

*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
<b>235-38 (COR)</b>	Christopher M. Dueñas Vincent A. V. Borja Jesse A. Lujan Tina Rose Muña Barnes Joe S. San Agustin V. Anthony Ada	AN ACT TO <i>AMEND</i> SECTION 8 OF CHAPTER 1 OF PUBLIC LAW 38-60, RELATIVE TO PRE-DEVELOPMENT STAGE EXPENSES FOR THE SIMON A. SANCHEZ HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT.	11/25/25 2:10 p.m.	12/3/25	Committee on Finance and Government Operations.	Request: 12/3/25  12/12/25	1/8/26 3:00 p.m.	1/13/26 As Amended.	



*Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas*

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

January 13, 2026

The Honorable Frank F. Blas Jr.  
Speaker, *I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
163 W. Chalan Santo Papa  
Hågatña, Guam 96910

Via Honorable Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada   
Chairman, Committee on Rules

**RE: Committee Report on Bill No. 235-38 (COR) - *As Amended* - AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 8 OF CHAPTER I OF PUBLIC LAW 38-60, RELATIVE TO PRE-DEVELOPMENT STAGE EXPENSES FOR THE SIMON A. SANCHEZ HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT.**

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*Buenas yan Håfa Adai* Speaker,

Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report on Bill No. 235-38 (COR).

Committee votes are as follows:

- 5 TO DO PASS
- \_\_\_\_\_ TO NOT PASS
- \_\_\_\_\_ TO REPORT OUT ONLY
- \_\_\_\_\_ TO ABSTAIN
- \_\_\_\_\_ TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE



COMMITTEE ON RULES

**RECEIVED:**  
January 13, 2026 2:11 p.m.  
*Marie Crisostomo*

*Senseremente,*

**Senator Christopher M. Dueñas**  
**Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations**



*Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas*  
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

**BILL NO. 235-38 (COR)**

**INTRODUCED BY**  
**CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS**

**AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 8 OF  
CHAPTER I OF PUBLIC LAW 38-60,  
RELATIVE TO PRE-DEVELOPMENT  
STAGE EXPENSES FOR THE SIMON A.  
SANCHEZ HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT.**



# Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

January 13, 2026

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** All Members  
Committee on Finance and Government Operations

**From:** Senator Christopher M. Dueñas  
Chairperson, Finance and Government Operations

**Subject:** Committee Report on Bill No. 235-38 (COR)

Transmitted herewith for your consideration is the Committee Report on **Bill No. 235-38 (COR)** - AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 8 OF CHAPTER I OF PUBLIC LAW 38-60, RELATIVE TO PRE-DEVELOPMENT STAGE EXPENSES FOR THE SIMON A. SANCHEZ HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT.

This report includes the following:

- Copy of COR Referral of Bill No. 235-38 (COR)
- Notices of Public Hearing
- Copy of the Public Hearing Agenda
- Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet
- Copies of Submitted Written Testimony
- Committee Vote Sheet
- Committee Report Digest
- Bill No. 235-38 (COR), *As Introduced*
- Bill No. 235-38 (COR), *As Amended*
- Bill No. 235-38 (COR), *As Amended Markup*
- Fiscal Note

Please take the appropriate action on the attached vote sheet. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Senator Christopher M. Dueñas  
Chairperson, Committee on Finance and Government Operations



# COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

December 3, 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. 235-38 (COR)**

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*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. 235-38 (COR)** – Christopher M. Dueñas, Vincent A. V. Borja, Jesse A. Lujan, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Joe S. San Agustin, V. Anthony Ada. – “AN ACT TO *AMEND* SECTION 8 OF CHAPTER I OF PUBLIC LAW 38-60, RELATIVE TO PRE-DEVELOPMENT STAGE DUTIES IN THE SIMON A. SANCHEZ HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT.”

Please ensure that the subject bill is referred to Committee on Finance and Government Operations chaired by Senator Christopher M. Dueñas. I also request that the same be copied to the Prime Sponsor of the subject bill, to the Office of Finance and Budget (OFB) 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.





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

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## FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on January 8, 2026

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Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>  
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov

Tue, Dec 30, 2025 at 8:00 AM

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 30, 2025

### MEMORANDUM

**To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

**From: Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada  
Acting Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations**

**Re: FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on January 8, 2026**

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The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, January 8, 2026**, beginning at **3:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

- **Bill No. 235-38 (COR)** – Christopher M. Dueñas - AN ACT TO *AMEND* SECTION 8 OF CHAPTER I OF PUBLIC LAW 38-60, RELATIVE TO PRE-DEVELOPMENT STAGE DUTIES IN THE SIMON A. SANCHEZ HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT.
- **Bill No. 211-38 (COR)** – Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao - AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW § 4109(g)(4) TO CHAPTER 4 OF TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO PRIORITIZING PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES BY RESTRICTING THE DE-APPROPRIATION OR TRANSFER OF UNEXPENDED PRIOR FISCAL YEAR APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GUAM POLICE DEPARTMENT, GUAM FIRE DEPARTMENT, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, AND GUAM CUSTOMS AND QUARANTINE AGENCY TO THE GENERAL FUND.

If you would like to participate in the Public Hearing listed above or submit written testimony, please contact the Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas for further assistance via email at [senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov) or by phone at (671) 989-9554.

In compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), all government activities, programs, and services are accessible to individuals with disabilities. *If you or anyone you know requires assistance or special accommodations to participate in the public hearing, please contact the Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas at the contact information provided above.*

The Public Hearing will be broadcast LIVE on local television (GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117) and streamed online through I Liheslaturan Guåhan's YouTube Channel ([@guamlegislaturemedia](https://www.youtube.com/@guamlegislaturemedia)).

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**Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas**

*Chairman, Committee on Government Finance and Operations*

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

[senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov)

(671) 989-9554

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**2 attachments**



**senator-duenas-headshot.jpg**

70K



**1N 1-8-26 (235 & 211).pdf**

359K



# Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 30, 2025

### MEMORANDUM

**To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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**Re: FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on January 8, 2026**

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*This ad was paid with funds by the Committee of Finance and Government Operations.*

OFFICE OF SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS

259 MARTYR STREET, HAGATNA GUAM 96910 | TEL: 671-989-9554 | SENATOR.DUENAS@GUAMLEGISLATURE.GOV

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# FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on January 8, 2026

 PRINT

## FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on January 8, 2026

**PUBLIC HEARING**



 **Posted on:** 12/30/2025 09:18 AM

 **Posted by:** Ashley Shinohara

 **Public Hearing Date:** 01/08/2026 03:00 PM

 **Department(s):**  
**GUAM LEGISLATURE (/notices?department\_id=92)**

 **Division(s):**  
OFFICE OF SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUENAS (/notices?division\_id=267)

 **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)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 30, 2025

**MEMORANDUM****To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media****From: Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada  
Acting Chairman, Committee on Finance and  
Government Operations****Re: FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on January 8, 2026**

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**([http://guamlegislature.gov/38th Guam Legislature/Bills Introduced 38th/Bill%20No.%20235-38%20\(COR\).pdf](http://guamlegislature.gov/38th%20Guam%20Legislature/Bills%20Introduced%2038th/Bill%20No.%20235-38%20(COR).pdf))** -

Christopher M. Dueñas - AN ACT TO *AMEND* SECTION 8 OF CHAPTER I OF PUBLIC LAW 38-60, RELATIVE TO PRE-DEVELOPMENT STAGE DUTIES IN THE SIMON A. SANCHEZ HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT.

**Bill No. 211-38 (COR)**

**([http://guamlegislature.gov/38th Guam Legislature/Bills Introduced 38th/Bill%20No.%20211-38%20\(COR\).pdf](http://guamlegislature.gov/38th%20Guam%20Legislature/Bills%20Introduced%2038th/Bill%20No.%20211-38%20(COR).pdf))** -

Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao - AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW § 4109(g)(4) TO CHAPTER 4 OF TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO PRIORITIZING PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES BY RESTRICTING THE DE-APPROPRIATION OR TRANSFER OF UNEXPENDED PRIOR FISCAL YEAR APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GUAM POLICE DEPARTMENT, GUAM FIRE DEPARTMENT, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, AND GUAM CUSTOMS AND QUARANTINE AGENCY TO THE GENERAL FUND.

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KUAM-TV  
P.O BOX 368  
HAGATNA, GUAM 96932 U.S

Advertiser ID: 2729	Amount Paid _____	
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<b>Official Invoice</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Page</b>

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2729-00013-0000                      O 01/09/2026                      1

OFFICE OF SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUENAS  
38<sup>TH</sup> GUAM LEGISLATURE  
CALVO ARRIOLA BLDG. STE. 101-B  
259 MARTYR STREET  
HAGATNA, GUAM 96910

Purchase Order Number: **2638PO053**  
Est. Number:  
Co-Op:  
Description:  
Salesperson: San Agustin, Christie

Date	Day	Length		Qty	Rate	Total
01/09/2026	FRI		KUAM TV  <b>PUBLIC HEARING – JANUARY 08, 2026</b> FIRST NOTICE - AIR DATE: 12/30/25 1x :15 SECOND AD 1x :15 SECOND AD (KUAM MATCH)  SECOND NOTICE - AIRDATE: 01/05/26 1x :15 SECOND AD 1x :15 SECOND AD (KUAM MATCH)			\$200.00

PAYMENT DUE UPON RECEIPT OF INVOICE.

<b>Quantity</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>Total Due</b>			<b>\$200.00</b>

INVOICE



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

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## SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on January 8, 2026

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Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>  
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov

Mon, Jan 5, 2026 at 8:00 AM

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 5, 2026

### MEMORANDUM

**To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

**From: Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada  
Acting Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations**

**Re: SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on January 8, 2026**

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*Chairman, Committee on Government Finance and Operations*

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

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**2 attachments**



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# Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 5, 2026

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**OFFICE OF SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS**

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# SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on January 8, 2026

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## SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on January 8, 2026

**PUBLIC HEARING**



 **Posted on:** 01/05/2026 08:31 AM

 **Posted by:** Ashley Shinohara

 **Public Hearing Date:** 01/08/2026 03:00 PM

 **Department(s):**  
**GUAM LEGISLATURE (/notices?department\_id=92)**

 **Division(s):**  
OFFICE OF SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUENAS (/notices?division\_id=267)

 **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)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 5, 2026

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Christopher M. Dueñas - AN ACT TO *AMEND* SECTION 8 OF CHAPTER I OF PUBLIC LAW 38-60, RELATIVE TO PRE-DEVELOPMENT STAGE DUTIES IN THE SIMON A. SANCHEZ HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT.

**Bill No. 211-38 (COR)**

**([http://guamlegislature.gov/38th Guam Legislature/Bills Introduced 38th/Bill%20No.%20211-38%20\(COR\).pdf](http://guamlegislature.gov/38th%20Guam%20Legislature/Bills%20Introduced%2038th/Bill%20No.%20211-38%20(COR).pdf))** -

Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao - AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW § 4109(g)(4) TO CHAPTER 4 OF TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO PRIORITIZING PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES BY RESTRICTING THE DE-APPROPRIATION OR TRANSFER OF UNEXPENDED PRIOR FISCAL YEAR APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GUAM POLICE DEPARTMENT, GUAM FIRE DEPARTMENT, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, AND GUAM CUSTOMS AND QUARANTINE AGENCY TO THE GENERAL FUND.

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

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## Invitation to a Public Hearing on Bill 235-38

2 messages

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

Tue, Dec 30, 2025 at 8:00 AM

Bcc: Lester Carlson <lester.carlson@bbmr.guam.gov>, Tina Garcia <cgarcia@investguam.com>, "Edward M. Birn" <edward.birn@doa.guam.gov>, [REDACTED]

Buenas yan Hafa Adai!

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations invites you to a public hearing on **Bill No. 235-38 (COR)**. The hearing is scheduled for January 8, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in the Guam Congress Building.

Your input is valuable, and we encourage you to attend and share your testimony. If you plan to present written testimony, please bring 15 copies or email it to the committee at least 48 hours prior to the hearing.

If you are unable to attend in person, you may submit written testimony via email to [senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov) at least 48 hours before the public hearing.

Please note, if you plan to testify with a digital presentation via external device, please submit it 48 hours prior to the hearing for review by our MIS department.

Kindly confirm your receipt of this email and whether you will be attending the hearing. If you have any questions or require additional information, please call our office at (671) 989-9554.

Regards,

--



**Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas**

*Chairman, Committee on Government Finance and Operations*


259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910


[senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov)

(671) 989-9554

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### 2 attachments

 **1N 1-8-26 (235 & 211).pdf**  
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 **1N 1-8-26 (235 & 211).pdf**  
359K

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

Wed, Jan 7, 2026 at 2:45 PM

To: "Lolasita A. Perez" <lolasita.perez@doa.guam.gov>

Hafa Adai,

Please see below email that was sent to Director Birn. Kindly confirm if he is able to make it or will provide testimony regarding the bill.

Thank you,



**Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas**

*Chairman, Committee on Government Finance and Operations*

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

[senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov)

(671) 989-9554

[Quoted text hidden]



# Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

## **PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA**

**Thursday, January 8, 2026 – Guam Congress Building**

**3:00PM:**

- **Bill No. 235-38 (COR)** – Christopher M. Duenas - AN ACT TO *AMEND* SECTION 8 OF CHAPTER I OF PUBLIC LAW 38-60, RELATIVE TO PRE-DEVELOPMENT STAGE DUTIES IN THE SIMON A. SANCHEZ HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT.
- **Bill No. 211-38 (COR)** – Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao - AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW § 4109(g)(4) TO CHAPTER 4 OF TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO PRIORITIZING PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES BY RESTRICTING THE DE-APPROPRIATION OR TRANSFER OF UNEXPENDED PRIOR FISCAL YEAR APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GUAM POLICE DEPARTMENT, GUAM FIRE DEPARTMENT, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, AND GUAM CUSTOMS AND QUARANTINE AGENCY TO THE GENERAL FUND.

If you would like to participate in any of the Public Hearing listed above or submit written testimony, please contact the Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas for further assistance via email at [senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov) or by phone at (671) 989-9554.



Date: January 8, 2026

*I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahân*  
Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas  
Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Bill No. 235-38 (COR) – Christopher M. Dueñas - AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 8 OF CHAPTER I OF PUBLIC LAW 38-60, RELATIVE TO PRE-DEVELOPMENT STAGE DUTIES IN THE SIMON A. SANCHEZ HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT.

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support		
					Oral	Written	Yes	No	
1	Tina Garcia	GEDA	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	✓	✓			
2	Angeline Ruiz	GEDA			com				
3	John Saisiculas	GEDA							
4									
5									
6									
7									
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11									
12									



Date: January 8, 2026

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahån  
Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas  
Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Time: 3:00 p.m.

**Bill No. 235-38 (COR)** – Christopher M. Duenas - AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 8 OF CHAPTER I OF PUBLIC LAW 38-60, RELATIVE TO PRE-DEVELOPMENT STAGE DUTIES IN THE SIMON A. SANCHEZ HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT.

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Henry Tabo	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO**  
Governor of Guam  
*I Mapa Mapa Guahan*

**JOSHUA F. TENORIO**  
Lt. Governor of Guam  
*I Segundo Na Mapa Luben Guahan*



**CHRISTINA D. GARCIA**  
Chief Executive Officer/Administrator  
*Chieftâd Atmenesbudaran Eksekutibon Abadi*

**CARLOS P. BORDALLO**  
Deputy Administrator  
*Sigundo Atmenesbudâd*

January 8, 2026

Senator Christopher M. Duenas  
***I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guahan***  
259 Martyr Street  
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Re: **TESTIMONY ON BILL 235-38**


*Hafa Adai* Senator Duenas and members of the Committee on Finance and Government Operations. My name is Christina Garcia, GEDA CEO/Administrator, and I am here to provide testimony in support of Bill 235-38 **"AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 8 OF CHAPTER 1 OF PUBLIC LAW 38-60, RELATIVE TO PRE-DEVELOPMENT STAGE DUTIES IN THE SIMON A. SANCHEZ HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT"**.

We appreciate the support of *I Liheslaturan Guahan* in its continued support to construct the new Simon Sanchez High School (SSHS) with the recent appropriation of \$16,377,125 as part of the FY2026 Budget Act for leaseback payments. The amendment proposed in this bill supports the government's efforts to complete the school on time and on budget.

By providing this funding in the current fiscal year, the government will be able to begin the pre-development tasks ahead of the actual project financing. Pre-development tasks may include, but are not limited to, demolition, clearing and staging ahead of the actual school construction.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and continued support of the Simon Sanchez High School Project through Bill No. 235-38. I am available should you have any questions or wish to discuss further.

*Senseramente,*

  
Christina D. Garcia  
Chief Executive Officer/Administrator

Representative Charlie Balbastro

38th Guam Legislature

Public Hearing – Committee on Finance and Government Operations

8 January 2026

**Testimony - Bill No. 235-38 (COR)**

Good Afternoon, members of the 38th Guam Legislature, our fellow participants, and fellow audience members. Once again, I'm Representative Charlie Balbastro from the 35th Guam Youth Congress, and as I'm always proud to say, a former JROTC cadet. I stand here today again and again to talk about another piece of legislation which is Bill No. 235-38 (COR) introduced by Senator Christopher M. Duenas.

Speaking of legislation, I'm in strong support of your amendment of Public Law 38-60, performing and proposing pre-development stage duties in the Simon Sanchez High School project. Simon Sanchez High School has been one of the most controversial schools on Guam as it faces many challenges - such as campus renovations and students dealing with double sessions the whole school year. Falling for this kind of situation does give students and the entire school, especially our student leaders - the most important people that hold the keys and the sword of justice to all students in the school, representing both the school and its mascot, in the world of hurt.

Giving the appropriations and proper necessities will help put their campus back together on the line so students can come back to their respective campuses to live off

with their education and give everything for all upon choice and students' decision making process. Students are willing and striving to go back already, challenges like this results them in the world of hurt. Although I'm not from that school, I do support the Simon Sanchez High School JROTC Sharks Battalion in certain aspects throughout my term. Despite myself being a leader during my term and a former student that joins the JROTC program, I show great respect for Simon and I love supporting the JROTC kids.

At this moment of time, please bring Simon Sanchez High School back to life. Students want to return to their school for good so the education and pre-graduation workflow continues forward. Senator Duenas, I show support for your legislation once again and I for sure like the proposal of \$16,377,125 to proceed forward every now and then. BIBA Sharks!! BIBA Educators!! BIBA Guahan!! Thank you and Si Yu'os Ma'ase!!

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL NO. 235-38 with a proposed addition of a Section 3 in order to Amend PL 37-22, 5 GCA CHAPTER 58D § 58D108. Financing

The proposed **SECTION 3** of Bill 235-38 will align with PL 37-22 and its intention “**To minimize the cost to the government of Guam, financing utilized by the Contractor to fund the construction of and FF&E services for the new Simon Sanchez High School shall be through tax-exempt obligations, or other financial instruments**”

In addition, the new Section 3 of Bill 235-38, complies with PL 37-22 which authorizes “**The contractor may use an alternative method of financing, including, but not limited to, a short-term debt, mortgage, loan, federally guaranteed loan, or loan by an instrumentality of the United States of America if such financing will better serve the needs of the people of Guam, subject to approval by I Liheslaturan Guåhan.**”

The Proposed Section 3 would read as follows:

### **SECTION 3**

To amend 5 GCA CHAPTER 58D § 58D108. Financing to add an additional paragraph to the section below:

16           **§ 58D108. Financing.**

17           To minimize the cost to the government of Guam, financing utilized by the  
18 Contractor to fund the construction of and FF&E services for the new Simon  
19 Sanchez High School shall be through tax-exempt obligations, or other financial  
20 instruments; provided, that such financing is available at an interest rate of no more  
21 than eight-and-a-half percent (8.5%). The contractor may use an alternative method  
22 of financing, including, but not limited to, a short-term debt, mortgage, loan,  
23 federally guaranteed loan, or loan by an instrumentality of the United States of  
24 America if such financing will better serve the needs of the people of Guam, subject  
25 to approval by *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*. The principal amount of financing authorized  
26 under this Section shall not exceed One Hundred Sixty-six Million Three Hundred  
27 Sixty-five Thousand Dollars (\$166,365,000).

*Additional Text:*

*“The financing of the Simon Sanchez High School project may also be accomplished through tax-exempt bonds in one or more series of bonds, taxable bonds in one or more series of bonds, short-term debt, mortgage, loan, federally guaranteed loan, or loan by an instrumentality of the United States of America. In addition, the project may utilize alternative financing programs, including, but not limited to, Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) programs such as the Capital Magnet Fund, the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program, New Markets Tax Credit financing, Community Reinvestment Act-motivated lending, or any other federally authorized financing mechanism.”*

## **II. RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

### **A. Diversification of Capital Sources Reduces Risk and Cost**

Current financing approaches for major capital projects typically rely on tax-exempt bond financing. While effective, this single-source approach exposes projects to market timing risk and interest rate volatility. The proposed amendment creates a flexible financing framework that enables the Government of Guam to:

- Access multiple capital markets simultaneously
- Reduce weighted average cost of capital
- Leverage federal programs designed for exactly this type of infrastructure
- Attract private investment without increasing public debt

### **B. EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program: Private Capital Without Tax Burden**

The EB-5 Program allows qualified foreign investors to obtain U.S. permanent residency by investing in job-creating U.S. projects. For Simon Sanchez High School:

**Construction Phase Employment:** The project will create hundreds of construction jobs, easily exceeding EB-5 job creation requirements (10 jobs per investor)

**Below-Market Capital:** EB-5 investors typically accept 1-3% returns, significantly lower than municipal bond rates of 4-6%

**No Public Credit Risk:** EB-5 capital does not create government debt, contingent

liabilities, or impact credit ratings Targeted Employment Area (TEA) Status: Guam's unemployment rates qualify for reduced EB-5 investment thresholds (\$800,000 vs. \$1,050,000)

Strong Investor Demand: Educational and public infrastructure projects are highly attractive to EB-5 investors due to their stability and public benefit

### **III. PRECEDENT IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS**

#### **A. Puerto Rico**

- Successfully deployed EB-5 capital for public school reconstruction post-Hurricane Maria
- Utilized CDFI financing through LISC for educational facility rehabilitation
- Result: Accelerated reconstruction timeline by 18 months

#### **B. U.S. Virgin Islands**

- Deployed Capital Magnet Fund financing for public educational facilities through disaster recovery programs
- Combined federal grants with CDFI lending to maximize leverage
- Result: \$15 million in federal grants leveraged \$180 million in total project investment

#### **C. Mainland Precedents**

- Charter school developers routinely combine CDFI New Markets Tax Credit financing with EB-5 capital
- Public school districts in California, Texas, and Florida have utilized EB-5 for construction of career technical education facilities
- Common Result: 30-40% reduction in public subsidy requirements

#### **IV. RISK MITIGATION**

##### **A. Permissive, Not Mandatory**

The proposed amendment authorizes but does not mandate alternative financing. Traditional bond financing remains available if determined most advantageous through competitive analysis.

##### **B. Federal Program Compliance**

Both CDFI and EB-5 programs are established federal initiatives with:

- Decades of operational history
- Clear regulatory frameworks
- Extensive legal precedent
- No legal risk to territorial government

##### **C. No Unfunded Mandates**

The amendment creates no appropriation requirements, staffing obligations, or other unfunded mandates on GDOE or the Government of Guam.

#### **V. CONCLUSION AND REQUEST**

The construction of Simon Sanchez High School represents a once-in-a-generation investment in Guam's educational infrastructure. The proposed amendment to Bill No. 235-38 ensures the Government of Guam has every available financial tool to:

- Minimize taxpayer cost
- Accelerate project delivery
- Preserve debt capacity for other needs
- Attract private investment to our community

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration of this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry J. Taitano

Former Administrator Guam Economic Development Authority

Private Citizen

Contact Information:



16           **§ 58D108. Financing.**

17           To minimize the cost to the government of Guam, financing utilized by the  
18 Contractor to fund the construction of and FF&E services for the new Simon  
19 Sanchez High School shall be through tax-exempt obligations, or other financial  
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25 to approval by *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*. The principal amount of financing authorized  
26 under this Section shall not exceed One Hundred Sixty-six Million Three Hundred  
27 Sixty-five Thousand Dollars (\$166,365,000).



*Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas*  
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

**COMMITTEE VOTE SHEET**

**Bill No. 235-38 (COR), *As Amended* - AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 8 OF CHAPTER I OF PUBLIC LAW 38-60, RELATIVE TO PRE-DEVELOPMENT STAGE EXPENSES FOR THE SIMON A. SANCHEZ HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT.**

Committee Members	Signature	TO DO PASS	TO NOT PASS	TO REPORT OUT ONLY	TO ABSTAIN	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE
<b>Senator Christopher M. Dueñas</b> <i>Chairperson</i>	Evote 1/13/26	✗				
<b>Senator V. Anthony Ada</b> <i>Vice Chairperson</i>	Evote 1/13/26	✗				
<b>Senator Frank F. Blas, Jr.</b> <i>Member</i>						
<b>Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane</b> <i>Member</i>	Evote 1/13/26	✗				
<b>Senator Jesse A. Lujan</b> <i>Member</i>	Evote 1/13/26	✗				
<b>Senator Vincent A.V. Borja</b> <i>Member</i>	Evote 1/13/26	✗				
<b>Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes</b> <i>Member</i>						
<b>Senator Joe S. San Agustin</b> <i>Member</i>						



FP1 Mariñas

## !! URGENT !! Evote 235-38 (COR) AS AMENDED

6 messages

FP1 Mariñas

Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 1:49 PM

To: cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

**Note: After submission to COR, Legal flagged the bill and sent it back for technical corrections. The changes are limited to a revised title and minor wording edits and do not alter the substance of the bill.**

Hâfa Âdai Committee Members!

Please see attached Committee Report for Bill No. 235-38 (COR) - Christopher M. Dueñas - *An Act To Amend Section 8 Of Chapter I Of Public Law 38-60, Relative To Pre-Development Stage Duties In The Simon A. Sanchez High School Project.*

Indicate your preferred action:

- TO DO PASS
- TO NOT PASS
- TO REPORT OUT ONLY
- TO ABSTAIN
- 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.

--


Senseremente,

FP1 Mariñas

Independent Contractor

### 2 attachments

 **235\_amended\_route.pdf**  
10021K

 **(K1) 235\_cmd\_markup.pdf**  
151K

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

Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 1:50 PM

To: FP1 Mariñas

Cc: cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

To do pass

--



### Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas

*Chairman, Committee on Government Finance and Operations*

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

(671) 989-9554

[Quoted text hidden]

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

Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 1:51 PM

To: Senator Chris Duenas &lt;senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov&gt;

Cc: FP1 Mariñas [REDACTED], cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

To do pass.



**Office of Majority Leader Jesse A. Lujan**

*Chairman, Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs*

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov

(671) 969-6525

[Quoted text hidden]

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

Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 1:51 PM

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

Cc: Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, FP1 Mariñas [REDACTED], cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

To do pass

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Office of Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada**

38th Guam Legislature

*I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

Guam Congress Building, 2nd Floor

163 Chalan Santo Papa

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

**Phone:** (671) 989-0855

**Email:** vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov

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**Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane**

Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 1:55 PM

<office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

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

Cc: Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Chris Duenas

<senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, FP1 Mariñas [REDACTED], cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

To do pass.

Biba Guam,

**Isaiah Aguon**

Director of Strategic Communications



**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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[Quoted text hidden]

**Office of Senator Borja** <[contact@senatorvinceborja.com](mailto:contact@senatorvinceborja.com)>

Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 2:01 PM

To: Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <[office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov)>

Cc: "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada" <[vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov)>, Senator Jesse Lujan <[senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov)>, Senator Chris Duenas <[senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov)>, FP1 Mariñas [REDACTED], [cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov)

To do pass. Thank you.

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](mailto:contact@senatorvinceborja.com)

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**COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST**

*Committee on Finance and Government Operations*

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman

**I. OVERVIEW**

Bill No. 235-38 (COR) was introduced by Senator Christopher M. Duenas on November 25, 2025 and referred to the Committee on Finance and Government Operations by the Committee on Rules on December 3, 2025. The Committee held a public hearing on January 8, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in the Guam Congress Building’s Public Hearing Room.

Notices for the hearing were posted on the Government Public Notices Portal and distributed via email to all senators and major media outlets on December 30, 2025 (5-day notice) and again on January 5, 2026 (48-hour notice).

**SENATORS PRESENT**

V. Anthony Ada, Acting Chairman

Sabrina Salas Matanane, Member

Eulogio *Shawn* Gumataotao

Telo T. Taitague

**ORAL TESTIMONY:**

Christina D. Garcia, Chief Executive Officer/Administrator, GEDA

Henry J. Taitano, Self

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY:**

Charlie Balbastro, Representative, Guam Youth Congress

Christina D. Garcia, Chief Executive Officer/Administrator, GEDA

Henry J. Taitano, Self

**II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION**

The public hearing for Bill No. is 235-38 (COR) was called to order at **3:00PM.**

**V. ANTHONY ADA, ACTING CHAIRMAN:** *Håfa Ådai* and Good afternoon, everyone. This afternoon's public hearing will be conducted by the Committee on Finance and Government Operations and is called order – and the time is now 3:01pm on this Thursday, January 8th, 2026. First notice of this Public Hearing was disseminated to all Senators and media outlets on December 30, 2025, with its second notice disseminated on January 5, 2026. These hearing notices were also made available on the Guam legislature's website, our legislative calendar and the Government of Guam's Public Notice Portal. The committee will hear testimony on the following bills: Bill No. 235-38 (COR) introduced by Senator Chris M. Duenas – *An Act To Amend Section 8 Of Chapter I Of Public Law 38-60, Relative To Pre-Development Stage Duties In The Simon A. Sanchez High School Project.* The other bill, Bill No. 211-38 (COR) – introduced by Senator Shawn Gumataotao – *An Act To Add A New § 4109(G)(4) To Chapter 4 Of Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, Relative To Prioritizing Public Safety Services By Restricting The De-Appropriation Or Transfer Of Unexpended Prior Fiscal Year Appropriations From The Guam Police Department, Guam Fire Department, Department Of Corrections, And Guam Customs And Quarantine Agency To The General Fund.* At this time, Bill No. 211-38 (COR) will be postponed. We will not be hearing that bill this afternoon but we'd like to thank you all for being here this afternoon to provide testimony for it. But it was postponed. So we will only be hearing Bill No. 235-38. At this time, I'd like to welcome my colleagues who will be joining us this afternoon: Senator Shawn Gumataotao, Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane and Senator Telo Taitague. Before we begin, I'd like to remind everyone in attendance of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* general rules of conduct. Individuals testifying shall first be recognized by the chairperson before speaking and shall state their full name for record keeping purposes. Questions and testimony shall be confined to the substance of the nature of the bill or nature of the agenda. Personal inferences to the character or motive of any senator or individual testifying is not permitted. The chairperson of the Committee may order the removal from the hearing of any member of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* or the public audience who fails to observe proper decorum pursuant to the 38 Guam Legislature Standing Rules. Any violation of this general rule of conduct will result in your immediate removal.

With that, we'll now proceed to hear testimony on bill number 235-38 (COR). On behalf of Chairman Dueñas, I would like to now read his opening remarks for the record:

*“The title of this bill is direct because the issue before us is direct. This measure amends existing law to appropriate funds for the pre development and leaseback obligations of the Simon Sanchez High School. These costs are necessary to keep the long delayed project moving and to avoid further disruption and added expense. This is a simple fix that allows DPW and GEDA to more thoroughly authorize allowable spending for this project, removing legal uncertainty and ensuring continuity for a project that directly impacts student safety and access to education. As a Chairman of Finance and Budget, this change was directly requested by the Governor's fiscal team and the Chairman (Dueñas) believes that this is a responsible action to fulfill existing commitments and keep one of Guam's most critical public school projects on track. He (Dueñas) will carefully review all testimonies and looks forward to advancing this measure responsibly.”*

At this time, we'll go ahead and call the members who will be publicly testifying on this from GEDA – you guys can go ahead and come forward.

You can go ahead and begin your testimony.

**CHRISTINA D. GARCIA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR, GEDA:** Hi. Ready?

**V. ANTHONY ADA, ACTING CHAIRMAN:** Madam President, you can go ahead and begin your testimony.

**CHRISTINA D. GARCIA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR, GEDA:**

*[Ms. Garcia reads her written testimony which has been appended to this Committee Report.]*

**V. ANTHONY ADA, ACTING CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Ms. Garcia, for your testimony. I'm going to be calling up Mr. Henry Taitano, who will also be providing testimony on this legislation. Mr. Taitano, you would like to proceed.

**HENRY J. TAITANO, SELF:** *Håfa Ådai* Senator and committee, it's an honor to be here again in the legislature. My name is Henry Taitano. I'm a former GEDA administrator and private citizen and supporter of Guam DOE and the public school system. So, I'm just making testimony as a private citizen with some experience in this area. The testimony, I have provided written copies for the committee and basically what it is, is a – we're testifying in *support* of the bill, but also proposing a potential amendment which would be in Section 3 and to add some language in the financing of section of Public Law 37-22. In that section, it does state basically that the contractor or the bidder would come to the legislature and get some approval for some financing methods. The intention of the section that we propose would add some financing options and investment options to the table so that there could be a potential for cost savings for the project as well as, you know, a variety of financing methods available. Normally, at least from what I've seen in these bills, there are – they would generally leave the financing method up to the private developer in the Sanchez – or I guess – the multiple laws that have been passed for Simon Sanchez. It did say that there would have to be an effort by the legislature to have some approval. So the testimony I have today is one (1) in support of the bill and then two (2) is to just propose a potential addition so that these financing methods could be covered. Can you hear me? You know, I listed some rationale for this, but some of these methods are actually also used for a more recent school that was built, I Learn Charter School, for example, using the CDFI and CDE programs that the federal government has. And that's really the goal is to provide all the different options for the developer to have in the event to get, you know, whatever the best rates are and whatever, you know, potential grants and subsidies that are out there as well. And it's really just to add a paragraph to the financing section and that's provided in the written testimony as well.

*[Mr. Taitano reads a summary of his written testimony. His full testimony has been appended to this Committee Report.]*

**V. ANTHONY ADA, ACTING CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, sir, for your testimony – and what I'll do is I'll go ahead and open up the panel to my colleagues who would like to – perhaps – have any comments or questions of the panel. Senator Gumataotao, you're recognized, sir.

**SENATOR EULOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair – and thank you to the panel for being with us this afternoon. And if I can, Tina, if you could, can you – I guess – what information is available confirming whether the price tag from 2023 of one hundred sixty six point or – one hundred sixty-six million three hundred sixty-five thousand dollars (\$166,365,000) for the design, renovation or construction and maintenance of a new Simon Sanchez High School has adjusted – recognizing that increases, if any, will impact future legislative appropriations beginning with the fiscal year 2027 budget, if not sooner?

**CHRISTINA D. GARCIA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR, GEDA:** Thank you, Senator, for that question. When we first spok–approached the legislature about this issue with – during the Committee of the Whole and the budget hearing, we did speak to the fact that since 2023, there is clear evidence that construction costs have almost tripled in the – just in the last couple of years. And we've seen that caused by, you know, the increased defense construction projects coming out. And so we also had the TRMA that completed the initial stage of the A&E also confirmed that although they did include inflation costs, no one had expected that the inflation costs would have almost doubled since the time their report was released. And so that's why we had come to the legislature to help mitigate some of that construction cost as well as to be able to start working on the project on things like clearing and demolition of the existing buildings. Understanding that with the ongoing double session, we wanted to work at trying to get the project completed as soon as possible.

**SENATOR EULOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO:** So Tina, again, going back, is the price tag from 2023 still good?

**CHRISTINA D. GARCIA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR, GEDA:** So, we are not asking to increase the

price tag – we are just saying that in order to be able to complete the project, we would ask for this additional amount to help get this going.

**SENATOR EULOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO:** All right, thank you so much for that. And, and I don't think you're gonna be able to answer this next question, but I know you can probably do your best considering the work of GEDA. But recognizing that we've seen in this bill, in this hall and then next door talk about the overall student population that continues to decline with the school system hosting nine hundred and nine (909) students less going into the 2024, 2025 year with respect to student enrollment – have you guys noticed any impact of the increase or decrease in the student population in recent years and how the changes impacted the immediate long term infrastructure planning efforts? I know you can't answer for staffing or students, but when we think of the facility itself, have you guys heard about, talked about in your discussions on this respective project, any of the impacts?

**CHRISTINA D. GARCIA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR, GEDA:** Yes, as far as what Guam DOE former superintendent had said, we are still looking at maintaining the population levels proposed in the initial design. Besides the population growth in the north, he had also had initial discussions with the Department of Defense to possibly educate some of their students within the public school system, especially with the expanding military growth. And so he – at that time – he had mentioned to the committee, to our group, that he wouldn't like to – he doesn't want to change the size of the school at this time.

**SENATOR EULOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO:** Okay. So we also have to do financing. So if any financing goes out, based on what we're reading in national media about some of the interest rates and the behavior up at the Treasury Department, is there a way that this project could save some money down the road, or you think this could still creep up a bit? I know that I asked you earlier about the hard number, but based on what we're seeing on the national front, especially with interest rates, could that have an impact on this project?

**CHRISTINA D. GARCIA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR, GEDA:** Yes. As you have seen in the last quarter, we have started to see the Federal Commission start bringing interest rates down. So just in the last quarter, we saw a twenty five (25) basis points. Last month, December, actually, they had brought it down by twenty five (25) basis points. Our analysts also anticipate additional interest rates coming down. So again, that will help benefit the project costs and financing.

**SENATOR EULOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO:** All right, thank you so much, Tina – thank you, Henry, for your time today – and thank you, Mr. Chair, for the time. Appreciate you.

**V. ANTHONY ADA, ACTING CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Senator Gumataotao. Senator Matanane, you're recognized, Ma'am.

**SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. My question is regarding the amendment that Mr. Taitano is adding – asking to be included into Bill 235. I don't have any issues with Bill 235 in its current form, and I'm actually thankful that Senator Duenas acknowledged, you know, the deficiencies with what was in the Budget Act and acting swiftly to correct them. So I guess, Tina, since you are here as the current administrator of GEDA, what is your reaction to the proposed amendments by Mr. Taitano regarding adding this new section three (3) to the bill?

**CHRISTINA D. GARCIA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR, GEDA:** So at this point, the request may impact discussions tied to the protest. So, I don't have an issue with what's being proposed, but without looking at the amendment – I don't – I can't speak to it at this time or his proposal. I – I'd like to reserve judgment, you know, just to make sure I'm not speaking anything tied to the protests.

**SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE:** Okay. I have no further questions. Thank you.

**V. ANTHONY ADA, ACTING CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Senator Matanane. Senator Taitague, you're recognized, Ma'am.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. *Håfa Ådai*, Henry and of course, it's good to see you, Tina, as always. Thank you for being here to testify. Basically, this is administrative in nature. It doesn't cause any issue with the funding. However, your testimony is very straightforward. But what safeguards are in place to ensure that expenditures for pre development stage duties remain in the scope as intended by the Public Law 38-60?

**CHRISTINA D. GARCIA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR, GEDA:** So, again, a lot of what we speak to here, these – this funding, I guess the fiduciary duty between BBMR and DOA representing the Government of Guam will ensure that these – that whatever is expensed for this project is strictly for the Simon Sanchez project. And so you know, between the government and even working with the trustee, you know, all of that we'll – we'll ensure that we're in compliance with the law.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE:** So who oversees those – like orders – you know, that come in to – to say okay, we're going to be doing a pre stage thing rather than doing something that was not considered pre stage? Who? So who does oversee that? Is it DPW? is it you? Or?

**CHRISTINA D. GARCIA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR, GEDA:** You're correct, it is Department of Public Works.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE:** So they – they do look at that and – and go over that. So what part does GEDA play in – in all this?

**CHRISTINA D. GARCIA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR, GEDA:** So our role is tied to the financing and the – the legal documents that will encumber the – or – or secure the financings on behalf of the government.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE:** Okay. So it would have been nice to have DPW here in front of us. Right? To ask these questions on, on, you know, how are we going to ensure that what is being spent is for this intent and how do they monitor it? So that may be something, Mr. Chair, you know we can ask DPW for any comments. Did we get any testimony from them?

**V. ANTHONY ADA, ACTING CHAIRMAN:** No. We didn't get any testimony.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE:** Okay. So that's something I've been really looking forward to. Just so that we can see.

**V. ANTHONY ADA, ACTING CHAIRMAN:** They were invited though to the public hearing.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE:** Yeah. Okay. Well hopefully we can do a follow up on and get their testimony. But thank you so much everyone for being here.

**V. ANTHONY ADA, ACTING CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Senator Taitague. If there'll be no further questions or comments from my colleagues. I would like to go ahead and conclude today's public hearing on Bill No. 325-38 (COR). The committee will continue to accept written testimonies on the bill within seven (7) calendar days from today, which may be addressed as Senator Christopher M. Duenas as Chairman of the Committee on Finance and Government Operations and mail to 163 West Chalan Santo Papa *Hagåtña*, Guam 96910. You may also email your testimonies to [senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov). This afternoon's public hearing is now adjourned and the time is now 3:20pm. I'd like to thank you all for your testimonies this afternoon. Have a wonderful day!

**[COMMITTEE ADJOURNED]**

### **III. FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Committee *finds* that Bill No. 235-38 (COR) provides necessary clarification and statutory authority to ensure the timely completion of the Simon A. Sanchez

High School (SSHS) project. By explicitly authorizing the use of the Net Projected Unobligated Fiscal Year 2025 General Fund Revenue Balance for lease-back payments and pre-development stage expenses, this measure removes uncertainty and promotes fiscal transparency and accountability. The bill supports uninterrupted project planning and execution for SSHS that has long been prioritized by the People of Guam.

Testimony provided by the Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA) confirms that the proposed legislation provides critical authorization for the use of previously appropriated funds to support lease-back payments and essential pre-development stage activities, including: demolition, site clearing and staging. GEDA further attested that funding these activities in the current fiscal year allows the Government of Guam to advance project readiness ahead of final financing, thereby reducing delays and supporting completion of the project on time and within budget.

The Committee *further finds* that testimony submitted by Mr. Henry J. Taitano proposed an amendment to expand permissible financing mechanisms for the Simon Sanchez High School project. However, because the proposed amendment was introduced after the public hearing and raises policy considerations related to alternative financing tools, the Committee determined that such matters would be more appropriately addressed during deliberation on the legislative floor.

*The committee notes that this bill was directly requested and reviewed by the Governor's Fiscal Team.*

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations hereby reports- out on Bill No. 192-38 (COR) as amended – Christopher M. Dueñas, Vincent A.V. Borja, Jesse A. Lujan, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, V. Anthony Ada, Joe S. San Agustin - AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 8 OF CHAPTER I OF PUBLIC LAW 38-60, RELATIVE TO PRE-DEVELOPMENT STAGE EXPENSES FOR THE SIMON A. SANCHEZ HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT. With the recommendation **TO DO PASS.**

***I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2025 (FIRST) Regular Session**

**Bill No. 235-38 (COR)**

Introduced by:

Christopher M. Dueñas *CD*  
Vincent A.V. Borja *VB*  
Jesse A. Lujan *JL*  
Tina Rose Muña Barnes *TRMB*  
Joe S. San Agustin *JS*  
V. Anthony Ada *VA*

**AN ACT TO *AMEND* SECTION 8 OF CHAPTER I OF  
PUBLIC LAW 38-60, RELATIVE TO PRE-  
DEVELOPMENT STAGE DUTIES IN THE SIMON A.  
SANCHEZ HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT.**

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** It is the intent of I Liheslaturan  
3 Guåhan to appropriate a portion of the Net Projected Unobligated Fiscal Year 2025  
4 General Fund Revenue Balance to fund lease back payments and associated Pre-  
5 Development Stage expenses for the Simon A. Sanchez High School project, and to  
6 confirm that such expenditures are an authorized use of said balance as set forth in  
7 this Act.

8 **Section 2.** Section 8 of Chapter I of Public Law 38-60 is hereby *amended*  
9 to read as follows:

10 “**Section 8.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, Sixteen  
11 Million Three Hundred Seventy-seven Thousand One Hundred Twenty-five  
12 Dollars (\$16,377,125) is hereby appropriated from the Net Projected

1 Unobligated Fiscal Year 2025 General Fund Revenue Balance as identified in  
2 the June 2025 Consolidated Revenue and Expenditure Report for the Simon  
3 A. Sanchez High School lease back payments and associated pre-development  
4 stage expenses.”

***I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2025 (FIRST) Regular Session**

**Bill No. 235-38 (COR)**

As amended by the Committee on Finance  
and Government Operations

Introduced by:

Christopher M. Dueñas  
Vincent A.V. Borja  
Jesse A. Lujan  
Tina Rose Muña Barnes  
V. Anthony Ada  
Joe S. San Agustin

**AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 8 OF CHAPTER I OF  
PUBLIC LAW 38-60, RELATIVE TO PRE-  
DEVELOPMENT STAGE EXPENSES FOR THE SIMON  
A. SANCHEZ HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT.**

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2           **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** It is the intent of I Liheslaturan  
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3 the June 2025 Consolidated Revenue and Expenditure Report for the Simon  
4 A. Sanchez High School construction lease back payments and associated pre-  
5 development stage expenses.”

***I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2025 (FIRST) Regular Session**

**Bill No. 235-38 (COR)**

As amended by the Committee on Finance  
and Government Operations

Introduced by:

Christopher M. Dueñas  
Vincent A.V. Borja  
Jesse A. Lujan  
Tina Rose Muña Barnes  
V. Anthony Ada  
Joe S. San Agustin

**AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 8 OF CHAPTER I OF  
PUBLIC LAW 38-60, RELATIVE TO PRE-  
DEVELOPMENT STAGE ~~DUTIES EXPENSES IN FOR~~  
THE SIMON A. SANCHEZ HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT.**

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

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4 A. Sanchez High School **construction** lease back payments and associated pre-  
5 development stage expenses.”



## COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

December 12, 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. 235-38 (COR)**

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*Håfa Adai!*

Find the attached, Fiscal Note for the following bill:

**Bill No. 235-38 (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. 235-38 (COR)**

**AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 8 OF CHAPTER I OF PUBLIC LAW 38-60, RELATIVE TO PREDEVELOPMENT STAGE DUTIES IN THE SIMON A. SANCHEZ HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT.**

**Department/Agency Appropriation Information**

Dept./Agency Affected: Department of Administration (DOA)	Dept./Agency Head: Birn, Edward M., Director
Department's General Fund (GF) appropriation(s) to date:	\$11,036,842
Department's Other Fund (Specify) appropriation(s) to date: Indirect Cost Fund (\$947,521) & Limited Gaming Fund (\$54,246)	\$1,001,767
<b>Total Department/Agency Appropriation(s) to date:</b>	<b>\$12,038,609</b>

**Fund Source Information of Proposed Appropriation**

	General Fund:	Special Fund:	Total:
FY 2025 Unreserved Fund Balance	\$0	\$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
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**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
<b>Total</b>	<b>1/</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

- |                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                     |                            |                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Does the bill contain "revenue generating" provisions?<br>If Yes, see attachment                                                                                               |                                     | // Yes                     | /X/ No                    |
| 2. Is amount appropriated adequate to fund the intent of the appropriation?<br>If no, what is the additional amount required? \$ _____                                            | /X/ N/A                             | // Yes                     | // No                     |
| 3. Does the Bill establish a new program/agency?<br>If yes, will the program duplicate existing programs/agencies?<br>Is there a federal mandate to establish the program/agency? | /X/ N/A                             | // Yes<br>// Yes<br>// Yes | /X/ No<br>// No<br>/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?<br>// Requested agency comments not received by due date:                                                           | If no, indicate reason:<br>// Other | /X/ Yes                    | // No                     |

Analyst: <u>Raymond Rieta</u> Raymond Rieta, BMA IV	Date: <u>12/10/25</u>	Director: <u>Lester L. Carlson, Jr.</u> Lester L. Carlson, Jr., Director	Date: <u>DEC 12 2025</u>
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Notes:  
^ See Additional Comments.

**Bureau of Budget & Management Research**  
**Additional Comments on Bill No. 235-38 (COR)**

Legislative Bill No. 235-38 is an act to amend Section 8 of Chapter 1 of Public Law 38-60 (FY 2026 Budget Act), relative to the appropriation of \$16,377,125 made from the Net Projected Unobligated Fiscal Year 2025 General Fund Revenue Balance for the Simon A. Sanchez High School construction lease back payments. The Bill amends the wording of the appropriation to include the “associated pre-development stage expenses” along with the construction lease back payments.

The Bureau finds that the legislation is administrative in nature by amending the language for the allowable expenditures from the appropriation and thereby poses no fiscal impact as the appropriation amount has been set forth in P.L. 38-60. However, it should be noted that the Bureau has received comments from the Department of Administration (DOA) in reference to the proposed legislation, whereas the Director has stated, “DOA does not believe it is sound fiscal policy to use an interim CRER to identify available funds after the year has closed”, that being the June 2025 Consolidated Revenue and Expenditure Report (CRER) as cited in P.L. 38-60.