received-SPF: TempError (protection.outlook.com: error in processing during lookup of gumlegislature.gov: DNS Timeout)

Received: from secure.gmha.org (173.231.203.7) by DS1PEPF00017E09.mail.protection.outlook.com (10.167.18.166) with Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_2, cipher=TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384) id 15.20.9587.10 via Frontend Transport; Wed, 4 Feb 2026 06:26:06 +0000

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Received: from outbound-ip137b.ess.barracuda.com ([209.222.82.73]:55814) by secure.gmha.org with esmtps (TLS1.2) tls TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384 (Exim 4.99.1) (envelope-from <office.senatorbri@gulamlegislature.gov>) id 1vnWkz-0000000078d-0dvg for joleen.aguon@gmha.org; Wed, 04 Feb 2026 16:26:05 +1000

Received: from mail-ql1-f171.google.com (mail-ql1-f171.google.com [209.85.222.171]) by mx-inbound42-191.us-east-2c.ess.aws.cudaops.com (version=TLSv1.2 cipher=ECDHE-RSA-AES256-GCM-SHA384 bits=256 verify=NO); Wed, 04 Feb 2026 06:25:24 +0000

Received: by mail-ql1-f171.google.com with SMTP id af79cd13be357-8c713a6a6f8so70100485a.0 for <joleen.aguon@gmha.org>; Tue, 03 Feb 2026 22:25:24 -0800 (PST)

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X-Received: by 2002:a05:620a:1aa8:b0:8c9:eee0:db94 with SMTP id af79cd13be357-8ca204cb895mr718646485a.31.1770186322741; Tue, 03 Feb 2026 22:25:22 -0800 (PST)

MIME-Version: 1.0

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X-Gm-Features: AZwV_QiqBPOSsHNLbShwRwjSufjCuGBG0mvaE8HXg1FQewgGkww0WMr1Hvh001g Message-ID: <CAJVthY3cYZJtTHJWXVh6VcAQvJGzDJ1xm2Z5HADRM1B4RE3qHQ@mail.gmail.com> Subject: Fwd: Invitation to Public Hearing on Wednesday February 11, 2026 2:00PM To: "Aguon, Joleen, MD" <joleen.aguon@gmha.org> Content-Type: multipart/mixed; boundary="000000000000f4b7d50649f99eb3" X-BESS-ID: 1770186324-110943-7695-50477-1 X-BESS-VER: 2019.1_20260203.1731 X-BESS-Apparent-Source-IP: 209.85.222.171

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X-BESS-Info: H4sIAAAAAACA6tW5s1MUBIytDQ1MjTXUURJU7JSSs/NSNTLL0pXqgUA/ZJpAx4AAAA=

X-AntiAbuse: This header was added to track abuse, please include it with any abuse report

X-AntiAbuse: Primary Hostname - secure.gmha.org

X-AntiAbuse: Original Domain - gmha.org

X-AntiAbuse: Originator/Caller UID/GID - [47 12] / [47 12]

X-AntiAbuse: Sender Address Domain - guamlegislature.gov

X-Get-Message-Sender-Via: secure.gmha.org: redirect/forwarder owner joleen.aguon@gmha.org -> joleen.aguon@gmha.guam.gov

X-Authenticated-Sender: secure.gmha.org: joleen.aguon@gmha.org

Return-Path: office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov

X-EOPAttributedMessage: 0

X-EOPTenantAttributedMessage: f22121ce-aa3c-49fc-bcc6-30e8e1c4eb9d:0

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CIP:173.231.203.7;CTRY:US;LANG:en;SCL:1;SRV:;IPV:NLI;SFV:NSPM;H:secure.gmha.org;

PTR:secure.gmha.org;CAT:NONE;SFS:(13230040)(43022699015)(3109299003)(6049299003)(7049299003)(61400799027)(9140799003)(69100299015)(8096899003)(54012099003)(14062099003)(4053099003)(13003099007)(4076899003);DIR:OUT;SFP:1101;

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 X-MS-Exchange-ForwardingLoop:
joleen.aguon@gmha.guam.gov;f22121ce-aa3c-49fc-bcc6-30e8e1c4eb9d

Original-Recipient: rfc822;joleen.aguon@gmha.guam.gov

Final-Recipient: rfc822;joleen.aguon@gmha.guam.gov

Action: failed

Status: 5.7.520

Diagnostic-Code: smtp;550 5.7.520 Access denied, Your organization does not allow external forwarding. Please contact your administrator for further assistance. AS(7555)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

To: "Aguon, Joleen, MD" <joleen.aguon@gmha.org>

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Wed, 4 Feb 2026 16:25:11 +1000

Subject: Fwd: Invitation to Public Hearing on Wednesday February 11, 2026 2:00PM

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane** <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

Date: Wed, Feb 4, 2026 at 4:05 PM

Subject: Invitation to Public Hearing on Wednesday February 11, 2026 2:00PM

To: Breanna Sablan <breanna.sablan@dphss.guam.gov>, Theresa C. Arriola <theresa.c.arriola@dphss.guam.gov>, Ricardo Eusebio <ricardo.eusebio@gmha.org>, Aguon, Joleen, MD <joleen.aguon@gmha.org>, <nberg@guamradiology.com>, <jmulloa-heath@gdoe.net>, <jwonpat@gdoe.net>, <mdmafnas@gdoe.net>, D L <dlubofsky@outlook.com>, Thomas Shieh, MD, FACOG <doctorshieh@yahoo.com>, <david.dellisola@dol.guam.gov>, Attorney General Douglas Moylan <dbmoylan@oagg.guam.org>, <info@terlajelaw.com>, Lester Carlson <lester.carlson@bbmr.guam.gov>, <esther.aguigui@ghs.guam.gov>

Cc: Annie Bordallo <[REDACTED]>, <[REDACTED]>, <dr.dc.cns@gmail.com>, <eddy.reyes@ftfcinc.com>, <[REDACTED]>, Wielaard, Alexander D. <Alexander.Wielaard@grmc.gu>, <kim.podiatry.gbahe@gmail.com>, <elaine.cruz@gmha.org>, Zaldy Tugade <zaldy.tugade@gmha.org>, <jesse.quenga@gmha.org>, Rodalyn Gerardo <rodalyn.gerardo@gmha.org>

Håfa Adai,

The Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs has scheduled a Public Hearing on Wednesday February 11, 2026, beginning at 2:00 P.M., in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building. Your attendance is requested to provide insights on the following agenda item:

2:00PM

Bill No. 206-38 (COR) – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), § 12206 AND ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND § 12207 (a) (5) TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J 1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

Bill No. 238-38 (COR) – Vincent A. V. Borja,. Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Shelly V. Calvo, V. Anthony Ada, Frank F. Blas, Jr., Jesse A. Lujan, Christopher M. Dueñas, Joe S. San Agustin, Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao – “AN ACT TO AMEND §25105 OF CHAPTER 25, DIVISION 2, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED

RELATIVE TO GRANTING EXEMPTION OF TITLE 26 OF THE GUAM ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO SANITARY INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

The Committee requests that all written testimony and presentations be submitted forty-eight (48) hours prior to the hearing. Additionally, you are welcome to invite other officials who may be able to contribute to the discussion.

If your office requires any assistance or accommodation that can be provided by my office or the 38th Guam Legislature, please contact my office via email or voice call.

Should you have any questions or concerns, you may contact my office at 671-989-2572 or email office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

38th Guam Legislature

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Office of Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guáhan | 38th Guam Legislature
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs
163 W. Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
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☎ 671-989-2572

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Office of Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guáhan | 38th Guam Legislature
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Office of Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guahan | 38th Guam Legislature
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

Public Hearing

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 2:00PM
Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building

Agenda

2:00PM

Bill No. 206-38 (COR) – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), § 12206 AND ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND § 12207 (a) (5) TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

Bill No. 238-38 (COR) – Vincent A. V. Borja., Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Shelly V. Calvo, V. Anthony Ada, Frank F. Blas, Jr., Jesse A. Lujan, Christopher M. Dueñas, Joe S. San Agustin, Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao – “AN ACT TO AMEND §25105 OF CHAPTER 25, DIVISION 2, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO GRANTING EXEMPTION OF TITLE 26 OF THE GUAM ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO SANITARY INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

This Public Hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117 and stream online via I Liheslaturan Guahan’s live feed.



The Office of the Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
 Chairwoman, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 2:00PM
 Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building

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Check all that apply. Please provide staff with written testimony for photocopying.

Name (Please Print)	Agency /Organization	Contact Information	Bill No./Doc No.	Participation	Stance
Thomas Shick, MD	Shick, Thomas	[REDACTED]	206-38 (COR) 238-38 (COR)	<input type="checkbox"/> Observing <input type="checkbox"/> Written <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal	<input type="checkbox"/> In Support <input type="checkbox"/> Not In Support
			206-38 (COR) 238-38 (COR)	<input type="checkbox"/> Observing <input type="checkbox"/> Written <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal	<input type="checkbox"/> In Support <input type="checkbox"/> Not In Support
			206-38 (COR) 238-38 (COR)	<input type="checkbox"/> Observing <input type="checkbox"/> Written <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal	<input type="checkbox"/> In Support <input type="checkbox"/> Not In Support
			206-38 (COR) 238-38 (COR)	<input type="checkbox"/> Observing <input type="checkbox"/> Written <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal	<input type="checkbox"/> In Support <input type="checkbox"/> Not In Support
			206-38 (COR) 238-38 (COR)	<input type="checkbox"/> Observing <input type="checkbox"/> Written <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal	<input type="checkbox"/> In Support <input type="checkbox"/> Not In Support
			206-38 (COR) 238-38 (COR)	<input type="checkbox"/> Observing <input type="checkbox"/> Written <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal	<input type="checkbox"/> In Support <input type="checkbox"/> Not In Support
			206-38 (COR) 238-38 (COR)	<input type="checkbox"/> Observing <input type="checkbox"/> Written <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal	<input type="checkbox"/> In Support <input type="checkbox"/> Not In Support
			206-38 (COR) 238-38 (COR)	<input type="checkbox"/> Observing <input type="checkbox"/> Written <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal	<input type="checkbox"/> In Support <input type="checkbox"/> Not In Support



The Office of the Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
 Chairwoman, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

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Bill No. 238-38 (COR) – Vincent A. V. Borja, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Shelly V. Calvo, V. Anthony Ada, Frank F. Blas, Jr., Jesse A. Lujan, Christopher M. Dueñas, Joe S. San Agustin, Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao – “AN ACT TO AMEND §25105 OF CHAPTER 25, DIVISION 2, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO GRANTING EXEMPTION OF TITLE 26 OF THE GUAM ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO SANITARY INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Check all that apply. Please provide staff with written testimony for photocopying.

Name (Please Print)	Agency /Organization	Contact Information	Bill No./Doc No.	Participation	Stance
<i>Donato G. Rodriguez, Sr.</i>	<i>Self</i>		<u>206-38 (COR)</u> <u>238-38 (COR)</u>	<input type="radio"/> Observing <input checked="" type="radio"/> Written <input type="radio"/> Verbal	<input checked="" type="radio"/> In Support <input type="radio"/> Not In Support
<i>Chris Anderson</i>	<i>CDDE</i>		<u>206-38 (COR)</u> <u>238-38 (COR)</u>	<input type="radio"/> Observing <input checked="" type="radio"/> Written <input type="radio"/> Verbal	<input checked="" type="radio"/> In Support <input type="radio"/> Not In Support
<i>Melissa Magras</i>	<i>ODAF- FHLB</i>		<u>206-38 (COR)</u> <u>238-38 (COR)</u>	<input type="radio"/> Observing <input checked="" type="radio"/> Written <input checked="" type="radio"/> Verbal	<input checked="" type="radio"/> In Support <input type="radio"/> Not In Support
<i>Breanna Sablan</i>	<i>DPHSS</i>		<u>206-38 (COR)</u> <u>238-38 (COR)</u>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Observing <input type="radio"/> Written <input type="radio"/> Verbal	<input checked="" type="radio"/> In Support <input type="radio"/> Not In Support
<i>Theresa O Arista</i>	<i>DPHSS Director</i>		<u>206-38 (COR)</u> <u>238-38 (COR)</u>	<input type="radio"/> Observing <input type="radio"/> Written <input checked="" type="radio"/> Verbal	<input checked="" type="radio"/> In Support <input type="radio"/> Not In Support
<i>Bistra Mendiola</i>	<i>Self</i>		<u>206-38 (COR)</u> <u>238-38 (COR)</u>	<input type="radio"/> Observing <input checked="" type="radio"/> Written <input type="radio"/> Verbal	<input checked="" type="radio"/> In Support <input type="radio"/> Not In Support
<i>Leilani Navarro</i>	<i>DPHSS</i>		<u>206-38 (COR)</u> <u>238-38 (COR)</u>	<input type="radio"/> Observing <input type="radio"/> Written <input type="radio"/> Verbal	<input type="radio"/> In Support <input type="radio"/> Not In Support
<i>Jonathon Thorp</i>	<i>GUAM SPA</i>		<u>206-38 (COR)</u> <u>238-38 (COR)</u>	<input type="radio"/> Observing <input type="radio"/> Written <input checked="" type="radio"/> Verbal	<input type="radio"/> In Support <input type="radio"/> Not In Support
			<u>206-38 (COR)</u> <u>238-38 (COR)</u>	<input type="radio"/> Observing <input type="radio"/> Written <input type="radio"/> Verbal	<input type="radio"/> In Support <input type="radio"/> Not In Support

**TESTIMONY OF DAVID LUBOFSKY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF
BILL 206-38 (COR)**

Sponsored by Senator Telo Taitague
**Relative to expanding licensure pathways for foreign medical graduates and
establishing a Guam Conrad 30 program.**

Hafa Adai Madam Chair and Honorable Senators,

Thank you for allowing me to give testimony.

My name is David Lubofsky. I am here to support Bill 206-38 with urgency to save lives. Guam's healthcare system is not just strained; it is failing our people for many reasons but most obviously because attempts to modernize our medical licensure laws and bring qualified foreign trained physicians to Guam has been blocked for years by the same group of individuals who have also fought to weaken medical negligence accountability. That is not a coincidence; that is a pattern.

In the Thirty Fourth Guam Legislature, Senator Dennis Rodriguez introduced Bill 125-34 and Bill 126-34, both designed to expand access to qualified foreign trained physicians. These bills would have addressed shortages and aligned Guam with the rest of the United States.

And what happened,

They were met with fierce resistance.

One doctor even said publicly in the Guam Daily Post,

**"If they are going to let foreign doctors practice here on Guam,
then will I be able to practice in the Philippines, or in Japan"**

That was the argument. Not safety, not standards, not the needs of the people of Guam, not the needs of GMH.

He focused on reciprocity, competition, turf, and SELF INTERESTS over the interests of the people of Guam and ignoring the largest maternity death rate in the country.

And speaking of turf, is it really a coincidence that Guam has the least malpractice accountability in the country which even allows doctors to work outside of their fields and earn more on procedures they otherwise would not be able to do, while at the same time Guam has no functioning Conrad 30 program pathway to bring foreign doctors to the island? This is not a coincidence. This is a system designed to keep competition out and keep accountability down.

We see the consequences every day.

GMH is understaffed, clinics are overwhelmed, mothers cannot find OB GYNs, and families are forced to fly off island for care if they can afford it, but most cannot.

Before I go further, I want to say this clearly; Guam has great doctors. I have one of the smartest and most caring family doctors in my life. My eye doctor is outstanding. My dentist is excellent.

But we do not have enough specialists.

That is why I am sitting here today in the Philippines receiving specialist follow up care that rivals anything at Queens MC in Hawaii, Good Samaritan, or Cedars Sinai in Los Angeles, hospitals where I have personal and family experiences myself. I know the level of care they provide because I have lived it. And I can tell you, the specialists and doctors at St Luke's or other facilities are every bit as capable.

With the passage of Bill 206-38, the poorest and most disadvantaged patients on Guam will finally be able to access lifesaving care right on island similarly to what we get in the Philippines or the states.

Bill 206-38 modernizes our licensure laws so that foreign medical graduates who meet rigorous, verifiable standards can practice on Guam.

From what I understand, all fifty states operate a Conrad 30 program. Guam is one of the only jurisdictions that has never fully implemented this proven federal tool.

Bill 206-38 finally gives Guam a functioning Conrad 30 program. **It will save lives.**

The Guam Board of Medical Examiners knows the system is broken. They know the shortages are dangerous. But without legislative authority, they cannot act. Bill 206-38 gives them that authority and removes the excuses that have protected the status quo for far too long.

Bill 206-38 will also help to reduce concerns about medical negligence or medical apathy that has taken the lives of our children and loved ones. When you increase the number of qualified providers, you increase competition, and competition always improves the quality of care. This also lessens the need for providers to work outside of their area of expertise due to a lack of a doctor in the needed area.

This bill is not about politics. It is not about protecting turf. It is about the people of Guam who have waited far too long for a functioning healthcare system. It is about mothers who cannot find an

OB GYN and families who cannot get timely care. It is about a hospital that has been stretched to the breaking point.

Bill 206-38 is a prescription for justice.

It is long overdue.

I urge you to pass this bill without delay.

Si Yu'os Ma'ãse

David Lubofsky, Ed.D.



To: Honorable Chairperson and Members of the Committee
Bill No.: 206-38 (COR)
Submitted by: *Naomi Ezra, MSW Student*
Date: 02/06/2026

Position: Support

Håfa Adai Chairperson and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Naomi Ezra, and I am a Master of Social Work (MSW) student as well as a social worker II here in Guahan. I respectfully submit this testimony in support of **Bill No. 206-38 (COR)**, which expands licensure pathways for foreign medical graduates and establishes a local Conrad 30 J-1 Physician Waiver Program.

Through my field placement experience, I have observed how physician shortages within Guam's public healthcare system directly impact the clients served by social workers. Many children, adolescents, and families receiving behavioral health services rely on public clinics and government healthcare facilities for medical care. When physician positions remain unfilled, clients experience delays in evaluations, treatment coordination, and follow-up care, which can disrupt progress in behavioral health treatment and increase stress for families already navigating complex systems.

Bill 206-38 addresses this gap by recognizing foreign medical graduates as a vital and qualified workforce. By expanding licensure options and prioritizing service within public health facilities, this bill strengthens the systems that social workers depend on to provide effective, coordinated care. From a social work perspective, improved access to physicians supports interdisciplinary collaboration and allows clients to receive more timely, comprehensive services that address both medical and behavioral health needs.

The establishment of a Guam-based Conrad 30 J-1 Physician Waiver Program is especially important for underserved communities. Requiring participating physicians to serve in medically underserved areas aligns with the social work values of equity and social justice by directing resources to populations with the greatest need. This structure supports continuity of care and contributes to long-term system stability rather than short-term solutions.

As an MSW student, this bill highlights the connection between policy decisions and direct practice outcomes. Bill 206-38 demonstrates how legislative action can strengthen public systems, reduce service barriers, and improve client well-being. I strongly support its passage and encourage the Committee to consider the positive impact it will have on Guam's families, healthcare providers, and the social workers who serve them.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse' for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,
Naomi Ezra, LBSW-E
Master of Social Work Student
Social Worker II

Testimony in Support of Bill No. 206-38 (COR)
As Introduced by Senator Telo T. Taitague

Hafa Adai Madam Chair and members of the Committee,

I rise in support of Bill No. 206-38 (COR) because, at its core, this is truly a people-serving bill. It is about access to care, timely treatment, and ensuring that our families, our seniors, and our most vulnerable residents are not left waiting simply because Guam does not have enough doctors.

We all know Guam continues to face a serious and ongoing shortage of physicians. This shortage affects not just Guam Memorial Hospital, but our clinics, community health centers, and private practices across the island. The result is long wait times, delayed diagnoses, and added strain on an already overburdened health system. This bill directly addresses that reality rather than continuing to talk around it.

Although I have read through this bill in its entirety, I will be candid in saying that I do not fully understand all of the medical terminology, certifications, and technical licensing requirements referenced throughout. However, I am confident that these medical and credentialing standards were carefully developed and vetted by the professionals who understand this field far better than I do. I trust that the safeguards, certifications, and training requirements included in this bill are well-intended and designed to maintain patient safety and professional quality while allowing Guam to responsibly expand its physician workforce.

What I do understand clearly is the intent. This bill does not lower standards. It creates a realistic and structured pathway to bring qualified physicians to Guam, particularly to serve where the need is greatest. It balances accountability with flexibility and recognizes that without action, our healthcare challenges will only worsen.

Most importantly, Bill 206-38 reflects thoughtful leadership. It acknowledges Guam's unique circumstances, our geographic isolation, and our long-standing difficulty in recruiting and retaining physicians. Instead of waiting for a perfect solution, this bill offers a workable one that puts people first.

For these reasons, I respectfully support Bill No. 206-38 (COR) and encourage its passage. I also wish to sincerely thank Senator Telo T. Taitague for authoring this measure and for taking a practical, compassionate approach to addressing one of Guam's most pressing public needs.

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Martinez

Resident of Tamuning

Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.

Tel: 671-687-1573
E-mail: dennis@todugam.com

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL NO. 206-38 (COR)

February 11, 2026

Honorable Sabrina Salas Mantanane
Chairperson, Committee on Health & Veterans Affairs
***I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* - 38th Guam Legislature**
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

***Hafa Adai* Chairperson Mantanane and Honorable Members of *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*:**

My name is Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr. I am the Founder of the Todu Guam Foundation, a Guam-based and nationally recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit health & social services organization, and a former Senator of the 31st-34th Guam Legislature. I respectfully submit this written testimony in strong support of Bill 206-38, introduced by Senator Telo T. Taitague, which expands licensure pathways for foreign medical graduates and clarifies Guam's participation in the Conrad 30 J-1 Physician Waiver Program.

I offer this testimony as a healthcare advocate and as part of an organization whose mission is focused on reducing barriers to care and expanding access for underserved and vulnerable populations on Guam, as well as in my former capacity as a legislator who worked on workforce policies intended to address physician shortages on our island.

During my tenure in the 34th Guam Legislature, I introduced Bill 126-34, legislation intended to address Guam's physician shortage through the creation of an "Assistant Physician" licensure pathway. That proposal focused on U.S. medical school graduates who completed medical school and passed the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) but were unable to secure a residency placement, despite being otherwise qualified to contribute to patient care.

The intent of that legislation was to responsibly expand access to primary care services under appropriate physician supervision, particularly in underserved communities. While that bill did not advance into law, the underlying workforce challenges it sought to address continue to affect access to care across our island today.

The concept behind Bill 126-34 was not novel or experimental. According to information tracked by the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), several U.S. states have enacted laws establishing an assistant physician, associate physician, or substantially similar role as a means of addressing provider shortages while maintaining physician oversight.

States identified by the FSMB as having enacted such initiatives include:

Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, Tennessee, Texas, and Utah.

These statutes generally allow certain medical school graduates who have completed licensing examinations, but not residency training, to provide limited clinical services, often in primary care and underserved settings under structured collaborative or supervisory arrangements. This demonstrates that the policy direction behind Bill 126-34 was grounded in existing national precedent, even though Guam did not adopt that model at the time.

I share this background solely to provide context and to illustrate that Guam's ongoing discussions around workforce solutions are consistent with approaches explored in other U.S. jurisdictions.

Senator Taitague's Bill 206-38 is not a reintroduction of Bill 126-34, nor does it replicate the Assistant Physician framework. Instead, it addresses a separate and critically important workforce pipeline involving Foreign Medical Graduates (FMGs).

Where my prior bill focused on U.S. medical graduates without residency training, and a limited supervised scope of practice, Senator Taitague's Bill 206-38 focuses on:

- Modernizing Guam's licensure statutes for foreign medical graduates;
- Recognizing ECFMG certification and equivalent international examinations;
- Clarifying the Guam Board of Medical Examiners' authority to assess international credentials;
- Expanding licensure by endorsement and special licensure pathways; and
- Establishing a clear statutory framework related to Guam's participation in the federal Conrad 30 J-1 Physician Waiver Program.

These approaches are distinct, complementary, and not duplicative, each addressing different gaps within the broader healthcare workforce.

Under federal immigration law, U.S. states and territories, including Guam, are eligible to recommend up to thirty (30) J-1 physician waiver requests per federal fiscal year under the Conrad 30 J-1 Physician Waiver Program. This federal program allows foreign medical graduates to obtain waivers of the two-year home residency requirement by committing to a minimum of three years of service in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA), Medically Underserved Area (MUA), or facility serving a Medically Underserved Population (MUP).

While Guam is eligible to participate in this federal program by virtue of its territorial status, current Guam statutes do not clearly codify how the program is administered locally, including agency designation, prioritization criteria, or reporting and oversight mechanisms. Senator Taitague's Bill 206-38 provides that clarity, ensuring Guam's participation is grounded in local

law, transparently administered, and aligned with Guam's healthcare priorities, particularly service to public and underserved populations.

From all available data, reports, workforce studies, and firsthand accounts across the healthcare community, it is clear that provider shortages remain one of the most significant barriers to healthcare access on Guam, especially within public health clinics, GMH, and other safety-net settings, such as the Todu Guam community health and wellness center.

Bill 206-38 offers a measured approach by:

- Aligning licensure pathways with national best practices;
- Leveraging an existing federal recruitment mechanism;
- Prioritizing service to underserved and public facilities; and
- Maintaining appropriate standards, oversight, and accountability.

Taken together, these elements provide Guam with practical tools to strengthen its healthcare workforce while safeguarding patient care.

I commend Senator Taitague for her leadership and for advancing Bill 206-38 as a practical and forward-looking response to Guam's healthcare workforce challenges. Having previously worked on similar legislation, I understand the difficulty of striking the right balance between improving access to care and maintaining the quality, safety, and regulatory integrity of our healthcare system.

Bill 206-38 represents an important and timely step toward addressing long-standing workforce shortages and improving access to care for the people of Guam. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Honorable Members of *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* to support and advance Bill 206-38.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.



GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIPATTAMENTON SALUT PUPBLEKO YAN SETBISION SUSIAT



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
MAGA' HĀGAN GUĀIHAN
GOVERNOR OF GUAM

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
SEGUNDO MAGA' LAIEN GUĀIHAN
LT. GOVERNOR OF GUAM

THERESA C. ARRIOLA, MBA
DIRECTOR

PETER JOHN D. CAMACHO, MPH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

AMANDA LEE SHELTON, MPA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 11, 2026

Honorable Sabrina Salas Matanane
Chairwoman on Health and Veterans Affairs
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagatna, Guam 96910

RE: Legislative Testimony on Bill No. 206-38 Expanding Licensure Pathways and Establishing the Guam Conrad 30 J-1 Physician Waiver Program

Håfa Adai Committee Chair Sabrina Salas Matanane, Bill 206-38's Sponsor Senator Telo T. Taitague, and members of the 38th Guam Legislature. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Bill 206-38, which is an "AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), AND § 12206, ADD A NEW 12206.1, § 12207 (a) (5), § 12207 (b)(3), AND AMEND § 12207(c), ALL OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J-1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.

On behalf of the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), I am writing to express our support of the intent for Bill No. 206-38 (COR). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Bill 206-38.

We recognize the critical need to address physician shortages and expand licensure pathways. However, DPHSS encourages the author to wait on a piece of legislation that the Governor's Office will be transmitting to the Legislature shortly. This forthcoming executive bill shares the same intent as Bill No. 206-38 but has been thoroughly vetted and guided by the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB).

It is important to note that this has been a dedicated, six-month effort involving collaboration between:

1. The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS)
2. The Guam Board of Medical Examiners (GBME) Members & Officers
3. The Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA)
4. The Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC)

Furthermore, the FSMB visited Guam on January 6th and shared invaluable insight regarding best practices in other states and territories. By waiting for the Governor's introduced legislation, we can ensure a unified approach that incorporates these expert recommendations and the collective input of our local medical leadership.

While we defer to the upcoming executive proposal, DPHSS remains committed to the core principles outlined in the current bill, including:

- **Maintaining High Standards:** Requiring rigorous Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) certification.
- **Empowering Local Oversight:** Supporting the Guam Board of Medical Examiners' authority.
- **Prioritizing Public Health:** Ensuring service commitments in underserved areas only on Guam

Thank you for your partnership in strengthening Guam's healthcare workforce.

Un Dangkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse


THERESA C. ARRIOLA, MBA
Director

Testimony on Bill No. 206 – 38: Thomas Shieh, MD

Thomas Shieh, MD, FACOG

Board Certified Fellow, American Board of OBGYN

Fellow, American College of OBGYN

Associate Clinical Professor, UH School of Medicine

Adjunct Professor, NYIT School of Medicine

Clinical Preceptor, Shenandoah Univ. Virginia

United States Navy, Veteran

Guam Resident 30 YEARS

Testimony on Bill No. 206 – 38: Thomas Shieh, MD

Bill No. 206-38 (COR) – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), § 12206 AND ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND § 12207 (a) (5) TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J 1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

Testimony on Bill No. 206 – 38: Thomas Shieh, MD

Can Foreign Nurses Work in the U.S.?

Yes, but they must first meet all U.S. licensure requirements. Foreign nurses cannot practice in the U.S. without passing the NCLEX-RN (or NCLEX-PN for practical nurses) and obtaining licensure from a state Board of Nursing. In addition, most foreign-educated nurses must verify their educational credentials and demonstrate English language proficiency.

International nurses also need authorization to work in the U.S. through an appropriate visa, such as the EB-3 immigrant visa. Employers may sponsor nurses once they have met credential and exam requirements. The immigration process and visa approval can be lengthy, so it is important to align job applications with visa timelines.

Testimony on Bill No. 206 – 38: Thomas Shieh, MD

Step-by-Step Licensure Process for Foreign Nurses

Becoming a licensed RN in the U.S. as an internationally educated nurse involves the following major steps:

1. Credential Evaluation

Before applying for the NCLEX or state licensure, foreign nurses must have their educational and professional credentials evaluated. This is typically done through an approved organization like:

- [CGFNS International](#) (Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools)
- [Educational Records Evaluation Service \(ERES\)](#)

These agencies verify your nursing diploma, transcript, and license. Most state boards require CGFNS's Credentials Evaluation Service (CES) or a similar report. The evaluation process can take several weeks to months, depending on how quickly documents are received and processed.

2. English Language Proficiency

Unless you completed your nursing education in an English-speaking country (such as Canada, the UK, Australia, or New Zealand), you'll likely need to take an English proficiency test such as:

- [TOEFL iBT](#) (Test of English as a Foreign Language)
- [IELTS Academic](#)
- [Pearson Test of English \(PTE\) Academic](#)

Score requirements vary by state and by the credentialing agency. Some states may also waive the English requirement if you completed secondary education in English. Make sure to review the language policy of your chosen Board of Nursing.

Testimony on Bill No. 206 – 38: Thomas Shieh, MD

3. Apply to a State Board of Nursing

Each U.S. state has its own Board of Nursing (BON) and licensure process. You must apply to the BON in the state where you plan to work. This application may include:

- Background check and fingerprinting
- Submission of credential evaluation report
- Proof of English proficiency
- Application fee (typically \$100–\$300)
- Completed application forms with supporting documents

Use this [state licensing guide](#) to find state-specific instructions. Some states also offer temporary permits for nurses with pending licensure applications, allowing you to work under supervision.

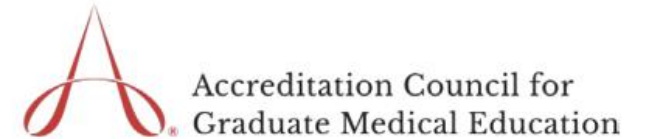
Testimony on Bill No. 206 – 38: Thomas Shieh, MD

4. Authorization to Test and NCLEX-RN

Once your application is accepted, the state BON will issue an Authorization to Test (ATT), allowing you to register for the [NCLEX-RN](#) exam through Pearson VUE. This computer-based exam measures your readiness to practice safely and effectively as an entry-level nurse in the U.S.

Test centers are available in many countries worldwide. Some foreign nurses choose to take the NCLEX while still living abroad. It's highly recommended to begin preparing early and use official NCLEX prep tools.

Testimony on Bill No. 206 – 38: Thomas Shieh, MD



**Advisory Commission on Additional Licensing Models
GUIDANCE DOCUMENT
August 2025**

Testimony on Bill No. 206 – 38: Thomas Shieh, MD

ADVISORY COMMISSION RELEASES RECOMMENDATIONS AND TOOLKIT TO INFORM ASSESSMENT AND SUPERVISION OF INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED PHYSICIANS

Guidance for state medical boards and potential employers on assessment and supervision requirements for internationally trained physicians during periods of provisional licensure

ACALM's newest guidance and recommendations, which are not intended as an endorsement of pathways legislation, focus on assessment and supervision requirements for ITPs during provisional licensure—prior to eligibility for a full, unrestricted license. The recommendations were developed through a rigorous, multi-step process that combined expert consensus with a careful review of medical education literature and relevant legislation. In addition, they reflect feedback gathered during a months-long public comment period, which engaged nearly 100 individuals and organizations from across the healthcare community.

Key Recommendations

Comprehensive Assessment: ITPs should be evaluated during the supervisory period on six core competencies: patient care, medical knowledge, practice-based learning, interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism, and systems-based practice.

Initial Assessment to Understand Current Strengths and Areas for Development: Individualized assessment at the start of supervision should be conducted to identify strengths and address areas needing support.

Specialty-Specific Examinations: Use of specialty exams should be used to inform learning plans that are developed with the ITP's scope of practice in mind.

Regular, Multi-Modal Evaluation: Standardized knowledge assessments, direct observation, multi-source feedback, and medical record audits should occur periodically throughout supervision.

Supervisor Qualifications: Supervisors must be board-certified, fully licensed physicians in the same specialty, with state medical boards establishing criteria for supervisors and supervisory sites.

Protection of ITP Employee Rights: Institutions must ensure fair treatment, access to resources, and employee rights of ITPs during supervision.

Testimony on Bill No. 206 – 38: Thomas Shieh, MD

Recommendations

ASSESSMENT

Assessment Framework

1. Recommendation: Internationally-trained physicians (ITPs) should be assessed during the supervisory period on all six general competencies endorsed by the Coalition for Physician Accountability: Patient Care and Procedural Skills, Medical Knowledge, Practice-based Learning and Improvement, Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Professionalism, and Systems-based Practice.

Testimony on Bill No. 206 – 38: Thomas Shieh, MD

Assessment at Start of Supervisory Period

2. Recommendation: ITPs should undergo a formative needs assessment at the beginning of the supervisory period in order to identify areas of strength, and areas where additional support may be needed. Ideally, the needs assessment should include a review of the participant's previous post graduate medical education (PGME) program (aka recognition of prior learning) to the extent possible.

Testimony on Bill No. 206 – 38: Thomas Shieh, MD

Use of Specialty-specific Exam for Assessment of Medical Knowledge

3. Recommendation: A specialty-specific exam, such as an in-training exam, should be used to inform an ITP's learning plan during the supervisory period

Assessment Strategies During the Supervisory Period

4. Recommendation: At a minimum, a standardized knowledge assessment, direct observation of the ITP's clinical skills, multi-source feedback, and medical record audits should be employed in assessing the ITP. Assessment of, and feedback with, the ITP should occur periodically at regular intervals throughout the supervisory period to support the ITP's professional development and provide robust data to help the responsible institution make determinations of the ITP's progress. Additionally, during the supervisory period each ITP should demonstrate engagement in a sufficient volume and breadth of cases.

Testimony on Bill No. 206 – 38: Thomas Shieh, MD

Competence Demonstrated By the End of the Supervisory Period

5. Recommendation: By the end of the supervisory period, an ITP should demonstrate the ability to engage in independent and unsupervised practice in all six of the general competency domains for the intended scope of clinical practice.

SUPERVISION

Initial Level of ITP Supervision

6. Recommendation: The level of supervision for an ITP during the supervisory period should be tailored to the competence of the individual ITP. At the beginning of the supervisory period this level should be informed by the results of an initial needs assessment and close supervision of all ITPs. Thereafter, the level of supervision should be adjusted based on demonstrated competence. The state medical board may choose to identify/approve the institution or individual supervisor that will be responsible for administering the initial assessment and for making recommendations about the initial level of assessment for the ITP.

Testimony on Bill No. 206 – 38: Thomas Shieh, MD

Qualifications of ITP Supervisors and Sites

7. Recommendation: Supervisors of ITPs during the supervisory period of the additional pathways to licensure should be physicians (MD, DO or equivalent). The supervising physician should have a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine in good standing with specialty board certification in the same specialty as the ITP's specialty. Additionally, state medical boards should establish criteria for qualifications of supervisors and supervisory sites.

ITP Employment Considerations:

8. Recommendation: The rights of ITPs as employees should be taken into consideration to ensure fair and equitable treatment during their supervision period. Institutions should provide ITPs information about their rights as an employee and offer resources to support their wellbeing.

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Conclusion: Questions remain about the feasibility of these pathways for addressing workforce shortages, especially where resources for their implementation and evaluation are not readily available. In the absence of a centralized system of assessment and supervision for ITPs, state medical boards, employers, and other parties must rely on existing resources which offer potential opportunities for ensuring that ITPs licensed through these pathways have the requisite competency to deliver care safely. They also help ensure ITPs are supported as they are oriented to practice in the US.

EXISTING RESOURCES ?

Are in the **PRIVATE SECTOR**, not really in the
"Gov Guam System."

Testimony on Bill No. 206 – 38: Thomas Shieh, MD

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 that Guam continues to experience severe shortages of licensed physicians,
4 particularly in public health clinics, and specialty fields. These shortages have
5 negatively impacted access to timely, high-quality healthcare services for the
6 people of Guam and have strained the island’s only public hospital and community
7 health centers. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that foreign medical graduates
8 (FMGs), many of whom are U.S.-trained and certified through rigorous standards
9 such as those established by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical
10 Graduates (ECFMG), represent a critical and underutilized pool of qualified
11 medical professionals. Recognizing the World Directory of Medical Schools
12 (WDMS) and allowing for ECFMG certification as a benchmark ensures that only

Testimony on Bill No. 206 – 38: Thomas Shieh, MD

9 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that amending current law to ensure that
10 qualified FMGs are not excluded from Guam’s workforce solely due to differences
11 in jurisdictional training pathways will strengthen the Guam Board of Medical
12 Examiners’ authority to apply appropriate, internationally recognized credentialing
13 standards for FMG applicants.

14 Furthermore, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the federal Conrad 30 J-1
15 Waiver Program, which permits U.S.-trained FMGs in J-1 visa status to remain in
16 the United States by serving in designated shortage areas for three years, offers a
17 valuable recruitment tool that Guam has not fully leveraged. Establishing the
18 statutory framework to implement this waiver program through the Department of
19 Public Health and Social Services will provide Guam with an additional
20 mechanism to retain skilled physicians and fill urgent care gaps, particularly in
21 underserved regions.

Testimony on Bill No. 206 – 38: Thomas Shieh, MD

22 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* also recognizes that the greatest physician shortages
23 on island persist within Guam’s public healthcare system, including the Guam
24 Memorial Hospital Authority, public health clinics, and other government of Guam
25 facilities. Prioritizing the placement of foreign medical graduates within these
26 institutions will help stabilize critical services, expand access to care for low-

Testimony on Bill No. 206 – 38: Thomas Shieh, MD

22 **Section 3.** § 12205 (c) of Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
23 hereby *amended*, to read:

24 “(c) The applicant shall have satisfactorily completed at least thirty-six (36)
25 months of progressive postgraduate medical training approved by the Board or by
26 a private nonprofit accrediting body approved by the Board in an institution in the
27 United States, its territories or possessions, or Canada approved by the Board or by
1 a private nonprofit accrediting body approved by the Board. Provided, however,
2 that this subsection shall not apply to applicants who are graduates of foreign
3 medical schools governed by § 12206 of this Chapter. Such applicants shall be
4 subject to the postgraduate training requirements, credentialing standards, and
5 licensure conditions set forth in § 12206 and any regulations promulgated
6 thereunder.”

Testimony on Bill No. 206 – 38: Thomas Shieh, MD

7 **Section 4.** § 12206 of Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
8 *amended*, to read:

9 **“§ 12206. Graduates of Foreign Medical Schools.**

10 (a) ~~Such a~~ Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall
11 possess the degree of Doctor of Medicine or Osteopathy, Bachelor of Medicine or
12 Osteopathy, or a Board-approved equivalent based on satisfactory completion of
13 educational programs acceptable to the Board.

14 (b) ~~Such a~~ Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall be
15 eligible by virtue of their medical education and training for unrestricted licensure
16 or authorization to practice medicine in the country in which they received that
17 education and training.

Testimony on Bill No. 206 – 38: Thomas Shieh, MD

18 (c) ~~Such a~~Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall
19 have passed an examination acceptable to the Board that adequately assesses the
20 applicants' basic medical knowledge.

21 (d) ~~Such a~~Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall be
22 certified by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates or its
23 Board approved successor(s), or by an equivalent Board approved entity.

24 (e) ~~Such a~~Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall
25 have a demonstrated command of the English or Chamorro language satisfactory to
26 the Board.

Testimony on Bill No. 206 – 38: Thomas Shieh, MD

1 (f) The Board shall be authorized to establish regulations requiring all
2 Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools to satisfactorily complete
3 at least thirty-six (36) months of Board approved, progressive postgraduate
4 medical training.

5 (g) The Board shall adopt a rule related to recognizing and authenticating
6 educational credentials for applicants who are graduates of foreign medical
7 schools, such rule shall include a requirement that the education be recognized by
8 one or more medical education credentialing bodies, such as, but not limited to the
9 World Director of Medical Schools or the Education Commission of Foreign
10 Medical Graduates. All credentials, diplomas and other required documentation in
11 a foreign language submitted to the Board by or on behalf of ~~such~~ applicants who
12 are graduates of foreign medical schools shall be accompanied by notarized
13 English translations acceptable to the Board.

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22 (j) Priority for Service in Public Health Facilities. Applicants who are
23 graduates of foreign medical schools and are licensed pursuant to this Chapter shall
24 give priority to the practice of medicine within the Guam Memorial Hospital
25 Authority (GMHA), Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS),
26 the Community Health Centers, or other government of Guam healthcare agencies

Testimony on Bill No. 206 – 38: Thomas Shieh, MD

1 and facilities, particularly in medically underserved areas or in specialties
2 identified by the Guam Board of Medical Examiners as critical shortage areas.

3 The Guam Board of Medical Examiners, in coordination with the
4 Department of Public Health and Social Services, shall adopt rules and regulations
5 to encourage and facilitate the placement of such licensed foreign medical
6 graduates in public healthcare settings, including through memoranda of
7 understanding, employment agreements, or service incentives. Preference for
8 participation in recruitment initiatives, waiver programs, and expedited licensure
9 pathways established under this Chapter shall be given to applicants who agree to
10 serve in these public health facilities for a minimum of three (3) years.”

Testimony on Bill No. 206 – 38: Thomas Shieh, MD

11 **Section 5.** A new § 12206.1 is *added* to Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code
12 Annotated, to read:

13 **“§ 12206.1 Guam Conrad 30 J-1 Physician Waiver Program.**

14 (a) The Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) is
15 designated as the state-equivalent health agency authorized to administer Guam’s
16 Conrad 30 J-1 Physician Waiver Program pursuant to federal law.

17 (b) DPHSS shall coordinate with the Guam Board of Medical Examiners to:

18 (1) Review and prioritize waiver requests from J-1 foreign
19 medical graduates;

20 (2) Develop application guidelines, service area criteria, and
21 specialty needs;

22 (3) Ensure eligible physicians agree to practice full-time for a
23 minimum of three (3) years in a designated Health Professional Shortage Area
24 (HPSA), Medically Underserved Area (MUA), or facility serving a Medically
25 Underserved Population (MUP);

26 (4) Verify employment contracts, licensure eligibility, and
27 facility qualifications;

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9 “ § 12207. Licensure by Endorsement and Temporary and Special Licensure.

10 (a) Licensure Without Examination. The Board is authorized, at its
11 discretion, to issue a license by endorsement to an applicant who:

12 (1) has complied with all current medical licensing requirements save
13 that for examination;

14 (2) has passed a medical licensing examination given in English in
15 another state, the District of Columbia, a territory or possession of the
16 United States or Canada, provided the Board determines that examination
17 was equivalent to its own current examination;

18 (3) has a valid current medical license in another state, the District of
19 Columbia, a territory or possession of the United States or Canada; and

20 (4) Required to take SPEX if last examination was taken more than
21 ten (10) years ago.

22 (5) holds a valid certification issued by the Educational Commission
23 for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) or its Board approved
24 successor(s), or by an equivalent Board approved entity; and has passed a
25 medical licensing examination comparable to the United States Medical

1 Licensing Examination (USMLE), or another examination approved by the
2 Board.

3 (b) Endorsement for Certified Applicants: The Board is authorized, at its
4 discretion, to issue a license by endorsement to an applicant who:

5 (1) has complied with all current medical licensing requirements save
6 that for examination; and

7 (2) has passed the examination of and been certified by a certifying
8 agency recognized by the Board (e.g., the National Board of Medical
9 Examiners or the National Board of Examiners for Osteopathic Physicians
10 and Surgeons), provided the Board determines that examination was
11 equivalent to its own current examination and was not a specialty board
12 examination.

13 (3) has passed an international medical licensing examination
14 comparable to the USMLE, as determined by the Board, and is verified by
15 the ECFMG or its Board approved successor(s), or by an equivalent Board
16 approved entity.

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17 (c) Endorsement Examination: Notwithstanding any other provisions of the
18 act, the Board is authorized to require applicants for full and unrestricted medical
19 licensure by endorsement who have not been formally tested by a United States or
20 Canadian medical licensing jurisdiction, or a comparable international medical
21 licensing exam, a Board-approved medical certifying agency or a Board-approved
22 medical specialty board within a specific period of time before application (e.g.
23 eight (8) or ten (10) years to pass a written and/or oral medical examination
24 approved by the Board for that purpose.) ’

5 to encourage and facilitate the placement of such licensed foreign medical
6 graduates in public healthcare settings, including through memoranda of
7 understanding, employment agreements, or service incentives. Preference for
8 participation in recruitment initiatives, waiver programs, and expedited licensure
9 pathways established under this Chapter shall be given to applicants who agree to
10 serve in these public health facilities for a minimum of three (3) years.”

Testimony on Bill No. 206 – 38: Thomas Shieh, MD

**I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING
WITH THE LEGISLATURE TO HELP
ADVANCE HEALTHCARE IN GUAM
FOR 3 MORE DECADES!
THANK YOU!**

Amendment to § 12206(g). Graduates of Foreign Medical Schools.

(g) The Board shall adopt a rule related to recognizing and authenticating educational credentials for applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools. Such rule shall include a requirement that the graduate's education be recognized by one or more medical education credentialing bodies, such as, but not limited to the World Director of Medical Schools or the Education Commission of Foreign Medical Graduates. Such rule may include consideration of whether the applicant's medical school is listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools (WDMS). All credentials, diplomas and other required documentation in a foreign language submitted to the Board by or on behalf of such applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall be accompanied by notarized English translations acceptable to the Board.

Clean version of amended § 12206 (g):

(g) The Board shall adopt a rule related to recognizing and authenticating educational credentials for applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools. Such rule shall include a requirement that the graduate's education be recognized by one or more medical education credentialing bodies, such as, but not limited to the Education Commission of Foreign Medical Graduates. Such rule may include consideration of whether the applicant's medical school is listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools (WDMS). All credentials, diplomas and other required documentation in a foreign language submitted to the Board by or on behalf of such applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall be accompanied by notarized English translations acceptable to the Board.



Office of Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
 Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

COMMITTEE VOTE SHEET

Public Hearing relative Bill No to [Bill No. 206-38 \(COR\)](#) As amended – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), AND § 12206, ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND AMEND § 12207, ALL OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J-1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

COMMITTEE MEMBERS	SIGNATURE AND DATE	TO DO PASS	TO NOT PASS	TO REPORT OUT ONLY	TO ABSTAIN	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE
Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane Chairperson	E-VOTE <i>Smata</i>			X		
Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada Vice Chair, Committee on Health	E-VOTE 2/19/26			X		
Senator Vincent A.V. Borja Vice Chair, Committee on Veterans Affairs	E-VOTE 2/19/26		X			
Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr. Member	E-VOTE 2/18/26			X		
Senator Jesse A. Lujan Member	E-VOTE 2/19/26			X		
Senator Shelly V. Calvo Member						
Senator Christopher M. Duenas Member	E-VOTE 2/18/26			X		
Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao Member	E-VOTE 2/18/26			X		
Senator Tina Rose Muna Barnes Member						



Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

URGENT: Request for E-Vote: Committee Report: 206-38 (COR)

8 messages

Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

Wed, Feb 18, 2026 at
2:28 PM

<office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

To: "Speaker Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, Vice Speaker Tony Ada <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Rose Muña-Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>, Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>
Bcc: Ann San Nicolas <ann.sn@guamlegislature.gov>, senator.sabrina@guamlegislature.gov, Sergio Salas <sergio.salas@guamlegislature.gov>, joesir@guamlegislature.gov

Hafa Adai Committee Members:

Please see attached Committee Report relative to [Bill No. 206-38 \(COR\)](#) – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), § 12206 AND ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND § 12207 (a) (5) TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

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- TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE

Please submit your response **ASAP**. Your responses will be logged into the vote sheet which will be submitted as part of the final Committee Report to the Committee on Rules.

Please contact our office if you have any questions or concerns.

--

Annie San Nicolas

Administrative Officer/Committee Director



Office of Legislative Secretary

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature

Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

163 W. Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

• office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov

• 671-989-2572

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 **Committee Report 206-38 (COR) E-Vote (1).pdf**
12434K

Speaker Frank Blas Jr. <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov> Wed, Feb 18, 2026 at 3:48 PM
To: Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc: Vice Speaker Tony Ada <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Rose Muña-Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>, Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>

Hafa Adai,

To report out only.

Very Respectfully,



Office of Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr.

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahan 38th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagatña

(671)969-6456

speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov

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[Quoted text hidden]

Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov> Wed, Feb 18, 2026 at 4:27 PM
To: Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc: "Speaker Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, Vice Speaker Tony Ada <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Rose Muña-Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>, Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>

To Report Out Only

On Wed, Feb 18, 2026 at 2:29 PM Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov> wrote:

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Office of Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard
38th Guam Legislature
[120 Father Duenas Avenue](#) Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103, Hagatña, Guam 96910

(671) 647-1409/1411

Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>

Wed, Feb 18, 2026 at 6:11 PM

To: Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>, "Speaker Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, Vice Speaker Tony Ada <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Rose Muña-Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>, Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>

To Report Out Only

**Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas***Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations***259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910**senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

(671) 989-9554

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Office of Senator Vince Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>

Thu, Feb 19, 2026 at 8:45 AM

Reply-To: Office of Senator Vince Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>

To: office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov

Cc: speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov, vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov, senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov, officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov, senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov, office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov, senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov, office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov

Håfa Adai,

TO NOT PASS.

Please contact our office if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

**Office of Senator Vincent A.V. Borja**

Committee on Education, Libraries, & Public Broadcasting

38th Guam Legislature

Suite 502, DNA Bldg. 238 Archbishop Flores St.

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T +1 (671) 969-8423

E contact@senatorvinceborja.com

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Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>

Thu, Feb 19, 2026 at 8:55 AM

To: Office of Senator Vince Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>

Cc: office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov, speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov, senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov, officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov, senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov, office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov, senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov

To report out only

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Office of Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada

38th Guam Legislature
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guahan
Guam Congress Building, 2nd Floor
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910
Phone: (671) 989-0855
Email: vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov

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Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>

Thu, Feb 19, 2026 at 11:08 AM

To: "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc: Office of Senator Vince Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>, office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov,
speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov, senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov,
officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov, senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov,
office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov

To Report Out Only.

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Office of Majority Leader Jesse A. Lujan

Chairman, Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs
[259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910](mailto:senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov)
senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov
(671) 969-6525

Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

Wed, Feb 25, 2026 at 10:25 AM

<office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>
To: Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc: "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Vince Borja
<contact@senatorvinceborja.com>, speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov, senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov,
officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov, senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov,
office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov

To Report Out Only

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The Office of the Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
Chairwoman, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

I. OVERVIEW:

The Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs conducted a Public Hearing on Wednesday February 11, 2026, scheduled to begin at 2:00P.M., in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building.

Among other items, on the agenda for discussion was [Bill No. 206-38 \(COR\)](#) – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), § 12206 AND ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND § 12207 (a) (5) TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

Public Notice Requirements

In accordance with Open Government Law, the public notice for this public hearing was disseminated via email to all senators and main media broadcasting outlets on February 4, 2026, and February 9 2026. This public notice was also posted on the Guam Legislature website and the Public Notice Portal.

Senators Present

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane, Chairperson of the Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs
Senator Shawn Gumataotao
Senator Telo T. Taitague
Senator Therese M. Terlaje
Vice Speaker Ada
Senator Vince Borja

Appearing before the Committee:

Dennis Rodreiguez
Chris Anderson
Melissa Mafnas
Theresa Arriola
Bistra Mendiola
Dr. Jonathon Thorp
Thomas Shieh

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY AND DISCUSSION:

This Public Hearing was called to order at 2:00PM

PUBLIC HEARING FEBRUARY 11, 2026, 2PM

Committee Report Digest: Public Hearing [Bill No. 206-38 \(COR\)](#) – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), § 12206 AND ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND § 12207 (a) (5) TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

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SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

BUENAS AND Hafa Adai. The Committee on Health and Veterans' Affairs is now called to order. The time is 2:00 in the afternoon and

today is Wednesday, February 11th, 2026. Thank you all for being here this

afternoon. Today we're holding a public hearing on Bill Number 20628

COR introduced by Senator Telo Taitague and Bill 23838

COR introduced by Senator Vince Borja. Bill Number 206 is an act to add a new subsection 12202C, amend subsection 12205 C, subsection

12206 and add a new 12206.1 and subsection 12207A

5 to Article 2 Chapter 12 Title 10 Guam Code Annotated relative to building a more diverse and sustainable healthcare workforce on Guam by expanding licensure pathways for foreign medical graduates.

in establishing a local Conrad 30 J1 Physician Waiver Program.

Bill Number 23838 COR is an act to amend subsection 25105

of Chapter 25 Division 2 Title 10 Guam Code Annotated relative to granting exemption of Title 26 of the Guam Administrative Rules and Regulations related to sanitary inspection

requirements and for other purposes. Notice of today's hearing was provided to all senators, stakeholders, and

members of the media in compliance with the Open Government Law. The notice was also posted on the Guam Legislature

website and the public notice portal. All materials for today's hearing have been uploaded to the committee drive for

today's hearing and are available in print if anyone needs them. A recording of today's hearing will also be

available on the Guam Legislature media YouTube channel. And before we proceed, I want to recognize the committee

members that are present with us today. The vice chair of the Committee on Health, Senator and Vice Speaker Tony

Ada, Senator Sean Gumataotao, and vice chair for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Senator Vince Borja. And we also have Senator Telo Taitague. For today's hearing, the rules are

Committee Report Digest: Public Hearing [Bill No. 206-38 \(COR\)](#) – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), § 12206 AND ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND § 12207 (a) (5) TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 JI PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

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SIMPLE. COLLEAGUES YOU EACH HAVE FIVE MINUTES TO ASK YOUR QUESTIONS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, PLEASE SPEAK CLEARLY INTO

THE MICROPHONE AND STATE YOUR NAME AND WHO YOU ARE REPRESENTING. BEFORE WE BEGIN, PLEASE TAKE NOTE AT THAT IF WE

ARE NOT FINISHED WITH THE HEARING. WE WILL HAVE TO ADJOURN AT NO LATER THAN AROUND 4:45 AND SET ANOTHER DAY TO

CONTINUE ACCEPTING PUBLIC TESTIMONY. AND THE REASON FOR THAT IS THAT WE ARE GOING TO BE ADJOURNING INTO SESSION TO

ACCEPT THE GOVERNOR'S STATE OF THE ISLAND ADDRESS AT 5:00 THIS AFTERNOON. AT 4:45. THERE ALSO BE SOME DOGS

THAT MIGHT BE COMING THROUGH HERE BECAUSE THEY'RE DOING SECURITY SWEEP OF THE BUILDING IN ANTICIPATION OF

THE STATE OF THE ISLAND. SO, I DO ENCOURAGE ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND MY COLLEAGUES TO BE MINDFUL OF THE TIME

CONSTRAINTS THAT WE ARE UP AGAINST. WE WILL NOW BEGIN WITH BILL 206.

IF YOU ARE SIGNED TO TESTIFY, PLEASE HAVE A SEAT AT THE TABLE.

SENATOR TELO TAITIGUE, YOU MAY START WITH YOUR OPENING REMARKS ON YOUR BILL.

SENATOR TELO TAITAGUE

I MADE IT JUST IN TIME. THANK YOU, SENATOR AND CHAIR CHAIRWOMAN.

ALSO BEFORE I MAKE MY OPENING, I'D JUST LIKE TO ASK FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION TO HAVE FORMER SENATOR

DENNIS RODRIGUEZ TO GO FIRST ON HIS TESTIMONY BECAUSE HE DOES HAVE A PRIOR ENGAGEMENT.

SURE. OKAY. THAT BEING SAID, A DAY MADAM CHAIR AND COLLEAGUES AND STAKEHOLDERS,

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT MY BILL 206-38 FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION TODAY. BILL 206-38 INTENDS

TO AMEND TITLE 10 CHAPTER 12 OF GUAM CODE ANNOTATED TO EXPAND LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR GRADUATES FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL SCHOOLS BY

CLARIFYING THE STANDARD AND EXAMINATION OF THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS MAY ACCEPT INCLUDING RECOGNITION OF

Committee Report Digest: Public Hearing [Bill No. 206-38 \(COR\)](#) – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), § 12206 AND ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND § 12207 (a) (5) TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

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EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION OF THE FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES CERTIFICATION AND EQUIVALENT INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL LICENSING EXAMINATIONS BY AUTHORIZING LICENSURES BY ENDORSEMENT

AND SPECIAL OR TEMPORARY LICENSURES WHERE APPROPRIATED AND BY ESTABLISHING THE

GUAM DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES. SO, THE ADMINISTRATING AGENCY OF GUAM'S CONRAD 30J1 PHYSICIAN

WAIVER PROGRAM INCLUDING CRITERIA FOR PLACEMENT OF PHYSICIANS IN FEDERALLY DESIGNATED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGES

AND MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS. I INTRODUCED THIS MEASURE IN RESPONSE TO A GROWING AND URGENT CONCERN I HAVE

HEARD CONSTANTLY FROM PHYSICIANS, HOSPITAL LEADERSHIPS, AND FAMILIES ACROSS OUR ISLAND. TOO MANY OF OUR

PEOPLE ON GUAM STRUGGLE TO ACCESS TIMELY AND QUALITY MEDICAL CARE BECAUSE THEY DO

NOT HAVE ENOUGH DOCTORS, ESPECIALLY SPECIALISTS PRACTICING ON THE ISLAND. THE SHORTAGE PLACES REAL STRAIN ON OUR

ONLY PUBLIC HOSPITAL, OUR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, AND ON PHYSICIANS WHO ARE OFTEN ASKED TO PRACTICE BEYOND THEIR

INTENDED SCOPE BECAUSE THERE IS NO ONE ELSE AVAILABLE TO REFER A PATIENT TO.

THE RESULT IS LONGER WAITING TIME, DELAYED DIAGNOSIS, AND TOO OFTEN

PATIENTS HAVING TO TRAVEL OFF ISLAND AND FOR CARE THAT SHOULD BE AVAILABLE RIGHT HERE ON GUAM. AT ITS CORE, THIS BILL

TAKES A PRACTICAL STEP TOWARD MODERNIZING GUAM'S MEDICAL LICENSURES LAWS

TO HELP GUAM RECRUIT AND RETAIN QUALIFIED FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES, MANY OF WHOM ARE TRAINED IN THE UNITED

STATES, CERTIFIED THROUGH RIGOROUS NATIONAL STANDARDS AND WILLING TO SERVE IN THE MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS SO

THAT WE CAN FIND CRITICAL GAPS IN CARE AT PLACES LIKE GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, PUBLIC HEALTH CENTERS, AND

OUR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS. I ALSO WANTED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE CURRENT CHALLENGES AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL,

Committee Report Digest: Public Hearing [Bill No. 206-38 \(COR\)](#) – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), § 12206 AND ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND § 12207 (a) (5) TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

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PARTICULARLY AROUND IMMIGRATION POLICIES AND PHYSICIAN VISA WAIVERS. THE BILL

WAS DRAFTED AND INTRODUCED PRIOR TO THE MOST RECENT CHANGES IN FEDERAL GUIDANCE

AND COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE J1 AND H1B PROCESS, WHICH HAD ADDED NEW LAYERS OF

UNCERTAINTY FOR PHYSICIANS AND HEALTHCARE FACILITIES ALIKE. WE KNOW THAT CHANGES AND DELAYS IN THESE VISA

PATHWAYS CAN CREATE REAL BARRIERS FOR DOCTORS WHO WANT TO SERVE HERE. IN THAT

CONTACT, I NOTE THAT THE GOVERNOR HAS RECENTLY RAISED THIS ISSUE DIRECTLY WITH FEDERAL OFFICIALS, INCLUDING ADVOCATING

FOR THE GUAM ONLY H1B VISA CATEGORY THAT WOULD EXEMPT GUAM FROM THE NEW \$100,000

FEDERAL FILING FEE AND RENEWING EFFORTS TO EXPAND GUAM'S LOCAL VISA WAIVER FRAMEWORK. THESE ACTIONS UNDERSCORE THE SAME RECOGNITION THAT GUAM'S UNIQUE

GEOGRAPHICALLY WORKFORCE SHORTAGE AND RELIANCE ON IMMIGRATION PROFESSIONALS REQUIRE TAILORED FEDERAL AND LOCAL

SOLUTIONS TO PROTECT ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE AND SUPPORT OUR ECONOMY. THIS

IS EXACTLY WHY GUAM NEEDS A CLEAR, WELL-DEFINED LOCAL PROGRAM. THIS BILL DOES NOT OVERRIDE FEDERAL LAW. IT WORKS

WITHIN IT BY ESTABLISHING THE STRUCTURE GUAM NEEDS SO THAT WHEN FEDERAL WAIVERS AND VISA PATHWAYS ARE

AVAILABLE, WE ARE READY TO ACT QUICKLY AND RESPONSIBLY TO BRING PHYSICIANS WHERE THEY ARE MOST

NEEDED. LET ME ADDRESS A CORE CONCERN UPFRONT. THIS BILL DOES NOT

LOWER STANDARDS FOR MEDICAL PRACTICE ON GUAM. IT MAINTAINS THE AUTHORITY OF THE

GUAM BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS, REQUIRES RECOGNITION, CERTIFICATION, AND CREDENTIAL VERIFICATION ALONG WITH PRIORITIES, PATIENT SAFETY, AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY. THE INTENT IS

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NOT TO BYPASS TRAINING OR OVERSIGHT. IT IS TO ENSURE THAT QUALIFIED PHYSICIANS WHO MEET HIGH STANDARDS ARE NOT EXCLUDED

BY OUTDATED OR INFLEXIBLE PROCESSES. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO GROUND THE

DISCUSSION IN EVIDENCE. THE LARGE NATIONAL STUDY PUBLISHED IN THE BMJ WHICH IS THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL IN 2017

EXAMINED MORE THAN 1.2 MILLION MEDICAL HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES AND FOUND THAT PATIENTS TREATED

BY INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED PHYSICIANS ACTUALLY HAD SLIGHTLY LOWER 30-DAY MORTALITY RATES THAN THOSE TREATED IN THE US MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATES WITH NO MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE

IN HOSPITAL READMISSIONS. THE STUDY CONCLUDED THAT THERE WERE NO

EVIDENCE THAT INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES PROVIDE LOWER QUALITY INPATIENT CARE AND IN SOME CASES

OUTCOMES WERE MODESTLY BETTER. THESE FINDINGS REINFORCE THE RIGOROUS

SCREENING AND LICENSURE STANDARDS WORK AND THAT INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED PHYSICIANS WHO MEET US CERTIFICATION

REQUIREMENTS DELIVER SAFE HIGH QUALITY CARE. FOR THE RECORD, I WILL ALSO BE

REQUESTING A TECHNICAL AMENDMENT TO SECTION 12206G OF THE BILL AS

INTRODUCED. THAT SUBSECTION WAS TRANSMITTED WHILE STILL DRAFTING AND DOES NOT ACCURATELY REFLECT THE ROLE OF

THE WORLD DIRECTORY OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS. THE AMENDMENT WILL CLARIFY THAT THE DIRECTORY IS A REFERENCE

LISTED OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS NOT A UH CREDENTIALING OR LICENSING BODY AND THAT

THE CREDENTIALING AND VERIFICATION REMAIN WITH ECFMG OR OTHER BOARD APPROVED

ENTITIES. THIS IS A CLARIFICATION OF INTENT NOT CHANGE IN POLICY

DIRECTION. SO THE AMENDMENT LANGUAGE WAS TRANSMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE CHAIR. I'M SURE YOU RECEIVED IT. SO, IN CLOSING,

ULTIMATE, WELL, I'LL LEAVE MY CLOSING TO THE END, BUT I KNOW IT WAS A BIT LONG-WINDED AND THANK YOU FOR THE

OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THE INTENT OF THIS LEGISLATION. THANK YOU.

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SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

THANK YOU, SENATOR TAITAGUE. WE WILL NOW OPEN THE FLOOR TO PUBLIC

TESTIMONY AND THERE WAS A REQUEST TO HAVE FORMER SENATOR DENNIS RODRIGUEZ START. SENATOR RODRIGUEZ.

DENNIS RODRIGUEZ JR.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. AND Hafa Adai Chairperson Matanane and members of the committee Senator Borja Senator Guamataotao Senator Ada and Senator Taitague.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR BEING HERE MY NAME IS DENNIS RODRIGUEZ JR. I'M THE FOUNDER OF THE TODU GUAM FOUNDATION, A

GUAM BASED AND NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED 501C3 NONPROFIT HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES ORGANIZATION AND A FORMER SENATOR OF THE 31ST TO 34TH GUAM LEGISLATURE. I RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT THIS

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF BILL 206-38 INTRODUCED BY SENATOR TELO

T TAITAGUE WHICH EXPANDS LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND CLARIFIES

GUAM'S PARTICIPATION IN THE CONRAD 30 J1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.

I OFFERED THIS TESTIMONY AS A HEALTHCARE ADVOCATE AND AS PART OF AN ORGANIZATION WHOSE MISSION IS FOCUSED ON REDUCING

BARRIERS TO CARE AND EXPANDING ACCESS FOR UNDERSERVED AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS ON GUAM, AS WELL AS IN MY

FORMER CAPACITY AS A LEGISLATOR WHO WORKED ON WORKFORCE POLICIES INTENDED TO

ADDRESS PHYSICIAN SHORTAGES ON OUR ISLAND. DURING MY TENURE IN THE 34TH

GUAM LEGISLATURE, I INTRODUCED BILL 126-34, LEGISLATION INTENDED TO ADDRESS GUAM'S

PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE THROUGH THE CREATION OF AN ASSISTANT PHYSICIAN LICENSURE PATHWAY. THAT PROPOSAL FOCUSED ON US

MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATES WHO COMPLETED MEDICAL SCHOOL AND PASSED THE UNITED STATES MEDICAL LICENSING EXAMINATION,

Committee Report Digest: Public Hearing [Bill No. 206-38 \(COR\)](#) – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), § 12206 AND ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND § 12207 (a) (5) TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

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THE US MLE, BUT WERE UNABLE TO SECURE A RESIDENCY PLACEMENT DESPITE BEING OTHERWISE QUALIFIED TO CONTRIBUTE TO PATIENT CARE. THE INTENT OF THAT LEGISLATION WAS TO RESPONSIBLY EXPAND

ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE SERVICES UNDER APPROPRIATE PHYSICIAN SUPERVISION, PARTICULARLY IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES. WHILE THAT BILL DID NOT ADVANCE INTO LAW, THE UNDERLYING WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

IT SOUGHT TO ADDRESS CONTINUE TO AFFECT ACCESS TO CARE ACROSS OUR ISLAND TODAY. THE CONCEPT BEHIND BILL 126-34 WAS NOT NOVEL OR EXPERIMENTAL.

ACCORDING TO INFORMATION TRACKED BY THE FEDERATION OF STATE MEDICAL BOARDS, THE FSMBB, SEVERAL US STATES HAVE ENACTED LAWS ESTABLISHING AN ASSISTANT PHYSICIAN, ASSOCIATE PHYSICIAN, OR SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR ROLE AS A MEANS OF ADDRESSING PROVIDER SHORTAGES WHILE MAINTAINING PHYSICIAN OVERSIGHT. I'VE INCLUDED SOME OF THE STATES IDENTIFIED BY THE FSMBB WHO HAVE ENACTED SOME OF THOSE LEGISLATIONS AND IT'S PART OF MY WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

FROM ALL AVAILABLE DATA, REPORTS, WORKFORCE STUDIES, AND FIRSHAND ACCOUNTS ACROSS THESE STATUTES GENERALLY ALLOW CERTAIN

MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATES WHO HAVE COMPLETED LICENSING EXAMINATIONS BUT NOT RESIDENCY TRAINING TO PROVIDE LIMITED CLINICAL SERVICES, OFTEN IN PRIMARY CARE AND UNDERSERVED SETTINGS UNDER STRUCTURED COLLABORATIVE OR SUPERVISORY ARRANGEMENTS. THIS DEMONSTRATES THAT THE POLICY DIRECTION BEHIND BILL 126-34 WAS GROUNDED IN EXISTING NATIONAL PRECEDENT EVEN THOUGH GUAM DID NOT ADOPT THAT MODEL AT THAT TIME. I SHARE THIS

BACKGROUND SOLELY TO PROVIDE CONTEXT AND TO ILLUSTRATE THAT GUAM'S ONGOING DISCUSSIONS AROUND WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

ARE CONSISTENT WITH APPROACHES EXPLORED IN OTHER US JURISDICTIONS. SENATOR TAITAGUES BILL 206-38 IS NOT A REINTRODUCTION OF BILL 126, NOR DOES IT REPLICATE THE ASSISTANT PHYSICIAN FRAMEWORK. INSTEAD, IT

ADDRESSES A SEPARATE AND CRITICALLY IMPORTANT WORKFORCE PIPELINE INVOLVING FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES. WHERE MY BILL MY PRIOR BILL FOCUSED ON US MEDICAL GRADUATES WITHOUT RESIDENCY TRAINING AND A LIMITED SUPERVISED SCOPE OF PRACTICE. SENATOR TAITAGUE'S BILL 206 FOCUS ON SOME VERY IMPORTANT ASPECTS. THEY FOCUS ON MODERNIZING GUAM'S LICENSURE STATUTES FOR FOREIGN MEDICALS GRADUATES RECOGNIZING ECFMG CERTIFICATION AND EQUIVALENT INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS. CLARIFYING THE GUAM BOARD OF MEDICAL

EXAMINER'S AUTHORITY TO ASSESS INTERNATIONAL CREDENTIALS, EXPANDING LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT AND SPECIAL LICENSURE PATHWAYS, AND ESTABLISHING A CLEAR STATUTORY FRAMEWORK RELATED TO GUAM'S

Committee Report Digest: Public Hearing [Bill No. 206-38 \(COR\)](#) – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), § 12206 AND ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND § 12207 (a) (5) TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

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PARTICIPATION IN THE FEDERAL CONRAD 30 J1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.

THESE APPROACHES ARE DISTINCT, COMPLIMENTARY, AND ARE NOT DUPLICATIVE, EACH ADDRESSING DIFFERENT GAPS WITHIN

THE BROADER HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE. UNDER FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAW, US STATES AND TERRITORIES, INCLUDING GUAM, ARE

ELIGIBLE TO RECOMMEND UP TO 30 J1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER REQUESTS PER FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR UNDER THE CONRAD 30 J1

PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM. THIS FEDERAL PROGRAM ALLOWS FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES TO OBTAIN WAIVERS OF THE 2-YEAR HOME

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT BY COMMITTING TO A MINIMUM OF THREE YEARS OF SERVICE IN A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA, A

MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA, OR FACILITY SERVING A MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATION. WHILE GUAM IS ELIGIBLE TO

PARTICIPATE IN THIS FEDERAL PROGRAM BY VIRTUE OF OUR STATUS, OUR TERRITORIAL STATUS, CURRENT GUAM STATUTES DO NOT

CLEARLY CODIFY HOW THE PROGRAM IS ADMINISTERED LOCALLY, INCLUDING THE AGENCY DESIGNATION, PRIORITIZATION OF

CRITERIA OR REPORTING AND OVERSIGHT MECHANISMS. SENATOR TAITAGUE'S BILL PROVIDES THAT CLARITY, ENSURING GUAM'S

PARTICIPATION IS GROUNDED IN LOCAL LAW, TRANSPARENTLY ADMINISTERED, AND ALIGNED

WITH GUAM'S HEALTH CARE PRIORITIES, PARTICULARLY SERVICE TO PUBLIC AND UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS.

FROM ALL AVAILABLE DATA, REPORTS, WORKFORCE STUDIES, AND FIRSTHAND ACCOUNTS ACROSS THE HEALTH CARE

COMMUNITY, IT IS CLEAR THAT PROVIDER SHORTAGES REMAIN ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT BARRIERS TO HEALTHCARE

ACCESS ON GUAM, ESPECIALLY WITHIN THE PUBLIC HEALTH CLINICS, GMH, AND OTHER SAFETY NET SETTINGS SUCH AS THE TODU

GUAM COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER. BILL 206 OFFERS A MEASURED

APPROACH BY ALIGNING LICENSURE PATHWAYS WITH NATIONAL BEST PRACTICES. LEVERAGING

Committee Report Digest: Public Hearing [Bill No. 206-38 \(COR\)](#) – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), § 12206 AND ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND § 12207 (a) (5) TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 JI PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

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AN EXISTING FEDERAL RECRUITMENT MECHANISM, PRIORITIZING SERVICE TO UNDERSERVED AND PUBLIC FACILITIES, AND

MAINTAINING APPROPRIATE STANDARDS, OVERSIGHT, AND ACCOUNTABILITY. TAKEN TOGETHER, THESE ELEMENTS PROVIDE

GUAM WITH PRACTICAL TOOLS TO STRENGTHEN ITS HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE WHILE SAFEGUARDING PATIENT CARE. I COMMEND

SENATOR TAITAGUE FOR HER LEADERSHIP AND FOR ADVANCING BILL 206-38 AS A PRACTICAL AND FORWARD-LOOKING

RESPONSE TO GUAM'S HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE CHALLENGES. HAVING PREVIOUSLY

WORKED ON SIMILAR LEGISLATION, I UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULTY OF STRIKING THE RIGHT BALANCE BETWEEN IMPROVING

ACCESS TO CARE AND MAINTAINING THE QUALITY, SAFETY, AND REGULATORY INTEGRITY OF OUR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM. BILL

208 REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT AND TIMELY STEP TOWARD ADDRESSING LONG-STANDING

WORKFORCE SHORTAGES AND IMPROVING ACCESS TO CARE FOR THE PEOPLE OF GUAM. FOR THESE REASONS, I RESPECTFULLY THE SENATORS TO SUPPORT ADVANCE BILL 206-38. SI YUUS MAASE FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION TODAY. AND MADAM CHAIR IF I MAY JUST ONE YOU KNOW IF FOR

CONSIDERATION OF THE BODY THAT I KNOW IT DOESN'T EXPRESSLY PROHIBIT THAT IF

THIS PASSES THAT THIS WILL BE SOLELY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES OR GMH BUT YOU KNOW TO ENCOURAGE YOU KNOW

JUST TO ENCOURAGE SOME CLARITY PERHAPS INCLUDING NONPROFIT SAFETY NET

CENTERS LIKE TODU HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER THERE'S OTHERS LIKE THE SDA THAT COULD ALSO BENEFIT FROM THIS AND SO

THAT'S THE ONLY THING I ASK THE BODY TO PLEASE CONSIDER SI YUUS MAASE THANK YOU.

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

THANK YOU SENATOR RODRIGUEZ I GUESS I'LL START TO MY RIGHT BISTRA

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BISTRA MENDIOLA

HAFA ADAI RESPECTED SENATORS MY NAME BISTRA MENDIOLA I'M A LONGTIME RESIDENT OF GUAM AND A MOTHER

OF TWO WHO HAS RELIED ON OUR ISLAND'S PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM FOR YEARS. I'M NOT A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL, BUT AS SOMEONE WHO HAS EXPERIENCED FIRSHTHAND THE CHALLENGES OF ACCESSING TIMELY AND

SPECIALIZED HEALTH CARE, I'M COMPELLED TO SPEAK IN STRONG SUPPORT OF BILL NUMBER 206-38 CR INTRODUCED BY SENATOR

TELO TAITAGUE, THIS LEGISLATION AIMS TO BUILD A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR QUALIFIED FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30J1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM. PASSING THIS

BILL IS A CRITICAL STEP TOWARDS ADDRESSING GUAM'S SEVERE PHYSICIAN SHORTAGES AND ENSURING BETTER HEALTH

OUTCOMES FOR OUR FAMILIES. GUAM CONTINUES TO FACE ACUTE SHORTAGES OF LICENSED PHYSICIANS PARTICULARLY IN THE

PUBLIC HEALTH CLINICS AND SPECIALTY FIELDS LIKE PRIMARY PEDIATRIC CARE AND MENTAL HEALTH TO NAME A FEW. THESE GAPS

HAVE LED TO LONG WAIT TIMES OVERBURDENED FACILITIES AND REDUCED ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY CARE ESPECIALLY FOR

LOW-INCOME UNINSURED AND UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS. FOR INSTANCE, THE US AS A WHOLE IS PROJECTED TO FACE A SHORTAGE OF UP TO 124,000 PHYSICIANS BY 2034 WITH

RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS LIKE GUAM HIT HARDEST. ON OUR ISLAND, MILITARY MEDICAL FACILITIES HAVE SEEN DECLINES IN AVAILABLE VISITS DUE TO STAFF SHORTAGES AND OUR PUBLIC HOSPITAL, GUAM

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, STRUGGLES WITH LIMITED PROFESSIONALS AMID GEOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES. AS A RESULT, MANY

RESIDENTS, INCLUDING MY OWN FAMILY, HAVE HAD TO TRAVEL OFF ISLAND FOR SPECIALIZED TREATMENT, ADDING FINANCIAL AND

EMOTIONAL BURDENS. THESE ISSUES ARE NOT JUST STATISTICS. THEY AFFECT REAL LIVES,

FROM THE ELDERLY MANAMKO NEEDING ROUTINE CHECKUPS TO CHILDREN IN RURAL VILLAGES WAITING FOR BASIC CARE. BILL 20638

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DIRECTLY TACKLES THESE PROBLEMS BY MODERNIZING OUR LICENSURE SYSTEM TO BETTER RECOGNIZE FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES WHO

MEET RIGOROUS STANDARDS SUCH AS THE EC FMG CERTIFICATION AND EQUIVALENT

INTERNATIONAL EXAMS BY AMENDING SECTIONS OF TITLE 10 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED. THE BILL ENSURES THAT QUALIFIED FMGS, MANY OF WHOM ARE US TRAINED AND ALREADY LICENSED ELSEWHERE, ARE NOT EXCLUDED DUE TO OUTDATED JURISDICTIONAL BARRIERS. THIS WILL HARMONIZE GUAM'S PRACTICES

WITH NATIONAL BEST STANDARDS, ALLOWING THE GUAM BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS TO RECRUIT FROM A BROADER POOL OF TALENT

WHILE PRIORITIZING PLACEMENTS IN PUBLIC FACILITIES LIKE GMHA, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES, CLINICS,

AND COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, ETC., EAND THAT WAS A VERY GOOD SUGGESTION, SENATOR. THE BILL'S EMPHASIS ON

THREE-YEAR SERVICE COMMITMENTS IN UNDERSERVED AREAS WILL HELP STABILIZE THESE CRITICAL SERVICES AND

IMPROVE ACCESS FOR MEDICAID AND MEDICARE PATIENTS. I WOULD SUGGEST CHANGING THE FIRM TO TURN TO FIVE YEARS, BUT

THAT'S MY TAKE ON IT. MOREOVER, ESTABLISHING A GUAM SPECIFIC

CONRAD 30J1 WAIVER PROGRAM THROUGH DPHSS IS A GAME CHANGER. THIS FEDERAL PROGRAM, WHICH HAS PROVEN EFFECTIVE NATIONWIDE, ALLOWS J1 VISA PHYSICIANS TO WAIVE THEIR TWO-YEAR HOME RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT IN EXCHANGE FOR THREE YEARS OF SERVICE IN DESIGNATED SHORTAGE AREAS. IN OTHER

STATES, CONRAD 30 HAS BOLSTERED PHYSICIAN WORKFORCES IN UNDERSERVED REGIONS, INCREASING RECRUITMENT AND

RETENTION OF SKILLED DOCTORS WHERE THEY'RE NEEDED MOST. FOR EXAMPLE, EXPANSIONS OF THE PROGRAM HAVE DIRECTLY

INCREASED THE SUPPLY OF INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES IN PARTICIPATING STATES, HELPING TO FILL

GAPS IN PRIMARY CARE IN SPECIALTIES. ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN MEDICAL COLLEAGES HAVE ENDORSED

SIMILAR EXPANSIONS, NOTING THAT IT ADDRESSES WORKFORCE SHORTAGES AND ENHANCES CARE IN COMMUNITIES LIKE OURS.

BY IMPLEMENTING THIS IN GUAM, WE CAN ATTRACT US- TRAINED FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES TO SERVE IN HEALTH

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PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS OR MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS, DIRECTLY BENEFITING LOW-INCOME FAMILIES AND REDUCING THE

STRAIN ON OUR EXISTING PROVIDERS. ON THE FLIP SIDE, THERE ARE VALID CONCERNS. THE VARIABILITY

IN INTERNATIONAL TRAINING MIGHT POSE RISKS TO CARE QUALITY IN A REMOTE ISLAND SETTING WHERE RESOURCES FOR OVERSIGHT ARE LIMITED. THE THREE-YEAR COMMITMENT

UNDER CONRAD 30 COULD LEAD TO TURNOVER CREATING INSTABILITY IN PUBLIC FACILITIES. THUS, MY SUGGESTION TO

INCREASE TO FIVE-YEAR TERM. SOME ARGUE THIS PROPOSAL SHIFT FOCUS AWAY FROM INVESTING IN LOCAL TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR GUAMANIAN. ALTERNATIVES LIKE FEDERAL

INTERESTED GOVERNMENT AGENCY WAIVERS OR NON-WAIVER VISAS FOR EXAMPLE H1B OR O1

EXIST BUT THEY MIGHT NOT TARGET OUR SPECIFIC NEEDS AS DIRECTLY. HOWEVER,

REBUTTALS ADDRESS THIS WELL. THE BILL MANDATES STRICT CREDENTIALING BOARD APPROVED EXAMS LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY IN

ENGLISH OR CHAMORRO AND COMPLIANCE MONITORING WITH NATIONAL DATA SHOWING NO WIDESPREAD QUALITY DROPS OR ETHICAL

ISSUES LIKE BRAIN DRAIN. CONRAD 30 EXAMPLES FROM STATES LIKE MICHIGAN AND TEXAS DEMONSTRATE SUCCESSFUL RECRUITMENT

IN RURAL AREAS WITHOUT MAJOR DISPLACEMENT OF US TRAINED DOCTORS AND THE PROGRAM'S FLEX SLOTS ALLOW ADAPTABILITY FOR GUAM. THIS COULD COMPLEMENT LOCAL EFFORTS FOSTERING A DIVERSE WORKFORCE THAT SUSTAINS PUBLIC SERVICES LONG TERM. I ALSO HEAR

QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER FOREIGN MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS ARE LESS TRAINED OR LESS PROFESSIONAL.

BUT AS SOMEONE FROM GUAM, I KNOW MANY OF US FREQUENTLY FLY TO THE PHILIPPINES FOR MEDICAL CARE. NOT BECAUSE IT'S INFERIOR,

BUT DUE TO ITS PROXIMITY, JUST THREE AND A HALF HOURS AWAY, AFFORDABILITY, AND HIGH QUALITY SERVICES, ESPECIALLY LIKE IN PLACES LIKE ST. LUKE'S, WHICH HAS PARTNERED WITH GUAM SINCE AT LEAST 2023 TO ACCEPT MEDICAID AND MIP PATIENTS, MAKING SPECIALIZED OFF ISLAND CARE MORE ACCESSIBLE TO OUR RESIDENTS. IN FACT, THE PHILIPPINES REMAINS TOP MEDICAL TOURISM DESTINATION FOR GUAM AND MICRONESIA RESIDENTS WITH FACILITIES LIKE THE MEDICAL CITY SERVING NEARLY

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20,000 INTERNATIONAL PATIENTS ANNUALLY. MANY FROM OUR REGION SEEKING TREATMENTS

FOR CHRONIC CONDITIONS UNAVAILABLE OR TOO COSTLY HERE. IF WE TRUST THEM ENOUGH TO SEEK CARE THERE, OFTEN FOR LIFESAVING TREATMENTS AND RELY ON THEM IN THE US SYSTEM, BRINGING QUALIFIED ONES HERE UNDER STRICTLY RULES LIKE THOSE IN THE BILL REQUIRING THE FOREIGN GRADUATES

CERTIFICATION AND BOARD OVERSIGHT COULD ONLY HELP OUR COMMUNITY BY ADDRESSING SHORTAGES WITHOUT SACRIFICING QUALITY.

BEYOND THEIR MEDICAL EXPERTISE, THESE FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES BRING ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO GUAM, INCLUDING THROUGH THE

INCOME TAXES THEY PAY ON THEIR US SOURCE EARNINGS AS J1 VISA HOLDERS, WHICH ARE WITHHELD AND CONTRIBUTE TO GOV GUAM

REVENUES, HELPING FUND PUBLIC SERVICES LIKE HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE. AS HIGH EARNING

PROFESSIONALS FEELING CRITICAL SHORTAGES, THEIR TAX CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BOOST THE LOCAL REVENUE STREAMS WHERE

INCOME TAXES MAKE ABOUT 60% OF GUAM'S LOCALLY COLLECTED FUNDS. ULTIMATELY REINVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY TO IMPROVE

ACCESS FOR UNINSURED AND UNDERSERVED. FOR FAMILIES WITHOUT ROBUST INSURANCE OPTIONS LIKE MYSELF AND DEPENDENT ON

PUBLIC CARE, THIS BILL FOCUS ON PRIORITY PLACEMENTS IN SHORTAGE AREAS COULD BE TRANSFORMATIVE. ENHANCING MEDICAID AND

MEDICARE SERVICES WHILE BUILDING A RESILIENT SYSTEM. THIS BILL OFFERS A PRACTICAL SOLUTION WITHOUT COMPROMISING

QUALITY. FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES MUST STILL MEET HIGH CREDENTIALING AND EXAMINATION STANDARDS. PRIORITIZING

PUBLIC HEALTH PLACEMENTS ENSURES THAT THE BENEFITS FLOW TO THOSE WHO NEED THEM MOST, FOSTERING A MORE

RESILIENT HEALTH CARE SYSTEM FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. I URGE YOU TO PASS BILL 206-38 WITHOUT DELAY. THIS IS AN

OPPORTUNITY TO INVEST IN OUR PEOPLE'S HEALTH, LEVERAGE PROVEN FEDERAL TOOLS,

AND BUILD A WORKFORCE THAT REFLECTS GUAM'S DIVERSE NEEDS. SI YUUS MAASE FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION. ONE MORE

THING JUST A TECHNICAL NOTE I WANT TO POINT OUT THAT I NOTICED ON PAGE FIVE

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LINE 12 AND 13 RELATIVE TO THE CREDENTIALS, DIPLOMAS AND OTHERS

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE SUBMITTED BY THE BOARD BY ON BEHALF OF APPLICANTS WHO ARE GRADUATES

OF FOREIGN MEDICAL SCHOOL SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY NOTORIZED ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS ACCEPTABLE TO THE BOARD. I

WOULD LIKE TO ADD SHELBY CARRYING A POSTILE SEAL BECAUSE WE NEED TO BE IN

COMPLIANCE OF THE HA CONVENTION FOR AUTHENTICATING FOREIGN ISSUED DOCUMENTS.

IT'S A RECIPROCITY THAT WE FOLLOW IN THE US AS WELL AND THAT WOULD BE IT. THANK YOU.

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

THANK YOU MRS. MENDIOLA. DIRECTOR ARRIOLA.

THERESA ARRIOLA

THANK YOU. CHAIRWOMAN SABRINA SALAS MATANANE, AUTHOR OF THE BILL,

SENATOR TELO TAITAGUE, AND SENATORS OF THE 38TH GUAM LEGISLATURE.

THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE TESTIMONY ON BILL 206.

OF COURSE, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE

PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30J1

PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM. ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE, I'M WRITING TO EXPRESS

OUR SUPPORT ON THE INTENT OF BILL 206. THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT CRITICAL NEED TO ADDRESS PHYSICIAN SHORTAGES AND EXPAND LICENSURE PATHWAYS. HOWEVER, THE

DEPARTMENT ENCOURAGES THE FINE AUTHOR TO WAIT ON A PIECE OF LEGISLATION THAT THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE WILL BE TRANSMITTING

TO THE LEGISLATURE SHORTLY. THIS FORTHCOMING EXECUTIVE BILL SHARES THE SAME INTENT AS BILL 206, BUT HAS BEEN

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THOROUGHLY VETTED AND GUIDED BY THE FEDERATION OF STATE MEDICAL BOARDS.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THAT THAT THIS EFFORT HAS BEEN DEDICATED A SIX-MONTH EFFORT INVOLVING

COLLABORATION NOT ONLY BETWEEN THE FEDERATION OF THE STATE MEDICAL BOARD BUT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, THE GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, THE GUAM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND

WELLNESS CENTER AND THE GUAM BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND OFFICERS.

FURTHERMORE, YOU MAY REMEMBER THAT THE FSMBB VISITED GUAM JUST THIS PAST JANUARY 6, AND SHARED INVALUABLE INSIGHT REGARDING BEST

PRACTICE PRACTICES IN OTHER STATES AND TERRITORIES. BY WAITING FOR THE GOVERNOR'S INTRODUCED LEGISLATION, WE

CAN ENSURE A UNIFIED APPROACH THAT INCORPORATES THESE EXPERT RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE COLLECTIVE INPUT

OF OUR LOCAL MEDICAL LEADERSHIP. WHILE I WILL DIFFER IN THE UPCOMING EXECUTIVE PROPOSAL, PUBLIC HEALTH

REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE CORE PRINCIPLES OUTLINED IN THE CURRENT BILL, INCLUDING MAINTAINING HIGH STANDARDS, EMPOWERING

LOCAL OVERSIGHT, AND PRIORITIZING PUBLIC HEALTH. THANK YOU FOR THIS

PARTNERSHIP. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP, SENATOR TELO, IN STRENGTHENING GUAM'S HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE.

THANK YOU, DIRECTOR ARRIOLA. DR. SHIEH.

THOMAS SHIEH

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I KNOW THAT DENNIS HAS TO GO SOMEWHERE. YOU WANT TO ASK SOME QUESTIONS BEFORE I START?

GOOD AFTERNOON. SENATOR TAITAGUE, SENATOR TERLAJE, SENATOR MATANANE, SENATOR ADA, SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO, AND SENATOR

THE NEW SENATOR BORJA. CORRECT. YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN ON GUAM FOR 30 YEARS. IT'S BEEN A LONG JOURNEY AND I HAVEN'T GOT TO I GUESS WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY HERE

IS THAT YOU KNOW I'M STILL AROUND AND YOU CAN CERTAINLY HAVE MY PHONE NUMBER AND TAP ME IF THERE'S ANY QUESTIONS

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REGARDING HEALTH CARE AND WHAT HAS TRANSFORMED GUAM INTO OVER THE LAST THREE DECADES. I THINK IN THIS ENTIRE

ROOM I THINK I PROBABLY HAVE THE MOST EXPERIENCE IN MEDICAL PRACTICE IN GUAM AND I HAVE GONE THROUGH THE MEDICAL EDUCATIONAL PROCESS BESIDES DR. THORP HERE. SO I THINK WE ARE THE EXPERTS IN

THIS ENTIRE BILL. THE CONRAD 30 WAIVER PROGRAM YOU KNOW WHEN I HEAR PEOPLE TALK ABOUT THAT THEY WANT TO CREATE THAT PROGRAM THAT PROGRAM EXISTS AND LET ME TELL YOU WHY IT EXISTS BECAUSE 10 YEARS AGO I'VE GONE THROUGH THAT CONRAD 30 PROGRAM

IF YOU RECALL MY ASSOCIATE DR. SEONG YUNG BAY WHO I RECRUITED FROM KOREA HAS GONE THROUGH THE CONRAD 30 PROGRAM AND SHE STAYED WITH ME FOR ABOUT THREE YEARS AND ATTORNEY NELSON SUE XU IS EXCELLENT ATTORNEY IN IMMIGRATION AND I'M SURE ATTORNEY KNOWS HIM AS WELL AND

MANY OF US DO. THE CONTRACT PROGRAM EXISTS. IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE CREATING A NEW PROGRAM JUST SO THAT EVERYBODY HERE UNDERSTANDS WHAT'S GOING ON. AND I WISH I HAD MY SLIDES UP BECAUSE I CAN BETTER

TALK ABOUT SO YOU KNOW THE PUBLIC CAN BETTER UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT RATHER THAN JUST LOOKING AT ME ON TV. BUT BE AS MAY YOU KNOW I'M GLAD THAT SENATOR TAITAGUE ACTUALLY INTRODUCED THIS BILL. I'VE BEEN LOOKING

FORWARD TO HAVE INPUT IN THE BILL AND HELP YOU CRAFT IT SO THAT WE CAN HAVE MORE FOREIGN QUALIFIED GRADUATES TO COME TO GUAM AND ASSIST US. SO THAT'S WHAT I'M HERE TODAY IS TO MAKE SURE THAT

YOU UNDERSTAND THAT I'M NOT OPPOSING THE BILL. BUT I THINK WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS WORK ON IT TOGETHER AND TAP INTO THOSE SOURCES THAT EXIST IN GUAM. AND I WILL GO THROUGH SOME OF THE FACTS FROM THE FEDERATION OF MEDICAL BOARDS. IT'S NOT COMING FROM ME, BUT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FEDERATION OF MEDICAL BOARDS BESIDE JUST TESTIMONY BASING, OH, WE SUPPORT

THIS BILL. THE INTENT IS GOOD, ETC. SO, I LIKE TO PRESENT THAT AND GO THROUGH IT. BUT THE CONRAD 30 PROGRAM, I

KNOW IT VERY WELL. I'VE GONE THROUGH IT. IT'S A LONG PROCESS, A TEDIOUS PROCESS. AND YES, NOW THEY ADD IN \$100,000

TO EACH OF THE APPLICATION. AND THAT MAY EXIST FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS, BUT IT TAKES A LONG PROCESS. THE

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CONRAD 30 PROGRAM AND WHAT YOU'RE DOING WITH THIS PARTICULAR LEGISLATION IS THAT THE

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CANDIDATE WHO I RECRUITED 10 YEARS AGO GONE THROUGH THE CONRAD 30 PROGRAM BUT IS TRAINED IN THE UNITED STATES

AND THE CONRAD 30 PROGRAM REQUIRES IN FACT IF YOU READ THE CONRAD 30 IN FACT I HAVE A CONRAD WAIVER PROGRAM DIRECTLY FROM THE US IMMIGRATION WITH ME AND SO I'M NOT JUST YOU KNOW SAYING ON TOP OF MY HEAD IS THAT IT REQUIRES MEDICAL GRADUATE THAT'S TRAINED HERE IN THE UNITED STATES NOT A FOREIGN TRAINED GRADUATE IS TRAINED IN THE UNITED STATES BUT THEY ARE REQUIRED ONCE THEY FINISH THEIR RESIDENCE TRAINING THEY ARE REQUIRED TO GO BACK TO THEIR HOME COUNTRY FOR TWO YEARS BUT THE CONRAD 30 WAIVER PROGRAM TRANSFORMS THE J1 VISA A WAIVER TO A

CONRAD 30. CONRAD 30 WHENCE APPROVED YOU APPLY FOR THE H1B PROGRAM AND THAT'S HOW IT PROCESSES THROUGH. SO IT'S NOT LIKE A FOREIGN

PROGRAM WHERE YOU CAN GO TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY, YOU TRAIN AND YOU COME BACK THROUGH THE CONRAD 30 PROGRAM.

THAT'S HOW IMMIGRATION WORKS. BUT BE AS IT MAY, I WANTED TO ALSO BRING UP THE FACT THAT IN ORDER FOR THE BILL TO BE SUPPORTED,

IT MUST INCLUDE THE ENTIRE ISLAND. I DON'T KNOW WHY GOV GUAM ALWAYS

EXCLUDES A PRIVATE SECTOR. I MEAN, WE'RE PART OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, AREN'T WE? AS A MATTER OF FACT, I THINK THE

PRIVATE CLINICS OUT HERE IN THE COMMUNITY PROVIDES PROBABLY THE MOST CARE THROUGH

THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY. AND I THINK YOU SHOULD TAP INTO THOSE RESOURCES. AND THAT'S ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT

THE RESOURCES THAT EXIST, BUT YOU HAVE TO INCLUDE THE PRIVATE SECTOR INTO WHATEVER LEGISLATION THAT YOU HAVE. DO

NOT DON'T EXCLUDE THE PRIVATE. WE'RE YOUR PARTNERS. WE'RE NOT HERE AGAINST GOV GUAM. EVEN THOUGH I DO

CRITICIZE GOV GUAM OFTEN, BUT YOU KNOW, PUTTING THOSE DIFFERENCES ASIDE, YOU KNOW, WE RISE UP TO HELP. BUT I EVERYBODY'S GOT ONE OF THESE

THAT'S MY SLIDE SET, RIGHT? OKAY, LET ME JUST GO FORWARD WITH THAT. SO, JUST

TO INTRODUCE MYSELF, MY NAME IS DR. THOMAS SHIEH AND I'M A BOARD CERTIFIED BY THE AMERICAN BOARD OF OBGYN. I'M ALSO

A FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE AND I'M ALSO AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF THE

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UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, JOHN A. BURNS. I'M ALSO AN ADJUNCT PROFESSOR FOR NEW YORK SCHOOL OF

MEDICINE IN IT. I'M ALSO A CLINICAL PRECEPTOR FOR A PA SCHOOL IN VIRGINIA.

I'M ALSO UNITED STATES NAVY VETERAN AND I PRACTICE AT THE NAVAL HOSPITAL FOUR YEARS ON MY ACTIVE DUTY HERE AND I'VE BEEN ON GUAM FOR 30 YEARS. NEXT PAGE.

THE NEXT PAGE IS BASICALLY SHOWING THE BASIC BILL IN ITSELF AND IT SAYS

RELATIVE TO BUILDING A DIVERSE SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE IN ORDER TO BE DIVERSE YOU KNOW WE HAVE TO BE INCLUSIVE

AND NOT EXCLUSIVE WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT EXCLUSIVITY TO GOV GUAM OR TODU PUBLIC

HEALTH THOSE ARE EXCLUSIVITIES AND THAT'S NOT GOING TO HELP PATIENT ACCESS THAT'S GOING TO MAKE IT EVEN MORE

DIFFICULT BECAUSE THE EXPERTS REALLY ARE OFTEN IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR ESPECIALLY IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR

SUPERVISORY ROLES BECAUSE WHEN YOU HAVE CANDIDATE COMING IN, THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BE SPONSORED BY EXPERTS

AND THE EXPERTS RESIDE IN THE PRIVATE COMMUNITY, NOT NECESSARILY IN GOVERNMENT SYSTEM. NEXT SLIDE.

NOW, WITHOUT NURSES, THIS DOCTORS REALLY CAN'T PRACTICE REALLY. YOU KNOW, WE NEED TO CONSIDER NURSES TOO. SO IF I WOULD ADD AN AMENDMENT TO THIS BILL, I WOULD INCLUDE THE NURSES, THE FOREIGN NURSES.

SENATOR TAITAGUE AND I THINK YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY HERE TO ACTUALLY ENGAGE THE GUAM NURSING BOARD TO SAY HEY YOU KNOW BECAUSE IN WITHIN THIS BILL YOU TALK ABOUT WAIVER OF EXAMINATIONS FOR THE US

EXAMINATIONS WHICH CURRENTLY IF YOU LOOK AT CAN THE FOREIGN NURSES WORK IN UNITED

STATES THEY MUST PASS A US ADMINISTERED STANDARD OF THE ENLEX.

SO WE ALL CAN AGREE THAT WE ALWAYS TALKED ABOUT EVEN DURING THE SENATOR

HERE THAT FOREIGN I MEAN NOT FOREIGN NURSES BUT WE ARE SHORTAGE OF NURSES IN THE UNITED STATES MAYBE EVEN WORSE THAN

THE PHYSICIANS ESPECIALLY ON GUAM. WE ALWAYS STRUGGLING IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND ALSO IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

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JUST TO GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE I HAVE ONE DOCTOR IN MY OFFICE SOLO PRACTICE AND I HAVE SEVEN NURSES SUPPORTING ME. SO IF

YOU RECRUIT ONE DOCTOR TO GUAM, YOU MAY WANT TO RECRUIT AT LEAST FIVE TO SEVEN NURSES TO GUAM. SO I THINK THERE'S AN

OPPORTUNITY HERE TO INCLUDE THE FOREIGN NURSES AND PERHAPS IF YOU'RE GOING TO WAVE THE USMLE OR US EXAMINATIONS

CERTAINLY IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT AT OUR LEVEL, YOU CAN CERTAINLY WAIVE THAT AS WELL. NEXT PAGE. NOW BASED ON THE NURSING BOARD OR FOR FOREIGN NURSES, THERE'S TWO THINGS THAT

THEY THAT STOOD OUT TO ME AND ONE AGAIN IS THE ENCLEX EXAM. WELL, IF YOU WANT TO WAVE THE EXAMINATION OF THE US, YOU CAN CERTAINLY WAVE THE EXAMINATION FOR THE ENCLEX. ENGLISH PROFICIENCY IS ONE. OF

COURSE, YOU KNOW, ENGLISH IS ACTUALLY MY SECOND LANGUAGE. I'M SURE YOU PROBABLY NOTICED THAT. YOU KNOW, CHINESE IS

ACTUALLY MY FIRST LANGUAGE. I WASN'T BORN IN THE UNITED STATES. I IMMIGRATED HERE WITH MY MOM WHEN I WAS ABOUT 10

YEARS OLD. SO I HAD TO LEARN ENGLISH. YOU CAN PROBABLY HEAR MY ACCENT NOW RIGHT WHEN I BROUGHT IT UP. BUT ENGLISH SHOULD BE PROFICIENT. THAT'S ONE OF THE NURSING EXAMINATIONS TOO. NEXT

PAGE. AND THE THIRD THING IS THAT THEY MUST APPLY TO LIKE ANY OTHER GRADUATE NURSES THROUGH THE CREDENTIAL CHECKS BEFORE THEY CAN TAKE THE ENCLEX. BUT WITHIN THE BILL, HE'S TRYING TO STRUCTURE IT SO

THAT THEY CAN BYPASS THOSE CREDENTIALING CHECKS. YOU CAN CREATE YOUR OWN CHECKS. SO WHY NOT CREATE OUR OWN CHECKS FOR

NURSES? WE CERTAINLY CAN. YOU KNOW, YOU WANT TO HOLD THE DOCTORS TO CERTAIN STANDARDS, BUT YOU ALSO WANT TO, YOU

KNOW, MAKE SURE THAT NURSES HAVE THEIR OWN STANDARDS, TOO. SO WE CAN ACTUALLY CREATE THOSE SYSTEM CHECKS AND BALANCES.

NOW, NEXT PAGE, THE AUTHORIZATION AGAIN, THEN THE ENCLEX. SO IF YOU CAN WAIVE A US MLE EXAM THE NATIONAL BOARDS THAT'S MINISTER OF UNITED STATES AND YOU CERTAINLY CAN SEEK TO WAIVE THAT EXAM. IF

YOU CAN WAIVE THAT EXAM I BET YOU WE WILL NOT HAVE A FOREIGN YOU KNOW WE HAVE A LOT OF FOREIGN NURSES THAT CAN COME TO

GUAM. NEXT SLIDE. SO FOCUSING ON THIS

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PARTICULAR BILL HERE AND I THINK IT'S A GOOD START. THERE'S THREE

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION THAT PUT OUT HIS RECOMMENDATION AND I THINK THE PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR HAD MENTIONED THEY WORK WITH THE FEDERATION OF STATE MEDICAL BOARDS. WELL IN ADDITION TO THE STATE MEDICAL BOARDS

THE STATE MEDICAL BOARDS WORKED WITH TWO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND ONE OF THEM IS CALLED THE ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION. I KNOW DR. THORP KNOWS THAT ORGANIZATION

VERY WELL IS IN IT IS AN ACCREDITATION ORGANIZATION ACCREDIT MEDICAL SCHOOLS ACCREDIT RESIDENCIES ACCREDIT TRAINING

PROGRAMS WITHIN THAT THE FEDERATION OF MEDICAL BOARDS LOOKS UP TO THEM TO SEE WHAT TRAINING AND WHAT CRITERIAS INCLUDING

HOW FOREIGN GRADUATES SHOULD COME INTO THE UNITED STATES THE SAFEGUARDS ARE THERE PLUS ANOTHER NONPROFIT

ORGANIZATION I THINK INTEL I THINK THEY'RE NONPROFIT SO THEY PRODUCE A SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS

AND I HAVE IT IN MY SLIDE. I DON'T ACTUALLY LOOKS BIGGER IF YOU BLOW IT UP. THERE ARE KEY RECOMMENDATIONS GO THROUGH

HERE AND I'LL GO THROUGH JUST BRIEFLY BUT IN ORDER TO GO THROUGH THE ENTIRE

RECOMMENDATION THEY HAD THEY ACTUALLY PUT OUT AN ENTIRE PAPER AND THIS JUST CAME OUT 2025 IN AUGUST. SO, THIS IS

VERY RECENT. AND THE REASON I HAVE IT, I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THE BILL WAS INTRODUCED. AND I WISH SENATOR TAITAGUE HAD

CALLED ME. I WOULD HAVE SAT DOWN WITH HER OR ANY OF YOU IN THE COMMITTEE AND GONE THROUGH IT AND HELP YOU CRAFT THE

BILL. BUT, BSMA, I'M HERE AND I MAKE MYSELF ACCESSIBLE.

NEXT PAGE. SO, THE FIRST RECOMMENDATION IS ASSESSMENT.

ASSESSMENT. SO, YOU DON'T JUST LEAVE IT TO THE BOARD TO DECIDE. YOU KNOW I HAVE COMMENTS ON THE MAKEUP OF THE BOARD TOO

BUT THE ASSESSMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS SO THERE'S SIX GENERAL COMPETENCY THAT YOU HAVE TO LOOK AT

PATIENT CARE PROCEDURAL SKILLS MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE PRACTICE-BASED LEARNING AND

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IMPROVEMENT INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS PROFESSIONALISM AND SYSTEM BASED PRACTICE THOSE ARE ONES

THAT THEY RECOMMEND THAT WE MUST FOLLOW THE SECOND ONE ITP SHOULD UNDERGO

FORMATIVE NEEDS ASSESSMENT ITP IS NOT TRUMPETENIA. OKAY, ITP MEANS

INTERNATIONAL TRAINED PRACTITIONER OR PHYSICIANS AND BASICALLY THEY SAYING THAT THEY NEED TO GO THROUGH A

SUPERVISORY PERIOD AND WHICH CONRAD 30 BASICALLY STATES THAT THEY SHOULD BY THE

SPONSORING ENTITY. SO, BUT THEY HAVE CERTAIN THEY HAVE A LOT OF GOOD RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HOW

THAT SUPERVISORY PERIOD SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT. IT'S NOT THAT YOU HIRE THEM TO GO TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND JUST GO AHEAD

AND PRACTICE AND SEE PATIENTS. YOU CAN'T DO THAT. YOU NEED TO PUT THEM UNDER A SUPERVISORY ROW.

[NEXT FIVE, BY THE END OF THE SUPERVISORY

PERIOD, THEY CAN PRACTICE UNSUPERVISED IN THE GENERAL COMPETENCY

AREAS. NOW, AS FAR AS SUPERVISORS GOES, OKAY, THEY MAKE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

REGARDING THE COMPETENCE. NEXT PAGE. UNDER SEVEN, WHEN YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THE WHO QUALIFIES FOR SUPERVISORY ROLE, THEY REQUIRE THAT TO HAVE ESPECIALLY BOARD CERTIFICATION. THEY WANT YOU TO BE BOARD CERTIFIED SO THAT YOU CAN SERVE AS A SUPERVISOR FOR THAT PARTICULAR CANDIDATE. NOW IN EIGHT IF YOU LOOK AT THAT TRIAL PERIOD OR SUPERVISORY PERIOD THEY ALSO TALKED

ABOUT DETAILS AND I HAVE THAT WE CAN YOU CAN ASK ME A QUESTION THAT LATER BUT NEXT PAGE BASIC IN CONCLUSION OF

THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS IS THAT CURRENTLY NATIONALLY THEY DON'T HAVE A CENTRALIZED SYSTEM REGARDING ASSESSMENT, THEY DON'T.

SO THEY RECOMMEND THAT WE TAP INTO EXISTING RESOURCES WHICH OFFER POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES AND THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING

TO SENATOR TAITAGUE IS THAT WE ARE YOUR LOCAL RESOURCES. THE PRIVATE CLINICS ARE

YOUR LOCAL RESOURCES. WE ARE BOARD CERTIFIED. I'M WELL I KNOW I AM. ARE YOU BOARD CERTIFIED? YEAH, DR. THORP

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BOARD CERTIFIED. SO YOU KNOW SO WE ARE YOUR EXISTING RESOURCES. AND BEFORE I HEAD DOWN TO THE SUNSET IN ANOTHER 30

YEARS, YOU KNOW, USE ME. USE ME TO HELP YOU TO MAKE GUAM A BETTER PLACE FOR HEALTH CARE. AND THAT'S MY MISSION OVER THE LAST THREE DECADES. NEXT PAGE.

ALL RIGHT. SO, THIS ONE IS JUST ONE BIG SLIDE THAT SAYS EXISTING RESOURCES. AGAIN, YOU KNOW, WE'RE IN THE PRIVATE

SECTOR AND YOU GOT TO USE US BECAUSE TO EXCLUDE THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO RHYME YOU'RE GOING TO BLIND LEADING THE BLIND. YOU KNOW, WE KNOW HOW TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND THAT'S

WHY WE'RE SUCCESSFUL IN OUR PRIVATE PRACTICE. SO, YOU SHOULDN'T EXCLUDE THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THIS. YOU GOT TO

INCLUDE THEM REGARDLESS OF PROFIT OR NONPROFIT. IT DOESN'T MATTER BECAUSE LET ME TELL I CAN TELL YOU THE TRUTH RIGHT

NOW. THE TRUTH CAN BE OFFENSIVE. OKAY? NONPROFIT CLINICS, QUOTE UNQUOTE

NONPROFIT CLINICS, AT THE END OF THE DAY, THEY RUN IT LIKE IT'S FOR PROFIT. OKAY? IF YOU TALK TO PATIENTS, AT THE

END OF THE DAY, IT'S ALMOST LIKE IT'S FOR PROFIT. NOW, NEXT PAGE. IF YOU GO PAGE ONE OF THE BILL,

IF YOU TURN TO PAGE ONE OF THE BILL, NOW I'M GOING TO JUST GO THROUGH THIS BILL. THERE'S ABOUT EIGHT PAGES HERE. THE INTENT OF THE BILL IS ACTUALLY GOOD BUT I THINK THE INTENT CAN BE EXPANDED RIGHT BECAUSE THE INTENT IS NOT JUST THE PUBLIC HOSPITAL IT'S NOT JUST COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS IT'S NOT JUST TODU GUAM IT'S NOT JUST THE NONPROFIT CLINICS BASICALLY IT'S ENTIRE ISLAND RIGHT BECAUSE YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT

QUALITY OF CARE DOESN'T JUST APPLY OR ACCESS TO CARE DOESN'T JUST APPLY TO THE PRIVATE CLINICS ONLY OR PUBLIC HEALTH

YOU WANT TO BE INCLUSIVE AND NOT EXCLUSIVE. SO I THINK WHAT WE SHOULD DO IS STRIKE OUT ALL THIS QUOTE PRIORITY

FOR ACCESS GUAM HOSPITAL NONPROFIT CLINIC. YOU SHOULD OPEN UP TO THE ENTIRE ISLAND. IF WE CAN RECRUIT MORE FOREIGN DOCTORS TO GUAM, WHY NOT?

WHY LIMIT IT TO ONLY THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND THE NONPROFITS? WHY? BECAUSE

THAT'S AN OPEN QUESTION BECAUSE ANYWAY. AGAIN I THINK ALSO THE INTENT CAN INCLUDE NURSES AS WELL. NEXT PAGE ON THE

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PAGE TWO OF THE BILL. YOU KNOW, THE LEGISLATURE OVER THE LAST

SEVERAL YEARS ALSO HAS BEEN CRITICAL OF THE GUAM BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS, BUT WITHIN THE BILL, IT PROVIDES THE SAME BOARD THAT THE SENATORS SO CRITICIZED OVER AND OVER AGAIN REGARDING THE TIMELINESS OF ADDRESSING PATIENT COMPLAINTS, INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITIES, THE LACK OF OVERSIGHT, AND

BUT YOU'RE GIVING THIS BOARD THE ULTIMATE POWERS LIKE GOD THAT YOU CAN

ALLOW THEM TO DETERMINE ALL THIS STUFF THAT HEY WHATEVER THE BOARD DETERMINES IS GOOD IS GOOD BUT YET

WE CRITICIZE THE BOARD FOR THEIR LACK OF BETTER WORDS I CAN'T SAY IT BUT

THE PROBLEM WITH THE BOARD NEED TO BE REVAMPED OKAY WE GOT TO CHANGE THIS COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD PERHAPS I KNOW

THE ORGANIC ACT ALLOWS THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT THE BOARD MEMBERS.

THEN AGAIN, YOU KNOW, IS THAT BOARD MEMBER SERVING AT THE PLEASURE OF THE GOVERNOR OR THE PEOPLE WHO APPOINTED THAT PERSON TO THE BOARD? YOU KNOW, GUAM IS SMALL AND WE HEAR THINGS WITHIN THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY. THE INFLUENTIAL POWERS OF ADALOOP OR

SENATORS, FORMER SENATORS MAY CALL THE BOARD AND SAY, "HEY, I NEED THIS PERSON LICENSED." AND CERTAIN BOARD MEMBERS MAY SAY, "MAN, YOU KNOW, WE, YOU KNOW, THEY TALK TO US ABOUT IT. WHAT DO YOU THINK?" ETC. ON

THE SIDE OR CURBSIDE CONSULTS AS WE CALL IT. WE SAY, YOU KNOW, THAT'S A THAT'S A RISKY PROPOSITION THERE TO LICENSE

PROVIDER BECAUSE IT MAY CAUSE HARM IN THE COMMUNITY THAT YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CONTROL.

BUT THEN AGAIN, ONE CALL, TWO CALLS, THE INNER WORKS OF THESE UH POLITICS THAT THE PERSON GETS LICENSED AND THEN A YEAR, TWO YEARS LATER, YOU

DISCOVER, WHOA, WHOA, WHAT HAPPENED? THIS PERSON COMMITTED MALPRACTICE OR THIS PERSON COMMITTED THAT. AND WE LOOK

BACK AND WE SAY, WHAT? WE TOLD YOU SO. OH, BUT SO THOSE THINGS OCCUR. SO I I THINK WE NEED TO TAKE A STEP BACK BEFORE YOU PROVIDE THE GUAM BOARD WITH SO MUCH POWERS ESPECIALLY ON GUAM. WE HAVE TO BE COGNIZANT OF THE INFLUENTIAL POWERS OF

THE APPOINTMENTS BY THE AUTHORITIES. OKAY? I'M JUST TELLING YOU THE TRUTH AND THAT'S JUST THE FACTS. NEXT PAGE.

I'M STILL ON PAGE TWO. AGAIN, IT ADDRESSES HERE THAT

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PRIORITIZING PLACEMENT. I WOULD STRIKE THAT OUT. I THINK PLACEMENT IS GOOD, BUT I WOULD STRIKE OUT PRIORITIZING SPECIFICALLY THE GMH, PUBLIC HEALTH, OTHER GOV GUAM FACILITIES. I WOULD EVEN PUT NONPROFITS. I WOULD

JUST OPEN IT UP TO THE ENTIRE ISLAND OF GUAM BECAUSE ACCESS TO CARE SHOULD BE

FOR EVERYBODY. IT SHOULD BE FOR EVERYBODY.

IN FACT, I CAN TELL YOU RIGHT NOW, AS FAR AS THE SHORTAGE OF OBGYN GOES, GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL HAS PROBABLY GOT MORE OBGYNS NOW THAN THE COMMUNITY HAS ON GUAM. HOW MANY BOARD CERTIFIED OBGYN DO WE HAVE IN PRIVATE PRACTICE, IN A PRIVATE CLINICS? JUST TWO MYSELF SDA THAT'S IT AT GMH

THEY HAVE I THINK FOUR. SO YOU GOT TO INCLUDE THE PRIVATE SECTOR BECAUSE YOU KNOW THERE'S TWO OF US HERE RIGHT AND IF I GO

OFF ISLAND YOU LEFT AT ONE IF TWO OF US GOES OFF ISLAND WE LEFT WE'RE AT ZERO SO THAT'S A PROBLEM AND THAT'S IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

NEXT PAGE, PAGE THREE. IT GOES FROM PAGE THREE TO THE BOTTOM OF PAGE FOUR, BUT I'LL START WITH THE PAGE THREE HERE. THE BOTTOM OF PAGE THREE, HERE'S A SECTION THAT PROPOSES TO WAVE THE USUAL LICENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR A CANDIDATE. AGAIN, IT SHOULD INCLUDE THE UM NURSES. YOU CAN DO IT. I KNOW YOU CAN BECAUSE WE NEED NURSES, YOU KNOW. SERIOUSLY, WE DO. CURRENTLY,

ALL US TRAINED GRADUATE MUST COMPLETE A MINIMUM OF THREE YEARS PROGRESSIVE MEDICAL THAT'S ALREADY IN THE BILL, YOU

KNOW, BUT NOW YOU WANT TO WAIVER THIS SECTION. SO, JUST LOOK AT THAT CAREFULLY. WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT SOME

MORE LATER ON HERE. NEXT PAGE, PAGE FOUR OF THE BILL. UNDER SECTION 4A IS HE SAID THE YOU KNOW YOU'RE GIVING ONE BOARD THE AUTHORITY TO SAY

HEY A BOARD APPROVE EQUIVALENT EQUIVALENCY AGAIN I ALREADY GAVE YOU MY OPINION OF YOU KNOW I SHARE YOUR OPINION

ABOUT GUAM BOARD THE POLITICS THAT IT INVOLVES AND THE EXTERNAL INFLUENCES OF LICENSURES ETC. SO WE HAVE TO BE REAL CAREFUL WITH THE POWERS THAT YOU PROVIDE THAT I RATHER HAVE THINGS WRITTEN IN CONCRETE RATHER THAN GIVING IT AT THE DISCRETION OF THE BOARD WHO IS APPOINTED BY POLITICIANS.

WE SHOULD BASE IT ON THE QUALIFICATIONS REALLY. NEXT PAGE, PAGE

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FOUR. CONTINUING ON AGAIN, HE SAYS HERE, YOU KNOW, THE SECTION D, HE SAYS, WHAT DO IT SAYS EQUIVALENCY TO

YOU KNOW ECMG AND THEN THE FOREIGN GRADUATE EXAMINATIONS AND TRAINING. YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT THE FOREIGN THE EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES, YOU KNOW WHAT IS

EQUIVALENT TO THAT? YOU KNOW, YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE BOARD'S YOU KNOW,

DISCRETION TO THAT. IT'S UNCLER AND I'M SURE DR. THORP CAN TALK MORE ABOUT THAT. AND THE REQUIREMENT IS

EITHER ENGLISH OR CHAMORRO. NOW, GRANTED, CHAMORRO IS IS THE YOU KNOW, THE LANGUAGE HERE AS WELL. SO IS JAPANESE, SO IS FILIPINO, SO IS CHINESE, MICRONESIAN. SO WE I THINK WE CAN ALL SAY THAT

ENGLISH SHOULD BE THE MAIN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY THAT NEEDS TO BE PASSED AND NOT JUST I MEAN YOU CAN BE MULTILINGUAL WHICH IS GREAT BUT YOU KNOW NOT EITHER OR NEXT PAGE. AGAIN ANOTHER SECTION THAT'S RELYING ON THE BOARD TO DO ALL THIS YOU KNOW YOU KNOW I READ IN THE PAPER SOMETIMES YOU HAS TALK ABOUT THE PARI SYSTEM. IS THAT RIGHT? AM I SAYING IT RIGHT? THE

PARI PAR I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS. BUT I ASSUME THAT MEANS THAT YOU KNOW YOU OWE SOMEBODY A FAVOR OR YOU

YOU DO THIS OR I POINTED YOU TO THAT POSITION BECAUSE YOU KNOW I WANT YOU TO DO THINGS FOR ME ETC. THOSE

INFLUENTIAL POWERS EXIST ON GUAM AND WE ALL SEEN IT, WE ALL HEARD IT. SO YOU HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFUL THE POWERS THAT YOU PLACE ON THESE BOARD MEMBERS. NEXT PAGE ON PAGE FIVE OF THE BILL ON THE BOTTOM AGAIN YOU KNOW YOU'RE PUTTING A PRIORITY FOR ACCESS TO FOREIGN GRADUATES IS DISCRIMINATORY TO TO ME THAT THING IS

DISCRIMINATORY. IT DOESN'T DO JUSTICE TO THE PATIENTS FOR GUAM. IT REALLY DOESN'T.

YEAH. I'M SURE SOME SENATORS HERE OR MAYBE IN THE PAST MAY THOUGHT, WELL, DR. SHIEH IS AGAINST THIS BILL BECAUSE HE DOESN'T LIKE FOREIGN GRADUATE BECAUSE IT'S GOING TO GO AGAINST HIS OWN CLINIC COMPETITION. IT'S NOT THAT POINT. I'M AT 30 YEARS OF MY PRACTICE. I CAN RETIRE.

BUT I'M STILL HERE BECAUSE I CARE AND I WANT TO HELP GUAM. IF YOU WANT TO DO FOREIGN GRADUATE, LET'S WORK AT IT

TOGETHER. BUT DON'T INCLUDE JUST THE GOVERNMENT GUAM SIDE. YOU GOT TO INCLUDE THE PRIVATE SECTOR, PLEASE.

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ALL RIGHT, NEXT PAGE. PAGE SIX. NOW, THIS IS ONE PARTICULAR PART HERE THAT I I THINK IS KIND OF ODD THAT CAN BE CAN BE REMOVED AS FAR AS THE U

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT GOES. YOU KNOW, UNDER THE UM FEDERAL LAW, UNDER THE YOU KNOW, THE CONRAD 30 WAIVER SYSTEM, THE CONTRACTS IS PROVIDED TO THE IMMIGRATION PROVIDE TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. BUT IF YOU'RE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS, YOU KNOW,

YOU HAVE YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE IT TO THE GUAM BOARD. IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. YOU KNOW, LIKE I SAID, THE GUAM IS SO SMALL.

WHAT DOES THE PRIVATE CONTRACTS GOT TO DO WITH THE GUAM BOARD? WHY WOULD THEY CARE ABOUT THAT? IT

DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. AGREEMENT, UNDERSTANDING, THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE EITHER BECAUSE IF YOU'RE GOING TO GO THROUGH THE CONRAD 30 PROGRAM, THOSE THINGS ARE SET. IT RULES ARE SET. I CAN'T CHANGE THOSE RULES.

THOSE ARE LAWS THAT ALREADY SET TO GO THROUGH THE VISA PROGRAM AND THEY HAVE THEIR OWN CRITERIAS OF WHAT NEEDS TO BE

INCLUDED IN THESE CONTRACTS. SO I THINK THOSE THINGS SHOULD BE KEPT CONFIDENCE IN CONFIDENTIAL.

NOW THE THREE-YEAR THE MINIMUM THREE-YEAR DEAL HERE YOU KNOW REALLY THAT'S ALREADY IN THE LAW TOO BECAUSE GOING THROUGH THE CONRAD 30 PROGRAM IT IS A MINIMUM OF THREE YEARS YOU GOT TO BE

THREE YEARS BUT AFTER THREE YEARS IS DONE YOU CAN PROVIDE THAT GREEN CARD TO THE CANDIDATE AND THE CANDIDATE HAS THE FREEDOM TO GO ELSEWHERE AND MOST OF THE CANDIDATES THAT COME TO

RURAL AREAS WILL TAKE THAT VISA AND THEY WOULD LEAVE THEY USUALLY DON'T STAY LIKE MY

CANDIDATE. YEAH. AND YOU KNOW, FOR GOOD REASONS. FOR GOOD REASONS. I DON'T BLAME HER FOR

NOT WANTING TO STAY. AND WE DON'T HOLD PEOPLE BACK. WE DON'T, THIS IS NOT SLAVERY OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

CERTAINLY, IT'S STILL GOING TO BE A REVOLVING DOOR. NEXT PAGE.

PAGE SIX, PAGE SIX AGAIN TALKS ABOUT CERTAIN RULES OF THE CONRAD 30 PROGRAM,

BUT I ALREADY EXPLAINED THOSE RULES ARE ALREADY SET IN STONE. WE REALLY CAN'T AND IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE THERE. ON PAGE

SEVEN, LICENSURE WITHOUT EXAMINATION. THIS IS THE IMPORTANT PART BECAUSE

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YOU'RE GIVING THE BOARD THE AUTHORITY TO ENDORSE CANDIDATES. BASICALLY, IT SAYS THERE WITHOUT EXAMINATION. BUT IF

YOU READ THROUGH THE BILL FROM YOU KNOW 11 TO 25 IT TALKS ABOUT EXAMINATIONS BUT

THEN YOU KNOW THE TITLE THERE IT SAYS HERE LICENSE THEM WITHOUT EXAMINATION.

SO IF YOU'RE GOING TO LICENSE THEM WITHOUT ANY EXAMINATION OR UM LICENSE THEM THROUGH AN EXAM THAT THE GUAM BOARD

CREATES YOU GOT IT'S GOT TO BE SPECIALTY SPECIFIC SPECIAL SPECIFIC EXAM INTERNAL

MEDICINE OBGYN SURGERY PEDIATRICIANS YOU KNOW THOSE ARE EXAMINATION SPECIFIC AND I THINK

DENTISTS HAVE ONE OF THOSE BUT I'M NOT I'M NOT QUITE SURE BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO WAVE THAT YOU GOT TO INCLUDE THE

GUAM NURSES IF YOU CAN WAVE EXAMINATION FOR A DOCTOR WHO GIVES NURSES ORDERS TO GIVE INJECTIONS TO GIVE NURSES ORDERS TO PROVIDE THE

MEDICATION TO THE PATIENTS AND YOU'RE WAVING THE DOCTOR'S EXAMINATIONS. YOU CAN CERTAINLY

WAVE THE NURSE'S EXAMINATION THE ENCLEX. SO I WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO LOOK AT THAT

WORK ON IT AND WE CAN GET US MORE NURSES FROM THE FOREIGN COUNTRIES. NEXT PAGE.

I THINK I'M ON THE LAST PAGE HERE. AGAIN, THIS LAST PAGE IS JUST BASICALLY TALKS ABOUT ONE OF THE LICENSING OPTIONS

HERE. BUT, YOU KNOW, IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE IN THE LAST PAGE. LET ME TELL YOU WHY. PREVIOUSLY ON PAGE SIX OR

SEVEN, IT TALKS ABOUT THE THREE-YEAR LIMIT. CORRECT? IT TALKED ABOUT A THREE, YOU'RE GOING TO

WAVE THE EXAMINATION. AND THEN HERE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT SPECIFIC YOU

KNOW IT SAYS HERE BORE AUTHOR REQUIRE APPLICANT TO FULFILL UNRESTRICTED MEDICAL LICENSE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN FORMALLY TESTED. SO YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE THEM A LICENSE WHO HAS NOT BEEN FORMALLY TESTED BY UNITED STATES OR CANADIAN MEDICAL JURISDICTION COMPARABLE OR A

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COMPARABLE MEDICAL INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL EXAM, A BOARD APPROVED MEDICAL CERTIFYING AGENCY OR A BOARD APPROVED MEDICAL SPECIALTY WITHIN A SPECIFIC TIME FRAME BEFORE THE APPLICATION. SO YOU'RE

GOING TO GIVE THEM COMING IN WITH NO EXAMINATION, BUT IF YOU WANT TO REQUIRE THEM TO TAKE IT, THEY HAVE 8 TO 10 YEARS

TO PASS IT. WELL, THREE YEARS IS UP. I MEAN, THIS DON'T YOU WANT TO RECORD AND PASS IT WITHIN THREE YEARS? BECAUSE BY THE TIME THEY BE PRACTICING FOR THREE YEARS WITHOUT EVEN PASSING THE EXAM.

SO, THAT 8 TO 10 YEARS DOESN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE THERE. AND I THINK PUBLIC

HEALTH DIRECTOR SAID THERE'S ANOTHER BILL THAT'S COMING FOR I'M SURE ADELUP IS LISTENING SO THEY PROBABLY HEARING THIS

TESTIMONY. BUT I'M GLAD SENATOR TAITAGUE BILL CAME FIRST. SO YOU GOT THE

INPUT THAT I HAVE JUST PROVIDED. BUT AGAIN, YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN THROUGH THE

CONRAD 30 PROGRAM AND IT IS NOT NEW. IT EXISTS. YOU KNOW WHAT THE REASON FOR? YOU KNOW WHY THEY CALL IT A CONRAD 30? ANYBODY KNOW?

I DIDN'T KNOW UNTIL I WENT THROUGH A CONRAD 30. EACH STATE AND TERRITORY HAS 30 SPOTS. 30 UNDER THE CONRAD 30 PROGRAM. 10 OF THOSE SPOTS CAN BE

FLEXIBLE TO BE ADDRESSED MAYBE PHYSICIAN, YOU KNOW, NONRESEARCHER,

ETC. BUT IT'S BECAUSE EACH STATE AND TERRITORY IS ALLOCATED 30 SPOTS.

THAT'S WHERE THE TERM CONRAD 30 COMES FROM. SO, I HOPE I BROUGHT SOME LIGHT TO THE BILL AND I'M SURE SENATOR TAITAGUE IS GOING TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS AND I'M ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS AND HELP GUAM IMPROVE HEALTHCARE. THANK YOU

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

THANK YOU, DR. SHIEH, DR. THORP.

JONATHAN THORP

Hafa Adai and good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity today to speak. My name is Jonathan Thorp. I'm an internal

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MEDICINE PHYSICIAN AND THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR FOR THE GUAM 7TH DAY ADVENTIST CLINIC. AND I WANT TO THANK YOU AGAIN

FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY ON BILL UH 206. I TESTIFY TODAY IN SUPPORT OF THE INTENT OF THE BILL WITH SIGNIFICANT RECOMMENDED MODIFICATIONS

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. GUAM'S PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE IS REAL. I KNOW IT BECAUSE I WORK ON RECRUITING ALMOST EVERY DAY. IN FACT, I HAD THREE INTERVIEWS WITH PHYSICIANS. IT'S REALLY HARD TO GET PEOPLE HERE. I UNDERSTAND THE ISSUE VERY MUCH. I TRULY WANT TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION. I COMMEND SENATOR TAITAGUE

FOR ADVANCING THIS CONVERSATION AND FOR BRINGING THIS PROPOSED LEGISLATION FORWARD. I THINK I ALSO BRING A UNIQUE

PERSPECTIVE, HAVING LIVED AND WORKED IN A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, SPECIFICALLY WITH FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADS

AND MANY OF WHO WERE EFMG CERTIFIED. I'VE WRITTEN LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THEM FOR TRAINING PROGRAMS IN THE

UNITED STATES. I'VE LIVED AND WORKED IN MALAWI, NIGERIA, TANZANIA, LYOTO AND

FOR THE LONGEST DURATION IN THE COUNTRY OF NEPAL AND I TRULY MET AND WORKED WITH SOME INCREDIBLE PHYSICIANS. I MEAN

REALLY AMAZING PEOPLE. AND AT THE SAME TIME I'VE WORKED WITH OTHERS THAT

RAISED SOME SIGNIFICANT CONCERNS FOR COMPETENCY AND PATIENT SAFETY. AND

THAT RANGE IS EXACTLY WHY THE STANDARDS WE SET IN THIS BILL ARE SO VITALLY IMPORTANT AND REALLY MATTER. GOOD

INTENTIONS DO NOT PROTECT PATIENTS. SO THREE POINTS JUST BRIEFLY FOR YOUR

CONSIDERATION. FIRST IS THE POST-GRADUATE TRAINING REQUIREMENT. AS WRITTEN IN SECTION 4, THERE'S THE

CHANGES TO THE 36-MONTH POST-GRADUATE TRAINING REQUIREMENT FOR MANDATORY DISCRETIONARY FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL

GRADUATES. I FRANKLY CANDIDLY HESITATE TO SUPPORT THIS. I AM LOOKING

FORWARD TO SEEING THE FORTHCOMING LEGISLATION THAT WAS ALLUDED TO FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE. BUT IN HAS BEEN

MENTIONED IN FEBRUARY 2025, THE FEDERATION OF STATE MEDICAL BOARDS,

ACGME, WHICH IS THE ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION, AND INTEL, RELEASED CONSENSUS RECOMMENDATIONS STATING THAT THE COMPLETION OF POST-GRADUATE TRAINING

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SHOULD BE REQUIRED FOR ALTERNATIVE PATHWAY ELIGIBILITY. NOT NECESSARILY IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT IT MUST OCCUR SOMEWHERE. I SUGGEST THAT IF WE ACCEPT TRAINING COMPLETED ABROAD, WE MUST DEFINE LOCATIONS WHERE WE'LL ACCEPT TRAINING TO OCCUR AT. FOR EXAMPLE, NATIONS SUCH AS UNITED KINGDOM, EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES, AUSTRALIA, JAPAN, TURKEY, THE PHILIPPINES MAINTAIN RIGOROUS STANDARDS FOR POST-GRADUATE TRAINING AND COULD SERVE AS A STARTING POINT AND OPEN-ENDED ACCEPTANCE OF TRAINING FROM ANY COUNTRY. WITHOUT POST-GRADUATE QUALIFICATION I BELIEVE TRULY UNDERMINES THE VERY SAFEGUARDS THIS BILL WHICH SHOULD PROVIDE AND SO I URGE THE COMMITTEE TO ALIGN WITH THE FSMBB FRAMEWORK RATHER THAN MOVE AGAINST NATIONAL GUIDANCE. SECONDLY, COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT. HAVING PERSONALLY GONE THROUGH THE LICENSING PROCESS, I CAN ATTEST TO THE KNOWLEDGE THAT IS ACQUIRED ON THESE DIFFERENT EXAMS. THE ECFMG IS A COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT PRIMARILY OF MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE AS MEASURED BY THE BY THE UNITED STATES MEDICAL LICENSING EXAM STEPS ONE AND TWO. STEP ONE IS PRIMARILY A VERY AN EXAM FOCUSED ON BASIC SCIENCE AND BASIC CLINICAL SCIENCE AND STEP TWO IS FOCUSED ON THE VERY VERY BASICS OF CLINICAL CARE. BUT IT DOES NOT MEASURE COMPETENCIES AROUND THE ACGME CORE COMPETENCIES OF PATIENT CARE, MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE, PRACTICE-BASED LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT, INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS, PROFESSIONALISM AND SYSTEMBASED PRACTICE. AND I WOULD SUGGEST A STRUCTURED PROVISIONAL PERIOD WITH SUPERVISION AND COMPETENCY EVALUATION WOULD CREATE A PATHWAY THAT IS BOTH WELCOMING TO QUALIFIED PHYSICIANS AND PROTECTIVE OF OUR COMMUNITY. SENATOR TAITAGUE, YOU MENTIONED THE BMG STUDY AND I APPRECIATE I HAVEN'T READ THAT STUDY PERSONALLY, BUT IT WAS AN INTERESTING COMMENT YOU MAKE AND I WOULD RESPECTFULLY JUST POINT OUT THAT THESE OUTCOMES WERE IN FMGS WHO WERE FUNCTIONING IN A TRAINING PROGRAMS IN UNITED STATES HOSPITAL SYSTEMS WHERE THEY WERE IMMERSSED IN THE SIX COMPETENCIES OF ME UM CARE THAT ACGME TRAINS AROUND AND MEASURES AGAINST. THIRD IS PARITY. AS I'VE BEEN ALLUDED TO SEVERAL

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TIMES TODAY, THIS BILL DIRECTS FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES TO PRIORITIZE PRACTICE AT PUBLIC FACILITIES. AND I BELIEVE THAT THE

PEOPLE OF GUAM DESERVE THE SAME STANDARD OF CARE WHETHER THEY ENTER A PUBLIC CLINIC OR A PRIVATE CLINIC. IF A

PHYSICIAN IS QUALIFIED, THEY SHOULD BE ELIGIBLE TO SERVE ANYWHERE. IF THEY'RE NOT YET FULLY QUALIFIED, THEY SHOULD NOT PRACTICE INDEPENDENTLY ANYWHERE. EQUAL STANDARDS, EQUAL ACCESS FOR PATIENTS AND PROVIDERS ALIKE. SO IN SUMMARY, I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE LICENSING PATHWAYS AND THE CONRAD 30 PROGRAM, BUT I URGE THIS COMMITTEE TO RETAIN A POST-GRADUATE TRAINING REQUIREMENT CONSISTENT WITH S FSBMBB GUIDANCE, INCORPORATE THE COMPETENCY BASED ASSESSMENT AROUND THE ACG PILLARS, AND ENSURE PARITY ACROSS ALL HEALTHCARE DELIVERY SITES. I'M VERY READY TO WORK

WITH THIS COMMITTEE, THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO BE

PART OF THE CONVERSATION TO BUILD A FRAMEWORK THAT CAN IMPROVE ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY SAFE CARE THAT SERVES THE

DIVERSE NEEDS OF THIS ISLAND. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

THANK YOU, DR. THORP. FOR THE PUBLIC THAT'S WATCHING AND THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE IN THE AUDIENCE, WE DID EXTEND INVITATIONS TO THE GUAM BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS, THE GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY AS WELL AS THE GUAM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER TO TO PROVIDE

TESTIMONY AND AS THE START OF THIS HEARING, WE DID NOT RECEIVE ANY ON BILL 206. WE DID RECEIVE TESTIMONY

FROM DAVID LUBOVSKI. WE WERE EXPECTING HIM TO COME IN ON ZOOM, BUT HE IS NOT ABLE TO. HE DID REQUEST THAT WE READ HIS TESTIMONY INTO THE RECORD. SO, DO YOU WANT ME TO READ IT? AND SENATOR TERLAJEWILL I WILL READ IT INTO THE RECORD. HAFADA, MADAM CHAIR

AND HONORABLE SENATOR, THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO GIVE TESTIMONY. MY NAME IS DAVID LABOVSKI. I'M HERE TO SUPPORT

BILL 20638 WITH URGENCY TO SAVE LIVES. GUAM'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM IS NOT JUST STRAINED. IT IS FAILING OUR PEOPLE FOR MANY REASONS, BUT MOST OBVIOUSLY BECAUSE ATTEMPTS TO MODERNIZE OUR MEDICAL

LICENSURE LAWS AND BRING QUALIFIED FOREIGN TRAINED PHYSICIANS TO GUAM HAS BEEN BLOCKED FOR YEARS BY THE SAME GROUP OF

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INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE ALSO FOUGHT TO WEAKEN MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE ACCOUNTABILITY. THAT IS NOT A COINCIDENCE. THAT IS A

PATTERN. IN THE 34TH GUAM LEGISLATURE, SENATOR DENNIS RODRIGUEZ JR. INTRODUCED BILL 12534 AND BILL 12634. BOTH DESIGNED

TO EXPAND ACCESS TO QUALIFIED FOREIGN TRAINED PHYSICIANS. THESE BILLS WOULD HAVE ADDRESSED SHORTAGES AND ALIGNED

GUAM WITH THE REST OF THE UNITED STATES. AND WHAT HAPPENED? THEY WERE MET WITH FIERCE RESISTANCE.

ONE DOCTOR EVEN SAID PUBLICLY IN THE GUAM DAILY POST, QUOTE, "IF THEY ARE GOING TO LET FOREIGN DOCTORS PRACTICE

HERE ON GUAM, THEN WILL I BE ABLE TO PRACTICE IN THE PHILIPPINES OR IN JAPAN?" END QUOTE. THAT WAS THE

ARGUMENT. NOT SAFETY, NOT STANDARDS, NOT THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF GUAM, NOT THE NEEDS OF GMH. HE FOCUSED ON RECIPROCITY,

COMPETITION, TURF, AND SELF-INTERESTS OVER THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF GUAM AND IGNORING THE LARGEST MATERNITY DEATH

RATE IN THE COUNTRY. AND SPEAKING OF TURF, IT IS REALLY A COINCIDENCE THAT GUAM HAS THE LEAST MALPRACTICE

ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE COUNTRY, WHICH EVEN ALLOWS DOCTORS TO WORK OUTSIDE OF THEIR FIELDS AND EARN MORE ON PROCEDURES

THEY OTHERWISE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DO. WHILE AT THE SAME TIME, GUAM HAS NO FUNCTIONING CONRAD 30 PROGRAM PATHWAY TO

BRING FOREIGN DOCTORS TO THE ISLAND. THIS IS NOT A COINCIDENCE. THIS IS A SYSTEM DESIGNED TO KEEP COMPETITION OUT AND KEEP ACCOUNTABILITY DOWN. WE SEE THE CONSEQUENCES EVERY DAY. GMH IS

UNDERSTAFFED. CLINICS ARE OVERWHELMED. MOTHERS CANNOT FIND OBGYNS. AND FAMILIES ARE FORCED TO FLY OFF ISLAND FOR CARE IF THEY CAN AFFORD IT. BUT MOST CANNOT. BEFORE I GO FURTHER, I WANT TO SAY THIS CLEARLY. GUAM HAS GREAT DOCTORS. I HAVE ONE OF THE SMARTEST AND MOST CARING

FAMILY DOCTORS IN MY LIFE. MY EYE DOCTOR IS OUTSTANDING. MY DENTIST IS EXCELLENT.

BUT WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH SPECIALISTS. THAT IS WHY I'M SITTING HERE TODAY IN THE PHILIPPINES RECEIVING SPECIALIST

FOLLOW-UP CARE THAT RIVALS ANYTHING AT QUEENS MC IN HAWAII, GOOD SAMARITAN OR CEDAR SINAI IN LOS ANGELES. HOSPITALS

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WHERE I HAVE PERSONALLY AND PERSONAL AND FAMILY EXPERIENCES MYSELF. I KNOW THE LEVEL OF CARE THEY PROVIDE BECAUSE I HAVE LIVED IT. AND I CAN TELL YOU THE SPECIALISTS AND DOCTORS AT ST. LUKE'S OR

OTHER FACILITIES ARE EVERY BIT AS CAPABLE. WITH THE PASSAGE OF BILL 20638,

THE POOREST AND MOST DISADVANTAGED PATIENTS ON GUAM WILL FINALLY BE ABLE TO ACCESS LIFESAVING CARE RIGHT ON ISLAND,

SIMILARLY TO WHAT WE GET IN THE PHILIPPINES OR THE STATES. BILL 20638

MODERNIZES OUR LICENSURE LAW SO THAT FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES WHO MEET RIGOROUS VERIFIABLE STANDARDS CAN

PRACTICE ON GUAM. FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND, ALL 50 STATES OPERATE A CONRAD 30 PROGRAM. GUAM IS ONE OF THE

ONLY JURISDICTIONS THAT HAS NEVER FULLY IMPLEMENTED THIS PROVEN FEDERAL TOOL. BILL 20638 FINALLY GIVES GUAM A FUNCTIONING CONRAD 30 PROGRAM. IT WILL

SAVE LIVES. THE GUAM BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS KNOWS THE SYSTEM IS BROKEN. THEY KNOW THE SHORTAGES ARE DANGEROUS,

BUT WITHOUT LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY, THEY CANNOT ACT. BILL 20638 GIVES THEM THAT AUTHORITY AND REMOVES THE EXCUSES THAT HAVE PROTECTED THE STATUS QUO FOR FAR TOO LONG. BILL 20638 WILL ALSO HELP TO

REDUCE CONCERNS ABOUT MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE OR MEDICAL APATHY THAT HAS TAKEN THE LIVES OF OUR CHILDREN AND LOVED ONES.

WHEN YOU INCREASE THE NUMBER OF QUALIFIED PROVIDERS, YOU INCREASE COMPETITION, AND COMPETITION ALWAYS

IMPROVES THE QUALITY OF CARE. THIS ALSO LESSENS THE NEED FOR PROVIDERS TO WORK OUTSIDE OF THEIR AREA OF EXPERTISE DUE

TO A LACK OF A DOCTOR IN THE NEEDED AREA. THIS BILL IS NOT ABOUT POLITICS.

IT IS NOT ABOUT PROTECTING TURF. IT IS ABOUT THE PEOPLE OF GUAM WHO HAVE WAITED FOR FAR TOO LONG FOR A FUNCTIONING

HEALTH CARE SYSTEM. IT IS ABOUT MOTHERS WHO CANNOT FIND AN OBGYN AND FAMILIES WHO CANNOT GET

TIMELY CARE. IT IS ABOUT A HOSPITAL THAT HAS BEEN STRETCHED TO THE BREAKING POINT. BILL 20638 IS A PRESCRIPTION FOR

JUSTICE. IT IS LONG OVERDUE. I URGE YOU TO PASS THIS BILL WITHOUT DELAY. SI YUUS MAASE DAVID LUBOVSKI ED. D.

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WE WILL NOW OPEN THE FLOOR FOR QUESTIONS AND WE WILL BEGIN WITH THE AUTHOR, SENATOR TAITAGUE.

SENATOR TELO TAITAGUE

THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR. MADAM CHAIR, I COULD GO LAST AND ALSO DO MY CLOSING. I'LL ALLOW MY COLLEAGUES TO ASK

QUESTIONS. THANK YOU,

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

SENATOR BORJA.

SENATOR VINCE BORJA

THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR. I DON'T NECESSARILY HAVE ANY QUESTIONS. DEFINITELY A LOT OF INFORMATION TO

LOOK INTO. I DO HAVE SOME CONCERNS IN REGARDS TO WHETHER OR NOT, YOU KNOW, WOULD THIS WOULD BE LIKE A A GATEWAY TO LIKE FOREIGN DOCTORS COMING TO USING GUAM AS A A PLACE TO COME AND

GET LICENSED AND THEN GO TO OTHER JURISDICTIONS. SO WE'LL CONTINUE

TO, YOU KNOW, WORK WITH THE COMMITTEE. BUT THAT'S JUST ONE OF THE CONCERNS I HAVE. BUT NO QUESTION.

THANKS. THANK YOU FOR COMING DOWN TODAY. THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

THANK YOU, SENATOR BORJA. SENATOR GUMATAOTAO.

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO

YES. THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR. I ONLY HAVE TWO QUESTIONS, BUT IF THERESA, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN IF I

CAN ASK YOU TO JUST COME BACK UP. I JUST WANTED TO ASK THIS OF YOU AND THEN I CAN ASK THE DOCTORS THE SECOND QUESTION.

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IF YOU'RE ABLE TO ANSWER, IT WOULD BE GREAT. FOR THE BENEFITS OF THOSE WHO ARE FOLLOWING TODAY'S

DISCUSSION, WHAT INFORMATION CAN BE SHARED REGARDING THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN TRAINED PHYSICIANS WHO HAVE MET

THE MEDICAL RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT IN THE US WHO ARE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED IN GUAM'S PUBLIC HOSPITALS OR CLINICS? I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN ANSWER THAT. AND IS THERE ANY INFORMATION

AVAILABLE CONFIRMING WHETHER COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN FILED INVOLVING ANY OF THE WORK OF THESE PHYSICIANS?

THERESA ARRIOLA

SENATOR, YEAH, I'M NOT ABLE TO ANSWER THAT RIGHT NOW. I DON'T HAVE THE INFORMATION, BUT I'LL DEFINITELY LOOK INTO IT.

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO

YES. AND IF YOU CAN GET IT TO YES. TO THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE GOOD.

YEAH. I'M JUST WANTED TO GET THAT FROM YOUR PERCH, ESPECIALLY IN THE ROLE THAT YOU HAVE. AND IF I CAN FOR

THE THE THE DOCTORS THAT ARE REMAINING RECOGNIZING AN ANECDOTALLY THAT A NUMBER OF GUAM'S RESIDENTS CONTINUE TO SEEK MEDICAL CARE AT FOREIGN MEDICAL

FACILITIES THAT ARE AUTHORIZED THROUGH THEIR RESPECTIVE HEALTH INSURANCE PROVIDERS HERE LOCALLY. TO WHAT EXTENT

DO HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANIES CONSIDER US LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS IN THEIR SELECTION OF FOREIGN DOCTORS TO PROVIDE CARE TO THEIR RESPECTIVE SUBSCRIBERS?

THOMAS SHIEH

I CAN TELL YOU THAT I REFER MY PATIENTS TO ST. LUKE'S TO GET MEDICAL CARE ALMOST EVERY WEEK. AND THE REASON I WAS ABLE TO DO THAT IS BECAUSE I WORK WITH THE

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ST. LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER AT GLOBAL CITY VERY CLOSELY. I PERSONALLY MEET AND I TALK TO THE SPECIALIST THAT'S THERE. I KNOW THEIR CREDENTIALS. IT'S ALMOST LIKE A SUPERVISORY ROLE THAT I PROVIDE FOR MY

PATIENTS BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO REFER MY PATIENTS TO SOMEONE THAT I DON'T THINK IS COMPETENT TO TAKE CARE OF. IT'S

JUST IRRESPONSIBLE OF ME TO DO. BUT EVERY WEEK THAT I REFER PATIENTS OUT OF

GUAM TO GET CARE AND EVEN IF THE GOVERNOR SAYS WE'RE GOING TO BUILD A HOSPITAL, OKAY, HERE I GO AGAIN. TRUTH

WILL BE OFFENSIVE. OKAY, EVEN IF WE BUILD A HOSPITAL, IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO LEAVE GUAM TO GET

CARE. EVEN IF WE BUILD A HOSPITAL AND YOU HAVE SPECIALISTS HERE, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO LEAVE GUAM FOR CERTAIN TYPE OF MEDICAL CARE.

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO

OKAY. OKAY, DR. BUT LET ME GO BACK TO THE LICENSURE SIDE. CAN YOU HELP ME WITH THAT?

THOMAS SHIEH

YEAH, THE AS FAR AS LICENSURE SIDE, I DO NOT THINK THE INSURANCE COMPANIES REQUIRE

THEM TO HAVE LICENSURE IN THE UNITED STATES. BUT I THINK WHAT THE INSURANCE COMPANY DOES IS THAT I THINK ALL OF

THEM, THE PRIVATE ONES AT LEAST, HAVE OFFICES INSIDE ST. LUKE'S THEMSELVES. AND I'M FOCUSING ON ST. LUKE'S

BECAUSE THAT'S THE MOST TRAVELED TO THE PHILIPPINES. THERE'S ALSO TAIWAN AS

WELL. THERE'S ALSO JAPAN. AND I THINK KOREA IS ALSO PART OF A NETWORK AS WELL, INTERNATIONAL NETWORK. BUT I DON'T THINK

IT REQUIRE THEM TO BE US LICENSED. BUT THEN AGAIN WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL WHO

YOU SEND YOUR PATIENTS TO AND WHO THE INSURANCES WILL COVER BASED THEY HAVE TO GO THROUGH A CREDENTIALING PROCESS AS

WELL. CREDENTIALING AND LICENSING IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT.

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SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO

ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU DOC.

JONATHAN THORP

THANK YOU SENATOR GUMATAOTAO. AS I MENTIONED IN THE TESTIMONY THAT I SHARED IS THAT I AM SUPPORTIVE OF A PATHWAY FOR

PHYSICIANS THAT HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN THESE COUNTRIES TO WORK HERE IN GUAM. I'VE ALSO SEEN FIRSTHAND SOME

AMAZING PHYSICIANS HAVE WORKED SIDE BY SIDE WITH THEM IN THE ICUS AND ON THE FLOOR IN THE ER AND HAVE REALLY BEEN

IN AWE OF THEIR CARE QUALITY IN THEIR WORK. MY CONCERN AS THE BILL IS WRITTEN IS THAT THE DEFINITION OF ALLOWING

FOR THE APPLICATION TO START THE PROCESS IS JUST BE A GRADUATE FROM A WORLD MEDICAL SCHOOL AND AN ECFMG

HAS BEEN CLEARED THROUGH THAT PROCESS AS I UNDERSTAND IT. SO THE ISSUE IS MORE PRACTICE-BASED COMPETENCY AND SO THERE NEEDS TO BE SOME WAY TO ASSESS THAT PRACTICE BASED COMPETENCY TO MAKE SURE THAT WE'RE GETTING THE RIGHT PEOPLE HERE. BUT I FULLY SUPPORT BRINGING IN THE RIGHT PEOPLE.

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO

OKAY. NO, AND I APPRECIATE THAT. I JUST I'M JUST TRYING TO UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT THESE HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANIES AND HOW THAT THEY GO ABOUT THAT PROCESS. I'M JUST TRYING TO GET SOME MORE INSIGHT. I UNDERSTAND THE OTHER PARTS OF THE BILL BUT I'M TRYING TO

UNDERSTAND WHEN ALL OF THE PROVIDERS SOME WHO PROVIDES YOU KNOW I GUESS CALL THEM SERVICES TO OUR BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT TO

OUR SISTER BRANCH OF THE JUDICIARY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR. I'M JUST TRYING TO UNDERSTAND

WHAT'S GOING THROUGH THEIR IN THEIR MINDS OR WHAT'S PART OF THAT PROCESS FOR THEM. THAT'S WHAT I WAS ADDING.

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JONATHAN THORP

SURE. AND I MEAN, I DON'T SIT ON THE CREDENTIALING PANEL FOR THE HEALTH INSURERS, BUT I WOULD SUSPECT THAT

THEY'RE LOOKING AT OUTCOMES BASED DATA FROM THOSE LARGE CENTERS TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THEY'RE GOING TO PROVIDE COVERAGE. THEY'RE NOT LIKE AS THE PATIENTS I'VE SENT TO THE PHILIPPINES AND OR OTHER PACIFIC ASIAN COUNTRIES, IT HASN'T BEEN TO ANY

HOSPITAL IN ASIA. IT'S TO THE BIG MULTINATIONAL YOU KNOW INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALS ARE THERE AND THEY'RE I WOULD ASSUME THEY'RE LOOKING AT OUTCOMES BASED DATA TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THEY'RE GOING TO PROVIDE COVERAGE AT THOSE FACILITIES.

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO

ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU DOC AND THANK YOU MADAM CHAIR FOR THE TIME TO ASK QUESTIONS TODAY. THANK YOU.

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

THANK YOU SENATOR GUMATAOTAO VICE SPEAKER.

SENATOR ANTHONY ADA

THANK YOU MADAM CHAIR. I DON'T HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, BUT I JUST HOPE THAT THE WHEN THE BILL GOES UP FOR A MARKUP

WITH THE COMMITTEE THAT, YOU KNOW, WE INVITE THESE FOLKS IN SO THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO HAVE INPUT AND MAKE THIS A

STRONGER PIECE OF LEGISLATION FOR A WIN-WIN FOR ALL, NOT JUST THE MEDICAL U DOCTORS, BUT ALSO FOR THE

PEOPLE OF GUAM, MOST ESPECIALLY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM. I THINK IT'S A IT'S BECOME A LONG TIME IN THE MAKING AND NOW

WE NEED TO SEE HOW WE CAN IMPROVE OUR HEALTHCARE.

THOMAS SHIEH

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I AGREE. YOU KNOW, THIS IS NOT JUST IT'S NOT FOR US. REALLY, THE ULTIMATE GOAL FOR THIS WHOLE BILL AND THE IDEA IS TO ACCESS INCREASE ACCESS TO CARE FOR EVERYBODY. EVERY INDIVIDUAL, IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE RICH, DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE POOR, DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE

WHITE, BROWN, YELLOW, RED. IT SHOULD NOT MATTER. IT SHOULD NOT MATTER. ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE SHOULD BE FOR EVERYBODY. AND IF WE'RE GOING TO CHANGE THE STATUS OF FOREIGN PRACTITIONERS COMING IN, IT SHOULD BE ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYBODY.

SENATOR ANTHONY ADA

YEAH, DEFINITELY. THANK YOU, DOC. THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

THANK YOU, VICE SPEAKER. SENATOR TERLAJE.

SENATOR THERESE TERLAJE

THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR TESTIMONY. I'M NOT GOING TO PRETEND THAT I

TOTALLY UNDERSTAND ALL OF THIS, BUT SO PLEASE BEAR WITH ME IF JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE. SO,, MR. LABOWSKI SAYS THAT ALL 50 STATES OPERATE A CONRAD 30

PROGRAM'S THE ONLY JURISDICTION THAT HAS NEVER FULLY IMPLEMENTED THIS PROVEN FEDERAL TOOL. DO ALL OF YOU AGREE TO

THAT STATEMENT?

THOMAS SHIEH

IN FACT, I JUST MESSAGED MY ATTORNEY, IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY, NELSON

SHU, WHO IS THAT'S ALL HE DOES IS IMMIGRATION AND HE SAYS YES, CONRAD DOES APPLY TO GUAM AND I'VE GONE THROUGH IT 10 YEARS AGO.

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SENATOR THERESE TERLAJE

SO WHEN YOU WENT THROUGH IT, THAT WAS FOR A PERSON TO PRACTICE ON GUAM

THOMAS SHIEH

YES. IN FACT, WHEN I WENT THROUGH IT, GOT THE ENDORSEMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

SENATOR THERESE TERLAJE

YEAH. IF I COULD HAVE PUBLIC HEALTH PLEASE COME UP HERE TO ANSWER THAT. HAVE WE HAVE YOU LICENSED ATTORNEYS?

SENATOR TELO TAITAGUE

IF I MAY, JUST A POINT OF INFORMATION, IF I MAY, MADAM CHAIR, I WAS SO THE J1 VISA WAIVER IS A ONE

ANIMAL ALL IN ITSELF. OKAY. WHAT CONRAD 30 DOES IS WHAT YOU SAID EARLIER. CONRAD

30, WHICH WAS NAMED AFTER A SENATOR THAT KNEW THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE AREAS, UNDERSERVED AREAS, ALLOWED BECAUSE IN THE J1 YOU HAVE TO YOU SERVE FOR A TIME AND THEN YOU HAVE TO LEAVE AND THEN SERVE IN THE COUNTRY YOU CAME FOR TWO YEARS. NOW, ADDING CONRAD 30

TO THE J1 VISA PROGRAM, WHAT THAT DOES IS IT ALLOWS THE INDIVIDUAL INSTEAD OF GOING BACK TO STAY IN THE US AND WORK FOR 3 YEARS AS LONG AS IT'S IN

IN AN WHAT IS IT UNDERSERVED LOCATION. SO, IT IS TWO DIFFERENT

SEPARATE THINGS. J1 IS A VISA WAIVER TO WORK AND THEN THE CONRAD IS ADDED ON TOP

OF IT TO ALLOW THEM TO STAY INSTEAD OF HOW TO RETURN. JUST A POINT OF INFORMATION.

THOMAS SHIEH

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YEAH, THAT IS CORRECT. BUT YOU START WITH A J1 AND THE WHOLE POINT OF A OF THE CONRAD 30 PROGRAM AND IT GOES FROM J1 IT GOES THROUGH J1'S HERE. IT GOES THROUGH CONRAD 30 FROM CONRAD 30 IT GOES TO HB1 VISA. AND THAT IS THE PROCESS THAT YOU HAVE TO GO THROUGH. YOU CAN'T GO CONRAD 30. THIS IS A SPECIFIC PROGRAM FOR J1'S TO GO THROUGH. YEAH. NOW, IF WE TALK ABOUT IT'S EVEN A BETTER PROGRAM, SENATOR IS TALKING ABOUT THE NURSES. REMEMBER I SAID THE NURSES SHOULD BE INCLUDED. THEY DON'T HAVE TO.

THERE'S NO CONRAD 30 FOR NURSES. IT'S EVEN BETTER BECAUSE NURSES GO THROUGH DIRECT THROUGH A SPECIFIC PROGRAM.

THEY GO TO DIRECTLY TO AS LONG AS THEY HAVE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT THEY CAN GO DIRECT TO A SPECIFIC CALLED EB3 AND IF EB3 H1B VISA PROGRAM IF I USING THE CORRECT TERMS SO IT'S EVEN EASIER FOR YOU TO GET FOREIGN NURSES IF YOU CAN WAVE THE ENCLEX SO IF YOU CAN WAIVE THE

EXAMINATION FOR PHYSICIANS I PERSON DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD BUT YOU

KNOW I MEAN WE GOT TO TAKE THE BOARD SOMEHOW BUT YOU KNOW TO IF NOT HOW YOU GOING ENSURE COMPETENCY. BUT IF YOU CAN

DO THAT FOR A PHYSICIAN, CERTAINLY I THINK NURSES SHOULD BE WAIVED. AND IF YOU DIDN'T DO THAT, YOU SOLVE YOUR NURSING PROBLEM.

SENATOR THERESE TERLAJE

ALL RIGHT. IF PUBLIC HEALTH CAN CONFIRM, DO YOU KNOW?

BRIANNA SABLAN - PUBLIC HEALTH

SENATOR TERLAJE, CAN YOU REPEAT YOUR QUESTION?

SENATOR THERESE TERLAJE

WHEN YOU DO LICENSING, ARE DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THEY ARE J1 VISA STATUS OR CONRAD 30 AND HAVE YOU DO YOU

KNOW IF THERE ARE ANY ON GUAM THAT ARE CONRAD 30?

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SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

PLEASE IDENTIFY YOURSELF.

BRIANNA SABLAN

OF COURSE, BRIANNA SABLAN, THE ACTING ADMINISTRATOR OUT OF THE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LICENSING OFFICE WITH THE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES. FOR THE J1 VISA I DEFINITELY I DON'T HAVE THE COUNT BUT THERE ARE SOME DURING THE ADMINISTRATION OF DIRECTOR SAN AUGUSTINE PREVIOUS DIRECTOR THAT WE DID PROCESS THERE IS A CURRENT J1 VISA PROCESS WITH THE DEPARTMENT AND IT'S SOLELY HANDLED BY THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE SO THAT WOULD BE DEALT WITH THE

ATTORNEY ALONG THE DOCUMENTATION OR APPLICATION WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE THEY TAKE A LOOK AT

ALL OF THAT THERE ARE SOME TIMES WHERE WE'RE NOT AWARE OF IT BUT WHEN IT

DOES COME IN FOR LICENSURE THEN WE THAT'S WHERE WE WOULD START TRACKING BUT AS FAR AS UM THE CONRAD PROGRAM I'M NOT

AWARE OF IT ONLY THE J1 VISA

SENATOR THERESE TERLAJE

ALL RIGHT AND THEN GO AHEAD SORRY SENATOR RODRIGUEZ

DENNIS RODRIGUEZ JR.

SORRY AND SPEAKER SO I KNOW ALSO THAT THAT GUAM DOES YOU KNOW HAS A A PROGRAM THAT PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGES BUT I THINK WHAT'S LACKING IS THAT IT'S NOT RECOGNIZED IN STATUTE AND THERE'S NO MECHANISM. AND I THINK THAT'S WHAT THIS THE BILL IS SET OUT TO TO DO

IS TO PUT IN STATUE AND THEN HAVE PUBLIC HEALTH PUT OUT A A MECHANISM IN PLACE

TO YOU KNOW AS SHE JUST HAD TESTIFIED. IT'S REALLY IT'S A PROGRAM THERE BUT THERE'S NO MECHANISM AND I THINK THIS IS WHAT THIS BILL UM SETS OUT TO DO.

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THOMAS SHIEH

I DISAGREE WITH THAT BECAUSE YOU KNOW NO MATTER WHAT STATUTE YOU CREATE EVEN SENATOR TAITAGUE SAID THAT IS NOT TO CHANGE FEDERAL LAW. THE CONRAD 30 PROGRAM J1 VISA PROGRAM IS ALREADY IN STATUTE IN THE FEDS. WE CAN'T CHANGE IT.

YOU THE LAW IS THERE. YOU JUST HAVE TO HAVE ATTORNEY TO GO THROUGH IT. AND I'VE DONE IT. I HAVE PROOF.

SENATOR THERESE TERLAJE

WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE TO ME THE BILL IS TRYING TO MANDATE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES IS DESIGNATED AT THE STATE EQUIVALENT HEALTH AGENCY AUTHORIZED TO ADMINISTER GUAM'S CONRAD 30 J1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER

PROGRAM PURSUANT TO FEDERAL LAW. SO, THIS IS DONE IN OTHER AREAS WHERE WE HAVE TO DESIGNATE A STATE AGENCY TO

ADMINISTER THAT. IS THAT YOUR UNDERSTANDING? PUBLIC HEALTH?

BRIANNA SABLAN

THAT'S CORRECT.

SENATOR THERESE TERLAJE

ALL RIGHT. AND THEN THIS IS NOT.

THOMAS SHIEH

YOU DON'T HAVE TO STATUTE IS DESIGNATED PUBLIC HEALTH PUBLIC HEALTH ALREADY THERE BECAUSE THE UNDER THE J1 AND CONRAD

30 PROGRAM IT REQUIRES PUBLIC HEALTH TO PROVIDE A LETTER TO IMMIGRATION IN ORDER TO GO THROUGH IT. IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAVE TO DESIGNATE. IT'S THEY'RE ALREADY DESIGNATED. PUBLIC HEALTH IS ALREADY THE

THE AREA WHERE WE NEED TO GET ENDORSEMENT TO SAY HEY WE WANT TO BRING IN A J1 VISA CANDIDATE. SO WE NEED YOUR

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ENDORSEMENT TO SAY HEY WE ARE SHORT AND THEY HAVE TO GIVE YOU A LETTER. IS IT REDUNDANT? THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING.

SENATOR THERESE TERLAJE

WELL, THIS LOOKS LIKE WHAT MIGHT BE RIGHT NOW GOING THROUGH THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH IS GOING TO BE AFTER THIS IF THIS BILL'S PASS REQUIRE THE GUAM BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS INPUT. THAT'S A DIFFERENCE. IS THAT CORRECT?

THOMAS SHIEH

UH NO, THE GUAM BOARD OF EXAMINER INPUT IS SEPARATE FROM THE VISA PROGRAM. THEY

HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE GUAM BOARD OF AMERICA EXAMINERS. THE BOARD AMERICAN EXAMINER STRICTLY IS BASED ON LICENSURE OF THE CANDIDATE.

SENATOR THERESE TERLAJE

THAT'S CURRENT, RIGHT? BUT THE BILL ON PAGE SIX, SECTION FIVE, GIVES THEM A ROLE. AND SO I GUESS, YEAH, I'D LIKE TO STUDY THAT FURTHER,

BUT, SO THEN WE GO BACK TO THE OTHER SOURCE OF DISAGREEMENT IS THAT I MEAN, SO DR. SHIEH YOU'RE SAYING WE DON'T NEED ANY CHANGE IN OUR STATUTE. WE'RE ALREADY OUT. SO WHY DO WE NEED

THOMAS SHIEH

NO NOT ON THE CONRAD 30 PROGRAM AND THE VISA WAIVER STATUS THAT PART I ALREADY SAID IT'S ALREADY REDUNDANT WHAT I'M

SAYING IS THAT IF YOU'RE GOING TO ALLOW FOREIGN GRADUATE TO COME IN THE GO BORDER EXAMINERS YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL

WITH AND THAT IS WHERE YOU GOT TO MAKE SURE THAT THE LICENSURE THE YOU KNOW THE

DOUBLE-CHECKING WHAT DR. THORP HAS MENTIONED THE YOU KNOW THE FOREIGN GRADUATE EXAMINATION THOSE ARE THE

THINGS THAT GOT TO GO THROUGH THE BOARD AS FAR AS THE VISA WAIVERS AS FAR AS THE CONRAD 30 THOSE ARE SET YOU CAN'T

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CHANGE THAT AND PUBLIC HEALTH IS ALREADY DESIGNATED WITHIN THE CONRAD 30 SYSTEM THAT EACH STATE'S PUBLIC HEALTH HAS TO

ISSUE AN ENDORSEMENT SAYING HEY THIS IS WHAT WE WHEN I GOT APPLIED YOU KNOW IN A

COMMITTEE IF YOU INVITE ME IN I'LL BRING THE I'LL BRING IN OUR ORIGINAL APPLICATION I'LL EVEN HAVE MY ATTORNEY TO COME IN AND TALK TO YOU ABOUT IT

ABOUT THE CONRAD 30 PROGRAM. BUT I THINK WHAT YOU NEED TO ADDRESS HERE IS THE CONCERN THAT WE BROUGHT UP

REGARDING THE LICENSURE. YOU'RE GIVING THE BOARD A LOT OF AUTHORITY. YOU GOT TO BE CAREFUL WITH THAT.

SENATOR THERESE TERLAJE

ALL RIGHT. I'LL ADDRESS THAT SOON. SO GOING BACK TO THE IT SAYS CONRAD

30J1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM. SENATOR RODRIGUEZ, DO YOU AGREE THAT THIS IS THE DIFFERENCE IS THAT IT'S NOW INVOLVING

THE GUAM BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS WHERE RIGHT NOW WE MIGHT HAVE ONLY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH MAKING A FINDING?

DENNIS RODRIGUEZ JR.

YES, I AGREE ON THAT. AND ALSO IT ALSO ADDRESSES ISSUES LIKE THE FEDERAL LAW AND SOME OF THE

DOCTORS HAD MENTIONED THAT PRIVATE CLINICS COULD AVAIL OF THIS AS WELL.

HOWEVER, THE FEDERAL LAW MAKES IT VERY CLEAR THIS IS ABOUT ACCESS. IF THE PRIVATE CLINIC PROVIDES ACCESS TO THE

UNDERSERVED AND NOT JUST SAY, "YEAH, YOU KNOW, WE COVER MEDICAID, WE COVER UNDERSERVED," BUT HAS A MEASURABLE WAY

TO DETERMINE, YOU KNOW, HOW THEY COVER THE UNDERSERVED, THEN ABSOLUTELY. BUT IT CAN'T JUST BE OPENED

UP FOR, YOU KNOW, AND SO THIS PROCESS AND THIS BILL PUTTING A MECHANISM IN PLACE WILL DEFINITELY ADDRESS THAT.

THOMAS SHIEH

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WELL, THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH THE BILL IS NOW THAT YOU BECOME EXCLUSIVITY OF ACCESS TO CARE. OF COURSE, WE PROVIDE UNDERSERVED. I'VE BEEN FOR 30 YEARS. I'VE TAKEN PATIENTS WITH MEDICAID. I

STILL HAVE PATIENTS UNDER MEDICAID. I HAVE PATIENT WHO DON'T HAVE INSURANCE. I PROVIDE PRO BONO CARE DURING TYPHOON MAWAR.

WHO WENT? NO. PUBLIC HEALTH DIDN'T GO TO THE SHELTERS, THE RED CROSS SHELTER TO HELP THE PREGNANT MOM, 16 YEAR OLD, 17

YEAR OLD DELIVERED THE BABY. I DID. THE RED CROSS CALLED ME BECAUSE THEY CALLED PUBLIC HEALTH. THEY WERE CLOSED. THERE

WAS NOBODY THERE. BUT THEY CALL A PRIVATE PHYSICIAN AND I TOOK THAT REALM. I WENT THERE AND I DELIVERED THAT BABY

FOR THAT MOM WHO WAS HIGH RISK. SO I WOULDN'T TALK ABOUT THE PRIVATE SECTOR NOT PROVIDING ACCESS TO CARE TO THE POOR

OR THE NEEDY. WE DO AND I'VE DONE IT FOR 30 YEARS AND IS STILL DOING SO.

SENATOR THERESE TERLAJE

ALL RIGHT. AS TO THE LIKE THE STANDARDS I THINK I'M HOPING THAT WE CAN

COME TO A CONSENSUS ON THAT LIKE IF LIKE DR. THORP CITED THAT WE'RE CITING THE ECFMG

BUT NOT ALL OF THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS AND WE MIGHT WANT TO TAKE MORE OF THEIR

RECOMMENDED STRUCTURE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE SUPERVISION AND THE TRAINING SPECIFIC POSTGRADUATE TRAINING.

JONATHAN THORP

THANK YOU, SENATOR. I WAS SPECIFICALLY REFERENCING THE FSMB

SIX STEPS TO THEIR PATHWAY FOR FOREIGN TRAINED PHYSICIAN LICENSING

ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS. SO, I WOULD ENCOURAGE THE COMMITTEE AND THE AUTHOR TO GO BACK AND HARMONIZE THE BILL

WITH THE FSMBB RECENT RELEASE HERE IN EITHER LATE JANUARY, EARLY FEBRUARY WITH THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS.

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SENATOR THERESE TERLAJE

OKAY. THANK YOU. ALL RIGHT. I CAN SEE THAT THAT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. AND THEN

CAN I JUST ASK PUBLIC HEALTH? THIS FOR ME IS IT'S KIND OF CONCERNING. SO YOU

SAID THAT WELL THE DIRECTOR SAID THAT THE FSMB VISITED GUAM ON JANUARY 6 AND SHARED BEST PRACTICES IN OTHER STATES AND TERRITORIES BUT THAT IS NOT PROVIDED HERE AS TESTIMONY. WHAT ARE THE BEST PRACTICES IN OTHER STATES AND TERRITORIES OR ANY OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS?

AND I'M CURIOUS WHY NOT WHY ARE WE HOLDING OUT ON THAT? WHY WOULD NOT WE SHARE THAT? WHY WOULD WE NOT? THIS BILL

WAS INTRODUCED IN OCTOBER. YOU KNOW, THE LEGISLATURE HAS BEEN LOOKING AT THIS SINCE OCTOBER. THESE GUYS CAME IN

JANUARY 6. YET, THE AUTHOR OF THE BILL WAS NOT INVITED TO MEET WITH THEM OR TO HEAR FIRSTHAND BEST STANDARDS ACROSS THE NATION. AND WHAT THE REST

OF THE GOVERNMENT IS HEARING, IT JUST IT'S KIND OF DISCONNECTED. AND I I CAN'T

HELP BUT QUESTION THE INTENT OF KEEPING THAT INFORMATION FROM THE LEGISLATURE. IARE THERE BEST STANDARDS? DO YOU HAVE MINUTES FROM THESE DISCUSSIONS ON BEST PRACTICES IN OTHER STATES AND TERRITORIES?

BRIANNA SABLAN

SENATOR TERLAJE, I WILL CONSULT WITH THE DIRECTOR AND PROVIDE THAT TO THE COMMITTEE.

SENATOR THERESE TERLAJE

ALL RIGHT. AND THEN I GUESS WHOSE DECISION WAS IT TO EXCLUDE THE LEGISLATURE ON THAT? THAT WAS PUBLIC HEALTH'S DECISION.

BRIANNA SABLAN

SORRY, WHAT'S YOUR QUESTION?

SENATOR THERESE TERLAJE

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WHOSE DECISION WAS IT TO EXCLUDE THE LEGISLATURE FROM MEETING WITH THESE EXPERTS REGARDING FOREIGN LICENSURE, THE FEDERATION OF STATE MEDICAL BOARDS?

BRIANNA SABLAN

TO CLARIFY, I BELIEVE THERE WAS AN INVITE TO THE LEGISLATURE. SENATOR.

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

I RECEIVED A COURTESY VISIT. OH, YEAH. THEN THEY HAD AN EVENT, I UNDERSTAND. AT SOMEWHERE BUT I DIDN'T ATTEND THAT. ALL RIGHT. AND THAT WAS JUST A MEETING.

THOMAS SHIEH

EVEN TO TALK ABOUT LEGISLATION. I CAN TELL YOU THAT EVEN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE GUAM MEDICAL ASSOCIATION WAS

NOT INVITED TO THE TABLE. I DON'T THINK THE GUAM SOCIETY DID IT AS WELL. BUT SOMETHING THAT IMPORTANT, YOU WOULD

THINK THAT, YOU KNOW, THE BEST PRACTICES LIKE SENATOR TERLAJE MENTIONED IS VERY IMPORTANT AND GOOD THAT SHE ASKED

BECAUSE I INCLUDED THAT IN MY SLIDE. IN FACT, THREE ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDE BEST PRACTICES PATTERN AND I TALKED ABOUT

THAT AND YOU'LL TAKE ME HOURS TO GO THROUGH AND I GAVE DR. THORP THAT ENTIRE REPORT THERE BUT IT'S ACTUALLY VERY

THICK ON THE BEST PRACTICES AND THIS IS WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT TRANSPARENCY WITHIN GOV GUAM IS THAT WE

HAVE TO EARN THE TRUST AND HOW CAN THE PRIVATE PROVIDERS TRUST THE GOVERNMENT WHO SHIELDS US OUT WHEN THEY CREATE THESE LEGISLATIONS? THEY SHOULDN'T DO THAT.

SENATOR THERESE TERLAJE

THANK YOU, DOES ANYONE KNOW IF THIS IS DONE IN ANY OTHER AREA WHERE THEY MANDATE

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THAT THEY PRACTICE FULL-TIME FOR A MINIMUM OF 3 YEARS IN A DESIGNATED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA,

MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA OR FACILITY SERVING A MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED

POPULATION. IS THIS THE FEDERAL REQUIREMENT? OKAY, SO THIS IS THE LANGUAGE OF THE FEDERAL REQUIREMENT.

GUAM IS SAYING WE'RE GOING TO ENCOURAGE THEM. IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE I WASN'T WANT TO KNOW HOW WE'RE GOING TO

DO THIS AS WELL, BUT IT SAYS WE'RE GOING TO ADOPT RULES AND REGS TO ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE THE PLACEMENT OF SUCH LICENSED FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADS IN PUBLIC HEALTH CARE SETTINGS INCLUDING THROUGH MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS AND SERVICE INCENTIVES AND THEN THAT WE HAVE A PREFERENCE. HOW DO YOU EXPECT THIS PREFERENCE TO WORK? IT SAYS PREFERENCE IS GIVEN TO APPLICANTS WHO AGREE TO SERVE IN THESE PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES FOR A MINIMUM OF 3 YEARS AND THEN THE DESIGNATED PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES ARE GMH DPHSS AND THE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS OR

OTHER GOVERNMENT. HAVE YOU SEEN THAT DONE IN OTHER STATES WHERE THEY

DESIGNATE EXACTLY WHICH FACILITIES ARE GOING TO RECEIVE PREFERENCE?

DENNIS RODRIGUEZ JR.

I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY. I'VE NEVER LOOKED. I NEVER RESEARCHED IT. BUT YOU KNOW THAT REQUIREMENT IS THE

FEDERAL UH REQUIREMENT THAT THE FOREIGN TRAINED PHYSICIANS PRACTICE IN A HIPSA AREA OR AND SO I THINK

WHAT THE BILL IS TRYING TO DO IS ENSURE TO FOLLOW THE SPIRIT OF THAT IS TO ENSURE THAT WHEN WE DO ADOPT IT HERE

THAT THESE PHYSICIANS DO PRACTICE IN THESE TYPES OF FACILITIES.

JONATHAN THORP

IF I MAY, THE I JUST POINT OUT THAT THE HIPSA CLASSIFICATION IS NOT SPECIFIC ON THE FACILITY BUT IN THE GEOGRAPHICAL REGION. SO THE ENTIRE GUAM TERRITORY IS THE UNDER THAT CLASSIFICATION. SO THAT'S AND THEN I WOULD JUST MAKE A COROLLARY FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH AS A CANADIAN AMERICAN THE CANADIAN HAS A SIMILAR PATHWAY FOR LICENSURE OF FOREIGN TRAINED

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PHYSICIANS AND IT IS ALSO TO RURAL AREAS WITH A CLOSE SUPERVISION MECHANISM FROM PEERS IN THE COMMUNITY TO FOR A PERIOD OF TIME AND THEN AS THEY AS COMPETENCY IS ASSURED THEN IT'S TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENT TRUSTED PRACTICE FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH.

SENATOR THERESE TERLAJE

ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU. AND THEN DOES PUBLIC HEALTH HAVE ANY FINDING ON THIS WITH THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FSMB REGARDING THIS LIMITATION TO CERTAIN FACILITIES VERSUS A GEOGRAPHIC LIMITATION?

BRIANNA SABLAN

SENATOR TERLAJE, AT THIS TIME I CAN'T ANSWER THAT QUESTION, BUT I CAN DEFINITELY GET BACK TO THE COMMITTEE.

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

THANK YOU, SENATOR TERLAJE. THANK YOU. I DID HAVE SOME FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS REGARDING.

THOMAS SHIEH

CAN I JUST ADD ONE MORE POINT TO THAT? I DON'T THINK IT WAS BROUGHT UP.

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION. IT DOES NOT. THE CORRECT ANSWER TO THAT IS NO.

THE FEDERAL LAW DOES NOT REQUIRE YOU TO SAY ASSIGNED TO GMA, ASSIGNED TO PUBLIC HEALTH. THE PUBLIC HALL, ALL IT

SAYS IS THAT THE CONRAD 30 AND THE J1 WAIVER PROGRAM, IF THEY'RE GOING TO GO TO CONRAD 30, IS JUST A SHORTAGE AREA

WHICH GUAM IS DESIGNATED, WHICH APPLIES TO THE WHOLE ISLAND AND NOT JUST SPECIFIC FACILITY. THIS IS WHY I SAID

THAT SECTION OF THAT BILL IS DISCRIMINATORY AGAINST PATIENTS.

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AGAINST PATIENT NOT DISCRIMINATORY AGAINST CLINICS BUT THIS BECAUSE PATIENTS SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO WHATEVER CLINIC THEY GO TO.

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

THANK YOU DR. SHIEH I DID HAVE A FOLLOW-UP QUESTION REGARDING THE FSMB BECAUSE IT DID STATE IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH TESTIMONY THAT THEY THIS HAS BEEN A SIX-MONTH EFFORT INVOLVING COLLABORATION BETWEEN PUBLIC HEALTH GUAM BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS, GMH, GUAM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER. MISS BRIANNA, CAN YOU TELL US HOW OFTEN I GUESS THIS THESE MEETINGS HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE? WAS IT LIKE A MONTHLY MEETING, A WEEKLY MEETING?

BRIANNA SABLAN

SENATOR MATANANE, I'M SORRY I CANNOT ANSWER THAT QUESTION BECAUSE I'M NOT PRIVY TO THE MEETING DETAILS, BUT I

KNOW WHEN THE BOARD CHAIR REACHED OUT AND ALONG WITH OUR DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ME TO RESEARCH

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

WHICH BOARD CHAIR,

BRIANNA SABLAN

DR. BERG. YES. SO, THAT WAS JUST RECENT IN MAYBE DECEMBER. BUT I DON'T KNOW I CANNOT PROVIDE YOU WITH HOW OFTEN THEY

MEET AND WHEN THEY MEET, BUT I CAN DEFINITELY GET THAT INFORMATION.

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

DO YOU KNOW WHO WERE THE REPRESENTATIVES? WAS IT THE DIRECTOR OF EACH AGENCY, THE CHAIRPERSON, OF THE GBME? ANY OTHER DOCTORS?

BRIANNA SABLAN

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I'M NOT CERTAIN. I CAN SAY IT'S THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, DEPUTY PETER JOHN, DR. BERG I'M NOT CERTAIN WITH THE AND THEN GUAM BEHAVIORAL ACTING OR SORRY DEPUTY DIRECTOR I'M NOT CERTAIN OF ALL THE OTHER MEMBERS WHO MEET.

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

DR. SHIEH, YOU ARE THE PRESIDENT OF THE GUAM MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. YOU MENTIONED THAT YOU WERE SURPRISED ALSO ABOUT THIS BILL COMING FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AND ALSO WEREN'T NECESSARILY AWARE OF UH BILL 206. ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY MEMBERS OF THE GUAM MEDICAL ASSOCIATION PARTICIPATING OR PROVIDING INPUT ON THE BILL THAT'S COMING OUT FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OR BILL?

THOMAS SHIEH

IN FACT THE WE WERE COMPLETELY SHIELD FROM ANY OF THOSE MEETINGS AND YOU KNOW I THINK UM THIS IS WHAT I TALK ABOUT GOVERNMENT THE GOVERNMENT HAS TO BE MORE TRANSPARENT TO EARN THE TRUST OF THE PEOPLE AND YOU KNOW PHYSICIAN WE'RE PART OF THE PEOPLE AND THIS IS WHY WE LOSE TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT SYSTEM BECAUSE THERE'S REALLY NO TRANSPARENCY WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT QUALITY PRACTICE AND SUPERVISORY ROLES

ETC. YOU KNOW, WE ALREADY OFFERED OUR HELP. WE WANT TO HELP. PUTTING OUR

DIFFERENCES ASIDE, PUTTING OUR PERSONAL OPINIONS ASIDE, THIS IS HOW LEGISLATION IS CRAFTED. WE WANT THE DIFFERENCES

OF OPINIONS TO BE INPUTED. THIS IS WHY WE SPEND THE TIME TO COME HERE TO GIVE YOU THOSE INPUT. AND AS TRUTHFULLY I CAN

SPEAK YOU KNOW I YOU KNOW TECHNICALLY I DON'T HOLD ANYTHING BACK BUT I DID HOLD A FEW THINGS BACK TODAY YOU KNOW BUT UM

I THINK IT'S REALLY SAD THAT YOU KNOW 30 YEARS IN PRACTICE HERE THAT WHAT I WITNESSED THROUGH THE POLITICS OF

HEALTHCARE IS REALLY SAD AND I'VE BEEN ACCUSED OF CERTAIN THINGS HERE AND THERE BUT MY WHOLE GOAL ON GUAM IS TO HELP

IMPROVE CARE FOR 30 YEARS I DON'T NEED ANY MORE PATIENTS THIS REALLY IS I'M NOT IN THAT COMPETITIVE MOOD I'M HERE TO SEE

WHEN I DO RETIRE AND GO INTO THE SUNSET. WHAT CAN I LEAVE BEHIND

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HERE FOR ALL THE GENERATION? I'VE DELIVERED OVER 11,000 BABIES HERE. I'VE DELIVERING BABIES OF THE BABIES I'VE

DELIVERED. SO, I WANT THIS TO CONTINUE. I WANT AND THIS IS WHY I'M

OPEN TO WORK WITH SENATOR TAITAGUE TO WORK WITH THE LEGISLATURE. EVEN IF THE GOVERNOR CALLS ME SAY, "HEY, TOM, WE

WANT TO INCLUDE YOU. PROVIDE US YOUR INPUT. IT MAY BE AN INSINCERE GESTURE. OKAY,

I'M BEING OFFENSIVE AGAIN, BUT THE TRUTH BE TOLD THAT, YOU KNOW, I I TEND TO RUB PEOPLE THE WRONG WAY SOMETIMES AND, YOU KNOW, I APOLOGIZE FOR THAT, BUT YOU KNOW, IT HAS TO BE SAID. IT HAS TO BE

SAID. AND THE ONLY TIME I FOUND OUT ABOUT THIS BILL WAS FROM YOUR EMAIL SAYS, "HEY, WE WANT TO INVITE YOU DOWN TO GIVE A

TESTIMONY." AND YOU KNOW, AND I CAUGHT THAT. SO, I WAS ABLE TO RESCHEDULE MY PATIENTS AND BEING HERE TODAY.

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

WELL, WE CERTAINLY APPRECIATE YOU COMING DOWN. IT'S ALWAYS GOOD TO HEAR FROM PEOPLE THAT THE BILLS THAT WE

INTRODUCE AFFECT BECAUSE IT'S YOUR INPUT THAT ONLY STRENGTHENS THE BILL

EVEN THOUGH SOMETIMES IT SHOULD BE AS WE'RE CRAFTING IT. SO, THANK YOU SO MUCH UM DR. SHIEH. THEY CERTAINLY

UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL SOMETIMES WHEN YOU SPEAK UP OR YOU SPEAK OUT AND YOU TAKE UH THE HITS FOR IT LATER. SO KEEP

ON FIGHTING. SENATOR TAITAGUE.

SENATOR TELO TAITAGUE

THANK YOU MADAM CHAIR AND THANK YOU TO MY COLLEAGUES. I KNOW IT'S NOT A VERY SIMPLE BILL. YOU KNOW, THERE ARE SOME

PARTS, A LOT OF PARTS TO IT, BUT IT DOES RUN VERY SMOOTHLY. IF YOU

UNDERSTAND FIRST WHAT THE CONRAD 30 IS ALL ABOUT AS WELL AS A J1 VISA,

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THEN YOU CAN KIND OF GET A GRASP AND THEN YOU HAVE TO GET A GRASP ON WHAT IS GUAM GOING TO DO TO ALLOW CERTAIN

DOCTORS COME HERE AND PRACTICE, YOU KNOW, WHAT REQUIREMENTS WHERE THEY WILL THEY NEED AND MOST ESPECIALLY AND I AGREE WITH YOU DR. SHIEH ABOUT OUR GUAM MEDICAL BOARD ASSOCIATION. THEY'RE NOT TOO KEEN ON YOU KNOW HEARING FROM THE PUBLIC OR WHETHER SOMETHING COULD BE POSSIBLY WORK, YOU KNOW, AND JUST PUSH IT ASIDE.

I THINK I MEAN DAVID LEVOSKI KIND OF SAID IT FOR ME ON SOME OF

THE REACTIONS WE GET FROM THE GUAM MEDICAL BOARD. SO WHAT I WANT TO DO IS

TO FORMALIZE EXACTLY THE GUIDELINES THEY HAVE TO FOLLOW, YOU KNOW, THE SOPS THEY HAVE TO FOLLOW TO ALLOW FOREIGN DOCTORS INTO GUAM TO NOT HINDER IT. AND THAT'S WHAT BASICALLY THE BILL IS GOING TO DO. BUT I GREATLY APPRECIATE EVERYONE COMING TO THE TABLE LIKE THIS AND MAKING THE SUGGESTIONS. I DID HAVE SOME QUESTIONS, BUT I KNOW

WE'RE KIND OF PRESSED FOR TIME BECAUSE WE DO HAVE THE STATE OF THE ALIEN ADDRESS, BUT I JUST WANT TO SAY IN

CLOSING, MADAME CHAIR, YOU KNOW, I LOOK FORWARD, OF COURSE, , TO

WORKING WITH THE CHAIR AND INCORPORATING SUGGESTIONS AND REGARDING THE INCLUDING AND I WILL TAKE DEFINITELY, THE TIME

TO REACH OUT TO EVERYONE THAT'S HERE TODAY AND ASK THEM TO LET'S SIT DOWN AND HAVE A POW-WOW. YOU KNOW, I'M ONE

ABOUT GETTING A ROUND TABLE AND A WORKING GROUP TOGETHER TO MAKE SOMETHING BETTER BECAUSE WE DO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF

GUAM AND WE ONLY WANT THE BEST FOR THEM. I'D LOVE TO INCLUDE THE NURSES AS WELL TO FIND A WAY IN SECTION BECAUSE THAT'S ONE OF THE AREAS THAT WE REALLY NEED ASSISTANCE WITH. OF COURSE THE OTHER SUGGESTIONS THAT WERE MADE. I

EVEN HAVE AN AMENDMENT MYSELF. BUT I APPRECIATE ALSO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES SUPPORT

FOR THE INTENT OF BILL 206-38 AND RECOGNIZE THE URGENT NEED TO ADDRESS

THE PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE ON GUAM. HOWEVER, THIS LEGISLATION IS NOT A REACTIONARY PROPOSAL. IT IS A RESULT OF MORE THAN SIX MONTHS OF CAREFUL REVIEW, CONSULTATION, AND CONSIDERATION ON GUAM'S HEALTHCARE LANDSCAPE. IN FACT, I EVEN MENTIONED THIS ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO. HOW I'VE BEEN

WORKING ON LEGISLATION LIKE THIS TO ALLOW FOREIGN WORKERS. AND I DO REMEMBER SENATOR RODRIGUEZ, YOU KNOW, TRYING TO

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PUSH THE ENVELOPE ON THAT AND WHAT HAPPENED THAT IT DIDN'T GO THROUGH. SO, LET'S CONTINUE, YOU KNOW, TO CARRY THAT TORCH AND HOPEFULLY THIS LEGISLATURE WILL FINALLY GET IT THROUGH. AND HOWEVER YOU KNOW WAITING FOR A SEPARATE EXECUTIVE PROPOSAL DOESN'T PRECLUDE US FROM COLLABORATION. YOU KNOW IT WASN'T UNTIL AFTER I INTRODUCED THIS BILL THAT I HEARD THE GOVERNOR WANTED TO INTRODUCE A SIMILAR BILL. I DID REACH OUT PROVIDED MY ASSISTANCE AND MADE SUGGESTIONS TO WORK TOGETHER IN COLLABORATION. HOWEVER, I WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THOSE MEETINGS. IN FACT, THE PERSON HEADING THAT WAS ART SAN AUGUSTINE. I MEAN, I WENT AS FAR AS

FIND YOU WERE ASKING THE CHAIR WAS ASKING YOU LATER WHO WAS PART OF THIS MEETING. WELL, ART SAN AUGUSTINE WAS

HOLDING IT. HE WAS THE I GUESS THE CHAIRMAN OF THIS GROUP AND I ASKED

TO BE INCLUDED BUT I DIDN'T THEY DIDN'T INCLUDE ME. THEN I ASKED TO BE INVITED

TO THE MEETING OF THE FSMB THAT WERE VISITING ON GUAM AND THEY DIDN'T INCLUDE

ME. BUT YOU KNOW I'M USED TO THAT STUFF JUST LIKE YOU DR. SHIEH. MAYBE I RUB PEOPLE.

THOMAS SHIEH

LIKE I SAID YOU GOT TO BE INCLUSIVE AND NOT EXCLUSIVE. AND YOU KNOW YOU KNOW I RESPECT DENNIS RODRIGUEZ BUT IT'S GOT TO BE INCLUSIVE.

SENATOR TELO TAITAGUE

WELL I TELL YOU I'M USED TO IT. I'M USED TO PEOPLE TAKING THINGS

THAT I'VE WORKED ON AND TRYING TO CLAIM IT FOR THEMSELF. THAT'S A CLASSIC THING FOR BUT IT'S NOT. I'M TEAM GUAM.

YOU KNOW, IF IF I BRING UP AN IDEA AND THEN YOU WANT TO TAKE IT AND MAKE IT YOURS, I'M GOING TO BE THERE TO HELP

YOU. YOU KNOW, GO AHEAD, TAKE IT. BUT I DID REACH OUT MADAM CHAIR AS YOU

WERE ASKING THE QUESTIONS TO TRY AND WITH COLLABORATION AND YOU KNOW THE

LEGISLATURE HAS ALWAYS BEEN READY TO STAND TO WORK WITH THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AND WE WILL INVITE THE GOVERNOR TO WORK WITH US ON THIS BILL AND OH LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN BUT WE CANNOT PAUSE MEANINGFUL PROGRESS WHEN THE NEEDS OF OUR PATIENT ARE IMMEDIATE AND ONGOING.

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GOING. SO ULTIMATELY THIS BILL IS A PART OF A BROADER EFFORT TO RESPOND TO WHAT I CONSISTENTLY HEARD FROM THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY AND WE NEED MORE PHYSICIANS NOT JUST IN YOU KNOW THE GOVERNMENT SECTOR BUT ALSO THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND I APPRECIATE ALL THAT I DO HAVE YOUR PRINT OUT AND YOUR NOTES UNDERNEATH YOUR PRINTOUT. I WILL LOOK AT THAT AND AGAIN REACH OUT TO THOSE WHO ARE HERE TODAY. I HOPE THAT THE DOCTORS AND HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS AND THE PEOPLE OF GUAM WILL STAND BEHIND THIS EFFORT. THIS BILL IS NOT A SILVER BULLET, BUT IT IS A MEANINGFUL STEP FORWARD BUILDING A STRONGER AND MORE RESILIENT HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE FOR OUR ISLAND AND ONE THAT SERVES OUR PEOPLE WITH CARE, DIGNITY, AND TIME TIMELESSLY. THEY DESERVE THE BEST, ONLY THE BEST. SO I LOOK FORWARD TO NOT JUST A MARKUP MEETING, BUT I'M LOOKING FORWARD AGAIN TO THE GOVERNOR'S BILL. MAYBE WE CAN INCORPORATE SOME OF HER IDEAS INTO MY BILL OR TWO DIFFERENT BILLS COMING OUT. YOU KNOW, I DON'T MIND, YOU KNOW, WHATEVER WORKS, WHATEVER GETS THE JOB DONE. BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS COLLABORATION AND BRINGING THE STAKEHOLDERS IN ON WORKING ON BOTH LEGISLATIONS TO ALLOW THEIR INPUT AND ESPECIALLY WE ARE NOT EXPERTS. SO WE REALLY NEED THE COLLABORATION OF THOSE WHO ARE HERE TODAY AS WELL AS THOSE WHO ARE WILLING TO WORK WITH THIS BODY. SO THAT BEING SAID, THANK YOU SO MUCH AND LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU, MADAM CHAIR, ON THIS LEGISLATION.

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

THANK YOU, SENATOR TAITAGUE. THANK YOU TO DR. SHIEH, DR. THORP, MRS. MENDIOLA, THANK YOU TO PUBLIC HEALTH, MISS SABLAN, BUT YOU'RE PROBABLY GOING TO BE HERE FOR THE NEXT BILL. CORRECT. SO,

THAT CONCLUDES THE PUBLIC HEARING ON BILL 206. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO ACCEPT TESTIMONY ON BILL 238 INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VINCE BORJA. IF YOU ARE HERE TO TESTIFY, PLEASE COME TO THE TABLE.

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AND BEFORE WE ACCEPT TESTIMONY, SENATOR BORJA, YOU MAY OPEN ON YOUR BILL.

SENATOR VINCE BORJA

THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR. Hafa adai colleagues, GDOE, MR. ANDERSON, MISS MAFNAS, PUBLIC HEALTH, THANK YOU

FOR COMING DOWN. I'M GOING TO TRY AND KEEP THIS SHORT BECAUSE I'M IN A HURRY TOO TO GO GET READY TO CHANGE FOR THE

STATE OF THE ISLAND ADDRESS. BUT I THINK THE BILL THAT WE OR YOU KNOW I KNOW THAT THE BILL THAT WE HAVE IS VERY STRAIGHTFORWARD. THIS YOU KNOW THIS

BILL WAS INTRODUCED UM AT THE REQUEST OF THE FORMER SUPERINTENDENT AND HIS TEAM. I THINK I KNOW THE CURRENT THE NEW LEADERSHIP IS IN SUPPORT OF THE SAME

BILL. SO THANK YOU GUYS FOR COMING. THIS THE INTENT OF THE BILL IS TO ADDRESS THE EX SANITARY PERMIT WHICH

EXPIRED IN 2023 DURING THE RENOVATION DELAYS UNDER THE FORMER ADMINISTRATION AND FORMER SUPERINTENDENT. AND BECAUSE

THAT PERMIT IS EXPIRED, THE SCHOOL IS NOW LEGALLY CLASSIFIED AS A NEW APPLICANT AS IT GOES THROUGH THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION. THAT CLASSIFICATION AUTOMATICALLY TRIGGERS A TWO-YEAR NEW APPLICANT REQUIREMENT

INCLUDING A ZERO DEFICIENCY PRE-OPERATIONAL INSPECTION STANDARD. THE FBLG IS NOT A NEW FACILITY. IT'S AN

EXISTING PUBLIC SCHOOL WITH PRIOR COMPLIANCE HISTORY. IF THIS MEASURE IS NOT ADOPTED, REOPENING OF FBLG WILL

BE DELAYED. IF REOPENING IS DELAYED THAT THE ELIMINATION OF

DOUBLE SESSION WILL ALSO BE DELAYED WHICH IS WHY I'M IN SUPPORT OF

INTRO GETTING THIS MEASURE PASSED. THE CONSEQUENCES OF THAT DELAY AGAIN WILL NOT DOESN'T JUST AFFECT US OR THE

DEPARTMENT. IT ULTIMATELY AFFECTS OUR STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES. FBLG AND OKKODO STUDENTS HAVE ENDURED DOUBLE

SESSIONS FOR YEARS. THEY DESERVE THE SAME FULL TRADITIONAL SCHOOL DAY THAT OTHER SCHOOLS ALREADY ARE ABLE TO

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PROVIDE. WHAT I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT I ADDRESS THAT THIS BILL DOES NOT DO, IT DOESN'T ELIMINATE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS. IT

DOESN'T REMOVE THE AUTHORITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH. IT DOESN'T WAIVE COMPLIANCE WITH SANITATION LAWS.

FBLG WILL STILL BE INSPECTED. THE VIOLATIONS CAN STILL BE CITED AND THE CORRECTIONS WILL STILL BE REQUIRED. WHAT

THIS BILL DOES IS IT REMOVES THE AUTOMATIC 2-YEAR NEW YORK APPLICANT PERIOD THAT WAS TRIGGERED SOLELY BECAUSE THE PERMIT EXPIRED DURING

CONSTRUCTION DELAYS. WE'RE NOT TRYING TO LOWER STANDARDS. THIS IS ABOUT CORRECTING TECHNICAL

CLASSIFICATION THAT DOES NOT REFLECT THE REALITY OF THIS FACILITY. SAFETY STILL REMAINS MANDATORY. OVERSIGHT REMAINS

INTACT. THIS BILL ENSURES THAT WE DO NOT PROLONG DOUBLE SESSIONS OVER A PROCEDURAL ISSUE THAT DOES NOT IMPROVE

PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTIONS. THAT IS WHY I INTRODUCE THIS MEASURE. WITH THAT, I CONCLUDE MY OPENING AND I LOOK FORWARD

TO THE TESTIMONY. SI YUUS MAASE, THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

THANK YOU, SENATOR BORJA. WE WILL BEGIN WITH LET'S START WITH PUBLIC HEALTH.

LEILANI NAVARRO

Hafa Adai, Senators. My name is Leilani Navarro. I'm an Environmental Public Health Officer Administrator with the

Division of Environmental Health with the Department of Public Health and Social Services. I'm here to read the

written testimony from Director Areola who had to step away for a meeting. So,

here it goes. Hafa Adai, Senator Sabrina Sales Matanane and members of the 38th Guam Legislature. My name is

Teresa C. Arriola, Director of the Department of Public Health and Social Services or DPHSS.

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THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE TESTIMONY ON BILL NUMBER 238-38, AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25105 OF CHAPTER 25, DIVISION 2, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO THE GRANTING EXEMPTION OF TITLE 26 OF THE GUAM ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO SANITARY INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS AND FOUR OTHER PURPOSES. AS YOU KNOW, THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OR DEH WITHIN DPHSS IS MANDATED UNDER SECTIONS 21105 AND 21102 OF CHAPTERS 20 AND 21 TITLE 10 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED TO ADOPT, IMPLEMENT AND ENFORCE RULES AND REGULATIONS TO ENSURE THE SANITARY OPERATION OF HEALTH REGULATED ESTABLISHMENTS INCLUDING PUBLIC SCHOOLS. THESE REQUIREMENTS EXIST TO ENSURE THAT FACILITIES SERVING CHILDREN, EDUCATORS, AND STAFF MEET MINIMUM HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS BEFORE THEY ARE OCCUPIED AND USED. FOR PURPOSE OF CLARITY, IT IS IMPORTANT TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE THREE TYPES OF SCHOOL INSPECTIONS THAT DEH CONDUCTS. NUMBER ONE, PRE-OPERATIONAL INSPECTION IS AN INSPECTION CONDUCTED PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF A SCHOOL'S INITIAL SANITARY PERMIT TO DETERMINE COMPLIANCE WITH PHYSICAL AND STRUCTURAL REQUIREMENTS SUCH AS THE PRESENCE OF FUNCTIONAL PLUMBING, LIGHTING, AND ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS. NUMBER TWO, RENEWAL INSPECTION IS AN INSPECTION CONDUCTED PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF A RENEWED SANITARY PERMIT PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 37-04. AND NUMBER THREE, COMPLIANCE INSPECTION IS AN INSPECTION CONDUCTED OF A SCHOOL AFTER THE ISSUANCE OF ITS INITIAL OR RENEWAL SANITARY PERMIT TO CONFIRM COMPLIANCE WITH GOVERNING LAWS AND REGULATIONS. THESE DISTINCTIONS ARE IMPORTANT BECAUSE BILL NUMBER 238-38 PROPOSES TO WAVE THE PRE-OPERATIONAL INSPECTION WHICH IS THE ONLY INSPECTION DESIGNED TO VERIFY THAT A SCHOOL FACILITY MEETS THE MINIMUM SANITATION AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS BEFORE STUDENTS AND STAFF OCCUPY THE BUILDING AND USE THE FACILITIES. THE CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO BILL 238-38 ARE CLEAR. THE GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OR GDOE MADE A DELIBERATE DECISION NOT TO RENEW THE SANITARY PERMIT FOR FB LEON GUERRERO MIDDLE SCHOOL OR FBLGMS WHEN IT EXPIRED ON JUNE 30, 2023 BECAUSE THE FACILITY WOULD NOT PASS INSPECTION DUE TO PLANNED

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RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES. AS A RESULT, THE SCHOOL HAS NOT HELD A VALID SANITARY PERMIT SINCE THEN AND HAS NOT BEEN INCLUDED IN DEH'S ANNUAL INSPECTION OF GDO SCHOOLS AS REQUIRED UNDER PUBLIC LAW 37-04.

GDO'S DECISION NOT TO RENEW FBL GMS PERMIT PROPERLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT

THE FACILITY COULD NOT MEET EXISTING SANITARY REQUIREMENTS. THE LAST FORMAL DEH INSPECTION OF L FBLGMS OCCURRED ON JANUARY 13, 2011, WHICH RESULTED IN A SCORE OF FOUR DEMERITS AND A LETTER GRADE OF A OF C ENCLOSURE A TO THIS TESTIMONY. WHILE

THIS OUTCOME WAS SATISFACTORY, THE INSPECTION OCCURRED MORE THAN 14 YEARS AGO. SINCE THEN, THE FACILITY'S CONDITION, MAINTENANCE STATUS, AND

COMPLIANCE WITH CURRENT UPDATED STANDARDS ARE UNKNOWN. MOREOVER, DH

RECORDS SHOW A HISTORY OF THIS SCHOOL'S CLOSURE FROM A FAILED INSPECTION WHICH OCCURRED ON MARCH 26, 2009. SEE ENCLOSURE B OF THIS TESTIMONY. BECAUSE

FBLGMS DOES NOT HAVE A VALID PERMIT, IT CANNOT UNDERGO A RENEWAL INSPECTION. BECAUSE NO PERMIT HAS BEEN ISSUED, A COMPLIANCE INSPECTION IS ALSO NOT APPLICABLE. THE ONLY APPROPRIATE PATHWAY

FOR FBLGMS IS A PRE-OPERATIONAL INSPECTION, WHICH BILL NUMBER 238-386

SEEKS TO ELIMINATE FOR THAT SCHOOL. IN OCTOBER 2024, DEH CONDUCTED A PLAN

REVIEW FOR THE SCHOOL'S RENOVATION PROJECT SEE CLOSURE C OF THIS TESTIMONY.

THAT REVIEW IDENTIFIED SEVERAL DEFICIENCIES AS NOTED IN THE YELLOW HIGHLIGHTS AND THE ADDITIONAL ITEMS

LISTED WHICH COULD NOT BE VERIFIED FOR COMPLIANCE BASED ON THE SUBMITTED PLANS. BECAUSE A PRE-OPERATIONAL INSPECTION HAS NOT BEEN CONDUCTED, DEH CANNOT CONFIRM

WHETHER THESE ISSUES HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED OR NOT. THIS PLACES UNNECESSARY THREAT OF HARM TO THE SCHOOL'S ANTICIPATED OCCUPANTS. THIS DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN WORKING

DILIGENTLY AND ENSURING EVERY ONE OF GDOE SCHOOLS IN IS INSPECTED TIMELY

PRIOR TO THE RENEWAL OF THEIR SANITARY PERMITS. IN RETURN, GDOE HAS BEEN DOING ITS BEST IN MAKING SURE THESE SCHOOLS ARE PREPARED TO PASS OUR RENEWAL INSPECTIONS. SO FAR, BOTH DEPARTMENTS HAVE FULFILLED THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO THE COMMUNITY AND

PUBLIC LAW 37-04. DURING THAT EFFORT, BILL 238-38 UNDERCUTS OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE VERY PURPOSE OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS

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THAT HAVE BEEN ENACTED FOR SCHOOL SANITATION. SECTION TWO OF BILL NUMBER 238-38 PRESENTS SEVERAL POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION CONCERNS THAT COMPEL THIS DEPARTMENT'S OPPOSITION TO THE BILL. THEY ARE NUMBER ONE, THE BILL PROPOSES TO AMEND THE ACTUAL LAW GOVERNING INSTITUTIONAL FACILITIES WHICH IS TITLE 10 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED CHAPTER 25 RATHER

THAN AMENDING THE APPLICABLE REGULATIONS. THIS EXTRAORDINARY ACTION

BYPASSES ESTABLISHED REGULATORY PROCESSES AND WOULD CREATE A PERMANENT STATUTORY EXCEPTION THAT IS APPLICABLE

SPECIFICALLY TO FBLGMS UNLESS FUTURE LEGISLATION IS ENACTED TO

REVERSE OR REVISE IT. NUMBER TWO, THIS SECTION OF THE BILL REQUIRES FBLGMS TO COMPLY WITH THE RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE ISSUANCE OF SANITARY PERMITS OR TITLE 26 GAR CHAPTER 4 AL

ARTICLE 5 EXCEPT FOR SECTION 455F. THUS, IT WAVES THE SCHOOL FROM PASSING

THE PRE-OPERATIONAL INSPECTION BEFORE A SANITARY PERMIT IS ISSUED. THE BILL

PROVIDES NO ALTERNATIVE STANDARDS, NO SUBSTITUTE CRITERIA, AND NO MECHANISM FOR VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE. A RENEWAL INSPECTION CANNOT SUBSTITUTE FOR THIS REQUIREMENT BECAUSE

IT ONLY OCCURS AFTER A PERMIT IS ISSUED. NUMBER THREE, BY EXEMPTING FBLGMS FROM

ALL NEW APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS, THE BILL WOULD ALLOW ISSUANCE OF A SANITARY

PERMIT WITHOUT AN APPLICATION, WITHOUT PAYMENT OF REQUIRED FEES, AND WITHOUT MEETING THE MINIMUM STANDARDS REQUIRED OF EVERY OTHER SCHOOL FACILITY.

NUMBER FOUR, IF FBLGMS IS NOT TO BE TREATED AS A NEW APPLICANT AND THUS

WAVED FROM THE PRE-OPERATIONAL INSPECTIONS AS PROPOSED IN BILL 238-38,

THEN HOW IS THE SCHOOL TO BE ADDRESSED? IT CANNOT BE CATEGORIZED OR PROCESSED AS

A RENEWING APPLICANT SINCE IT DOES NOT HAVE A SANITARY PERMIT TO RENEW. NUMBER

FIVE, IF THE INTENT OF BILL 238-38 IS TO ALLOW OPERATION OF FBLGMS

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WITHOUT MEETING ALL THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SCHOOL REGULATIONS, THEN THE BILL EFFECTIVELY NULLIFIES THE PURPOSE OF THE SANITARY PERMIT ISSUANCE. SANITARY PERMITS ARE NOT SYMBOLIC

DOCUMENTS. THEY ARE CERTIFICATIONS OF MINIMUM PUBLIC HEALTH COMPLIANCE. AND LASTLY, NUMBER SIX, PROVIDING A

STATUTORY EXEMPTION FOR ONE FACILITY SETS A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT THAT OTHER HEALTH REGULATED ESTABLISHMENTS COULD REASONABLY SEEK, POTENTIALLY UNDERMINING

THE UNIFORM APPLICATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH LAWS. IN ESSENCE, BILL NUMBER 238-38

WOULD AUTHORIZE THE OPERATION OF FBLGMS WITHOUT CONFIRMATION THAT MINIMUM HEALTH AND SANITATION STANDARDS HAVE BEEN MET. THE DEPARTMENT CANNOT SUPPORT ANY

MEASURE THAT COMPROMISES STUDENT SAFETY OR WEAKENS PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE SANITARY PERMIT PROCESS.

DPHSS REMAINS COMMITTED TO WORKING COLLABORATIVELY WITH THE LEGISLATURE AND

GDOE TO SUPPORT THE TIMELY REOPENING OF SCHOOL FACILITIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK

OF EXISTING PUBLIC HEALTH LAWS. HOWEVER, THIS DEPARTMENT CANNOT SUPPORT ACTION THAT CIRCUMVENTS INSPECTIONS OR WAVES

CRITICAL SAFEGUARDS THAT HELP PROTECT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS, EDUCATORS AND STAFF.

DANGKULU SI YUUS MAASE SIGNED THERESA C ARRIOLA MBA. THANK YOU.

CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON

BUENAS SENATOR MANTANANE, MADAME CHAIR, SENATOR BORJA. MY NAME IS CHRISTOPHER

ANDERSON. I'M THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION WITH THE GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. ACCOMPANYING ME IS MISS MELISSA MAFNAS. SHE'S THE PRINCIPAL FOR FB LEONG MIDDLE SCHOOL. WE ARE BOTH MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL READINESS TASK

FORCE AND HERE TO REPRESENT DR. WON PAT WHO UNFORTUNATELY COULDN'T BE HERE DUE TO CRITICAL MATTERS. SHE HAS

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UH UH PROVIDED WRITTEN TESTIMONY AND WE'RE HERE TO READ THAT TESTIMONY AND THEN BE ABLE TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU

MAY HAVE. DEAR CHAIRWOMAN MATANANE AND SENATOR BORJA SI YUUS MAASE FOR YOUR CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP AND SUPPORT OF THE GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, I RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT THIS TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT IN THE BILL'S INTENT AND GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR LEADERSHIP IN THIS PROCESS. MORE SPECIFICALLY, THE GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RESPECTFULLY

REQUESTS CLARIFYING LANGUAGE TO ALLOW TWO CONSECUTIVE RENEWAL PERIODS UNDER TITLE 26 GUAM ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND

REGULATIONS SUBSECTION 4505 WHICH I BELIEVE IS THE SANITARY PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR NEW AND RENEWAL BE EXTENDED THROUGH JUNE 30TH OF 2027

THEREBY PREVENTING FB LEON MIDDLE SCHOOL FROM BEING CLASSIFIED AS A NEW APPLICANT SOLELY DUE TO PROLONGED

INACTIVITY RESULTING FROM REFURBISHMENT AND PROCUREMENT DELAYS. THE GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REMAINS

FULLY COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF STUDENT SAFETY, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

AS THIS IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THE DEPARTMENT'S MISSION AND PUBLIC TRUST. PRIOR TO ITS CLOSURE, FBLG MIDDLE SCHOOL

CONSISTENTLY MET HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS. HOWEVER, PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACT DELAYS PREVENTED FBLG FROM

RENEWING ITS SANITARY PERMIT BACK IN JUNE 30TH OF 2025. THE DEPARTMENT IS CONFIDENT THAT IT CAN

MEET THE SANITARY INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS, BUT RECLASSIFICATION AS A NEW APPLICANT THAT REQUIRES AN

INSPECTION WITH ZERO DEFICIENCIES WOULD ONLY FURTHER DELAY REOPENING, DISRUPT

STUDENT LEARNING, AND UNNECESSARILY STRAIN AGENCY RESOURCES.

THE FBLG CAMPUS WAS CLOSED IN DECEMBER OF 2022 DUE TO STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY CONCERNS. IN JANUARY OF 2024, THE DEPARTMENT AWARDED A REFURBISHMENT CONTRACT TO NORTHERN CONSTRUCTION TO

REHABILITATE MOST BUT NOT ALL OF THE FACILITY. THE SCOPE OF WORK INCLUDED ROOF REPAIR, CANOPY REPLACEMENTS,

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SELECTED HVAC INSTALLATION, ELECTRICAL UPGRADES, INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR PAINTING, INSTALLATION OF INTERIOR WOOD

AND EXTERIOR METAL DOORS, AND LIMITED TILE REPLACEMENT. THESE IMPROVEMENTS

WERE DESIGNED TO RESTORE FUNCTIONALITY AND SAFETY. IT DID NOT CONSTITUTE NEW CONSTRUCTION. THE MERRIAM WEBSTER DICTIONARY DEFINES REFURBISHMENT AS MAKING SOMETHING LOOK

NEW OR FUNCTIONAL AGAIN. IT INVOLVES RESTORING SOMETHING TO ITS ORIGINAL OR GOOD CONDITION, SUCH AS UPDATING

BUILDINGS OR REPAIRING EQUIPMENT. WE PROVIDE THIS DEFINITION PRIMARILY TO MAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN A RENOVATION AND OR A RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT. THIS IS A REFURBISHMENT PROJECT. ALTHOUGH SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION IS ANTICIPATED IN APRIL OR MAY OF 2026, SEVERAL MAJOR AREAS REMAIN UNFINISHED AND REQUIRE ADDITIONAL WORK BY FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE OR A DIVISION

OR FUTURE CONTRACTORS. THESE INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE GYM STRUCTURE AND FLOORING, RESTROOM

TILES THROUGHOUT THE CAMPUS, THE REMOVAL OF AN ABANDONED BUILDING, PERIMETER FENCING, WINDOW SCREENS FOR

FASTTRACK CLASSROOMS, H BUILDING FIRST FLOOR TOILET AND LAUNDRY FACILITIES FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS, WATER

ISOLATION VALVES, INSTALLATION OF DOUBLE DOORS FOR ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ROOMS, AND CONVERSION OF THE GYM ROLLUP

DOOR TO A DOUBLE DOOR CONFIGURATION. IN ADDITION TO UNCOVERED FACILITY WORK, SEVERAL CRITICAL ITEMS REQUIRE FUNDING AND PROCUREMENT ACTION, INCLUDING EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT FOR CLASSROOMS AND

OFFICES, AN INTEGRATED NETWORK AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS BELL SYSTEM, FIRE ALARM AND SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS, SEVEN

HVAC UNITS AND DUCK WORK FOR THE CAFETERIA DINING AREA, AND 500 GALLON WATER HEATERS FOR THE CAFETERIA AND THE

GYM. THESE ITEMS MAY NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL WELL UNTIL NEXT SCHOOL YEAR. SO GIVEN THESE REALITIES, REQUIRING A ZERO DEFICIENCY INSPECTION STANDARD AT THIS STAGE WOULD NOT REFLECT THE OPERATIONAL REALITIES OF THIS REFURBISHMENT PROJECT. THE FBLG COMMUNITY HAS PATIENTLY WAITED

OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS TO RETURN THEIR CAMPUS AND IT IS INCUMBENT UPON ALL LEADERS TO COLLECTIVELY SET THE CONDITIONS NECESSARY TO BRING IT TO FRUITION. ALLOWING FBLG TO UNDERGO A

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SANITARY INSPECTION BY EXTENDING THE INACTIVE PERIOD OF ITS SANITARY PERMIT TO JUNE 30TH OF 2027 IS A

REASONABLE REQUEST. THIS ACTION NOT ONLY MAINTAINS REGULATORY OVERSIGHT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL

SERVICES, IT PRESERVES THE INTEGRITY OF THE CORE HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED IN TITLE 26 OF THE

GUAM ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS. BILL 238-38 WITH THE PROPOSED CLARIFYING LANGUAGE PROVIDES A BALANCED AND RESPONSIBLE APPROACH THAT IS STUDENT CENTERED, PRESERVES REGULATORY INTEGRITY AND ACKNOWLEDGES PRACTICAL REHABILITATION TIMELINES. IT BALANCES ACCOUNTABILITY

WITH PRAGMATISM AND ENABLES DOE TO RESPONSIBLY OPEN FBLG AND MINIMIZE

CONTINUED DISPLACEMENT OF STUDENTS. ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT, I RESPECTFULLY URGE THE 38TH GUAM

LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT BILL 238-38 WITH CLARIFYING LANGUAGE. AGAIN, SI YUUS MAASE FOR THE CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP IN EDUCATION. SINCERELY, JUDITH WON PAT, ACTING SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION. THANK YOU.

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

SENATOR BORJA.

SENATOR VINCE BORJA

THANK YOU PUBLIC HEALTH FOR COMING. MY ONLY QUESTION IS BECAUSE OF COURSE THE INTENT, RIGHT? AND WE

UNDERSTAND THE HEALTH THE SANITATION AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS AND WE WANT TO ENSURE THAT WE'RE NOT COMPROMISING

THAT. I THINK WHAT'S IMPORTANT AND I THINK THE POSITION THAT THE COMMITTEE

AND WE WANT TO TAKE IS WE'RE NOT SAYING THROW ALL THIS OUT THE DOOR. I THINK WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR IN HER

LETTER WAS ALL THE REASONS WHY WE SHOULDN'T DO IT BUT HOW CAN WE MEET THE INTENT OF THE DEPARTMENT WHICH IS WE

DON'T WANT TO DELAY OPENING THE REOPENING FBLG FOR STUDENTS TO COME

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BACK SO THAT WE CAN END DOUBLE SESSION. AND SO WHAT ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS IN REGARDS TO I GET THE WHOLE YOU CAN'T

ISSUE A PERMIT, REAPPLICATION PERMIT WITH IF THERE IS NO CURRENT PERMIT. SO WE UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT WHAT WE'RE ASKING RIGHT NOW AND WHAT THE SCHOOL IS ASKING FOR THE COMMUNITY IS IF WE CAN JUST REINSPECT IT AS IF THIS

THE YOU KNOW THERE WAS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR IT TO GET RENEWED BECAUSE IT WAS THERE WAS NO OPPORTUNITY BECAUSE IT WAS

UNDER REFURBISHMENT. WE DIDN'T REBUILD A NEW SCHOOL. SO WHAT IS THE AGENCY'S ADVICE IN REGARDS TO HOW WE CAN AMEND

THIS SO THAT AGAIN WE'RE NOT YOU KNOW THERE ARE SOME TECHNICALITIES I

GUESS BUT WHAT THEY'RE SAYING IS STILL INSPECT US BUT HOW CAN WE GET A PERMIT

WITHOUT HAVING THE ZERO DEFICIENCY RIGHT BECAUSE THAT IS HOW NEW PERMITS ARE TREATED IS THAT CORRECT?

LEILANI NAVARRO

YES SO THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION IS WE ARE ASKING THE LEGISLATURE TO ENSURE THAT THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN PRE-OPERATIONAL AND RENEWAL INSPECTIONS ARE KEPT AND THAT ALL HEALTH REGULATED ESTABLISHMENTS ARE HELD TO THE SAME STANDARDS WHICH IS WHEN THERE'S A WHEN IT'S A

PRE-OPERATIONAL INSPECTION THEY HAVE TO PASS ALL MINIMUM HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS WHICH ARE DETAILED IN THE APPROPRIATE RULES AND REGULATIONS. BECAUSE WE WE AS A PUBLIC, YOU KNOW, SIMILAR TO OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS

IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS, PRE-OPERATIONAL INSPECTIONS ARE ACTUALLY THERE TO PREVENT HAZARDS BEFORE THE STUDENTS EVEN COME BACK TO THE UM

FACILITY. RIGHT? SO BY MAKING SURE THAT UM THE FACILITY COMPLIES WITH ALL THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS BEFORE THE STUDENTS ARE

THERE THEN THE HAZARDS YOU KNOW CAN BE PREVENTED VERSUS WHEN A FACILITY WHICH WAS RENOVATED AND

WHEN I LOOK AT GDOE'S TESTIMONY IT ACTUALLY MENTIONS THAT THERE'S GOING TO

BE SOME BUILDING STRUCTURES LIKE GYM, RESTROOMS, PERIMETER FENCING,

WINDOW SCREENS, TOILETS, EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT. I'M ASSUMING THESE ARE THE

CHAIRS AND TABLES FOR THE STUDENTS. THEY SAID IT'S NOT GOING TO BE READY UNTIL NEXT SCHOOL YEAR. SO I THINK AS

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COMMUNITY, THE PUBLIC AND THE PARENTS ARE RELYING ON US TO MAKE SURE THAT THOSE SYSTEMS ARE IN PLACE BEFORE THE SCHOOL CAN EVEN OPEN.

SENATOR VINCE BORJA

BUT YOU HAVE CURRENT SCHOOLS RIGHT NOW WHERE LIKE SOME OF THE PORTIONS OF THE SCHOOLS ARE SHUT DOWN. HOW IS

THAT ANY DIFFERENT? LIKE THEN IF THE GYM IS NOT READY, WE NEED THE CLASSROOM. SO SHUT DOWN THE GYM IF THAT'S THE CASE.

CAN WE DO THAT? BECAUSE RIGHT NOW, AT LEAST MY UNDERSTANDING IS BECAUSE OF THE STATE OR HOW IT'S GOING TO BE INSPECTED

WITHOUT THIS BILL IS THAT IT CAN'T HAVE ANY DEFICIENCY. IS THAT CORRECT?

LEILANI NAVARRO

YES, THAT'S HOW ALL PRE-OPERATIONAL INSPECTIONS HAVE BEEN.

SENATOR VINCE BORJA

SO THIS IS WHERE WE'RE ASKING, RIGHT? THE COMMUNITY IS ASKING AND THE SCHOOLS IS ASKING IS SO WHAT YOU KNOW HOW DO WE BECAUSE IT'S NOT A NEW SCHOOL LIKE YES THERE WAS REFURBISHMENT THERE WAS CONSTRUCTION DONE BUT IT'S JUST LIKE GW WHEN IT WENT THROUGH REFURBISHMENT THEY DIDN'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH AN INITIAL INSPECTION THEY THAT HAS NOT BEEN DONE IS THAT CORRECT?

LEILANI NAVARRO

SO SECTION 21102D NDE OF TITLE 10 UH GUAM CODE ANNOTATED CHAPTER 21 ACTUALLY REQUIRES ANY HEALTH REGULATED ESTABLISHMENT SUCH AS A SCHOOL TO SUBMIT PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS WHENEVER THEY EITHER CONSTRUCT, RENOVATE OR REMODEL ANY FACILITY ESPECIALLY WHEN THE RENOVATION OR RECONSTRUCTION OR REMODELING AFFECTS HEALTH REGULATED BUILDING SYSTEMS SUCH AS TOILETS, USABLE SPACE FOR THE STUDENTS. SO THAT ACTUALLY IS YOU KNOW REQUIRED IN THE REGULATIONS AND WHEN THE FACILITY WE ALLOW A FACILITY TO OPEN AND RECEIVE A PERMIT

IT'S GOING TO BE HARDER TO CORRECT ANY STRUCTURAL DEFICIENCIES WHEN THE STUDENTS ARE ALREADY THERE BECAUSE IT'S GOING TO BE DISRUPTIVE. IT'S GOING TO

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BE HARDER TO DO ANY FURTHER RENOVATION WHILE THE STUDENTS ARE THERE AND IT ALSO WEAKENS THE INCENTIVE FOR

THE SCHOOL TO CORRECT THE REMAINING DEFICIENCIES.

SENATOR VINCE BORJA

SO AGAIN, I GUESS MY QUESTION IS GOING TO CIRCLE BACK TO THIS IS NOT LIKE A SPECIAL FAVOR. THIS IS A SPECIAL

CIRCUMSTANCE THAT REALLY THE CONSTRUCTION PUSHED THIS TO. SO, WHICH IS WHY I GET IT. IF WE THROW THIS BILL

OUT THE DOOR AND WE JUST STUCK TO THE RULES AND THE GCA AND ALL OF THAT, THEN THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR US TO HAVE THIS DISCUSSION BECAUSE THIS IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO GET DOUBLE SESSION. AND I GET IT. WE'RE NOT SAYING BECAUSE OF DOUBLE SESSION LIKE LET'S THROW ALL

SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS OUT THE DOOR. WHAT WE'RE ASKING IS HOW DO WE GET AN EXCEPTION THAT HELPS GET THE SCHOOL OPEN AND NOT HAVE TO BE HELD TO THE SAME STANDARD AS IF A NEW BUILDING WAS BUILT AND WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE ENTIRE PROCESS. IF YOU'RE JUST GOING TO SAY NO, THEN THAT'S WHERE THE LEGISLATURE IS TRYING TO SAY, HEY, WE UNDERSTAND THE

CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE SITUATION. WE WANT TO WORK WITH PUBLIC HEALTH TO ENSURE THAT IT'S STILL SAFE AND IT'S MEETING

THE HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS, BUT BASED ON THIS TESTIMONY, YOU GUYS ARE SAYING THAT YOU'RE PRETTY MUCH SAYING YOU DON'T WANT TO TRY AND CHANGE ANYTHING. YOU WANT US

TO TRY AND STICK TO THE LAW, BUT THAT'S WHY WE'RE HAVING THIS CONVERSATION. SO, WHAT IS THE NOW I'M NOT GOING TO SAY THE WORKAROUND, BUT HOW CAN WE WORK TO ADDRESS THIS? BECAUSE THE CONCERN IS IT'S BEEN SHUT DOWN FOR TOO

LONG. WE NEED TO WORK WITH YOU GUYS TO ENSURE I MEAN YOU KNOW SO THAT WE'RE NOT

JUST SAYING DISREGARD WHAT YOU SAY THE LAW WE'RE JUST GOING TO WAIVE THE LAW SO THAT THEY CAN DO IT. HOW CAN WE DO IT SO

THAT WE DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT?

LEILANI NAVARRO

Committee Report Digest: Public Hearing [Bill No. 206-38 \(COR\)](#) – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), § 12206 AND ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND § 12207 (a) (5) TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

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THAT IS HARD TO ANSWER ESPECIALLY BECAUSE YOU KNOW WE TRY TO UPHOLD PUBLIC HEALTH STANDARDS RIGHT

SO AND WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT THE REGULATIONS APPLY TO EVERYONE. SO, THAT IT'S FAIR AND WE MAINTAIN THE PUBLIC'S TRUST IN THE PERMITTING SYSTEM.

CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON

IF I MAY JUST REBUT. AND BY THE WAY, JUST TO CLARIFY, LEILANI AND OR PUBLIC HEALTH AND DEAL, WE HAVE A VERY GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP, OVER

THE LAST COUPLE YEARS IN TRYING TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR SCHOOLS ARE MEETING THE SANITARY REQUIREMENTS TO BE ISSUED

PERMITS. BUT AS LEILANI HAD MENTIONED THAT'S ACTUALLY OUR POINT THAT THERE IS A LOT OF WORK THAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THIS REFURBISHMENT PROJECT THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE AND WE'RE NOT ASKING TO OPEN THE

SCHOOL BEFORE THIS WORK IS COMPLETED. BUT WHAT WE ARE ASKING FOR IS A

REASONABLE EXPECTATION FOR US TO BE ABLE TO MEET THE SANITARY INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS AS IF WE WERE BEING

INSPECTED IN JUNE 30TH OF 2025. AND SPECIFICALLY, THE LANGUAGE THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS ASKING TO INCLUDE IN

THE BILL IS SPECIFICALLY THE EXTENSION OF THE INACTIVE PERIOD BECAUSE THE ONLY THING PUTS US IN THIS CATEGORY

OF PRE-OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENT AS A NEW APPLICANT IS THE FACT THAT WE'VE SURPASSED THE INACTIVE

PERIOD. NOW, IF WE'RE IF THE LAW IS PASSED OR THE BILL IS PASSED AND IT IS EXTENDED, WE ARE STILL BEING INSPECTED, BUT WITH THE CATEGORY OF SANITARY INSPECTION, WHICH ALLOWS US UP TO 40 DEMERITS. AND AGAIN, NOT SAYING THAT WE'RE TRYING TO GET TO 40 DEMERITS, BUT

THE IDEA IS WE HAVE A GREATER CHANCE OF SUCCESS IN GETTING THE SCHOOL OPENED SAFELY UNDER THE CONDITION OF A SANITARY INSPECTION VERSUS A NEW APPLICANT. AND THAT'S THE ASK REALLY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. WE UPHOLD WE RESPECT UH AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE STANDARDS THAT PUBLIC HEALTH HAS FOR THE SAFETY OF STRUCTURES AND WE WANT TO

COMPLY WITH THAT WITHOUT A DOUBT. THE ISSUE IS IF WE ARE TO MEET THE 100% EXPECTATION WITH NO DEBARRING, I MEAN THAT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO MEET

Committee Report Digest: Public Hearing [Bill No. 206-38 \(COR\)](#) – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), § 12206 AND ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND § 12207 (a) (5) TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 JI PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

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ESPECIALLY THAT A LOT OF THIS WORK IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE REFURBISHMENT PROJECT. THANK YOU.

SENATOR VINCE BORJA

YEAH. SO, YOU KNOW, JUST TO WRAP THIS UP, REALLY, I MEAN, AS WE CONTINUE TO WORK THROUGH THIS IN MARKUP, I DEFINITELY LIKE TO WORK WITH PUBLIC HEALTH TO REALLY ADDRESS THAT MAIN CONCERN, RIGHT, IS WE UNDERSTAND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW PERMITS AND THE IT'S EXPIRED, SO NOW IT HAS TO BE TREATED BECAUSE YOU CAN'T ISSUE A REAPPLICATION WITHOUT AN INITIAL BECAUSE THE INITIAL DOESN'T EXIST TECHNICALLY, RIGHT? JUST SO WE'RE ALL TRACKING. BUT YEAH, THIS IS IT'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING IMPORTANT FOR US IN THE COMMUNITY AND WE WANT TO CONTINUE OR WE WILL TRY TO OR WE WILL WORK WITH YOU IN REGARD TO ENSURING THAT WE HAVE LANGUAGE THAT STILL REQUIRES THOSE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS, HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO NOT EXPECT EVERYTHING TO BE PERFECT. I THINK THAT'S THE ASK IS WE CAN'T EXPECT ANYTHING TO BE PERFECT. BUT OF COURSE WITHOUT COMPROMISING SAFETY AND YOU KNOW HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT AND WE'LL CONTINUE TO TO COLLABORATE AS WE WORK THROUGH MARKUP WITH YOU GUYS AND THE DEPARTMENT TO ENSURE THAT BECAUSE AGAIN THE BOTTOM LINE HERE AND JUST TO EMPHASIZE AND I KNOW IT'S NOT YOUR PROBLEM IS DOUBLE SESSION WHICH HAS BEEN A VERY LONG-STANDING PROBLEM THAT WE HAVE COMMITTED AS A LEGISLATURE TO ADDRESS AND UM WE HOPE TO GET YOU GUYS AS QU YOU KNOW UM INPUT AS WELL AS WE MOVE THROUGH THIS. BUT THANK YOU FOR COMING DOWN. THANK YOU GDOE AND THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR. I HAVE NO FURTHER QUESTIONS.

CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON

Committee Report Digest: Public Hearing [Bill No. 206-38 \(COR\)](#) – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), § 12206 AND ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND § 12207 (a) (5) TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

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MADAM CHAIRWOMAN, IF I CAN I KNOW THE DR. WON PAT DID NOT INCLUDE IN OUR TESTIMONY COMMENTS ON THE CLASSROOMS THAT ARE BEING CONSTRUCTED ON THE GUAM HOUSING CORPORATION PROPERTY WHICH IS ACROSS FROM FBLG. BUT THERE IS WORK OR PLANNING BEING DONE RIGHT NOW TO CONSTRUCT UH 24 CLASSROOMS WITH THE EXISTING STRUCTURE. I THINK THIS IS THE GHC HOUSING AREA. THEY'RE GOING TO RENOVATE OR THEY'RE GOING TO REFURBISH OR WHATEVER THEY DO WITH THOSE CLASSROOM THE BUILDING TO MAKE 24 CLASSROOMS. AND THEN I BELIEVE THEY HAVE SOMEBODY WHO'S GOING TO ERECT 20 OTHER ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS. SO, A TOTAL OF 44 CLASSROOMS. WHAT DR. WOMN PAT IS WANTING TO DO IS INCLUDE THOSE CLASSROOMS IN THE FOOTPRINT OF FBLG. AND SO, I KNOW SENATOR BORJA MENTIONED THE ISSUE OF DOUBLE SESSION. I KNOW THERE'S SOME TALK ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SIMON SANCHEZ, YOU KNOW, OPERATING OUT OF FBLG'S FACILITY WITH THOSE CLASSROOMS. BUT OBVIOUSLY THEY NEED FBLG IN ORDER TO MAKE THAT COURSE OF ACTION FEASIBLE. BUT JUST TO PUT IT ON RECORD, DR. WON PAT WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE THAT PROJECT THAT'S GOING ON ACROSS THE STREET AS PART OF FBLG'S FOOTPRINT. WE WOULD LIKE TO WORK WITH PUBLIC HEALTH OF COURSE WHEN WE SUBMIT OUR APPLICATION FOR INSPECTION THAT THEY CAN INCLUDE THAT. THANK YOU.

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

THANK YOU, UM MR. ANDERSON, MISS MAFNAS AND PUBLIC HEALTH, FOR ATTENDING TODAY'S PUBLIC HEARING ON BILL 206. I DON'T HAVE ANY QUESTIONS BUT YOU KNOW I TRULY DO HOPE THAT WE COULD COME TOGETHER AND FIND A SOLUTION. AND OFTEN TIMES IT'S UNFORTUNATE AS POLICY MAKERS THAT THINGS HAVE TO ESCALATE TO WHERE LEGISLATION IS NEEDED WHEN SOMETIMES IT'S JUST TALKING TO EACH OTHER, COLLABORATING, AND WORKING TOGETHER. SO AGAIN, THAT CONCLUDES TODAY'S PUBLIC HEARING ON BILL 206 AND BILL 238. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT TESTIFIED TODAY. THE TIME IS NOW 4:25. THE PUBLIC HEARING HELD BY THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS IS NOW ADJOURNED. SI YUUS MAASE

Committee Report Digest: Public Hearing [Bill No. 206-38 \(COR\)](#) – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), § 12206 AND ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND § 12207 (a) (5) TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”

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The Public Hearing was adjourned at 4:25 P.M.

II. Findings and Recommendations

The committee recognized the pressing need to diversify Guam’s healthcare workforce and acknowledged the significant contributions that foreign medical graduates can make in addressing physician shortages. Members noted that expanding licensure pathways would not only fill critical gaps in healthcare services but also enhance the quality and accessibility of care for Guam’s residents. The committee also found that implementing a local Conrad 30 J1 Physician Waiver Program would provide a structured and effective means of recruiting international physicians willing to serve in underserved areas on the island.

Based on the discussions during the hearing, the committee recommended moving forward with Bill 206, emphasizing the importance of maintaining rigorous standards for licensure while streamlining the process for qualified foreign medical graduates. The committee further recommended the prompt establishment of the local physician waiver program, alongside robust oversight mechanisms to ensure compliance and quality of care. These measures are expected to strengthen Guam’s healthcare system and improve health outcomes for the community.

The Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs hereby reports- out on [Bill No. 206-38 \(COR\)](#) As amended – Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), AND § 12206, ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND AMEND § 12207, ALL OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J-1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.”
With the recommendation TO REPORT OUT ONLY

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2025 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 206-38 (COR)

Introduced by:

Telo T. Taitague



AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW § 12202 (c), *AMEND* § 12205 (c), AND § 12206, *ADD* A NEW 12206.1, § 12207 (a) (5), § 12207 (b)(3), AND *AMEND* § 12207(c), ALL OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J-1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that Guam continues to experience severe shortages of licensed physicians, particularly in public health clinics, and specialty fields. These shortages have negatively impacted access to timely, high-quality healthcare services for the people of Guam and have strained the island’s only public hospital and community health centers. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that foreign medical graduates (FMGs), many of whom are U.S.-trained and certified through rigorous standards such as those established by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), represent a critical and underutilized pool of qualified medical professionals. Recognizing the World Directory of Medical Schools (WDMS) and allowing for ECFMG certification as a benchmark ensures that only

1 physicians trained at credible, internationally recognized institutions are eligible
2 for licensure consideration. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the current licensure
3 pathway in Guam does not provide sufficient flexibility to recognize FMGs with
4 appropriate credentials who are already licensed in other U.S. jurisdictions or have
5 passed equivalent international medical examinations. Updating Guam’s licensure
6 laws to allow for endorsement and special licensure of qualified FMGs will
7 modernize Guam’s medical licensing system, harmonize it with national best
8 practices, and help address longstanding provider gaps.

9 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that amending current law to ensure that
10 qualified FMGs are not excluded from Guam’s workforce solely due to differences
11 in jurisdictional training pathways will strengthen the Guam Board of Medical
12 Examiners’ authority to apply appropriate, internationally recognized credentialing
13 standards for FMG applicants.

14 Furthermore, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the federal Conrad 30 J-1
15 Waiver Program, which permits U.S.-trained FMGs in J-1 visa status to remain in
16 the United States by serving in designated shortage areas for three years, offers a
17 valuable recruitment tool that Guam has not fully leveraged. Establishing the
18 statutory framework to implement this waiver program through the Department of
19 Public Health and Social Services will provide Guam with an additional
20 mechanism to retain skilled physicians and fill urgent care gaps, particularly in
21 underserved regions.

22 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* also recognizes that the greatest physician shortages
23 on island persist within Guam’s public healthcare system, including the Guam
24 Memorial Hospital Authority, public health clinics, and other government of Guam
25 facilities. Prioritizing the placement of foreign medical graduates within these
26 institutions will help stabilize critical services, expand access to care for low-

1 income and medically underserved populations, and improve Guam’s ability to
2 meet Medicaid and Medicare service demands.

3 It is therefore the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to improve the availability
4 and quality of healthcare on Guam by taking critical steps to build a more resilient,
5 diverse, and sustainable healthcare workforce by expanding licensure pathways for
6 foreign medical graduates who meet high standards of training, certification, and
7 examination; clarifying that such graduates are governed by § 12206; authorizing
8 the Guam Board of Medical Examiners to accept equivalent international
9 examinations and credentials at its discretion; establishing targeted recruitment
10 efforts to attract FMGs in needed specialties; prioritizing their service in Guam’s
11 public health facilities; mandating proactive outreach by the Board and DPHSS to
12 identify, recruit, and support FMG candidates; and codifying the Guam Conrad 30
13 J-1 Physician Waiver Program to allow for the lawful and structured employment
14 of foreign-trained U.S. medical graduates in medically underserved areas of Guam

15 **Section 2.** A new § 12202 (c) is hereby *added* to Chapter 12, Title 10,
16 Guam Code Annotated, to read:

17 “(c) For the purposes of this article, the definition of “Graduates of Foreign
18 Medical Schools” means individuals who obtained a degree in medicine,
19 osteopathy, or podiatry outside the United States or Canada, which would qualify
20 the individual to practice medicine, osteopathy, or podiatry in the jurisdiction in
21 which the degree was obtained.”

22 **Section 3.** § 12205 (c) of Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
23 hereby *amended*, to read:

24 “(c) The applicant shall have satisfactorily completed at least thirty-six (36)
25 months of progressive postgraduate medical training approved by the Board or by
26 a private nonprofit accrediting body approved by the Board in an institution in the
27 United States, its territories or possessions, or Canada approved by the Board or by

1 a private nonprofit accrediting body approved by the Board. Provided, however,
2 that this subsection shall not apply to applicants who are graduates of foreign
3 medical schools governed by § 12206 of this Chapter. Such applicants shall be
4 subject to the postgraduate training requirements, credentialing standards, and
5 licensure conditions set forth in § 12206 and any regulations promulgated
6 thereunder.”

7 **Section 4.** § 12206 of Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
8 *amended*, to read:

9 **“§ 12206. Graduates of Foreign Medical Schools.**

10 (a) ~~Such a~~ Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall
11 possess the degree of Doctor of Medicine or Osteopathy, Bachelor of Medicine or
12 Osteopathy, or a Board-approved equivalent based on satisfactory completion of
13 educational programs acceptable to the Board.

14 (b) ~~Such a~~ Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall be
15 eligible by virtue of their medical education and training for unrestricted licensure
16 or authorization to practice medicine in the country in which they received that
17 education and training.

18 (c) ~~Such a~~ Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall
19 have passed an examination acceptable to the Board that adequately assesses the
20 applicants’ basic medical knowledge.

21 (d) ~~Such a~~ Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall be
22 certified by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates or its
23 Board approved successor(s), or by an equivalent Board approved entity.

24 (e) ~~Such a~~ Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall
25 have a demonstrated command of the English or Chamorro language satisfactory to
26 the Board.

1 (f) The Board shall be authorized to establish regulations requiring all
2 Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools to satisfactorily complete
3 at least thirty-six (36) months of Board approved, progressive postgraduate
4 medical training.

5 (g) The Board shall adopt a rule related to recognizing and authenticating
6 educational credentials for applicants who are graduates of foreign medical
7 schools, such rule shall include a requirement that the education be recognized by
8 one or more medical education credentialing bodies, such as, but not limited to the
9 World Director of Medical Schools or the Education Commission of Foreign
10 Medical Graduates. All credentials, diplomas and other required documentation in
11 a foreign language submitted to the Board by or on behalf of ~~such~~ applicants who
12 are graduates of foreign medical schools shall be accompanied by notarized
13 English translations acceptable to the Board.

14 (h) The Board shall adopt rules in a manner intended to recruit foreign
15 medical graduates, particularly in specialty areas where Guam lacks adequate
16 provider coverage.

17 (i ~~h~~) Such a Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall
18 have satisfied all of the applicable requirements of the United States Immigration
19 and Naturalization Service, including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security
20 and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services regulations governing J-1 and H-
21 1B physician waivers.

22 (j) Priority for Service in Public Health Facilities. Applicants who are
23 graduates of foreign medical schools and are licensed pursuant to this Chapter shall
24 give priority to the practice of medicine within the Guam Memorial Hospital
25 Authority (GMHA), Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS),
26 the Community Health Centers, or other government of Guam healthcare agencies

1 and facilities, particularly in medically underserved areas or in specialties
2 identified by the Guam Board of Medical Examiners as critical shortage areas.

3 The Guam Board of Medical Examiners, in coordination with the
4 Department of Public Health and Social Services, shall adopt rules and regulations
5 to encourage and facilitate the placement of such licensed foreign medical
6 graduates in public healthcare settings, including through memoranda of
7 understanding, employment agreements, or service incentives. Preference for
8 participation in recruitment initiatives, waiver programs, and expedited licensure
9 pathways established under this Chapter shall be given to applicants who agree to
10 serve in these public health facilities for a minimum of three (3) years.”

11 **Section 5.** A new § 12206.1 is *added* to Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code
12 Annotated, to read:

13 **“§ 12206.1 Guam Conrad 30 J-1 Physician Waiver Program.**

14 (a) The Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) is
15 designated as the state-equivalent health agency authorized to administer Guam’s
16 Conrad 30 J-1 Physician Waiver Program pursuant to federal law.

17 (b) DPHSS shall coordinate with the Guam Board of Medical Examiners to:

18 (1) Review and prioritize waiver requests from J-1 foreign
19 medical graduates;

20 (2) Develop application guidelines, service area criteria, and
21 specialty needs;

22 (3) Ensure eligible physicians agree to practice full-time for a
23 minimum of three (3) years in a designated Health Professional Shortage Area
24 (HPSA), Medically Underserved Area (MUA), or facility serving a Medically
25 Underserved Population (MUP);

26 (4) Verify employment contracts, licensure eligibility, and
27 facility qualifications;

1 (5) Monitor compliance and report annually to *I Liheslaturan*
2 *Guåhan* on the number of waivers requested, approved, utilized, and any
3 compliance issues.

4 (c) DPHSS may establish additional policies to allocate waiver slots by
5 specialty, facility need, or geographic region, and shall promulgate rules and
6 regulations for program implementation."

7 **Section 6.** § 12207 of Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
8 hereby *amended*, to read:

9 **“ § 12207. Licensure by Endorsement and Temporary and Special Licensure.**

10 (a) Licensure Without Examination. The Board is authorized, at its
11 discretion, to issue a license by endorsement to an applicant who:

12 (1) has complied with all current medical licensing requirements save
13 that for examination;

14 (2) has passed a medical licensing examination given in English in
15 another state, the District of Columbia, a territory or possession of the
16 United States or Canada, provided the Board determines that examination
17 was equivalent to its own current examination;

18 (3) has a valid current medical license in another state, the District of
19 Columbia, a territory or possession of the United States or Canada; and

20 (4) Required to take SPEX if last examination was taken more than
21 ten (10) years ago.

22 (5) holds a valid certification issued by the Educational Commission
23 for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) or its Board approved
24 successor(s), or by an equivalent Board approved entity; and has passed a
25 medical licensing examination comparable to the United States Medical

1 Licensing Examination (USMLE), or another examination approved by the
2 Board.

3 (b) Endorsement for Certified Applicants: The Board is authorized, at its
4 discretion, to issue a license by endorsement to an applicant who:

5 (1) has complied with all current medical licensing requirements save
6 that for examination; and

7 (2) has passed the examination of and been certified by a certifying
8 agency recognized by the Board (e.g., the National Board of Medical
9 Examiners or the National Board of Examiners for Osteopathic Physicians
10 and Surgeons), provided the Board determines that examination was
11 equivalent to its own current examination and was not a specialty board
12 examination.

13 (3) has passed an international medical licensing examination
14 comparable to the USMLE, as determined by the Board, and is verified by
15 the ECFMG or its Board approved successor(s), or by an equivalent Board
16 approved entity.

17 (c) Endorsement Examination: Notwithstanding any other provisions of the
18 act, the Board is authorized to require applicants for full and unrestricted medical
19 licensure by endorsement who have not been formally tested by a United States or
20 Canadian medical licensing jurisdiction, or a comparable international medical
21 licensing exam, a Board-approved medical certifying agency or a Board-approved
22 medical specialty board within a specific period of time before application (e.g.
23 eight (8) or ten (10) years to pass a written and/or oral medical examination
24 approved by the Board for that purpose.) ”

1 **Section 7. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
2 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity
3 shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Act which can be given
4 effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end, the provisions
5 of this Act are severable.

6 **Section 8. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment.

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2025 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 206-38 (COR)

As Amended by the Committee on Health
and Veterans Affairs

Introduced by:

Telo T. Taitague

AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW § 12202 (c), *AMEND* § 12205 (c), AND § 12206, *ADD* A NEW 12206.1 AND *AMEND* § 12207, ALL OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J-1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that Guam continues to experience severe shortages of licensed physicians, particularly in specialty fields. These shortages have negatively impacted access to timely, high-quality healthcare services for the people of Guam. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that foreign medical graduates (FMGs), many of whom are U.S. trained or have completed rigorous postgraduate medical education consistent with or substantially equivalent to Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) standards and have obtained certification through recognized credentialing bodies such as the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), represent a critical and underutilized pool of qualified medical professionals.

1 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that despite the availability of these qualified
2 physicians, the current licensure pathway in Guam does not provide sufficient
3 flexibility to recognize FMGs who have completed appropriate postgraduate
4 training, who are licensed in other U.S. jurisdictions, or have passed comparable
5 international medical examinations. As a result, otherwise qualified physicians
6 may face unnecessary barriers to practice on Guam.

7 Furthermore, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that Guam is already eligible to
8 participate in the federal Conrad 30 J-1 Waiver Program, which permits U.S.-
9 trained FMGs in J-1 visa status to remain in the United States by serving in
10 designated shortage areas for three (3) years. However, this program has not been
11 fully utilized as a recruitment tool to address physician shortages on Guam. This
12 Act does not create or expand the program or alter federal eligibility requirements.
13 Rather, it codifies into Guam law the designation of the Department of Public
14 Health and Social Services as the state-equivalent health agency responsible for
15 administering the program in accordance with federal law and establishes reporting
16 requirements to promote transparency and more effective utilization of available
17 waiver opportunities.

18 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* therefore finds that amending current law to clarify
19 recognition of substantially equivalent training, expand licensure by endorsement
20 where appropriate, and ensure that qualified FMGs are not excluded solely due to
21 differences in jurisdictional training pathways will modernize Guam’s medical
22 licensing system, harmonize it with national best practices, and strengthen the
23 Guam Board of Medical Examiners’ authority to apply rigorous, internationally
24 recognized credentialing standards. This Act further clarifies Guam’s participation
25 in the federal Conrad 30 J-1 Physician Waiver Program by codifying the
26 designation of the Department of Public Health and Social Services as the state-

1 equivalent health agency responsible for administering the program in accordance
2 with federal law.

3 **Section 2.** A new § 12202 (c) is hereby *added* to Chapter 12, Title 10,
4 Guam Code Annotated, to read:

5 “(c) For the purposes of this article, the definition of “Graduates of Foreign
6 Medical Schools” means individuals who obtained a degree in medicine,
7 osteopathy, or podiatry outside the United States or Canada, which would qualify
8 the individual to practice medicine, osteopathy, or podiatry in the jurisdiction in
9 which the degree was obtained.””

10 **Section 3.** § 12205 (c) of Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
11 hereby *amended*, to read:

12 “(c) The applicant shall have satisfactorily completed at least thirty-six (36)
13 months of progressive postgraduate medical training approved by the Board or by
14 a private nonprofit accrediting body approved by the Board in an institution in the
15 United States, its territories or possessions, or Canada approved by the Board or by
16 a private nonprofit accrediting body approved by the Board. Provided, however,
17 that this subsection shall not apply to applicants who are graduates of foreign
18 medical schools governed by § 12206 of this Chapter. Such applicants shall be
19 subject to the postgraduate training requirements, credentialing standards, and
20 licensure conditions set forth in § 12206 and any regulations promulgated
21 thereunder.””

22 **Section 4.** § 12206 of Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
23 *amended*, to read:

24 **“§ 12206. Graduates of Foreign Medical Schools.**

25 (a) ~~Such a~~ Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall
26 possess the degree of Doctor of Medicine or Osteopathy, Bachelor of Medicine or

1 Osteopathy, or a Board-approved equivalent based on satisfactory completion of
2 educational programs acceptable to the Board.

3 (b) ~~Such a~~ Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall be
4 eligible by virtue of their medical education and training for unrestricted licensure
5 or authorization to practice medicine in the country in which they received that
6 education and training.

7 (c) ~~Such a~~ Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall
8 have passed an examination acceptable to the Board that adequately assesses the
9 applicants' basic medical knowledge.

10 (d) ~~Such a~~ Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall be
11 certified by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates or its
12 Board approved successor(s), or by an equivalent Board approved entity.

13 (e) ~~Such a~~ Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall
14 have a demonstrated command of the English or Chamorro language satisfactory to
15 the Board.

16 (f) The Board shall be authorized to establish regulations requiring all
17 Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools to satisfactorily complete
18 at least thirty-six (36) months of Board approved, progressive postgraduate
19 medical training. Applicants shall complete no less than thirty-six (36) months of
20 postgraduate training, which may include training completed outside the United
21 States if the Board determines such training to be substantially equivalent to
22 Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) standards. For
23 the purposes of this Chapter, "substantially equivalent" means postgraduate
24 training that includes supervised, progressively responsible clinical experience
25 with structured assessment of competency, and that is recognized by an accrediting
26 authority or governmental medical education regulator deemed acceptable by the
27 Board.

1 (g) The Board shall adopt a rule related to recognizing and authenticating
2 educational credentials for applicants who are graduates of foreign medical
3 schools. Such rule shall include a requirement that the graduate’s education be
4 recognized by one or more medical education credentialing bodies, such as, but not
5 limited to the Education Commission of Foreign Medical Graduates. Such rule
6 may include consideration of whether the applicant’s medical school is listed in the
7 World Directory of Medical Schools (WDMS). All credentials, diplomas and other
8 required documentation in a foreign language submitted to the Board by or on
9 behalf of such applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall be
10 accompanied by notarized English translations acceptable to the Board.

11 (h) ~~Such a~~ Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall
12 have satisfied all of the applicable requirements of the United States Immigration
13 and Naturalization Service, including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security
14 and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services regulations governing J-1 and H-
15 1B physician waivers.

16 (i) Competency Standards. In evaluating an applicant who is a graduate of a
17 foreign medical school for licensure under this Chapter, the Board shall require
18 evidence of competency in the following domains, consistent with U.S. graduate
19 medical education standards: Patient Care; Medical Knowledge; Practice-Based
20 Learning and Improvement; Interpersonal and Communication Skills;
21 Professionalism; and Systems-Based Practice. The Board shall promulgate rules
22 establishing acceptable methods of documentation and evaluation of such
23 competencies.

24 **Section 5.** A new § 12206.1 is *added* to Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code
25 Annotated, to read:

26 **“§ 12206.1 Guam Conrad 30 J-1 Physician Waiver Program.**

1 (a) The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) is
2 designated as the state-equivalent health agency for Guam for purposes of
3 administering the Conrad 30 J-1 Physician Waiver Program pursuant to federal law.

4 (b) DPHSS shall administer the program in accordance with applicable federal
5 statutes, regulations, and United States Department of State guidance governing the
6 Conrad 30 J-1 Physician Waiver Program.

7 (c) DPSS shall submit an annual report to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* detailing the
8 number of waiver applications received, recommended, approved, and any
9 compliance issues identified during the reporting period.

10 **Section 6.** § 12207 of Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
11 hereby *amended*, to read:

12 “ **§ 12207. Licensure by Endorsement and Temporary and Special Licensure.**

13 (a) Licensure Without Examination. The Board is authorized, at its
14 discretion, to issue a license by endorsement to an applicant who:

15 (1) has complied with all current medical licensing requirements save
16 that for examination;

17 (2) has passed a medical licensing examination given in English in
18 another state, the District of Columbia, a territory or possession of the
19 United States or Canada, provided the Board determines that examination
20 was equivalent to its own current examination;

21 (3) has a valid current medical license in another state, the District of
22 Columbia, a territory or possession of the United States or Canada; and

23 (4) Required to take SPEX if last examination was taken more than
24 ten (10) years ago.

1 (5) holds a valid certification issued by the Educational Commission
2 for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) or its Board approved
3 successor(s), or by an equivalent Board approved entity; and has passed a
4 medical licensing examination comparable to the United States Medical
5 Licensing Examination (USMLE), or another examination approved by the
6 Board.

7 (b) Endorsement for Certified Applicants: The Board is authorized, at its
8 discretion, to issue a license by endorsement to an applicant who:

9 (1) has complied with all current medical licensing requirements save
10 that for examination; and

11 (2) has passed the examination of and been certified by a certifying
12 agency recognized by the Board (e.g., the National Board of Medical
13 Examiners or the National Board of Examiners for Osteopathic Physicians
14 and Surgeons), provided the Board determines that examination was
15 equivalent to its own current examination and was not a specialty board
16 examination.

17 (3) has passed an international medical licensing examination
18 comparable to the USMLE, as determined by the Board, and is verified by
19 the ECFMG or its Board approved successor(s), or by an equivalent Board
20 approved entity.

21 (c) Endorsement Examination: Notwithstanding any other provisions of the
22 act, the Board is authorized to require applicants for full and unrestricted medical
23 licensure by endorsement who have not been formally tested by a United States or
24 Canadian medical licensing jurisdiction, or a comparable international medical
25 licensing exam, a Board-approved medical certifying agency or a Board-approved

1 medical specialty board within a specific period of time before application (e.g.
2 eight (8) or ten (10) years to pass a written and/or oral medical examination
3 approved by the Board for that purpose.)

4 (d) Provisional License- Foreign Medical Graduates. Notwithstanding
5 subsections (a) and (b), the Board may require an applicant who completed
6 postgraduate training outside an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical
7 Education (ACGME)- accredited program, to complete a period of supervised
8 provisional licensure prior to issuance of unrestricted licensure.

9 (1) A provisional license issued pursuant to this subsection shall be
10 limited to practice under supervision in an approved facility;

11 (2) During the provisional licensure period, the applicant shall not
12 engage in independent practice and shall practice only within the
13 scope approved by the Board and supervising physician. The Board
14 may impose reasonable limitations on clinical privileges, procedural
15 authority, prescribing authority, on-call responsibilities, and other
16 practice activities as necessary to ensure patient safety;

17 (3) The applicant shall submit a Board-approved supervision plan
18 identifying the supervising physician(s), scope of practice, and
19 evaluation schedule, a method of oversight, including frequency of
20 review and documentation requirements;

21 (4) The provisional period shall not exceed twelve (12) months,
22 renewable once for good cause; and

23 (5) Conversion to unrestricted licensure shall require documented
24 competency-based evaluations.

1 (~~e~~) Temporary Licensure. The Board is authorized to establish regulations
2 for issuance of a temporary medical license for the intervals between Board
3 meetings. Such a license should:

4 (1) be granted only to an applicant demonstrably qualified for a full
5 and unrestricted medical license under the requirements set by the Medical
6 Practice Act and the regulations of the Board; and

7 (2) automatically terminate on the date of the next Board meeting at
8 which the holder could be considered for a full and unrestricted medical
9 license.

10 (~~f~~) Special Purpose License to Practice Medicine Across Guam/State Lines.
11 The Board is authorized, at its discretion, to issue a special purpose license to
12 practice medicine across Guam lines to an applicant who:

13 (1) holds a full and unrestricted license to practice in at least one (1)
14 other state or United States jurisdiction;

15 (2) has not had previous disciplinary or other action taken against him
16 or her by any state or jurisdiction; and

17 (3) must be at least qualified to be licensed in Guam. Exceptions to
18 the special purpose license to practice medicine across Guam lines include
19 the following:

20 (A) the practice of medicine across state lines by a licensed
21 physician on an irregular or infrequent basis, provided such practice
22 occurs less than once a week or involves less than one percent (1%) of
23 the physician's diagnostic or therapeutic practice;

24 (B) the informal practice of medicine by a licensed physician is
25 without compensation or expectation of compensation. (The practice
26 of medicine conducted within the parameters of a contractual

1 relationship shall not be considered informal and shall be subject to
2 regulation by the Guam Board of Medical Examiners.);

3 (C) physician specialist, or field of authority is not available
4 locally; and

5 (D) the practice of medicine in terms of diagnosis and treatment
6 of a patient is under the responsibility of a locally licensed physician.

7 (g) Special Licensure. The Board is authorized to issue conditional,
8 restricted or otherwise circumscribed licenses as it determines necessary.

9 (h) Military Limited Volunteer Medical License.

10 (1) A physician who practices medicine on Guam under a license
11 issued pursuant to this Subsection may only practice at the Department of
12 Public Health and Social Services, the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority,
13 the Community Health Centers, or a clinic or outreach event that
14 primarily provides services for indigent populations, and the physician shall
15 not receive direct or indirect compensation or payment of anything of
16 monetary value in exchange for the medical services rendered by the
17 physician to the indigent patients.

18 (2) The Board is authorized to issue a Military Limited Volunteer
19 Medical License to an applicant who:

20 (A) is licensed and in good standing as a physician in another
21 state;

22 (B) maintains credentials within the military credentialing
23 system and authorizes the Guambased Military Credentialing Office
24 to provide to the Guam Board of Medical Examiners the required
25 verification documents and military commander's approval; and

26 (C) agrees to be subject to Board rules and regulations,
27 including those regarding disciplinary action, license registration and

1 renewal, and continuing medical education, throughout the duration of
2 the Military Limited Volunteer Medical licensure.

3 (3) A Military Limited Volunteer Medical License shall be issued

4 (A) at no charge to the applicant,

5 (B) be valid for a period of two (2) years, and

6 (C) may be renewed and maintained according to registration
7 requirements as prescribed by the Board.

8 (4) The license shall be in effect upon receipt of the application packet
9 by the Guam Board of Medical Examiners subject to final review.

10 This presumptive eligibility for licensure is contingent upon

11 (A) the appropriate military commander's authorization
12 allowing the physician to practice in the community, and

13 (B) the appropriate collaborative sharing of information
14 between the Military Credentialing Office and the Guam Board of
15 Medical Examiners.

16 **Section 7. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
17 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity
18 shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Act which can be given
19 effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end, the provisions
20 of this Act are severable.

21 **Section 8. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment.

COMMITTEE MARKUP VERSION

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I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2025 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 206-38 (COR)

As Amended by the Committee on Health
and Veterans Affairs

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Introduced by: Telo T. Taitague

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AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), AND § 12206, ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND AMEND § 12207, ALL OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J-1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.

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Deleted: (c)

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:
2 Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 that Guam continues to experience severe shortages of licensed physicians,
4 particularly in specialty fields. These shortages have negatively impacted access to
5 timely, high-quality healthcare services for the people of Guam. *I Liheslaturan*
6 *Guåhan* further finds that foreign medical graduates (FMGs), many of whom are
7 U.S. trained or have completed rigorous postgraduate medical education consistent
8 with or substantially equivalent to Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical
9 Education (ACGME) standards and have obtained certification through recognized
10 credentialing bodies such as the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical
11 Graduates (ECFMG), represent a critical and underutilized pool of qualified
12 medical professionals.

Deleted: public health clinics, and

Deleted: and have strained the island's only public hospital and community health centers

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1 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that ~~despite the availability of these qualified~~
2 ~~physicians,~~ the current licensure pathway in Guam does not provide sufficient
3 flexibility to recognize FMGs ~~who have completed appropriate postgraduate~~
4 ~~training,~~ who are licensed in other U.S. jurisdictions, ~~or have passed comparable~~
5 international medical examinations. ~~As a result, otherwise qualified physicians~~
6 ~~may face unnecessary barriers to practice on Guam.~~

Deleted: Recognizing the World Directory of Medical Schools (WDMS) and allowing for ECFMG certification as a benchmark ensures that only physicians trained at credible, internationally recognized institutions are eligible for licensure consideration.

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7 Furthermore, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that ~~Guam is already eligible to~~
8 ~~participate in~~ the federal Conrad 30 J-1 Waiver Program, which permits U.S.-
9 trained FMGs in J-1 visa status to remain in the United States by serving in
10 designated shortage areas for three (3) years. ~~However, this program has not been~~
11 ~~fully utilized as a recruitment tool to address physician shortages on Guam. This~~
12 ~~Act does not create or expand the program or alter federal eligibility requirements.~~
13 ~~Rather, it codifies into Guam law the designation of the Department of Public~~
14 ~~Health and Social Services as the state-equivalent health agency responsible for~~
15 ~~administering the program in accordance with federal law and establishes reporting~~
16 ~~requirements to promote transparency and more effective utilization of available~~
17 ~~waiver opportunities.~~

Deleted: Updating Guam’s licensure laws to allow for endorsement and special licensure of qualified FMGs will modernize Guam’s medical licensing system, harmonize it with national best practices, and help address longstanding provider gaps.¶
I Liheslaturan Guåhan further finds that amending current law to ensure that qualified FMGs are not excluded from Guam’s workforce solely due to differences in jurisdictional training pathways will strengthen the Guam Board of Medical Examiners’ authority to apply appropriate, internationally recognized credentialing standards for FMG applicants.¶

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18 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* therefore finds that ~~amending current law to clarify~~
19 ~~recognition of substantially equivalent training, expand licensure by endorsement~~
20 ~~where appropriate, and ensure that qualified FMGs are not excluded solely due to~~
21 ~~differences in jurisdictional training pathways will modernize Guam’s medical~~
22 ~~licensing system, harmonize it with national best practices, and strengthen the~~
23 ~~Guam Board of Medical Examiners’ authority to apply rigorous, internationally~~
24 ~~recognized credentialing standards. This Act further clarifies Guam’s participation~~
25 ~~in the federal Conrad 30 J-1 Physician Waiver Program by codifying the~~
26 ~~designation of the Department of Public Health and Social Services as the state-~~

Deleted: , offers a valuable recruitment tool that Guam has not fully leveraged. Establishing the statutory framework to implement this waiver program through the Department of Public Health and Social Services will provide Guam with an additional mechanism to retain skilled physicians and fill urgent care gaps, particularly in underserved regions.¶
/

Deleted: *Liheslaturan Guåhan* also recognizes that the greatest physician shortages on island persist within Guam’s public healthcare system, including the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, public health clinics, and other government of Guam facilities. Prioritizing the placement of foreign medical graduates within these institutions will help stabilize critical services, expand access to care for low-income and medically underserved populations, and improve Guam’s ability to meet Medicaid and Medicare service demands.

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1 equivalent health agency responsible for administering the program in accordance
2 with federal law.

3 **Section 2.** A new § 12202 (c) is hereby *added* to Chapter 12, Title 10,
4 Guam Code Annotated, to read:

5 “ (c) For the purposes of this article, the definition of “Graduates of Foreign
6 Medical Schools” means individuals who obtained a degree in medicine,
7 osteopathy, or podiatry outside the United States or Canada, which would qualify
8 the individual to practice medicine, osteopathy, or podiatry in the jurisdiction in
9 which the degree was obtained.”

10 **Section 3.** § 12205 (c) of Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
11 hereby *amended*, to read:

12 “ (c) The applicant shall have satisfactorily completed at least thirty-six (36)
13 months of progressive postgraduate medical training approved by the Board or by
14 a private nonprofit accrediting body approved by the Board in an institution in the
15 United States, its territories or possessions, or Canada approved by the Board or by
16 a private nonprofit accrediting body approved by the Board. Provided, however,
17 that this subsection shall not apply to applicants who are graduates of foreign
18 medical schools governed by § 12206 of this Chapter. Such applicants shall be
19 subject to the postgraduate training requirements, credentialing standards, and
20 licensure conditions set forth in § 12206 and any regulations promulgated
21 thereunder.”

22 **Section 4.** § 12206 of Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
23 *amended*, to read:

24 “**§ 12206. Graduates of Foreign Medical Schools.**

25 (a) ~~Such a~~ Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall
26 possess the degree of Doctor of Medicine or Osteopathy, Bachelor of Medicine or

Deleted: It is therefore the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to improve the availability and quality of healthcare on Guam by taking critical steps to build a more resilient, diverse, and sustainable healthcare workforce by expanding licensure pathways for foreign medical graduates who meet high standards of training, certification, and examination; clarifying that such graduates are governed by § 12206; authorizing the Guam Board of Medical Examiners to accept equivalent international examinations and credentials at its discretion; establishing targeted recruitment efforts to attract FMGs in needed specialties; prioritizing their service in Guam’s public health facilities; mandating proactive outreach by the Board and DPHSS to identify, recruit, and support FMG candidates; and codifying the Guam Conrad 30 J-1 Physician Waiver Program to allow for the lawful and structured employment of foreign-trained U.S. medical graduates in medically underserved areas of Guam.

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1 Osteopathy, or a Board-approved equivalent based on satisfactory completion of
2 educational programs acceptable to the Board.

3 (b) ~~Such as~~ Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall be
4 eligible by virtue of their medical education and training for unrestricted licensure
5 or authorization to practice medicine in the country in which they received that
6 education and training.

7 (c) ~~Such as~~ Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall
8 have passed an examination acceptable to the Board that adequately assesses the
9 applicants' basic medical knowledge.

10 (d) ~~Such as~~ Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall be
11 certified by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates or its
12 Board approved successor(s), or by an equivalent Board approved entity.

13 (e) ~~Such as~~ Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall
14 have a demonstrated command of the English or Chamorro language satisfactory to
15 the Board.

16 (f) The Board shall be authorized to establish regulations requiring all
17 Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools to satisfactorily complete
18 at least thirty-six (36) months of Board approved, progressive postgraduate
19 medical training. Applicants shall complete no less than thirty-six (36) months of
20 postgraduate training, which may include training completed outside the United
21 States if the Board determines such training to be substantially equivalent to
22 Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) standards. For
23 the purposes of this Chapter, "substantially equivalent" means postgraduate
24 training that includes supervised, progressively responsible clinical experience
25 with structured assessment of competency, and that is recognized by an accrediting
26 authority or governmental medical education regulator deemed acceptable by the
27 Board.

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(g) The Board shall adopt a rule related to recognizing and authenticating educational credentials for applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools. Such rule shall include a requirement that the graduate's education be recognized by one or more medical education credentialing bodies, such as, but not limited to the Education Commission of Foreign Medical Graduates. Such rule may include consideration of whether the applicant's medical school is listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools (WDMS). All credentials, diplomas and other required documentation in a foreign language submitted to the Board by or on behalf of such applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall be accompanied by notarized English translations acceptable to the Board.

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(h) Such Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools shall have satisfied all of the applicable requirements of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services regulations governing J-1 and H-1B physician waivers.

Deleted: (h) The Board shall adopt rules in a manner intended to recruit foreign medical graduates, particularly in specialty areas where Guam lacks adequate provider coverage.

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(i) Competency Standards. In evaluating an applicant who is a graduate of a foreign medical school for licensure under this Chapter, the Board shall require evidence of competency in the following domains, consistent with U.S. graduate medical education standards: Patient Care; Medical Knowledge; Practice-Based Learning and Improvement; Interpersonal and Communication Skills; Professionalism; and Systems-Based Practice. The Board shall promulgate rules establishing acceptable methods of documentation and evaluation of such competencies.

Deleted: (i) Priority for Service in Public Health Facilities. Applicants who are graduates of foreign medical schools and are licensed pursuant to this Chapter shall give priority to the practice of medicine within the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA), Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), the Community Health Centers, or other government of Guam healthcare agencies and facilities, particularly in medically underserved areas or in specialties identified by the Guam Board of Medical Examiners as critical shortage areas.

The Guam Board of Medical Examiners, in coordination with the Department of Public Health and Social Services, shall adopt rules and regulations to encourage and facilitate the placement of such licensed foreign medical graduates in public healthcare settings, including through memoranda of understanding, employment agreements, or service incentives. Preference for participation in recruitment initiatives, waiver programs, and expedited licensure pathways established under this Chapter shall be given to applicants who agree to serve in these public health facilities for a minimum of three (3) years.

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Section 5. A new § 12206.1 is added to Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, to read:
“§ 12206.1 Guam Conrad 30 J-1 Physician Waiver Program.

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1 (a) The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) is
2 designated as the state-equivalent health agency for Guam for purposes of
3 administering the Conrad 30 J-1 Physician Waiver Program pursuant to federal law.

Deleted: The Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) is designated as the state-equivalent health agency authorized to administer Guam's Conrad 30 J-1 Physician Waiver Program pursuant to federal law.

4 (b) DPHSS shall administer the program in accordance with applicable federal
5 statutes, regulations, and United States Department of State guidance governing the
6 Conrad 30 J-1 Physician Waiver Program.

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7 (c) DPSS shall submit an annual report to *Liheslaturan Guåhan* detailing the
8 number of waiver applications received, recommended, approved, and any
9 compliance issues identified during the reporting period.

10 **Section 6.** § 12207 of Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
11 hereby *amended*, to read:

Deleted: (b) DPHSS shall coordinate with the Guam Board of Medical Examiners to:
→ (1) Review and prioritize waiver requests from J-1 foreign medical graduates;
→ (2) Develop application guidelines, service area criteria, and specialty needs;
→ (3) Ensure eligible physicians agree to practice full-time for a minimum of three (3) years in a designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA), Medically Underserved Area (MUA), or facility serving a Medically Underserved Population (MUP);
→ (4) Verify employment contracts, licensure eligibility, and facility qualifications;
→ (5) Monitor compliance and report annually to *Liheslaturan Guåhan* on the number of waivers requested, approved, utilized, and any compliance issues.
(c) DPHSS may establish additional policies to allocate waiver slots by specialty, facility need, or geographic region, and shall promulgate rules and regulations for program implementation."

12 “ § 12207. **Licensure by Endorsement and Temporary and Special Licensure.**

13 (a) Licensure Without Examination. The Board is authorized, at its
14 discretion, to issue a license by endorsement to an applicant who:

15 (1) has complied with all current medical licensing requirements save
16 that for examination;

17 (2) has passed a medical licensing examination given in English in
18 another state, the District of Columbia, a territory or possession of the
19 United States or Canada, provided the Board determines that examination
20 was equivalent to its own current examination;

21 (3) has a valid current medical license in another state, the District of
22 Columbia, a territory or possession of the United States or Canada; and

23 (4) Required to take SPEX if last examination was taken more than
24 ten (10) years ago.

1 (5) holds a valid certification issued by the Educational Commission
2 for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) or its Board approved
3 successor(s), or by an equivalent Board approved entity; and has passed a
4 medical licensing examination comparable to the United States Medical
5 Licensing Examination (USMLE), or another examination approved by the
6 Board.

7 (b) Endorsement for Certified Applicants: The Board is authorized, at its
8 discretion, to issue a license by endorsement to an applicant who:

9 (1) has complied with all current medical licensing requirements save
10 that for examination; and

11 (2) has passed the examination of and been certified by a certifying
12 agency recognized by the Board (e.g., the National Board of Medical
13 Examiners or the National Board of Examiners for Osteopathic Physicians
14 and Surgeons), provided the Board determines that examination was
15 equivalent to its own current examination and was not a specialty board
16 examination.

17 (3) has passed an international medical licensing examination
18 comparable to the USMLE, as determined by the Board, and is verified by
19 the ECFMG or its Board approved successor(s), or by an equivalent Board
20 approved entity.

21 (c) Endorsement Examination: Notwithstanding any other provisions of the
22 act, the Board is authorized to require applicants for full and unrestricted medical
23 licensure by endorsement who have not been formally tested by a United States or
24 Canadian medical licensing jurisdiction, or a comparable international medical
25 licensing exam, a Board-approved medical certifying agency or a Board-approved

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1 medical specialty board within a specific period of time before application (e.g.
2 eight (8) or ten (10) years to pass a written and/or oral medical examination
3 approved by the Board for that purpose.)

Deleted: ”

4 (d) Provisional License- Foreign Medical Graduates. Notwithstanding
5 subsections (a) and (b), the Board may require an applicant who completed
6 postgraduate training outside an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical
7 Education (ACGME)- accredited program, to complete a period of supervised
8 provisional licensure prior to issuance of unrestricted licensure.

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9 (1) A provisional license issued pursuant to this subsection shall be
10 limited to practice under supervision in an approved facility;

11 (2) During the provisional licensure period, the applicant shall not
12 engage in independent practice and shall practice only within the
13 scope approved by the Board and supervising physician. The Board
14 may impose reasonable limitations on clinical privileges, procedural
15 authority, prescribing authority, on-call responsibilities, and other
16 practice activities as necessary to ensure patient safety;

17 (3) The applicant shall submit a Board-approved supervision plan
18 identifying the supervising physician(s), scope of practice, and
19 evaluation schedule, a method of oversight, including frequency of
20 review and documentation requirements;

21 (4) The provisional period shall not exceed twelve (12) months,
22 renewable once for good cause; and

23 (5) Conversion to unrestricted licensure shall require documented
24 competency-based evaluations.

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1 (e) Temporary Licensure. The Board is authorized to establish regulations
2 for issuance of a temporary medical license for the intervals between Board
3 meetings. Such a license should:

4 (1) be granted only to an applicant demonstrably qualified for a full
5 and unrestricted medical license under the requirements set by the Medical
6 Practice Act and the regulations of the Board; and

7 (2) automatically terminate on the date of the next Board meeting at
8 which the holder could be considered for a full and unrestricted medical
9 license.

10 (f) Special Purpose License to Practice Medicine Across Guam/State Lines.
11 The Board is authorized, at its discretion, to issue a special purpose license to
12 practice medicine across Guam lines to an applicant who:

13 (1) holds a full and unrestricted license to practice in at least one (1)
14 other state or United States jurisdiction;

15 (2) has not had previous disciplinary or other action taken against him
16 or her by any state or jurisdiction; and

17 (3) must be at least qualified to be licensed in Guam. Exceptions to
18 the special purpose license to practice medicine across Guam lines include
19 the following:

20 (A) the practice of medicine across state lines by a licensed
21 physician on an irregular or infrequent basis, provided such practice
22 occurs less than once a week or involves less than one percent (1%) of
23 the physician's diagnostic or therapeutic practice;

24 (B) the informal practice of medicine by a licensed physician is
25 without compensation or expectation of compensation. (The practice
26 of medicine conducted within the parameters of a contractual

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1 relationship shall not be considered informal and shall be subject to
2 regulation by the Guam Board of Medical Examiners.);

3 (C) physician specialist, or field of authority is not available
4 locally; and

5 (D) the practice of medicine in terms of diagnosis and treatment
6 of a patient is under the responsibility of a locally licensed physician.

7 (gf) Special Licensure. The Board is authorized to issue conditional,
8 restricted or otherwise circumscribed licenses as it determines necessary.

9 (hg) Military Limited Volunteer Medical License.

10 (1) A physician who practices medicine on Guam under a license
11 issued pursuant to this Subsection may only practice at the Department of
12 Public Health and Social Services, the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority,
13 the Community Health Centers, or a clinic or outreach event that
14 primarily provides services for indigent populations, and the physician shall
15 not receive direct or indirect compensation or payment of anything of
16 monetary value in exchange for the medical services rendered by the
17 physician to the indigent patients.

18 (2) The Board is authorized to issue a Military Limited Volunteer
19 Medical License to an applicant who:

20 (A) is licensed and in good standing as a physician in another
21 state;

22 (B) maintains credentials within the military credentialing
23 system and authorizes the Guambased Military Credentialing Office
24 to provide to the Guam Board of Medical Examiners the required
25 verification documents and military commander's approval; and

26 (C) agrees to be subject to Board rules and regulations,
27 including those regarding disciplinary action, license registration and

COMMITTEE MARKUP VERSION

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1 renewal, and continuing medical education, throughout the duration of
2 the Military Limited Volunteer Medical licensure.

3 (3) A Military Limited Volunteer Medical License shall be issued

4 (A) at no charge to the applicant,

5 (B) be valid for a period of two (2) years, and

6 (C) may be renewed and maintained according to registration

7 requirements as prescribed by the Board.

8 (4) The license shall be in effect upon receipt of the application packet
9 by the Guam Board of Medical Examiners subject to final review.

10 This presumptive eligibility for licensure is contingent upon

11 (A) the appropriate military commander's authorization

12 allowing the physician to practice in the community, and

13 (B) the appropriate collaborative sharing of information

14 between the Military Credentialing Office and the Guam Board of

15 Medical Examiners.

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16 **Section 7. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
17 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity
18 shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Act which can be given
19 effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end, the provisions
20 of this Act are severable.

21 **Section 8. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment.



COMMITTEE ON RULES

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Chairperson
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
38th Guam Legislature

November 4, 2025

To: **Rennae V. C. Meno**
Clerk of the Legislature

From: **Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada** 
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Subject: **Fiscal Note for Bill No. 206-38 (COR)**

Håfa Adai!

Find the attached, Fiscal Note for the following bill:

Bill No. 206-38 (COR).

I also request that the same be sent to the respective Chairperson of the Standing Committee, to which this bill has been referred. Kindly copy the same to Management Information Services (MIS) for posting on our website.



**Bureau of Budget & Management Research
Fiscal Note of Bill No. 206-38 (COR)**

AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12202 (c), AMEND § 12205 (c), § 12206 AND ADD A NEW 12206.1 AND § 12207 (a) (5) TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ON GUAM BY EXPANDING LICENSURE PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES AND ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CONRAD 30 J-1 PHYSICIAN WAIVER PROGRAM.

Department/Agency Appropriation Information

Dept./Agency Affected: Department of Public Health & Social Services	Dept./Agency Head: Theresa C. Arriola, Director
Department's General Fund (GF) appropriation(s) to date: Operations (\$59,693,405); Health Insurance Premiums for Foster Children (\$2,359,215); Child Protective Services Program (\$2,220,129); Bureau of Social Services Administration (\$7,558,215); Grants for Homelessness (\$500,000)	\$72,330,964
Department's Other Fund appropriation(s) to date: Environmental Health Fund (\$1,586,489); Health Professional Licensing Office Revolving Fund (\$333,181); Office of Vital Statistics Revolving Fund (\$224,713); DPHSS Sanitary Inspection Revolving Fund (\$481,089); Healthy Futures Fund for Guam Cancer Registry (\$389,144)	\$3,014,616
Total Department/Agency Appropriation(s) to date:	\$75,345,580

Fund Source Information of Proposed Appropriation

	General Fund:	(Specify Special Fund):	Total:
FY 2025 Unreserved Fund Balance		\$0	\$0
FY 2026 Adopted Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 2026 Appro. (P.L. 38-60)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sub-total:	\$0	\$0	\$0
Less appropriation in Bill	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total:	\$0	\$0	\$0

Estimated Fiscal Impact of Bill

	One Full Fiscal Year	For Remainder of FY 2026 (if applicable)	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Special Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total 1/	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

1. Does the bill contain "revenue generating" provisions? / / Yes / X / No
If Yes, see attachment
2. Is amount appropriated adequate to fund the intent of the appropriation? / X / N/A / / Yes / / No
If no, what is the additional amount required? \$ _____ / X / N/A
3. Does the Bill establish a new program/agency? / X / Yes / / No
If yes, will the program duplicate existing programs/agencies? / / N/A / / Yes / X / No
Is there a federal mandate to establish the program/agency? / / Yes / X / No
4. Will the enactment of this Bill require new physical facilities? / / Yes / X / No
5. Was Fiscal Note coordinated with the affected dept/agency? If no, indicate reason: / X / Yes / / No
/ / Requested agency comments not received by due date / / Other:

Analyst: 
Tyler Bautista, BMA II

Date: 10/31/2025

Director: 
Lester L. Carlson, Jr., Director

Date: NOV 04 2025

Notes:
1/ See attached comments.

BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH
COMMENTS ON BILL NO. 206-38 (COR)

The proposed legislation intends to add a new § 12202 (c), *amend* § 12205 (c), § 12206 and *add* a new 12206.1 and § 12207 (a)(5) to Article 2, Chapter 12, Title 10 Guam Code Annotated to build a more diverse and sustainable healthcare workforce on Guam by expanding licensure pathways for foreign medical graduates (FMGs) and to establish a local Conrad 30 J-1 physician waiver program.

Per the legislative findings and intent, Guam continues to experience severe shortages of licensed physicians in public health clinics and specialty fields which negatively impact timely, high-quality healthcare services. It is further stated that many of these FMGs are U.S. trained through standards under the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) which represents an underutilized pool of qualified medical professionals. Currently, the licensure pathway does not provide flexibility to utilize these FMGs, in which some are licensed in other U.S. jurisdictions. The proposed legislation seeks to expand the flexibility to allow for these FMGs to be licensed and practice on Guam to improve the availability and quality of healthcare services on Guam. Additionally, establishing a state-equivalent of the federal Conrad 30 J-1 Waiver Program on Guam will permit J-1 visa holders to serve in designated shortage areas for three (3) years, which offers a valuable recruitment tool for qualified and trained medical professionals. The Department of Public Health and Social Services will establish the statutory framework or the implementation of this program should the proposed legislation be enacted.

Per correspondence from the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) (attached) the proposed legislation seeks to address Guam's critical healthcare workforce shortage by adding new and amending sections of Article 2, Chapter 12, Title 10, GCA in which the Health Professional Licensing Office (HPLO) is the affected government instrumentality responsible for implementing the new provisions. Per the DPHSS, the proposed legislation mandates new and complex processes for evaluating credentials and qualifications of FMGs in addition to requiring the HPLO to create, certify, and administer a physician waiver program, inclusive of monitoring compliance with mandated service commitments. Although the HPLO, through DPHSS, supports the intent of the proposed legislation, there are new, unfunded responsibilities that necessitate significant operational and personnel augmentation if enacted.

Per the DPHSS, the fiscal impact on HPLO operations is estimated at \$158,354 for the first year of implementation to cover personnel, non-recurring and recurring operational costs. This funding will be used to cover two (2) full-time equivalents (FTEs) estimated at \$128,854, inclusive of Retirement, Medicare, and medical/dental benefits. Further, \$20,000 is needed for the non-recurring operational costs relative to the local Conrad J-1 Rulemaking/Legal Services and IT System Upgrades/Database Licensing. Lastly, \$9,500 is needed for recurring operational costs which include Credential Verification Fees for approximately 25 FMG/J-1 applicants per year (\$300/applicant) and for General Office Supplies and Incidentals (supplies, printing, and necessary communications for increased workloads).

The DPHSS anticipates generating new revenues to partially offset the expenses through the creation of a dedicated fee structure for the new programs. In summary, the DPHSS is in support of the proposed legislation as it will have a significant positive impact by facilitating the entry of qualified physicians into Guam's underserved areas to improve to availability and quality of healthcare services; however, implementation of these amendments and program will require additional funding for the HPLO's budget to ensure proper administration and oversight.



GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIPATTAMENTON SALUT PUPBLEKO YAN SETBISION SUSIAT



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
MAGA' HĀGAN GUĀHAN
GOVERNOR OF GUAM

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
SEGUNDO MAGA' LAHEN GUĀHAN
LT. GOVERNOR OF GUAM

THERESA C. ARRIOLA, MBA
DIRECTOR

PETERJOHN D. CAMACHO, MPH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

AMANDA LEE SHELTON, MPA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

To: Director, Bureau of Budget and Management Research

From: Director, Department of Public Health and Social Services

Subject: Fiscal Impact Testimony on Bill No. 206-38 (COR) – Expanding Licensure Pathways for Foreign Medical Graduates and Establishing a Local Conrad 30 J-1 Physician Waiver Program

Hafa Adai Director Carlson,

The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), through the Health Professional Licensing Office (HPLO), submits this written testimony on the fiscal impact regarding Bill No. 206-38 (COR), pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 9, Title 2 of the Guam Code Annotated (CGA).

I. Purpose and Scope of HPLO Review

Bill No. 206-38 (COR) seeks to address Guam's critical healthcare workforce shortage by adding new and amending existing sections of Article 2, Chapter 12, Title 10, GCA. Specifically, the HPLO is the affected government instrumentality responsible for implementing the new provisions pertaining to:

1. **Expanded Licensure Pathways for Foreign Medical Graduates (FMGs):** The bill mandates new and complex processes for evaluating credentials and qualifications of FMGs, as outlined in the proposed and amended.
2. **Establishment of a Local Conrad 30 J-1 Physician Waiver Program:** The new bill will require the HPLO to create, certify, and administer a physician waiver program, including monitoring compliance with mandated service commitments.

While the HPLO fully supports the bill's intent to enhance the diversity and sustainability of Guam's healthcare labor pool, the proposed mandates impose new, unfunded responsibilities that necessitate significant operational and personnel augmentation.

II. Estimated Fiscal Impact on HPLO Operations (Year 1)

The implementation of Bill No. 206-38 (COR) will require the following additional appropriations for the HPLO to fulfill its new statutory duties:

Expense Category	Description/Basis	Estimated Cost (Year 1)
A. Personnel Services		
1. Two (2) FTE Licensing Program Coordinator I	Required to manage the increased volume and complexity of FMG applications, foreign credential verifications, and J-1 waiver tracking/compliance monitoring.	\$82,744
2. Personnel Benefits (Estimated at 33.85% + 1.45% + Medical/Dental)	Standard personnel benefits for two new FTEs.	\$46,110
Sub-Total Personnel Services (A)		\$128,854
B. Non-Recurring Operational Costs		
1. J-1 Program Rulemaking/Legal Support	Cost for DPHSS/HPLO to draft new rules, regulations, and forms necessary for the Conrad 30 program and expanded FMG pathways.	\$10,000
2. IT System Upgrade/Database License	Necessary software/database module to track and report on FMG licensure status and J-1 service commitment compliance (multi-year tracking)	\$10,000
Sub-Total Non-Recurring Costs (B)		\$20,000
C. Recurring Operational Costs		
1. Credential Verification Fees	Estimated cost for third-party verification services (e.g., ECFMG) for approximately 25 FMG/J-1 applicants per year (\$300/applicant)	\$7,500
2. General Office Supplies & Incidentals	Supplies, printing, and communication necessary for increased workload.	\$2,000
Sub-Total Recurring Costs (C)		\$9,500
	Total:	\$158,354

III. Estimated Revenue Generation

The HPLO/Guam Board of Medical Examiners (GBME) anticipates generating new revenue to partially offset these expenses through the creation of a dedicated fee structure for the new programs.

IV. Conclusion and Net Fiscal Note

The DPHSS/HPLO concludes that Bill No. 206-38 (COR) will have a significant positive programmatic impact by facilitating the entry of qualified physicians into Guam's underserved areas. However, its implementation requires an amendment to the HPLO's operating budget to ensure proper administration and oversight.



THERESA C. ARRIOLA, MBA