

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
246-38 (COR)	Telo T. Taitague Therese M. Terlaje Chris Barnett Sabina Flores Perez Shelly V. Calvo V. Anthony Ada Jesse A. Lujan Frank F. Blas, Jr. Joe S. San Agustin Tina Rose Muña-Barnes	AN ACT TO <i>AMEND</i> § 1303.1 OF CHAPTER 1, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, TO <i>ADD</i> THE GUAM CANCER TRUST FUND TO THE LIST OF ENTITIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES EXEMPT FROM THE BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH ALLOTMENT RELEASE CONTROL, TO ENSURE TIMELY AND CONSISTENT ACCESS TO APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR CANCER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.	12/17/25 3:24 p.m.	12/23/25	Committee on Finance and Government Operations.	Request: 12/23/25 12/30/25	2/16/26 9:00 a.m.	2/26/26	



Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

February 23, 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. 246-38 (COR)

Buenas yan Håfa Adai Speaker,

Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report on Bill No. 246-38 (COR) – **TELO TAITAGUE** - AN ACT TO AMEND § 1303.1 OF CHAPTER 1, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, TO ADD THE GUAM CANCER TRUST FUND TO THE LIST OF ENTITIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES EXEMPT FROM THE BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH ALLOTMENT RELEASE CONTROL, TO ENSURE TIMELY AND CONSISTENT ACCESS TO APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR CANCER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

Committee votes are as follows:

- 2 TO DO PASS
- TO NOT PASS
- 4 TO REPORT OUT ONLY
- TO ABSTAIN
- TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE

Senseremente,

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



COMMITTEE ON RULES

RECEIVED:

February 24, 2026 9:34 a.m.
Marie Crisostomo
Revisions Received:
February 25, 2026 2:11 p.m.



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

COMMITTEE REPORT

BILL NO. 246-38 (COR)

INTRODUCED BY

Telo Taitague

“AN ACT TO AMEND § 1303.1 OF CHAPTER 1, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, TO ADD THE GUAM CANCER TRUST FUND TO THE LIST OF ENTITIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES EXEMPT FROM THE BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH ALLOTMENT RELEASE CONTROL, TO ENSURE TIMELY AND CONSISTENT ACCESS TO APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR CANCER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.”



February 23, 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. 246-38 (COR)

Transmitted herewith for your consideration is the Committee Report on **Bill No. 246-38 (COR) - TELO TAITAGUE - AN ACT TO AMEND § 1303.1 OF CHAPTER 1, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, TO ADD THE GUAM CANCER TRUST FUND TO THE LIST OF ENTITIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES EXEMPT FROM THE BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH ALLOTMENT RELEASE CONTROL, TO ENSURE TIMELY AND CONSISTENT ACCESS TO APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR CANCER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.**

This report includes the following:

- Copy of COR Referral of Bill No. 246-38 (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
- Copy of Bill No. 246-38 (COR), As Introduced
- Fiscal Note
- Funding Availability Note and Checklist

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
38th Guam Legislature

December 23, 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. 246-38 (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. 246-38 (COR)** – Telo T. Taitague, Therese M. Terlaje, Chris Barnett, Sabina Flores Perez, Shelly V. Calvo, V. Anthony Ada, Jesse A. Lujan, Frank F. Blas, Jr., Joe S. San Agustin, Tina Rose Muña-Barnes. – “AN ACT TO *AMEND* § 1303.1 OF CHAPTER 1, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, TO ADD THE GUAM CANCER TRUST FUND TO THE LIST OF ENTITIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES EXEMPT FROM THE BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH ALLOTMENT RELEASE CONTROL, TO ENSURE TIMELY AND CONSISTENT ACCESS TO APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR CANCER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.”

Please ensure that the subject bill is referred to the 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 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>

Invitation to a Public Hearing on Bill No. 246-38 (COR)

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

Mon, Feb 9, 2026 at 3:58 PM

Bcc: Yvette Cepeda Paulino <paulinoy@triton.uog.edu>, felix@guam.net, braces@guam.net, "MS. FRANCINE M.S.N. NAPUTI" <naputif@triton.uog.edu>, Rene Quintans [REDACTED], gctf@triton.uog.edu, info@ayudafoundation.org, carlotta.leonguerrero@guam.gov, tcuavo@cancercares.org, [REDACTED], dianacalvo@cssguam.org, paulaperez@css.org, peoplefirst@toduguam.com, emccancerfoundation@gmail.com, franklins@paylessmarkets.com

Buenas yan Hafa Adai!

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations invites you to a public hearing where **Bill No. 246-38 (COR)** is on the agenda. The hearing is scheduled for Monday, February 16, 2026, beginning at 9:00 a.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 at least 48 hours before the public hearing.

Please note, if you plan to testify with a digital presentation via external usb drive, please submit it to our office 48 hours prior to the hearing as it will need to be assessed 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

(671) 989-9554

1N 2-9-26 (262 & 246).pdf
355K



Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 9, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on February 16, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will hold a public hearing on **Monday, February 16, 2026**, beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

- **Bill No. 262-38 (LS)** – V. Anthony Ada – AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY THOUSAND (\$890,000) TO I LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN FOR ITS CYBERSECURITY AND AUTOMATIONS NEEDS FOR FY 2026.
- **Bill No. 246-38 (COR)** – Telo T. Taitague - AN ACT TO AMEND 1303.1 OF CHAPTER 1, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, TO ADD THE GUAM CANCER TRUST FUND TO THE LIST OF ENTITIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES EXEMPT FROM THE BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH ALLOTMENT RELEASE CONTROL, TO ENSURE TIMELY AND CONSISTENT ACCESS TO APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR CANCER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

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 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)).

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

  LIKE AND FOLLOW @SENATORDUENAS


FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on February 16, 2026

 PRINT

**FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on February 16,
2026**

PUBLIC HEARING



 **Posted on:** 02/09/2026 03:00 PM

 **Posted by:** Ashley Shinohara

 **Public Hearing Date:** 02/16/2026 09:00 AM

 **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)

 **Share this notice**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 9, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on February 16, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will hold a public hearing on **Monday, February 16, 2026**, beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

Bill No. 262-38 (LS)

([http://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20262-38%20\(LS\).pdf](http://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20262-38%20(LS).pdf)) – V.

Anthony Ada – AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY THOUSAND (\$890,000) TO LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN FOR ITS CYBERSECURITY AND AUTOMATIONS NEEDS FOR FY 2026.

Bill No. 246-38 (COR)

([http://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20246-38%20\(COR\).pdf](http://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20246-38%20(COR).pdf)) – Telo

T. Taitague - AN ACT TO AMEND 1303.1 OF CHAPTER 1, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, TO ADD THE GUAM CANCER TRUST FUND TO THE LIST OF ENTITIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES EXEMPT FROM THE BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH ALLOTMENT RELEASE CONTROL, TO ENSURE TIMELY AND CONSISTENT ACCESS TO APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR CANCER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

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.

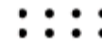
In compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), all government activities, programs, and services are accessible to individuals with disabilities. *If you or anyone you know requires assistance or special accommodations to participate in the public hearing, please contact the 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) (<https://www.youtube.com/@GuamLegislatureMedia>)).

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



PUBLIC NOTICES



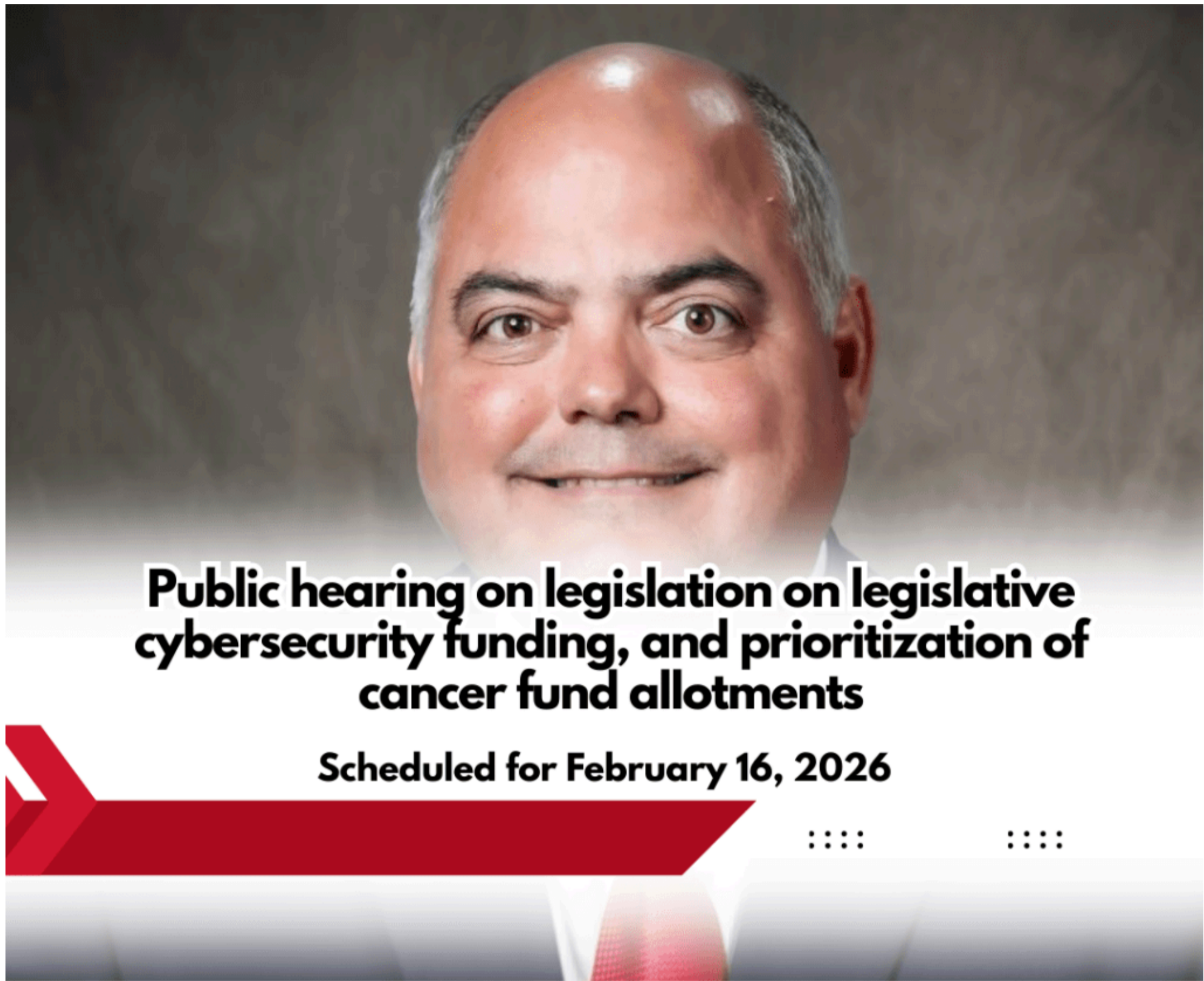
A public service by
Kandit News Group

[Read More](#)



Below are notices of public hearings posted in chronological order of date and time each is scheduled to begin:

- |
- |
- |



Public hearing on legislation on legislative cybersecurity funding, and prioritization of cancer fund allotments

Scheduled for February 16, 2026



This public notice published by **Kandit News Group**

[Read More](#)



FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING By Senator Chris Duenas
Published on Kandit on February 9, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will hold a public hearing on **Monday, February 16, 2026**, beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

- **Bill No. 262-38 (LS)** – V. Anthony Ada – AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY THOUSAND (\$890,000) TO I LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN FOR ITS CYBERSECURITY AND AUTOMATIONS NEEDS FOR FY 2026.
- **Bill No. 246-38 (COR)** – Telo T. Taitague – AN ACT TO AMEND 1303.1 OF CHAPTER 1, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, TO ADD THE GUAM CANCER TRUST FUND TO THE LIST OF ENTITIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES EXEMPT FROM THE BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH ALLOTMENT RELEASE CONTROL, TO ENSURE TIMELY AND CONSISTENT ACCESS TO APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR CANCER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

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 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).

Share
 FAVORITES
 By Troy Torres
 Posted on: Monday, 02/09/2026 2:33 PM
 Guam
 Legislature
 Other Events
 0 comments
 136



Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 12, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on February 16, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will hold a public hearing on **Monday, February 16, 2026**, beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

- **Bill No. 262-38 (LS)** – V. Anthony Ada – AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY THOUSAND (\$890,000) TO I LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN FOR ITS CYBERSECURITY AND AUTOMATIONS NEEDS FOR FY 2026.
- **Bill No. 246-38 (COR)** – Telo T. Taitague - AN ACT TO AMEND 1303.1 OF CHAPTER 1, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, TO ADD THE GUAM CANCER TRUST FUND TO THE LIST OF ENTITIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES EXEMPT FROM THE BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH ALLOTMENT RELEASE CONTROL, TO ENSURE TIMELY AND CONSISTENT ACCESS TO APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR CANCER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

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 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)).

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

  LIKE AND FOLLOW @SENATORDUENAS


Second Notice of Public Hearing on February 16, 2026

 PRINT

Second Notice of Public Hearing on February 16, 2026

PRESS RELEASE



 **Posted on:** 02/13/2026 08:53 AM

 **Posted by:** Karl Pangelinan

 **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:** PRESS RELEASE (/notices?type_id=2)

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

 **Share this notice**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 12, 2026 MEMORANDUM To:
All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on February 16, 2026
The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will hold a
public hearing on Monday, February 16, 2026, beginning at 9:00
am at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

The agenda is as follows:

- Bill No. 262-38 (LS) – V. Anthony Ada – AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY THOUSAND (\$890,000) TO LIHESLATURANGUÅHAN FOR ITS CYBERSECURITY AND AUTOMATIONS NEEDS FOR FY2026.

- Bill No. 246-38 (COR) – Telo T. Taitague - AN ACT TO AMEND 1303.1 OF CHAPTER 1, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, TO ADD THE GUAM CANCER TRUST FUND TO THE LIST OF ENTITIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES EXEMPT FROM THE BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH ALLOTMENT RELEASE CONTROL, TO ENSURE TIMELY AND CONSISTENT ACCESS TO APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR CANCER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

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 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 LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN'S YouTube Channel (@guamlegislaturemedia).



PUBLIC NOTICES



A public service by
Kandit News Group

[Read More](#)



Below are notices of public hearings posted in chronological order of date and time each is scheduled to begin:

|
|
|



Public hearing on legislation on legislative cybersecurity funding, and prioritization of cancer fund allotments

Scheduled for February 16, 2026

⋮⋮⋮

⋮⋮⋮



This public notice published by
Kandit News Group

[Read More](#)



SECOND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING By Senator Chris Duenas
Published on Kandit on February 12, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will hold a public hearing on **Monday, February 16, 2026**, beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

- **Bill No. 262-38 (LS)** – V. Anthony Ada – AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY THOUSAND (\$890,000) TO I LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN FOR ITS CYBERSECURITY AND AUTOMATIONS NEEDS FOR FY 2026.
- **Bill No. 246-38 (COR)** – Telo T. Taitague – AN ACT TO AMEND 1303.1 OF CHAPTER 1, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, TO ADD THE GUAM CANCER TRUST FUND TO THE LIST OF ENTITIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES EXEMPT FROM THE BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH ALLOTMENT RELEASE CONTROL, TO ENSURE TIMELY AND CONSISTENT ACCESS TO APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR CANCER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

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 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).

🔗 Share ❤️ FAVORITES 👤 By Troy Torres 📅 Posted on: Thursday, 02/12/2026 11:35 AM 📍 Guam 📄 Legislature 📅 Other Events 💬 0 comments 👁️ 131



Karl Pangelinan <karl.p@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Public Invited to Support Bill 246-38 to Protect Timely Funding for Guam Cancer Trust Fund

1 message

Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov

Fri, Feb 13, 2026 at 4:21 PM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 13, 2026 | Hagåtña, Guam

Public Invited to Support Bill 246-38 to Protect Timely Funding for Guam Cancer Trust Fund

Senator Telo T. Taitague invites the community to participate in the upcoming public hearing on Bill No. 246-38 (COR), legislation designed to ensure that the Guam Cancer Trust Fund (GCTF) receives timely access to the funds already appropriated for cancer support services on our island. The public hearing will be held on **Monday, February 16, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.**, in the Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room, hosted by the Committee on Government Finance and Operations.

Cancer has touched nearly every family on Guam. Behind every statistic is a story; a mother sitting through chemotherapy while worrying about how to pay the light bill, a father traveling off-island for treatment while his family scrambles to raise funds for airfare, a grandparent choosing between medication and groceries. For many families, a cancer diagnosis brings not only medical fear, but sleepless nights, lost wages, mounting bills, and the overwhelming question: “How are we going to get through this?”

The Guam Cancer Trust Fund was created so families would not have to face that question alone. It supports cancer screening programs, treatment assistance, patient navigation, advocacy services, and outreach that catches cancer early, often saving lives. These programs help pay for travel, co-pays, medication, diagnostic tests, and basic support that allows patients to focus on healing rather than survival.

However, in recent years, the timing of fund releases has not always been consistent. In some fiscal years, funding was released sporadically or late, delaying grant awards and reimbursements to organizations serving cancer patients. When funding is delayed, reimbursements slow down. When reimbursements slow down, services are interrupted. Cancer does not pause while paperwork catches up.

Bill 246-38 addresses this problem by exempting the Guam Cancer Trust Fund from allotment release control by the Bureau of Budget and Management Research (BBMR). This ensures that once funds are appropriated by the Legislature, they can be accessed through a structured monthly drawdown schedule without waiting for staged or delayed releases tied to government-wide cash management decisions. The measure also ensures that the Fund receives its full monthly allotment even when revenue projections fluctuate.

“Families battling cancer should not be asked to bear the uncertainty of budget timing. When the Legislature commits funding for cancer services, that commitment must be honored fully and on time. This bill is about stability for families during one of the most difficult times of their lives,” said Senator Taitague. “When someone on Guam is fighting cancer, they should be focused on treatment, on healing, and on their loved ones not on whether support services will be delayed. We must ensure that the help we promise is there when they need it most.”

Anyone who has been touched by cancer, whether as a survivor, caregiver, family member, friend, healthcare worker, or advocate, is especially encouraged to attend the hearing and share their story. Your experiences matter. Your voice helps ensure that the support systems families rely on are protected and strengthened.

If you are unable to attend in person, you may submit written testimony in support of Bill 246-38 via email to: senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov and copy: senatortelot@gmail.com.

For additional information regarding this press release, please contact Senator Taitague’s office at 671-989-8356. Information requests also may be sent via email to senatortelot@gmail.com.

-END-

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,

Create a Great Day!

Senator Telo T. Taitague

38th Guam Legislature

Chairperson

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Suite 407 DNA Building


[238 Archbishop Flores St.](#)


[Hagatna, Guam 96910](#)

Tel: (671) 989-8356

Email: senatortelot@gmail.com

2 attachments

 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 02.13.26_Public Invited to Support Bill 246-38 to Protect Timely Funding for Guam Cancer Trust Fund .pdf**
393K

 **Bill No. 246-38 (COR)-2 (2).pdf**
1343K



OFFICE OF SENATOR

Telo T. Taitague

CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations,
Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Ste. 407 DNA Building
238 Archbishop Flores St.
Hagatna, Guam 96910
(671) 989-8356
senatortelot@gmail.com

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 16, 2026 | Hagåtña, Guam

**NO CANCER PATIENT SHOULD BE LEFT BEHIND:
BILL 246-38 ADVANCES TO PROTECT TIMELY SUPPORT**

“When someone on Guam hears the words ‘you have cancer,’ everything changes for the patient and their families. Peace of mind is replaced with fear, financial strain, difficult life decisions, and uncertainty about their future,” said Senator Telo T. Taitague. “Families should be focused on treatment and healing, not on whether the support they were promised will arrive on time.”

Bill No. 246-38 (COR), introduced by Senator Taitague, is advancing through the legislative process following a public hearing before the Committee on Finance and Government Operations. The measure focuses on ensuring reliability for one of Guam’s most critical support systems for families facing cancer.

Guam’s cancer data is staggering, and it continues to touch nearly every family on Guam. Behind every diagnosis is not only a medical battle, but lost wages, the cost for treatment, and the emotional toll that follows. For many families, the fight against cancer is also a fight to maintain stability during one of the most difficult periods of their lives.

The Guam Cancer Trust Fund was created so families would not have to face those challenges alone. The Fund supports cancer screening programs, treatment assistance, patient navigation, advocacy services, and outreach that catches cancer early and helps patients throughout their journey. These programs help cover travel, co-pays, medication, diagnostic testing, and other support that allows patients to focus on recovery rather than survival.

During the hearing, the Guam Cancer Trust Fund reported that since 2022, over 6,200 cancer patients have been directly impacted through grants supporting off-island travel for treatment, medication, medical supplies, patient navigation services, and caregiver respite support. The Fund emphasized that maintaining consistent monthly allotments is critical to sustaining these lifesaving services.

In past fiscal years, allotments to the Fund have reportedly been received sporadically or late in the fiscal year, affecting grant cycles and reimbursements for organizations serving cancer patients. Bill 246-38 addresses this operational issue by exempting the Guam Cancer Trust Fund from allotment release control, ensuring that funds appropriated by the Legislature can be accessed on a structured and predictable schedule.

“We believe in Bill No. 246-38’s intent to ensure that award recipients receive their grant funds in a manner that is timely and consistent, so that in turn they may continue to provide uninterrupted services to our cancer patients,” stated Dr. Yvette Paulino, Chairperson of the Guam Cancer Trust Fund.

Community nonprofit partners testified that inconsistent allotments create financial strain and disrupt patient care.

Guam Cancer Care Executive Director Terry Cuabo testified that “appropriations are half the battle, receiving the funds is a whole different animal,” noting that delays have disrupted grant cycles and slowed patient support.

The Edward M. Calvo Cancer Foundation underscored the urgency, stating, “When a patient requires screening, treatment, or support services, every day matters.”

Todu Guam Foundation emphasized the operational impact, stating, “Timely reimbursement is not a convenience. It is a necessity for program survival.”

The Payless Markets Community Foundation emphasized continuity of care, stating, “Maintaining the quality, stability and continuity of our support services is key to our program’s success and more importantly, to the health of participants who depend on us.”

Chris Felix, a member of the Guam Cancer Trust Fund Board, shared his family’s experience seeking off-island treatment for his wife and the heavy financial burden families face when services are unavailable on Guam. While his family managed the costs, he met many who could not. As a board member reviewing grant proposals, he said limited funds and delayed disbursements force difficult decisions that affect patients’ care. He also noted that some life-saving treatments, including bone marrow transplants costing \$600,000 to \$700,000, are not covered by certain insurance plans and urged the Legislature to examine those gaps.

Former Senator James Espaldon, representing Ayuda Foundation’s Wings for Life program, testified that delayed disbursements “work against cancer.” He explained that when funding is slow, assistance must be limited and, at times, he has personally advanced funds so patients do not miss treatment. Every delay, he said, delays a patient’s progress in care.

Dr. Sharleen Santos-Bamba, Senior Vice President and UOG Acting President also testified in strong support of the bill, noting that the university will continue to remain responsible stewards of the fund.

“When we commit funding for cancer services, families should not have to wonder when that help will arrive. It should be available, in full and on time. Reliable support matters deeply to families fighting this disease. No one fighting cancer should ever feel left behind,” stated Senator Taitague.

Senator Taitague thanked all who provided testimony and expressed appreciation to Committee Chair Senator Chris Dueñas for recognizing the seriousness of the measure and committing to advance the bill for consideration during the March 2026 session.

-END-

For additional information regarding this press release, please contact Senator Taitague’s office at 671-989-8356. Information requests also may be sent via email to senatortelot@gmail.com.



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

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

Monday, February 16, 2026 – Guam Congress Building

9:00AM:

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 16, 2026, beginning at 9:00 am at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

- **Bill No. 262-38 (LS)** – V. Anthony Ada – AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY THOUSAND (\$890,000) TO I LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN FOR ITS CYBERSECURITY AND AUTOMATIONS NEEDS FOR FY 2026.
- **Bill No. 246-38 (COR)** – Telo T. Taitague - AN ACT TO AMEND 1303.1 OF CHAPTER 1, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, TO ADD THE GUAM CANCER TRUST FUND TO THE LIST OF ENTITIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES EXEMPT FROM THE BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH ALLOTMENT RELEASE CONTROL, TO ENSURE TIMELY AND CONSISTENT ACCESS TO APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR CANCER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

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 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).



Date: February 16, 2026

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

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Bill No. 246-38 (COR) – Telo T. Taitague - "AN ACT TO AMEND § 1303.1 OF CHAPTER 1, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, TO ADD THE GUAM CANCER TRUST FUND TO THE LIST OF ENTITIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES EXEMPT FROM THE BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH ALLOTMENT RELEASE CONTROL, TO ENSURE TIMELY AND CONSISTENT ACCESS TO APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR CANCER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES."

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	ASHLEY CALO-RONIGUEZ	7004 GUAM FOUNDATION	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		✓	✓	
2	Jean Espalder	Ayuda Foundation	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	✓		✓	
3	Zeny Naca	Todu Guam Foundation	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]			✓	
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								



Date: February 16, 2026

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

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Bill No. 246-38 (COR) – Telo T. Taitague - "AN ACT TO AMEND § 1303.1 OF CHAPTER 1, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, TO ADD THE GUAM CANCER TRUST FUND TO THE LIST OF ENTITIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES EXEMPT FROM THE BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH ALLOTMENT RELEASE CONTROL, TO ENSURE TIMELY AND CONSISTENT ACCESS TO APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR CANCER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES."

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
✓ 1	Yvette Paulino	GCTF/UOG			✓	✓	✓	
✓ 2	Chris Felix	Cancer Care			✓		✓	
✓ 3	TERRY C VAZGO	GUAM CANCER CARE			✓	✓	✓	
✓ 4	Marie Benito	Payless Foundation				✓	✓	
5	Patene Manibasan	Guam Cancer Care					✓	
6	WYLLIE ENDOZO	Guam Cancer Care					✓	
7	STEPHANIE ANCHETA	GUAM CANCER CARE					✓	
8	Romylin Tamandaka	GCTF/UOG					✓	
9	Joann Paulino	" "					✓	
10	Janelle Pujan	" "					✓	
✓ 11	Sharleen Santos-Bomba	UOG			✓		✓	
12								



Karl Pangelinan <karl.p@guamlegislature.gov>

Fwd: Testimony in support of Bill 246-38 (COR)

1 message

Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>
To: Karl Pangelinan <karl.p@guamlegislature.gov>

Tue, Feb 10, 2026 at 1:56 PM



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

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

From: **Senator Telo Taitague** <senatortelot@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Feb 10, 2026 at 1:05 PM

Subject: Fwd: Testimony in support of Bill 246-38 (COR)

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

Hafa adai Senator Duenas,

Please see the forwarded testimony to add to the record on the bill for the public hearing. Si Yu'os ma'åse'!

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,

Create a Great Day!

Senator Telo T. Taitague

38th Guam Legislature

Chairperson

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Suite 407 DNA Building

[238 Archbishop Flores St.](#)

[Hagatna, Guam 96910](#)

Tel: (671) 989-8356

Email: senatortelot@gmail.com

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

From: **Samir Ambrale** [REDACTED]

Date: Tue, 10 Feb 2026 at 11:25

Subject: Testimony in support of Bill 246-38 (COR)

To: <senatortelot@gmail.com>

February 10, 2026

Via Electronic Mail

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF BILL NO. 246-38 (COR)

Relative to Adding the Guam Cancer Trust Fund to the List of Entities Exempt from BBMR Allotment Release Control

Before the I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Honorable Senators of the Guam Legislature:

My name is Dr. Samir Ambrale, and I am a Medical Oncologist and Hematologist practicing on Guam at the FHP Health Center. I am also the Medical Advisor for Guam Cancer Care.

I write today in strong support of Bill 246-38 (COR), which seeks to amend §1303.1 of Chapter 1, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, to add the Guam Cancer Trust Fund (GCTF) to the list of entities exempt from Bureau of Budget and Management Research (BBMR) allotment release control. This change will ensure timely and predictable access to appropriated funds for critical cancer programs and patient support services.

As a clinician, I witness every day how delays in care, lack of financial assistance, and interruptions to support services result in worse outcomes for patients. The issues addressed by this bill are not abstract—they have caused real disruptions in care delivery and have placed additional hardship on patients battling cancer on Guam.

To illustrate the need for this legislation, below is a chronological timeline of documented funding disruptions and their consequences:

October 4, 2024 — Trust Fund Underfunded (\$2M Shortfall)

The FY 2025 budget approved by the 37th Guam Legislature underfunded the GCTF by approximately \$2 million, placing essential nonprofit services in jeopardy. Organizations such as Guam Cancer Care, Edward M. Calvo Cancer Foundation, American Cancer Society, Todu Guam Foundation, and Ayuda Foundation faced uncertainty about their ability to provide patient support due to lack of funds. Witnesses at hearings emphasized that this shortfall threatened continuity of care and family stability.

October 7, 2024 — Imminent Service Shutdown

Guam Cancer Care announced that its grant from the GCTF was set to expire on October 31, 2024, and that without partial or continued funding, essential services such as patient navigation, direct financial assistance, and transportation to treatment appointments could end.

November 1, 2024 — Suspension of Direct Support Services

When the existing GCTF grant expired without an approved FY 2025 award, Guam Cancer Care suspended direct support services, including patient transportation for chemotherapy and radiation and direct financial assistance awards. These services are vital to ensuring patients can complete prescribed treatment regimens.

June 24, 2025 — University of Guam Highlights GCTF Role

The University of Guam noted that since 2010 the GCTF has been essential in financing cancer screening, diagnosis, treatment, education, and outreach programs — showing the breadth of services reliant on predictable funding.

August 17, 2025 — Budget Increases but Still Not Stable

During the FY 2026 budget session, the 38th Guam Legislature approved amendments increasing the Cancer Trust Fund (including a \$500,000 and an \$83,000 boost). While helpful, these adjustments still left the Fund dependent on annual appropriations and subject to control delays, rather than establishing a stable release mechanism.

September 9, 2025 — Legislative Hearing on Minimum Funding Reform

A public hearing on Bill 1-38 (COR), which later became Public Law 38-62, emphasized that stable and predictable funding was critical to ensure access to care and support for patients with cancer.

October 21, 2025 — Passage of Public Law 38-62

Bill 1-38 (COR) was signed into law as Public Law 38-62, guaranteeing no less than 15% of Healthy Futures Fund receipts or \$4 million annually to the GCTF. This was an important step toward financial stability for cancer services after years of funding uncertainty.

January 8, 2026 — Relaunch of Critical Patient Programs

With renewed support from the GCTF, Guam Cancer Care restarted its co-pay assistance program for cancer patients, covering transportation, lodging, medication, and other direct care costs — demonstrating the direct link between timely funding and continued patient support.

Despite the progress made with Public Law 38-62, structural funding release delays persist because appropriated funds remain subject to BBMR allotment release control. This means that even when the Legislature appropriates funds for the Guam Cancer Trust Fund, they can still be held up administratively, delaying their availability to organizations and patients when they are most needed.

Bill 246-38 (COR) would:

Exempt the GCTF from BBMR allotment release control, so funds can be accessed promptly after appropriation per GCTF drawdown schedule.

Eliminate administrative lag that has historically interfered with patient support continuity.

Ensure that nonprofits providing transportation, financial assistance, counseling, and other essential services can operate without interruption.

Strengthen Guam's non-profit cancer care infrastructure by eliminating avoidable bureaucratic delays.

Cancer treatment often requires precise timing and continuity, and interruptions in supportive services — such as transportation for radiation or chemotherapy — can lead to:

Missed treatments and suboptimal outcomes

Increased emergency interventions

Higher overall health system costs

Greater financial and emotional distress for families

As a clinician, I have seen patients struggle to adhere to treatment schedules because of logistic and financial barriers that could have been mitigated by consistent and timely support services — services that have been jeopardized by funding delays.

For patients with cancer, timing matters. Delays in care and support translate into measurable setbacks in health outcomes. Bill 246-38 (COR) is a practical, targeted, and necessary reform that will strengthen the implementation of legislative intent and ensure that appropriated funds are used for their intended purpose — supporting cancer patients on Guam without delay.

I urge you to pass Bill 246-38 (COR) without amendment and restore confidence that once the Legislature has acted, the needs of our most vulnerable patients will be met without unnecessary administrative delay.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

Samir Ambrale



Terry L. Cuabo, Executive Director
Guam Cancer Care
P.O. Box 25701
Barrigada, Guam 96921

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF BILL 246-38 (COR) – AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTION 1303.1 of Chapter 1, Title 5 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, TO ADD THE GUAM CANCER TRUST FUND TO THE LIST OF ENTITIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES EXEMPT FROM THE BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH, ALLOTMENT RELEASE CONTROL, TO ENSURE TIMELY AND CONSISTENT ACCESS TO APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR CANCER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Hafa Adai Senator Chris Duenas and members of the 38th Guam Legislature,

My name is Terry Cuabo, Executive Director and co-founder of Guam Cancer Care, a Guam non-profit organization whose focus is to provide direct support services to Guam residents afflicted by cancer, in the form of providing patient navigation, financial assistance, transportation, screening and early detection.

Guam Cancer Care is celebrating 14 years this year, and I am pleased to say that since our inception, we have served over 4600 Guam residents afflicted by cancer, issued out \$2.1million in financial assistance grant payments, brought in over \$33.8 million dollars in outside resources and issued over \$600,000 in patient supplies, ranging from nutritional supplements (Ensure, Glucerna), colostomy supplies, adult diapers, wipes, wheel chairs and rollators.

I am submitted this official written testimony "IN FAVOR" of Bill 246-38, as it is intended to add the Guam Cancer Trust Fund to the list of entities exempt from the Bureau of Budget and Management Research, allotment release control, with the goal of ensuring timely and consistent access to appropriated funds for cancer programs and services.

Over the past 14 years, the main focus was the lack of appropriations provided to the Guam Cancer Trust in compliance with the 15% of Healthy Future Funds collections. Through the diligence and dedication of Senator Telo Taitague, she was able to push Bill 1-38 through this body and ultimately creating Public Law 38-62 which guarantees \$4million dollar to the Guam Cancer Trust Fund to benefits direct support programs for cancer patients on Guam.

From a government finance perspective, appropriations are half the battle. The receiving of funds is a whole different animal, and receiving these funds is done through the allotment of funds process under the purview of the Bureau of Budget and Management Research. Historically, and over the past 14 years, you would see time and time again issues regarding the delay in grant call out process for the Guam Cancer Trust Fund. The grant cycles have differed over the past many years from the normal October to September time period to a December to December time period. In addition to the inconsistencies in grant periods, there



were significant delays in the reimbursement of grant expenditures to non-profits organizations providing direct support services to Guam cancer patients, to the point where there was delay of up to 5 months in getting NPOs reimbursed by the GCTF. On the surface, you would believe that the Guam Cancer Trust Fund were inefficient and ineffective in their duties to oversee the fund, but that was far from the truth. The issues with implementing the grant call outs annually or reimbursing NPOs for grant expenditures was due in large part to the significant delay in releasing allotments by GovGuam and BBMR to the GCTF.

I do not begrudge both the GCTF or BBMR over what was done in the past. Things happen and we have to move forward to bring more efficiency and effectiveness in the process. Bill 236-38 does just that. It ensures that funding through the allotment process is done expeditiously, whereby BBMR does not include GCTF in prioritizing where limited available cash the government collects at any given time, is released through the allotment process. This bill ensures that funds appropriated to the GCTF from the Healthy Future Funds, is in fact, released in a timely manner to ensure timely and consistent access to these funds are available.

Again, Guam Cancer Care submits this written testimony IN FAVOR of Bill 246-38

If you have any questions regarding my written testimony or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to email me at tcuabo@guamcancercare.org or call me at 486-2886.

Best regards,

TERRY CUABO
Executive Director



RE: Testimony in favor of Bill No. 246-38 (COR) – Telo T. Taitague –

AN ACT TO AMEND 1303.1 OF CHAPTER 1, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, TO ADD THE GUAM CANCER TRUST FUND TO THE LIST OF ENTITIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES EXEMPT FROM THE BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH ALLOTMENT RELEASE CONTROL, TO ENSURE TIMELY AND CONSISTENT ACCESS TO APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR CANCER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

DATE: February 16, 2026

Håfa adai and good afternoon, Members of I Liheslaturan Guåhan! My name is Marie Benito, president of the Payless Markets Community Foundation and facilitator for the Circle of Care Cancer Support and Psycho-oncology Services. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Foundation and our program!

From the moment of diagnosis, cancer patients and their families find themselves overwhelmed with fear, financial strain, and difficult decisions about treatment-what to do, where to go, and how to navigate everything in between. Beyond medical treatment, patients need emotional and psychological support to manage side effects, emotional challenges, and everyday struggles. Caregivers, too, take on new, often unprepared roles while balancing their own limitations. That's where the Circle of Care (CoC) comes in.

Our CoC team helps cancer patients and their families navigate the challenges associated with their diagnosis. Our team includes clinical psychologists, facilitators, and cancer care specialists who assist patients navigate their journey. Weekly online support groups, twice-monthly in-person gatherings, patient navigation services, and special activities help provide much-needed comfort, support, and the social connection to enhance their quality of life.

Since launching our program just 23 months ago, we have seen a growing need for support services. As of December 31, 2025, the Circle of Care program, through the generous support and funding from the Guam Cancer Trust Fund, the CoC has provided: **77 online support group** sessions and **35 in-person support group** sessions, **17 art for healing** classes, **18 oncology nutrition** classes, and **35 yoga for cancer** classes. Additionally, the CoC program held **49 tai-chi/qigong classes** and **5 water aerobics** classes. Furthermore, there were over **305 individual and family psycho-oncology counseling** sessions for participants requesting one on one or small group counseling. The program hosted **71 guest speakers** from the community (doctors, nurses, pharmacists, nutritionists, non-profit cancer organization heads, and others) who provided valuable information to participants on a variety of topics. In addition to our general support group meetings, we have a specialized gynecological support group for women with ovarian, cervical, uterine or fallopian tube cancer, a breast cancer support group, and a prostate cancer support group for men. We have recently included support for children of those diagnosed with cancer. And when participants can't join us, we conduct home and hospital visits letting them know they're not alone. All these services are available free of charge because of the funding we received from the Guam Cancer Trust Fund.

I strongly support **Bill No. 246-38 (COR)** which will add the Guam Cancer Trust Fund to the list of organizations and entities exempt from the Bureau of Budget and Management Research Allotment Release Control. The Circle of Care has been able to provide critical support and psycho-oncology services that were previously limited or non-existent on island because of the generous funding we were awarded through the GCTF. Maintaining the quality, stability and continuity of our support services is key to our program's success and more importantly, to the health of participants who depend on us.



Delays and disruptions in grant announcements, awarding, and reimbursements can create a chain reaction resulting in broken or delayed roll out of our support services.

We are grateful to the Legislators who established this source of funding. We are thankful to the Guam Cancer Trust Fund for realizing the need in the community for cancer support and psycho-oncology services. We are hopeful that this body recognizes and approves the need to include the Guam Cancer Trust Fund to the list of exempt entities so that we can continue to provide regular support and psycho-oncology services to our island community.

Thank you and Si Yu'os Ma'åse!

Marie Calvo Benito

President, PayLess Markets Community Foundation

Guam Cancer Trust Fund

TO: Senator Telo T. Taitague
Sponsor, Bill No. 246-38 (COR)

FROM: Yvette C. Paulino, PhD, CPH
Chairperson, Guam Cancer Trust Fund

DATE: February 14, 2026

Buenas yan Håfa Adai, Honorable Senators of the 38th Guam Legislature! I hereby submit this testimony in support of Bill No. 246-38 (COR) which adds the Guam Cancer Trust Fund (GCTF) to the list of entities exempt from the allotment release control of the Bureau of Budget and Management Research (BBMR). Last year, this legislature passed Bill No. 1-38, enacted as Public Law No. 38-62, thereby securing an appropriation of at least \$4 million to the GCTF annually beginning in FY2026. We are incredibly grateful for this support. The applications submitted to the GCTF for FY2026 funding amounted to \$4.9 million, far exceeding the \$4 million appropriation. As diligent stewards of the trust fund, we reviewed and evaluated all applications with a critical eye and approved whole or partial funding for requests that either sustained direct services for cancer patients or offered promising primary prevention through education and outreach efforts. The GCTF Council voted unanimously to recommend \$3.4 million aligned with caps allowable by law of up to 75% for direct services and 10% for education and outreach. Six non-profit organizations were recommended for continued funding including Ayuda Foundation, Catholic Social Services, Edward M. Calvo Cancer Foundation, Guam Cancer Care, Payless Markets Community Foundation, and Todu Guam Foundation. This budget year, we committed funds to support two more non-profit organizations including the Filipino Community of Guam and the Nicolette Baldovino Community Foundation, Inc.

Currently, the FY2026 funding supports direct services such as off-island travel for treatment for cancer patients plus one escort through Ayuda Foundation; respite care services through Catholic Social Services; financial assistance for a broad range of needs through Edward M. Calvo Cancer Foundation; patient navigation services, supplies, and financial assistance through Guam Cancer Care; circle of cancer care and psycho-oncology support services for cancer patients and their caregivers through Payless Community Foundation; and cancer and cancer risk screening among our most vulnerable populations through Todu Guam Foundation. Remarkably, for the first time in the trust fund's history, we are pleased to report the awarding of over \$1.1 million that can be applied to medication and treatment for cancer patients through grant awards to the Edward M. Calvo Cancer Foundation (\$726,000), the Guam Cancer Care's Financial Assistance Program (\$250,000), and the Nicolette Baldovino Community Foundation, Inc. (\$150,000).

Guam Cancer Trust Fund

GCTF, through the University of Guam, continues to strive for excellence in administering the funds we receive to support our cancer patients. We believe in Bill No. 246-38's intent to ensure that award recipients receive their grant funds in a manner that is timely and consistent, so that in turn they may continue to provide uninterrupted services to our cancer patients. I would like to take a moment to acknowledge BBMR for their recent efforts in timely allotments to the GCTF. Since the beginning of FY2026, we have received monthly allotments (about \$48,000 per month) so far. However, the trust fund's monthly debt is about 4.5 times that amount as experienced in our most recent disbursements for December 2025 awards. We understand that special funds, such as the Healthy Futures Fund in our case, may fall short sometimes. Should this result in monthly allotments below our drawdown schedule (about \$333,000 per month), we respectfully request consideration of other available revenue resources to supplement GCTF's shortfall. Maintaining a level of monthly allotments at or close to our drawdown schedule is critical to sustaining our monthly costs.

Whether it was to purchase airline tickets for off-island cancer care or to provide patient navigation services, medical supplies, treatment, psycho-oncology support, or respite for caregivers, over 6,200 cancer patients have been impacted by the GCTF since 2022 through direct services grants. Thousands more Guam residents, including our youth and adult communities, were reached through the trust fund's education and outreach grants.

In closing, on behalf of the GCTF Council and the University of Guam, we support Bill No. 246-38 which intends to secure timely and consistent allotments to the GCTF. Additionally, any measures that can be put in place to ensure a monthly payment at or close to GCTF's drawdown schedule will continue to help our non-profit organizations provide the direct services desperately needed by our cancer patients.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse',

Gutter C. Paulino



138 MARTYR STREET, HAGATNA, GUAM 96910
(671)472-6223
EMCCANCERFOUNDATION@GMAIL.COM
WWW.GUAMISGOOD.ORG

February 16, 2026

The Honorable Christopher M. Dueñas
Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations
I Mina'Trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
259 Martyr Street
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

RE: WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL NO. 246-38 (COR)

Dear Chairman Dueñas and Senators of the Thirty-Eighth Guam Legislature:

On behalf of the Edward M. Calvo Cancer Foundation, I write to express our strong support for Bill No. 246-38 (COR), which seeks to amend Section 1303.1 of Chapter 1, Title 5 of the Guam Code Annotated to add the Guam Cancer Trust Fund (GCTF) to the list of entities and instrumentalities exempt from the Bureau of Budget and Management Research (BBMR) allotment release control.

The Foundation is a nonprofit charitable organization dedicated to supporting cancer patients and their families on Guam through direct financial assistance. As a direct recipient of funding through the GCTF, our Foundation has witnessed firsthand the challenges that arise when appropriated funds are not released in a timely and consistent manner. These delays have a profound and tangible impact on the individuals and families we serve — the very people of Guam who depend on cancer programs and services for their health and well-being.

When a patient requires screening, treatment, or support services, every day matters. Unfortunately, the inconsistent timing of allotment releases has historically created gaps in the availability of critical funding in some prior years. These delays disrupt annual grant cycles and ultimately hinder our ability to deliver timely assistance to cancer patients in our community. For patients and families already facing the emotional and financial burden of a cancer diagnosis, any interruption in available resources can have devastating consequences.

Bill No. 246-38 addresses this issue directly by ensuring that the GCTF is granted the same exemption from BBMR allotment release control that is already afforded to other essential government entities such as the University of Guam, the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, and the Unified Judiciary of Guam. This exemption would allow the GCTF to similarly draw against its appropriations as needed, pursuant to an approved drawdown schedule, providing the predictability and stability necessary to sustain cancer programs and services without interruption.

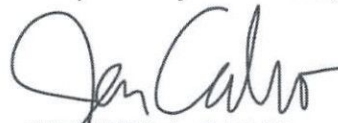
We believe the passage of this Bill would:

1. Ensure timely and consistent access to appropriated funds for cancer patient support services;
2. Allow organizations such as ours to plan and administer programs with greater certainty, improving outcomes for cancer patients across the island;
3. Reduce administrative delays that can impede the delivery of essential health services to some of our most vulnerable community members; and
4. Align the treatment of the GCTF with other similarly situated entities that already benefit from this exemption, reflecting the critical mission of the Fund.

The Edward M. Calvo Cancer Foundation respectfully urges the Committee on Finance and Government Operations, and the entire Legislature to favorably report and pass Bill No. 246-38. Guam's cancer patients and the families who support them during these challenging times deserve the assurance that the resources allocated for their care will be available when they are needed most.

We thank Senator Taitague for her leadership in introducing this important measure, and we thank the Committee and the Legislature for your continued commitment to the health and welfare of our island community. Should you require any additional information or testimony from the Foundation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



JENNIFER A. CALVO
President



Todu Guam Foundation

125 Tun Jesus Crisostomo Street, Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: 671-649-TODU (8638) | E-mail: foundation@toduguam.com
www.toduguam.com

February 16, 2026

Honorable Chris Duenas
Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations
38th Guam Legislature
senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

Re: Written testimony in support of Bill 246-38 (COR)

Hafa Adai Chairman Duenas,

The Todu Guam Foundation is a nonprofit healthcare and social services organization serving the people of Guam through integrated primary care, behavioral health services, preventive screenings, and specialty coordination. As a recipient of the Guam Cancer Trust Fund (GCTF), we have seen firsthand the life-saving impact of this program and the operational strain caused by delayed allotment releases.

Importantly, our cancer program is not limited to serving individuals already diagnosed with cancer. Our efforts are centered on life-saving prevention, early detection, and reducing cancer risk before it becomes life-threatening. Through screenings, education, early diagnostic referrals, and outreach to uninsured populations, we work diligently to prevent cancer or catch it at its earliest and most treatable stages. Prevention saves lives, reduces long-term healthcare costs, and strengthens our island community.

It is important to understand that GCTF grants operate on a reimbursable basis.

This means, recipients like the Todu Guam Foundation must first use our own limited operating funds to provide cancer-related services. We then submit documentation and seek reimbursement from the Guam Cancer Trust Fund.

If the GCTF has not received its allotments in a timely manner, reimbursements to organizations are delayed, causing a ripple effect with other critical programs we administer.

For nonprofit providers like TGF, this creates significant financial strain. We are mission-driven organizations with limited reserves, if any. When reimbursements are delayed, we are effectively advancing cancer care costs out of our own operating funds,



funds that are also needed to sustain other programs and services. Timely reimbursement is not a convenience. It is a necessity for program survival.

As stated in the legislative findings of Bill 246-38, the Guam Cancer Trust Fund has historically received allotments inconsistently. When allotments are delayed, the GCTF cannot process reimbursements efficiently, providers wait longer to be repaid and cash flow becomes strained. This bill helps stop that cycle.

Bill 246-38 does not remove accountability. It simply exempts the GCTF from BBMR allotment release control and allows it to draw against appropriations through an annual drawdown schedule submitted to the Director of Administration.

The efforts of this legislation preserves fiscal oversight while ensuring: predictable funding flow, timely reimbursement cycles, and stable cancer program operations.

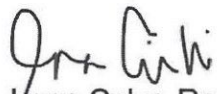
Todu Guam Foundation serves insured, uninsured, and underinsured patients. Many of our people rely on us as a safety-net provider. We operate with limited resources and reinvest everything back into patient care. The GCTF program we administer is focused on the uninsured population, individuals who often have no other pathway to screening or early intervention. When reimbursements are delayed, we are forced to stretch limited funds.

Ensuring the GCTF receives timely allotments directly strengthens Guam's cancer care infrastructure.

We respectfully urge the passage of Bill 246-38 (COR). Bill 246-38 (COR) is a public health protection measure. We thank Senator Taitague and all co-sponsoring Senators for their leadership and commitment to the health of our island community.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse for your continued leadership and commitment to the people of Guam.

Sincerely,



Lena Calvo-Rodriguez
President

CC: Honorable Telo T. Taitague, Senator, 38th Guam Legislature





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

COMMITTEE VOTE SHEET

Bill No. 246-38 (COR) - “AN ACT TO AMEND § 1303.1 OF CHAPTER 1, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, TO ADD THE GUAM CANCER TRUST FUND TO THE LIST OF ENTITIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES EXEMPT FROM THE BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH ALLOTMENT RELEASE CONTROL, TO ENSURE TIMELY AND CONSISTENT ACCESS TO APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR CANCER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.”

Committee Members	Signature	TO DO PASS	TO NOT PASS	TO REPORT OUT ONLY	TO ABSTAIN	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE
Senator Christopher M. Dueñas <i>Chairperson</i>		X				
Senator V. Anthony Ada <i>Vice Chairperson</i>	E-Vote 2/23/26			X		
Senator Frank F. Blas, Jr. <i>Member</i>						
Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <i>Member</i>	E-Vote 2/23/26			X		
Senator Jesse A. Lujan <i>Member</i>	E-Vote 2/23/26	X				
Senator Vincent A.V. Borja <i>Member</i>	E-Vote 2/23/26			X		
Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes <i>Member</i>						
Senator Joe S. San Agustin <i>Member</i>	E-Vote 2/23/26			X		



Karl Pangelinan <karl.p@guamlegislature.gov>

E-Vote on Bill #246-38

7 messages

Karl Pangelinan <karl.p@guamlegislature.gov>
To: cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>

Mon, Feb 23, 2026 at 3:54 PM

Hafa Adai Committee Members:

Please find committee report attached for Bill #246-38 - Sen. Telo Taitague -
“AN ACT TO AMEND § 1303.1 OF CHAPTER 1, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, TO ADD THE GUAM CANCER TRUST FUND TO THE LIST OF ENTITIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES EXEMPT FROM THE BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH ALLOTMENT RELEASE CONTROL, TO ENSURE TIMELY AND CONSISTENT ACCESS TO APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR CANCER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.”

Your action on this measure is respectfully requested.

Kindly indicate your preferred course of action by selecting one of the following options:

TO DO PASS

TO NOT PASS

TO REPORT OUT ONLY

TO ABSTAIN

TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE

Please submit your response as soon as possible by **REPLY ALL** to this email. 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.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse' for your prompt attention to this matter.

Respectfully yours,
Karl Pangelinan
Office of Senator Chris M. Duenas - Chairman Finance & Gov't Operation

 **Bill 246-38 Committee Report.pdf**
12852K

Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>
To: Karl Pangelinan <karl.p@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc: cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov, Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>

Mon, Feb 23, 2026 at 4:01 PM

To Report Out Only

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

[Quoted text hidden]

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

Mon, Feb 23, 2026 at 4:11 PM

To: Karl Pangelinan <karl.p@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov, Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>

To do pass.

[Quoted text hidden]

--



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

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

Mon, Feb 23, 2026 at 4:35
PM

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

Cc: Karl Pangelinan <karl.p@guamlegislature.gov>, cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov, Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>

Report out only



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

Electronic Privacy Notice: This e-mail and any attachment(s), contains information that is, or may be, covered by electronic communications privacy laws and legal privileges, and is also confidential and proprietary in nature. If you are not the intended recipient, please be advised that you are legally prohibited from retaining, using, copying, distributing, or otherwise disclosing the information in this e-mail or any attachment in any manner. Instead, please reply to the sender that you have received this communication in error, and then immediately delete it. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

[Quoted text hidden]

Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 23, 2026 at 4:38 PM

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

Cc: Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>, Karl Pangelinan <karl.p@guamlegislature.gov>, cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov, Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>

To report out only. Thank you.

The Office of Senator Joe S. San Agustin

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan

38th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T: (671) 989-5445 F: (671) 969-6737 E: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com

Website: www.senatorjoessanagustin.com

Electronic Privacy Notice: *This e mail and any attachment(s), contains information that is, or may be, covered by electronic communications privacy laws and legal privileges, and is also confidential and proprietary in nature. If you are not the intended recipient, please be advised that you are legally prohibited from retaining, using, copying, distributing, or otherwise disclosing the information in this e-mail or any attachment in any manner. Instead, please reply to the sender that you have received this communication in error, and then immediately delete it. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.*

[Quoted text hidden]

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

Mon, Feb 23, 2026 at 4:48 PM

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

To: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com

Cc: vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov, senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov, karl.p@guamlegislature.gov, cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov, senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

Report out only

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

[Quoted text hidden]

Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

Mon, Feb 23, 2026 at

<office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

5:45 PM

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

Cc: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com, vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov, senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov, karl.p@guamlegislature.gov, cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov, senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

Report out only



Office of Legislative Secretary

SENATOR SABBINA 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

The email message is intended only for the individual or entity named above and may contain confidential and privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, any disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of the information contained in this transmission is strictly PROHIBITED. If you have received this transmission in error, please

immediately notify me by replying to office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov and delete the message immediately. Thank you.

[Quoted text hidden]



Committee Report Digest

Committee on Finance & Government Operations

Senator Chris M. Duenas – Chairman

I. **Overview**

Bill No. 246-38 was introduced by Senator Telo T. Taitague on December 17, 2025 and referred to the Committee on Finance and Government Operations by the Committee on Rules on December 23, 2025. The Committee held a public hearing on February 16, 2026, at 9:00am in the Guam Congress Building’s Public Hearing Room.

Notices for the hearing were posted to the Government Public Notices Portal and distributed via email to all senators and major media outlets on February 9, 2026 (5-day notice) and again on February 12, 2026 (48-hour notice).

SENATORS PRESENT

Chris Duenas – Chairman

Sabrina Salas Matanane – Member

Eulogio *Shawn* Gumataotao

Shelly V. Calvo

Telo T. Taitague

Therese M. Terlaje

Oral Testimony:

Yvette Paulino, GCTF/UOG

Chris Felix, Guam Cancer Care

Terry Cuabo, Guam Cancer Care

Marie Benito, Payless Foundation

Sharlene Santos Bamba, UOG

Sen James Espandon, Ayuda Foundation

Written Testimony:

Jennifer Calvo, Edward M. Calvo Cancer Foundation

Lena Calvo-Rodriguez, Todu Guam Foundation

Marie Benito, Payless Foundation

Terry Cuabo, Guam Cancer Care

Yvette Paulino, GCTF/UOG

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

Chairman Duenas: Manana si yu'os, Buenos Dias. Good morning and thank you all for being here this morning in your Guam 38th Guam Legislature at the Guam Congress Building. This morning's public hearing is conducted by the Committee on Finance and Government Operations and is called to the order called to order at this time 0901 on this Monday, February 16, 2026. First notice of this public hearing was disseminated to all senators and media outlets on February 9, 2026 with its second notice disseminated on February 12, 2026. These hearing notices were also made available on the Guam legislator's website, our legislative calendar, and the government of Guam's public notice portal. The committee will hear testimony on the following bills on the agenda. Bill number 262-38 introduced by Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, an act to appropriate the sum of \$890,000 to *I Liheslaturan Guahan* for its cyber security and autonomous needs for fiscal year 2026. The next bill on the agenda will be bill number 246-38 CO-introduced by Senator Telo Taitague is an act to amend subsection 1331 of chapter 1 title 5 Guam code annotated to add the Guam Cancer Trust Fund to the list of entities instrumentalities exempt from the bureau budget management research (BBMR) allotment release control to ensure timely and consistent access to appropriated funds for the cancer fund programs and services. At this time, I would like to welcome my colleagues who have joined us this morning. Senator Taitague and also Senator Calvo. Thank you for being here. Before we begin, I'd like to remind everyone in attendance of *I Liheslaturan Guahan* general rules of conduct. Individuals testifying shall first be recognized by the chairperson before speaking and shall state their full name for recordkeeping purposes. Questions and testimony shall be confined to the substance and nature of the bill that's on the agenda. Personal inferences as to the character or motive of any senator or individual testifying is not permitted. The chairperson of the committee may order the removal from this hearing of any member of *I Liheslaturan Guahan* or the public audience who fails to observe proper decorum pursuant to the 38th Guam legislature standing rules. Any violation of this general rule of conduct will result in immediate removal from this public hearing room. With that, we will now proceed to and I'm going to change the order this morning to allow for those who have come to testify that they can back get back to their business of the day. Given that the second bill or the initial bill is the legislature and we'll be going through a PowerPoint on that and so everyone else can get back to work. So we'll do that bill first. So, at this point, I'd like to uh recognize um Senator Telo Taitague, and that will be on bill number 246-38. Senator Taitague, you're recognized at this time.

[Public Hearing - Senator Christopher M. Duenas - February 16, 2026 9am](#)

Sen Taitague: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good morning to my colleagues, and uh good morning to those who are listening from home and especially those who are here taking the time out of your schedule to be here. And Mr. Chair, you know, I had a pretty lengthy opening statement, but because of the amount of people that are here, I'm just going to dwindle that down a little bit. So, to allow everyone the opportunity to testify because that's more important than what I have well, what I have to say is important, but I think the people want to hear from those who um who have to deal with this on a daily basis. So, that being said, Mr. Chair, again, thank you for having this public hearing. And I also like to thank my co-sponsors on this legislation. Um, who's here? Senator Shelly Calvo, of course, uh, Senator Therese Terlaje, Senator Chris Barnett, Senator Sabina Perez, uh, Senator and Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Senator Jesse Lujan, Senator Frank Speaker Frank Blas, um, Senator Joseph San Augustin, and Senator Tina Rose Muna Barnes. As you can tell, there's quite a bit of support for this legislation. So that being said, Mr. Chair, the Guam Cancer Trust Fund was created because we recognize the reality. It exists so that families are not alone with bills piling up, when travel is needed for treatment, when medication costs are out of reach, when somebody, somebody simply needs help navigating the system. Mr. Chair, last October, we took an important step forward when Bill #1 was signed into law as public law 38-62. That law stabilizes funding for the Guam Cancer Trust Fund by guaranteeing that at least 15% of the Healthy Futures Fund or \$4 million annually, whichever is greater, would go directly to support the cancer services. That was about securing the funding. Bill 246-38 is the continuation of that commitment. It ensures that the funding we fought to protect is not only guaranteed on paper but delivered on time to the families who depend on it. But there was a problem. In recent years, when this legislation appropriated funds to the trust fund, those funds were not always released in a timely and predictable way. Allotments were sporadic, sometimes late in the physical year, and sometimes representatives had to physically retrieve checks for money that had already been approved. When funding arrives late, grant cycles are delayed. Cancer does not wait for paperwork. Families should not have to wait for support. Bill #246 fixes that operational problem. It doesn't increase spending. It doesn't raise taxes. It doesn't end programs. The physical note confirms that there is no additional physical impact. What this bill does is align the Guam Cancer Trust Fund with the University of Guam, which already administers it and it exempts from all allotment releases like the University of Guam. Oversight remains, audit remains, reporting remains, the legislature still controls appropriation. What changes is timing and certainty. In other words, Mr. Chair, this bill with an amendment that I would also like to recommend to proffer in section three would make funding available at all times every month for the allotment. And in the event special funds fall short of the projected revenues that the general fund will cover that shortfall. That means there should be no delays in providing the funding. So again, in section three, to make the projections even clearer, regardless of what the revenues are, I provide an amendment

[Public Hearing - Senator Christopher M. Duenas - February 16, 2026 9am](#)

to the bill that I will be sharing with you. So, that being said, I'm anxious to hear um from the public whether they support or don't support this, but I will definitely be the one to continue to fight the fight along with some of my other colleagues who supported this uh bill as well. So, thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman Duenas: Si yu'os Ma'ase, Senator Taitague, and also I want to ensure that I recognize Senator Gumataotao who's been here since the beginning of uh our opening. So, thank you, Senator Gata, for joining us. So, I'm going to read on the list. I have four individuals signed up for oral testimony, and that's: Yvette Paulino, Chris Felix, and Terry or Terry Kobal. And also, Sharlene Santos Bamba. Yeah. So, those individuals were signed up for oral as well as support. So, come forward. If there's anybody else who would like to provide oral testimony, you can come forward as well. But those are the ones who originally signed up. Okay. And Senator Espodon, welcome back to your house as well. Please come forward. You're signed up for uh oral testimony. And Ashley Calvo Rodriguez as well. Signed up as a sign-in sheet just coming. Ashley, would you like to provide oral testimony? Just written. Okay. So, um with that, um we have everybody who's come forward that is going to be testifying in person. And then I'd just like to make sure we recognize those who are also had joined us this morning. Marie Bonito from the Payless Foundation. Thank you Marie for being here. Pauline Manibusan from Guam Cancer Care. Willie Endo from Guam Cancer Care. Stephanie Ananetta, Guam Cancer Care, sorry if I've messed that up. Tony Lynn Tomaka, GCTFOG, Joanne Paulino, same organization, and Janelle Lujan, same organization. So, thank you all for being here today to be here with and grace us with your presence as well as those uh that will be testifying in person. So, Senator, would you like to start us off?

Sen James Espaldon – Ayuda Foundation: Thank you, Senator Duenas, and good morning, everybody. I didn't prepare any written testimony. I think this is kind of a no-brainer. Uh, and that's from my perspective. I've come here representing the Ayuda Foundation. We have a program called Wings for Life. Our purpose is to help cancer patients who are referred for off-island treatment. Our purpose is to help them get off island. We provide the airfare assistance for those whose insurance companies do not assist with air transportation to go off island for cancer treatment. This bill I think is a very simple analysis and the reason why I say that because I would like Mr. Chairman, for you if I may just ask you to go ahead and give me a number between 23 to 150 if you can just give me a number and what I will do is I will refer you to a page number in this book. This is book has a list of patients that we've assisted. uh it has their name, their identifying uh their corresponding uh patient number and what

[Public Hearing - Senator Christopher M. Duenas - February 16, 2026 9am](#)

they're what what they're afflicted with. So, Senator, if you could just give me a number and I'll turn to that page and I'd like to read something for you.

Chairman Duenas: Senator, I'm honored by that request. So, I'm going to give you 59 and I'm going to explain why 59. I'm 59 years old and I'm very familiar recently with the difficulty of cancer. So please proceed.

Sen James Espaldon – Ayuda Foundation: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Page 59 basically is a list of patients and this is from September in 2023 and we can go on to other pages that will list more updated but just for that I'm going to list just what patients we have sent on this particular day on this particular page. The first patient osteosarcoma, bone cancer, right? We have lymphoma. We have, let me see what else we got, oh, we have sent an escort, a caregiver, right, to go along with a patient who is who's actually a Medicaid patient and a Medicaid does not pay for an escort. And so what we do is we assist with the caregiver escort to be able to accompany the patient. We don't believe that a patient should travel by themselves, especially in this kind of situation. Another one is something I've never heard of. I had to look up. It's called Lynch syndrome. And then there's also breast cancer which we're all familiar with. There's oral phalangeal, basically the nose, the face cancer. We have esophagus adenocarcinoma of the esophagus. We have endometrial cancer, the uterine cancer, we have thyroid cancer, we have invasive breast cancer, we have prostate cancer, breast cancer again, stomach cancer, and I can the list goes on. I we can go to several more dozens of pages and they'll have you'll have a list of all the various kinds of cancer. I think everybody's really familiar with they hear about breast cancer, they hear about lung cancer, and those are kind of and uterine cancer and those are kind of the cancers that people are kind of familiar with, but there are so many different kinds of cancers. And I guess the point I'm trying to drive home is when you have patients who come who are medically referred who really need to get off island and there's no funding to help them do that, that hurts, right? It hurts the patients. It hurts the family and it actually works against the cancer because then what we see is we see metastasis. Metastasis is basically where the cancer starts to spread to other parts of the body. And so it is important. There have been times, if I may say, where the funding was a little slow to come. And so, I've had to make the personal decision, what should I do to be able to help these patients get off-island according to the appointments they have already set up, according to the emergency nature of their situation. And I've had to pull money out of my own pocket, use my own personal credit card just to be able to get these patients off-island. And again, for whatever reason, whether it be just a technical bureaucratic reason or again, for whatever reason, if the funds are slow in coming, we have

[Public Hearing - Senator Christopher M. Duenas - February 16, 2026 9am](#)

decisions we need to make of how can we help these patients get off-island. So I believe and you know when you talk about really the percentage of what the Guam Cancer Trust Fund is supposed to receive versus the wholeness of the government budget. It's a very small percentage. And so it to me it makes sense to be able to make sure that the funding is there not just for our organizations but for all the organizations that you see here to be able to help the cancer patients. We all have our individual roles of how we assist the patients. We fly patients. We have the Guam cancer care who helps navigate the patients through the various assistance programs as well as provide for financial assistance and other kinds of help that cancer patients really need. We have the Calvo Foundation, who help financially. Again, that is a big part because going off island for treatment, sometimes this is not a one week thing, one week stay. Sometimes this is a month, two months, 3 months, that little bit of financial assistance helps cover the lodging, the food and whatnot that that the is required to be able to go through the whole treatment and then we have it happening again. Sometimes they have to go back because it has metastasized and every time there's a delay in funding right that basically delays the progress of the treatment for the patients. So that's all I really have to say that to the point I think this is a good bill and it's a very simple analysis but I will let my other colleagues in in the cancer industry speak to their needs. But I thank you for the opportunity and hope that you all take in consideration what this really truly means to the very many types of cancer patients that we have. It's not just breast cancer. It's not just one kind of cancers. There are so many different kinds of cancers that the people of Guam have and we don't have the facilities or the expertise to be able to treat it here. So we ask for your support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase*, Senator Espadon, and thank you for your testimony. So we will go uh back to our list again and Miss Paulino, please proceed.

Yvette Paulino: *(Ms. Paulino reads her written testimony which has been appended to this committee report).*

Chairman Duenas: *Si yu'os Ma'ase* Miss Yvette Paulino for your testimony. And next is Mr. Chris Felix.

Chris Felix: Hi, I'm Chris Felix. Most of you know me as a dirt dealer, but I also happen to be a member of the Guam Cancer Trust Fund. I'm on the board, I think for the last four years,

[Public Hearing - Senator Christopher M. Duenas - February 16, 2026 9am](#)

Remy, about four years now I've been on the board. And as has already been explained, we get these proposals from the different cancer institutes, different charity groups and we go through them and we have so much money we can spend. So, we try to give what we feel is the best dollar, the best buck for the best deal and try to get the best for the that we can get and give to these charities. If we have four million, we divide that up in a way we feel is the best for the patients, for the people of Guam. It's been a very enlightening four years for me. We personally each one of us on the board seem to focus on different things. I like to focus on making sure that people get transportation, get air transportation, get hotel transportation, and able to get back and forth between hotels and the hospital. Cancer, you don't stay in a hospital generally if you're under cancer care. You normally go through a treatment, then you're released for two, three weeks. At least that's the way it was for my family. And then you're back in. So you got all this back and forth. And you also have someone that is that has to take care of you. A personal a family member. And they have to go back and forth every day. They can't spend the day in the hospital. So there's a lot of money going back and forth that is was not accounted for and not does isn't covered by insurance if you're lucky enough to have insurance. So this has been really a good thing for Guam and we make sure it is remains good that the money goes where it should go and we do that very carefully and we work very hard to make sure that the right people get the money that they need and the right organization gets the money so they can get it to their people. And when we don't get the money in a regular basis, we can't...these companies, these organizations, they have to kind of advance if I have it right. They got to pay it and then they send us the bill. They have to prove that the money went to these certain places and the money was spent and then we reimburse them. That's the way the it's set up. So if we don't get the money on a timely basis, I can't reimburse these organiz...and then they can't spend it on the next group or the next month. And so it's really serious. There were some years three, four, things have been much better the last couple years, but three, four years ago, I mean, we were getting 50 grand and we needed 500,000. And it was really bad that we had to sit with these other companies and say, "I'm sorry. I can't give you the \$100,000 you've already spent and you want back so you can give to somebody else." And you're looking at these faces as a senator just read to you these people who are dying and you can't help them. This isn't this is not good. I'm trying hard not to get emotional. Some of you senators, Senator Cavlo, Senator Taitague knew my wife, Rose Tamaras Felix. She passed 5 years ago. Tomorrow's her fifth anniversary. She had leukemia. We found out that she had leukemia. In one day, we were on a plane because the doctor said your she was 70% her blood and she had to go. We got her on a plane. We got to USC Norris Cancer Institute. We got her put in there. Then I had to go rent a place out in Pasadena because again she was released and put in. So we travel every day. I would have to bring come in and get and sometimes she come back and stay with us. And it was six months. We went through six months of this. She had to go through three different, three

[Public Hearing - Senator Christopher M. Duenas - February 16, 2026 9am](#)

different types. We were blessed. Rose and I were blessed. We didn't ask for any money. We didn't need any money. We paid everything out of our pockets and we were, you know, we're blessed. I didn't ask didn't need it. And so I was fine. But while we were there, we there were four others in the same hospital on the same floor from Guam. And we would get together all the time and they were, you know, their husbands were, you know, one lady, her husband was far away and he had to come in when he could and he couldn't come in all the time. And so these things we really need this transportation. It's nickel and dime, but to them they don't have the money, you know. There was one other thing I really wanted to speak about is some of our insurance companies on Guam do not pay for bone marrow transplants. When you have leukemia, the final treatment is a bone marrow transplant and that costs about \$6 to \$700,000 and some insurance companies on Guam do not cover it. And the hospital in Norris Cancer Institute, one of the one of the four hospitals there in a group in USC. They could not believe that our insurance companies did not cover bone marrow. They said, "We've never heard of an insurance company that does not", and they don't take bone. It's really just a blood transfusion and then they run the blood through some special treatment and then feed it. They get it from one patient and feed it into another to help their white blood cell and to help their bones real. And so I could not believe that. You know, I you know, we had to show we had we had two weeks to gather \$700,000 cash. And you know, I could do that. And it was hard, but I could do it. I can't imagine how some people on Guam, you know, who aren't blessed as me have to go through that. Where are they going to get 700? And the insurance company says, "No, we don't do bone. We don't do transplants." Well, transplants, okay, but bone marrow transplant, you know, please, senators, look at that. And thank you, Senator Taitague, for this bill. We need this cash flow. And I'm sorry I got off the track as I always do and I talk too much. Thank you.

Chairman Duenas: We're quite happy to take your testimony Mr. Chris Felix and thank you for being here and sharing with us. We really appreciate that. I'd like to also welcome our colleague Senator Terlaje and thank you for joining us. Next is Terry Cuabo. Terry, you're recognized.

Terry L. Cuabo – Exec. Director, Guam Cancer Care: *Hafa Adai* Senator Chris Duenas and members of the 38th Guam Legislature. My name is Terry Cuabo, executive director and co-founder of Guam Cancer Care, a Guam nonprofit organization whose focus is to provide direct support services to Guam residents afflicted by cancer in the form of providing patient navigation, financial assistance, transportation, screening, and early detection. Guam Cancer Care is celebrating 14 years this year, and I'm pleased to say that since our inception,

[Public Hearing - Senator Christopher M. Duenas - February 16, 2026 9am](#)

we have served over 4,600 Guam residents afflicted by cancer, issued over \$2.1 million in financial assistance grant payments, brought in over \$33.8 million in outside resources and issued over \$600,000 in patient supplies ranging from nutritional supplements, insure Glucerna, colostomy supplies, adult diapers, wipes, wheelchairs, and rollators. I am submitting this official written testimony in favor of bill 246-38 as it is intended to add the Guam Cancer Trust Fund to the list of entities exempt from the BBMR Allotment Release Control with the goal of ensuring timely and consistent access to appropriated funds for cancer programs and services. Over the past 14 years, really the main focus was the lack of appropriations to the Guam Cancer trust fund in compliance with the 15% rule under public law 30-80. Through the diligence and dedication of Senator Telo Taitague, she was able to push bill 1-38 through this body and ultimately creating public law 38-62, which guaranteed \$4 million every year to the Guam Cancer Trust Fund to benefit patients under direct support programs.

From a government funding perspective, appropriations are half the battle. The receiving of funds is a whole different animal. and receiving these funds is done through the allotment of funds process under the purview of the BBMR. Historically, and over the past 14 years, you would see time and time again issues regarding the delay in the grant cycle process from the Guam Cancer Trust Fund. The grant cycles have differed over the past many years from a normal October to September process going through a December to December process. In addition to the inconsistencies in the grant periods, there were significant delays in the reimbursements of grant expenditures to nonprofit organizations providing these direct support services to Guam cancer patients to the point where the delays like Mr. Chris Felix said was 5 to 6 months and we were fronting the cash and it would become really an operational problem for our nonprofit. On the surface, you would believe that the Guam Cancer Trust Fund were inefficient and ineffective in their duties to oversee the fund, but that was far from the truth. The issues with implementing the grants call outs annually or reimburse reimbursing the NPO's for grant expenditures was due in large part to the significant delay in releasing allotments by GovGuam and BBMR to the GCTF. I do not begrudge the GCTF or BBMR over what was done in the past. We just need to move forward. Bill 246-38 does just that. It ensures that the funding through the allotment process is done expeditiously whereby BBMR does not include GCTF in prioritizing where limited available cash the government collects at any given time is released through the allotment process. This bill ensures that funds appropriate to the GCATF from the healthy futures fund is in fact released in a timely manner to ensure timely and consistent access to funds that are available. Guam Cancer Care submits this written testimony in favor of bill 246-38. Thank you for your time.

[Public Hearing - Senator Christopher M. Duenas - February 16, 2026 9am](#)

Chairman Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* Terry Cuabo, I appreciate you very much for your testimony. Next is Miss Sharlene Santos Bamba. Miss Sharlene, please proceed.

Sharlene Santos Bamba – UOG: *Buenas, Hafa Adai* Chairman Duenas, Senator Gumataotao, Senator Terlaje, Senator Calvo, and Senator Taitague. I'm Sharlene Santos Bamba, the senior vice president and provost at the University of Guam. I'm also acting president and I sit before you today to support bill 246-38. The University of Guam has been a responsible steward of administering the funds for the Guam Cancer Trust Fund. We were charged in 2010 to promulgate rules and to develop the program and together with the chairperson, Dr. Yvette Paulino, council members like Mr. Chris Felix and the employees of GCTF who are in the room today. By the way, if you could please stand up and just show yourselves who you are. Those who manage the day-to-day operations of the Guam Cancer Trust Fund. These employees work steadfastly for the people of Guam and for the community. And the University of Guam is really proud to host this program and to work with members of the community together with the leadership, the council members and the employees. They really kind of take a look at what the landscape is and in particular the council members who review these applications they don't get paid. This is a labor of love. Its because they are committed to helping the people of Guam. People like Mr. Chris Felix, like uh Dr. Francine Napati like Miss Kaneshiro. They all meet to review these applications and what I hear over and over again is where are patients getting these services are they getting direct services and that's a large part of the focus direct services to cancer patients in addition to education the Guam cancer trust fund also provides information to the public for applicants. There's webinars, there's information available on the website as well as literature. So all are all who are interested in applying for the funds may do so and the information is accessible. And I think that's key here at the University of Guam with the Guam Cancer Trust Fund. We do our best to make information accessible because the more information that is available, more people will be able to avail of these services. You know, we've had to field calls in the past from members in the community saying that the University of Guam is not dispersing funds or services have ceased. And we explained to them that we administer the fund, right? That it's not our funds to share with the community. It's the funds from the government of Guam. And they understand that. But nonetheless, their cancer is still there. There isn't a person in this room today who hasn't had experience with a loved one, a friend, a colleague, a neighbor who has had cancer or who has suffered through this process. And I think we can all understand that people need help. And if these allotments are given in a timely manner and are sufficient, then the University of Guam, again, will continue to disperse these funds to ensure that the nonprofit organizations receive the funds that they need to help those people. So, on behalf of the University of Guam, we want to

[Public Hearing - Senator Christopher M. Duenas - February 16, 2026 9am](#)

thank you all for proposing this bill and ensuring that our people will continue to get the services that they so very much need. Thank you very much.

Chairman Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase*, Miss Sharlene Bamba, we appreciate your testimony. And now, Miss Marie Bonito, please proceed.

Marie Benito – Payless Supermarkets Community Foundation: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Hafa Adai.* (Mrs. Benito reads her written testimony which has been appended to this committee report)

Chairman Duenas: Thank you, *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* Miss Marie Bonito, we appreciate your testimony. And also we have joining us, Zeny Nace. I know you have written testimony from the Guam Todu Foundation. Would you like to come up and uh testify in person or you just providing your written testimony? Either way is fine. Okay. So, we'll accept your testimony as submitted in favor and written testimony. Yes. And so, with that will be part of the record and we appreciate you showing up in support of the bill today. Thank you. So now we'll go to our senators if they have any questions of the panel or any comments. Senator Taitague, would you like to go last? Okay. So we'll go in the order of arrival then. Senator Calvo, you're recognized.

Questions for the Panel from Senators

Sen Shelly Calvo: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And *Buenas* everyone, thank you for all your testimonies, heartfelt testimonies. And as former Senator Jim Espaldon mentioned earlier that this is such a no-brainer. I don't really have any questions because all your testimonies have provided sufficient information of what truly our community is experiencing. And like Miss Sharlene said from UOG, every single person here in this room today, not just today, but a lot of people in our community have at least experienced cancer case in their family. I'd like to thank the author of the bill, Senator Telo Taitague, and for inviting me to co-sponsor. I fully support this bill and I would like to see it through for it to move forward. This is a small portion of what our community truly needs. So, I will fully support this one and I hope that this moves along. Anyway, on that note, thank you again for everybody who came here to support and for all the testimonies, the heartfelt testimonies that the panel have offered. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

[Public Hearing - Senator Christopher M. Duenas - February 16, 2026 9am](#)

Chairman Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase*, Senator Calvo. And we'd like to also welcome joining us, Senator Sabrina Sales Matanane. Thank you for being here. And now I'll recognize you Senator Shawn Gumataotao for any questions or comments.

Sen Shawn Gumataotao: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you for the panel for being with us this morning. I only have a pair of questions, Mr. Chair, and I just want to make sure I understand this correctly. So, for the record, and I'll probably go to Yvette, did the Guam Cancer Trust Fund receive its full appropriation in FY2025 despite the reported over just over a million dollars in healthy futures fund shortfall last fiscal year? And what information, if any, is available confirming which specific healthy futures fund supported obligations was adversely impacted by the shortfall with the Guam Cancer Trust Fund?

Yvette Paulino: Thank you, Senator Gumataotao. For FY2025, if I recall correctly, we did receive the full allotment. However, this was based on the original amount that we got through the budget bill and then there was a supplemental budget that we received and so we have we had receive all of that. I believe it was \$2.5 million total. However, a couple of years before that we did not receive the full allotment. So, I think things are slowly improving. And that's where we're at right now.

Sen Shawn Gumataotao: Okay. And my only other question was because the bill as drafted intends to allow the Guam Cancer Trust Fund to draw against its appropriations as needed pursuant to a draw down schedule ensuring timely and stable funding for the many cancer programs we heard about this morning. What specific challenges has the fund experienced in accessing its appropriations during FY25? I think you mentioned it, but can you go a little bit more detail recognizing that BBMR reported last September that appropriations were fully expended by the end of that fiscal year.

Yvette Paulino: So as I had mentioned previously when we do receive the funds it's not sufficient to what our expenses are on a monthly basis. So just taking and I don't have the exact numbers for 2025 but let's just say using 2026 so far we are our expenses, and I don't have the exact numbers because we are still closing out 2025 December but we were already at about \$230,000 to \$250,000 in debt and we had only received \$48,000 per month for four months. So it's yeah it doesn't add up.

Sen Shawn Gumataotao: No, no thank you so much for your candor and I just one last thing Mr. Chair is more of a comment. I know Chris Felix said that he was going a bit off track in talking about his example from his family. But what we need Mr. Chair to go on track is the ability of the executive branch to support mandates like this that are created by this co-equal branch of government. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

[Public Hearing - Senator Christopher M. Duenas - February 16, 2026 9am](#)

Chairman Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase*, Senator Gumataotao, Senator Terlaje, you are recognized.

Sen Therese Terlaje: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* Mr. Chair, thank you all for your testimony today and for all of your work uh for our cancer patients. I have full faith in the services that you are providing and that uh you continue to provide despite sometimes the delay by the government in reimbursement and we are very grateful. I'm in full support of this program that the legislature set up before we, I got here and I am glad to hear that there are some improvements in its implementation across the board. So, and expansion I see. So, that's very good as you're correct in that the impact that it has on every family on Guam. I just, I guess wanted to clarify a couple things. So, we're telling BBMR that they no longer have discretion in, uh, what they're going to release. They're going to release one 12th of the appropriation to you every month. And then OFB says that may jeopardize the financial stability of the government of Guam funds and resources, because they're no longer able to I guess manage cash flow as they have been doing. But I guess for the GCTF, can you just a couple questions? Do the grants when you give them out, do they include a provision like “subject to the availability of funds”? Yes. All right. And do you and then can you just explain this one more time? Should that you...since the beginning of FY26 we have received monthly allotments about 48,000 per month and then you go down and say should this result in monthly allotments below our draw down schedule about 333,000 per month?

Yvette Paulino: Yes. So the draw down schedule that was submitted by the University of Guam for FY 2026 was based on the \$4 million for FY2026. And so we submitted a draw down schedule of \$333,000 per month. And so the \$48,000 that we see or we have received each month for the last four months is insufficient for what our true costs are. And that would include the disparate the um the awards as well as SC the cost for staff time.

Sen Therese Terlaje: All right. When did they notify you that they would only be giving you 48,000 per month?

Yvette Paulino: I don't recall receiving notification. It's just that's just what they give. It's what our business office receives and then reports to us.

Sen Therese Terlaje: All right. So, if this bill's passed, seems like it's effective immediately. That means instead of \$48,000 that month, you would receive \$333,000 per month.

Yvette Paulino: Hopefully.

Sen Therese Terlaje: Yeah, I can see why um BBMR and OFB are a little concerned. That's going to be tough for the government. I'm sure with the cash, but of course I don't know what else we're going to do. If we're awarding in advance and then we're reimbursing for services

[Public Hearing - Senator Christopher M. Duenas - February 16, 2026 9am](#)

already provided, that's kind of how we're going to have to do it, I think, to give you that money in a reliable fashion. And if there's some huge major problem in the healthy futures funds revenue, then we're going to have to deal with that on a on a larger basis, I think, because that will impact not just cancer trust fund, but many other agencies of the government that are relying on that healthy futures fund. Thank you so much. Thanks again for all your work. All of you. *Si Yu'os Ma'ase*

Chairman Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* Senator Terlaje. Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane, you are recognized.

Sen Sabrina Salas Matanane: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I also don't have any questions. I came down here because I wanted to just show my appreciation to all of you and all of the work that you do for our cancer patients. And I also support bill 246. I think it's just unfortunate how these allotments are causing all of these delays in providing the services to our cancer patients. So I look forward to voting in support of this bill and again thank you.

Chairman Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* Senator Matanane. Senator Telo Taitague you are recognized at this time.

Sen Telo Taitague: Thank you so much everyone for being here and those who submitted testimony who wasn't able to be here for your for all your support on this. I've also received testimony personally from individuals who are dealing with cancer right now and not just you know those who are in the nonprofits are here. We get it all the time, almost you know every week there's quite a bit of people who come up and say thank you for all your help and so I just wanted to extend that to each and every one of you who help those cancer patients out there. Thank you, thank you so much for what you're doing and it's our responsibility as a government to provide the assistance that's needed you know just alone. If we took former Senator Espaldon's book and we added the cost of that up, just his alone, we are so undercutting this cancer trust fund by so much. just his alone. It's a responsibility of us to help our community, especially on areas where you can't get the treatment here on this island. If you can't get it on this island, then the government needs to step in and help this bill. It's not enough. I'm sorry. I wish I can give more. The amendment that I'm going to make on this legislation, it's very simple. When the can when the special funds, healthy futures funds is tracking lower than projected, then my amendment will require that the government Guam subsidizes for the cancer trust fund. Fortunately, I'm asking just for the cancer trust fund. Guam Memorial Hospital, Public Health, Guam Behavioral Wellness, they get \$10 million and even higher in funds. This is only \$4 million compared to what they receive. It's very minimal. We're going to change that because it's obvious that there are so many people on this island right now who need the help. I'm also looking at to ensuring that the special funds gets its fair share when it comes to the healthy futures funds by encouraging maybe

[Public Hearing - Senator Christopher M. Duenas - February 16, 2026 9am](#)

this committee to push forward on the vaping taxing of vaping because we all saw that go down because of it. And believe it or not, I've been working with the vaping community and they support that increase in tax. You know, where else do you find anyone else's, oh yeah, yeah, we'll we'll take the taxes, you know, and these individuals who sell vaping, they believe that it should be taxed. So, we're going to increase that and hopefully that will increase. For a million, it's not enough. I'm going to continue to fight for more funding and hopefully my colleagues see just from today alone how we are so undercutting our community who faces this devastating disease. But there are so many great things I just wanted to bring up. It's people who survive. People who are told that they only have six months and five years later they're still talking with their family and loving and enjoying life. There are some great stories we can tell people too. And I'd like for us to also, you know, incorporate that. The great stories. I'm a great story. Seven years and I'm still here. So, we can celebrate that even though today was very heart-wrenching and we're all holding in our tears, some better than others, but we've got those happy stories to tell. So, let's make more of those happy stories. And we can do it by supporting this bill and future bills and especially this amendment to help subsidize when the healthy futures funds fall short that the we are subsidized there. So that being said, for the mother in treatment, for the father trying to provide while battling his illness, for the child whose life had just begun, who should be thinking of school, friends, and dreams in the future, not chemotherapy, not appointments or hospital rooms. for the advocates who stand beside them. Thank you. Sustainability matters. Access matters. But most importantly, time matters. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase*, Senator Taitague, and just a couple comments from myself as well before we close on this bill. First of all, I don't think anybody on our island has escaped the scourge of cancer and certainly this is a very important bill and the committee will make sure that we mark the bill up and get it on for the March session. I also wanted to say um Miss Sharlene Bamba, thank you for yourself and the University of Guam for assisting us on the performance-based budgeting project going forward and to build that out and have a I don't think that there's any question that if you go to every single one of these nonprofits, they're performing. They're asking for more consideration so that they can continue to perform at a basic level and also maybe a higher level with regard to being exempt from that disbursement. So, this committee will take this very seriously and report this bill out for the March session. I think really the only markup would be to work with the author to include the amendment during the markup process and the meeting that takes place so that it can be clean when it hits the floor and we can move forward on this. And yeah, I mean I understand there there's always going to be considerations from those who manage cash, you know, in terms of this type of impact, but I think the government can handle it. And I certainly know that in this instance, because many of you nonprofits, I mean, this is not your only source of

[Public Hearing - Senator Christopher M. Duenas - February 16, 2026 9am](#)

funding. You know, some folks ask us, you know, this is the government gives this appropriation and I say, "Yeah, and I'll tell you what, these organizations also raise money. They raise money outside of just this funding. This funding is to help because the need is so large but they have other avenues to raise funding but this is our taxpayer money and our government's way of saying we want to help as well and we'll help the best we can. So I think there should be no problem finding out and making sure that they can move forward on allotment releases when this bill becomes law. So, thank you, Senator Taitague, and all of the members that have taken the time to be here this morning on this very important matter. We'll take a one-minute recess before we move on to the next bill to allow for the guests say goodbye and have a great day. One-minute recess for the committee.

End of Hearing for Bill #246-38

III. FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Findings:

The Committee finds that **Bill No. 246-38 (COR)** advances a clear and compelling public purpose by ensuring that the Guam Cancer Trust Fund (GCTF) receives timely and predictable access to its annual appropriations. The bill responds directly to longstanding operational challenges documented in testimony and reflected in the bill's legislative findings.

The bill notes that *"the timing of allotment releases... has historically been inconsistent,"* resulting in *"delayed grant announcements, delayed reimbursements, and program disruptions"*. Testimony from the University of Guam, Guam Cancer Care, the Ayuda Foundation, and multiple nonprofit organizations confirmed these delays and their direct impact on cancer patients. As stated during the hearing, nonprofit grantees have at times waited **five to six months** for reimbursement, forcing them to front costs for airfare, lodging, patient navigation, and essential medical supplies.

The Committee further finds that the GCTF's mission, supporting cancer screening, diagnosis, treatment, research, and patient support services, is uniquely time-sensitive. As the bill states, these programs *"depend on timely availability of funds to administer annual grant cycles and reimburse grantees"*. Testifiers emphasized that delays in allotments translate into delays in treatment, travel, and continuity of care—conditions that can worsen medical outcomes.

[Public Hearing - Senator Christopher M. Duenas - February 16, 2026 9am](#)

The Committee also finds that the GCTF is already administered by the University of Guam, an entity currently exempt from BBMR allotment release control under §1303.1. Multiple testifiers noted that aligning the GCTF with UOG’s exemption is both logical and operationally efficient. As UOG stated, “*we administer the fund... it’s not our funds to share with the community. It’s the funds from the government of Guam*”, underscoring that delays originate in the allotment process, not in program administration.

Finally, the Committee acknowledges concerns raised regarding government-wide cash-flow management; however, testimony and fiscal analysis confirm that the bill **does not increase appropriations, does not expand program scope, and does not impose new fiscal obligations**. Rather, it ensures that appropriated funds are released on schedule and in accordance with a drawdown plan submitted annually.

Recommendations

Based on the testimony received, the statutory language reviewed, and the compelling public-health need demonstrated, the Committee **recommends the passage of Bill No. 246-38 (COR)** with the following actions:









1. As the measure strengthens the reliability of cancer-care funding without creating new fiscal burdens. Additionally, the Committee indicated that the proffered amendment by the author appears to be redundant, as exclusion from allotment control would fundamentally become a mathematical issue over the course of twelve months. The Committee recommends that this amendment should be proffered on the floor for further consideration.

The Committee concludes that Bill No. 246-38 (COR) is necessary, appropriate, and aligned with the Legislature’s longstanding commitment to supporting Guam’s cancer patients and the nonprofit organizations that serve them. The measure ensures that funding already appropriated by law is delivered when it is needed most, supporting timely treatment, reducing administrative barriers, and improving outcomes for families across the island. The Committee therefore reports Bill No. 246-38 (COR) Telo T. Taitague, Therese M. Terlaje, Chris Barnett, Sabina Flores Perez, Shelly V. Calvo, V. Anthony Ada, Jesse A. Lujan, Frank F. Blas, Jr., Joe S. San Agustin, Tina Rose Muña-Barnes- AN ACT TO AMEND § 1303.1 OF CHAPTER 1, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, TO ADD THE GUAM CANCER TRUST FUND TO THE LIST OF ENTITIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES EXEMPT FROM THE BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH ALLOTMENT RELEASE CONTROL, TO ENSURE TIMELY AND CONSISTENT ACCESS TO APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR CANCER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, as heard with the recommendation TO REPORT OUT ONLY.

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

Bill No. 246-38 (COR)

Introduced by:

Telo T. Taitague 
 Therese M. Terlaje 
 Chris Barnett 
 Sabina F. Perez 
 Shelly V. Calvo
 V. Anthony Ada 
 Jesse A. Lujan 
 Frank Blas, Jr. 
 Joe S. San Agustin
 Tina Rose Muña Barnes 

AN ACT TO *AMEND* § 1303.1 OF CHAPTER 1, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, TO ADD THE GUAM CANCER TRUST FUND TO THE LIST OF ENTITIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES EXEMPT FROM THE BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH ALLOTMENT RELEASE CONTROL, TO ENSURE TIMELY AND CONSISTENT ACCESS TO APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR CANCER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that
 3 the Guam Cancer Trust Fund (GCTF), established under § 26603(e) of Article 6,
 4 Chapter 26, Title 11, Guam Code Annotated, provides critical support for cancer
 5 screening, diagnosis, treatment, research, patient support services, and community
 6 outreach programs. These programs depend on timely availability of funds to

1 administer annual grant cycles and reimburse grantees, which directly affects the
2 continuity and quality of cancer services provided to the people of Guam.

3 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that although the GCTF receives annual
4 appropriations through the General Appropriations Act, the timing of allotment
5 releases from the Bureau of Budget and Management Research (BBMR) and the
6 Department of Administration (DOA) has historically been inconsistent. In several
7 fiscal years, the GCTF received allotments sporadically or only toward the end of
8 the fiscal year, resulting in delayed grant announcements, delayed reimbursements,
9 and program disruptions. These delays are often tied to general cash-management
10 practices and the allotment-control system established under § 1303 of Title 5, which
11 allows BBMR to release appropriated funds based on revenue availability rather than
12 statutory or programmatic need.

13 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* recognizes that § 1303.1 of Title 5 currently exempts
14 certain agencies and instrumentalities, including the University of Guam, the
15 administering authority of the GCTF, from BBMR’s allotment release control.
16 Given the essential public-health purpose served by the GCTF, and the importance
17 of ensuring predictable and uninterrupted funding for cancer-related programs and
18 services, it is appropriate and necessary to similarly exempt the GCTF from
19 BBMR’s allotment release control.

20 Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to amend § 1303.1 to add
21 the Guam Cancer Trust Fund to the list of exempt entities, thereby allowing the Fund
22 to draw against its appropriations as needed pursuant to a drawdown schedule
23 submitted annually to the Director of Administration, ensuring timely and stable
24 funding for cancer programs.

25 **Section 2.** § 1303.1 of Chapter 1, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby
26 amended, to read:

27 **“ § 1303.1. Exemption from BBMR Allotment Release Control.**

1 Section 1303 of this Chapter shall not apply to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*
2 (including the Office of Finance and Budget), the Public Defender Service
3 Corporation, the Unified Judiciary of Guam, the Mayors’ Council of Guam,
4 the Office of Public Accountability, the Office of the Attorney General, the
5 Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, the Guam Visitors Bureau, the
6 University of Guam (including the Guam Cancer Trust Fund, to be disbursed
7 from the Health Futures Fund to the GCTF in monthly payments prior to the
8 twentieth (20th) day following the fiscal month from which the funds were
9 collected), the Guam Community College, and the Guam Election
10 Commission, Guam Ancestral Lands Commission, and the Chamorro Land
11 Trust Commission. Said entities may draw against their respective
12 appropriations as needed to meet their obligations in accordance with a
13 drawdown schedule that said entities shall submit to the Director of
14 Administration no later than October 31 of each fiscal year. If an entity fails
15 to submit such drawdown schedule by October 31 of each fiscal year the
16 Director of Administration may withhold a drawdown request for the current
17 fiscal year until such time the entity submits its drawdown schedule for the
18 entire fiscal year. The Director of Administration shall not, for any reason,
19 withhold any amount appropriated by *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to the Guam
20 Election Commission.”

21 **Section 3. Transitional Provision to Ensure Compliance with Drawdown**
22 **Schedule Requirements Upon Enactment.** Notwithstanding the October 31
23 deadline in § 1303.1 of Title 5, for the fiscal year in which this Act is enacted, the
24 administering authority of the Guam Cancer Trust Fund shall submit a drawdown
25 schedule to the Director of Administration within thirty (30) days following the
26 effective date of this Act. The Director of Administration shall honor drawdown
27 requests submitted pursuant to this transitional schedule and shall not withhold any

1 portion of the Fund's appropriation on the basis that the schedule was submitted after
2 October 31.

3 **Section 4. 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

December 30, 2025

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

From: **Senator Christopher M. Dueñas** 
Acting Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Subject: **Fiscal Note for Bill No. 246-38 (COR)**

Håfa Adai!

Find the attached, Fiscal Note for the following bill:

Bill No. 246-38 (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. 246-38 (COR)

AN ACT TO AMEND § 1303.1 OF CHAPTER 1, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, TO ADD THE GUAM CANCER TRUST FUND TO THE LIST OF ENTITIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES EXEMPT FROM THE BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH ALLOTMENT RELEASE CONTROL, TO ENSURE TIMELY AND CONSISTENT ACCESS TO APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR CANCER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

Department/Agency Appropriation Information

Dept./Agency Affected: Bureau of Budget and Management Research (BBMR)		Dept./Agency Head: Lester L. Carlson, Jr., Director	
Department's General Fund (GF) appropriation(s) to date:		\$1,239,837	
Department's Other Fund (Specify) appropriation(s) to date: Indirect Cost Fund (\$476,313)		\$476,313	
Total Department/Agency Appropriation(s) to date:		\$1,716,150	

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
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

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

Analyst: <u>Raymond Rieta, BMA IV</u>	Date: <u>12/21/25</u>	Director: <u>Lester L. Carlson, Jr., Director</u>	Date: <u>DEC 30 2025</u>
---------------------------------------	-----------------------	---	--------------------------

Notes:
 1/ See Additional Comments.

**Bureau of Budget & Management Research
Comments on Bill No. 246-38 (COR)**

Legislative Bill No. 246-38 is an act to amend § 1303.1 of Chapter 1, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated (GCA) relative to adding the Guam Cancer Trust Fund to the list of entities and instrumentalities exempt from the Bureau of Budget and Management Research (BBMR) allotment release control. As per the legislation, the intent of adding the Guam Cancer Trust Fund to the list of exempt entities and instrumentalities would allow the Fund to draw against its appropriations as needed pursuant to a drawdown schedule submitted annually to the Director of the Department of Administration, ensuring timely and stable funding for cancer programs.

Table A below shows the past appropriation amounts to the Guam Cancer Trust Fund and their fund sources while Table B shows the revenue collections from the Healthy Futures Fund (HFF) each from the last five (5) fiscal years:

Guam Cancer Trust Fund Appropriations					
Table A.	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
	P.L. 35-99	P.L. 36-54	P.L. 36-107	P.L. 37-42	P.L. 37-125
HFF	\$1.0M	\$3.0M	\$3.0M	\$3.0M	\$1.0M
General Fund	\$1.6M ^{1/}	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$314,661
^{1/} FY20 Surplus					

Healthy Futures Fund Revenues					
Table B.	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
	\$39.7M	\$36.3M	\$29M	\$20M	\$22M

The Bill as written is administrative in nature as its inclusion of the Guam Cancer Trust Fund as an exemption to BBMR's allotment release control poses no immediate fiscal impact to the Bureau or on any Government of Guam funds. However, this exemption will affect BBMR's authority to manage and regulate the distribution of appropriated funds to government departments and agencies as the Bureau releases monthly or quarterly allotments based on anticipated cash receipts thus ensuring that the government does not incur obligations without sufficient cash for payments.



OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET
I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN

Funding Availability Checklist on Bill No. 246-38 (COR)

- 1. Does the Bill contain appropriations or authorizations for appropriations from any fund sources?**

Check all that apply.

YES

NO

- 2. Does the Bill contain an authorization to expend government funds?**

Check all that apply.

YES

NO

- 3. Does the Bill contain Provisions that have POTENTIAL fiscal impacts on the government of Guam's budget?**

Check all that apply.

YES

NO

- 4. Completed by: (Name, Date and Time)**

**Vanessa Valencia, February 13, 2026, 11:30am*

Approved Disapproved



Stephen J. Guerrero, Director



OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET
I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN

February 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Christopher M. Duenas
Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations.

From: Stephen J. Guerrero
Director, Office of Finance and Budget

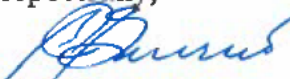
Re: Funding Availability Note: Bill No. 246-38 (COR)
Håfa Adai Chairman Duenas,

Pursuant to the Standing Rules of the 38th Guam Legislature, the Committee on Finance and Government Operations and/or the Office of Finance and Budget (OFB) shall determine in writing if the funding source cited in Appropriation or Authorization for Appropriations bills are sufficient.

The Office has received Bill No. 246-38 (COR), AN ACT TO AMEND § 1303.1 OF CHAPTER 1, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, TO ADD THE GUAM CANCER TRUST FUND TO THE LIST OF ENTITIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES EXEMPT FROM THE BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH ALLOTMENT RELEASE CONTROL, TO ENSURE TIMELY AND CONSISTENT ACCESS TO APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR CANCER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

The proposed bill amends § 1303.1 of Chapter 1, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, to the Guam Cancer Trust Fund to be exempted from the Bureau of Budget and Management Research Allotment Release Control to ensure timely and consistent access to the appropriated funds for cancer programs and services. This proposed bill is administrative in nature and poses no fiscal impact at this time. However, it should be noted that the purpose of the Allotment Release Control is to ensure adequate funding for the Government of Guam agencies/departments and their programs in an effective and timely manner. The addition and continuation of more agencies/departments and programs to be exempted from the Bureau of Budget and Management Research Allotment Release Control may jeopardize the financial stability of the Government of Guam funds and resources.

Respectfully,


Stephen J. Guerrero