

*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
262-38 (LS)	V. Anthony Ada Christopher M. Dueñas Frank F. Blas, Jr. Sabrina Salas Matanane Shelly V. Calvo Tina Rose Muña-Barnes Telo T. Taitague	AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY THOUSAND (\$890,000) TO 1 LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN FOR ITS CYBERSECURITY AND AUTOMATIONS NEEDS FOR FY 2026.	1/27/26 9:56 a.m.	2/3/26	Committee on Finance and Government Operations.	Request: 2/3/26	2/16/26 9:00 a.m.	3/5/2026 As Amended.	



*Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas*

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

March 3, 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. 262-38 (LS) As Amended by the Committee on Finance and Government Operations**

*Buenas yan Håfa Ådai* Speaker,

Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report on Bill No. 262-38 (LS) As Amended – 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.

Committee votes are as follows:

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



COMMITTEE ON RULES  
**RECEIVED:**  
March 3, 2026 12:35 p.m.  
*Marie Crisostomo*

*Senseremente,*

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



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

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

**BILL NO. 262-38 (LS) As amended**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**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.”**



# Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

February 28, 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. 262-38 (LS) As Amended

Transmitted herewith for your consideration is the Committee Report on **Bill No. 262-38 (LS) - V. Anthony Ada - As amended by the Committee on Finance and Government Operations - 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.**

This report includes the following:

- Copy of COR Referral of Bill No. 262-38 (LS)
- 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. 262-38 (LS), As Introduced
- Copy of Bill No. 262-38 (LS), As Amended
- Copy of Bill No. 262-38 (LS), Markup
- Fiscal Note
- Funding Availability Note

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

Respectfully,

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

**OFFICE OF SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS**

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# COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

February 3, 2026

**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. 262-38 (LS)**

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*Håfa Adai,*

As per my authority as Chairperson of the Committee on Rules and subject to §6.01(d)(1), Rule VI of our Standing Rules, I am forwarding the referral of **Bill No. 262-38 (LS)** - V. Anthony Ada, Christopher M. Dueñas, Frank F. Blas, Jr., Sabrina Salas Matanane, Shelly V. Calvo, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Telo T. Taitague. – “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.”

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, to the Office of Finance and Budget (OFB) and to Management Information Services (MIS) for posting on our website.

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

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



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

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

Mon, Feb 9, 2026 at 2:59 PM

### 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**

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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](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)).

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



**Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas**

*Chairman, Committee on Government Finance and Operations*

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

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

(671) 989-9554



**senator-duenas-headshot.jpg**  
70K



**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**

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# FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on February 16, 2026

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**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)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 9, 2026

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**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.

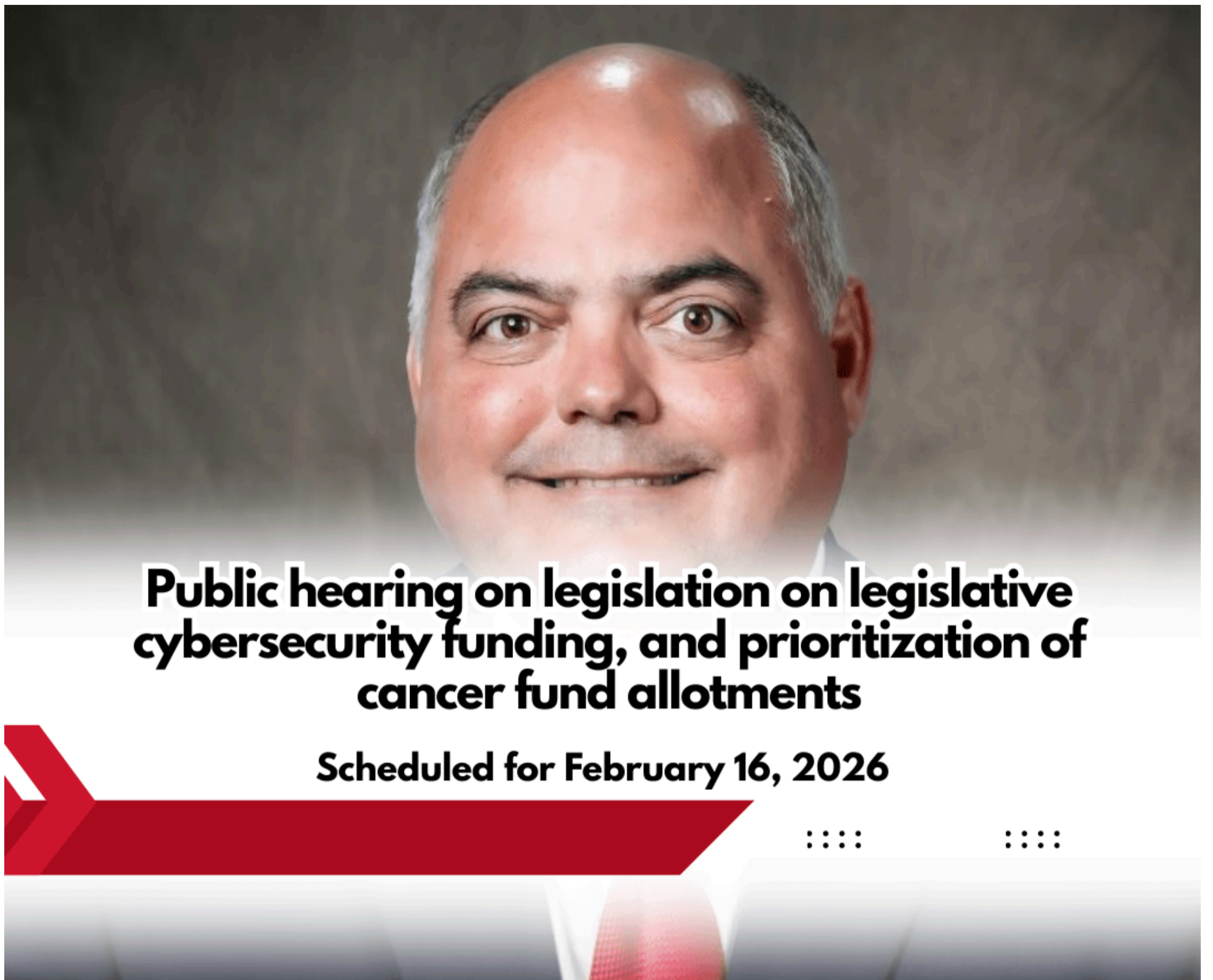
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# Public hearing on legislation on legislative cybersecurity funding, and prioritization of cancer fund allotments

Scheduled for February 16, 2026



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

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**(no subject)**

1 message

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**Karl Pangelinan** <karl.p@guamlegislature.gov>

Thu, Feb 12, 2026 at 8:44 PM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov

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

**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**

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**Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas**

*Chairman, Committee on Government Finance and Operations*

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

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

(671) 989-9554



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# 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**

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# Second Notice of Public Hearing on February 16, 2026

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## 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)

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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  
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AUTOMATIONS NEEDS FOR FY2026.

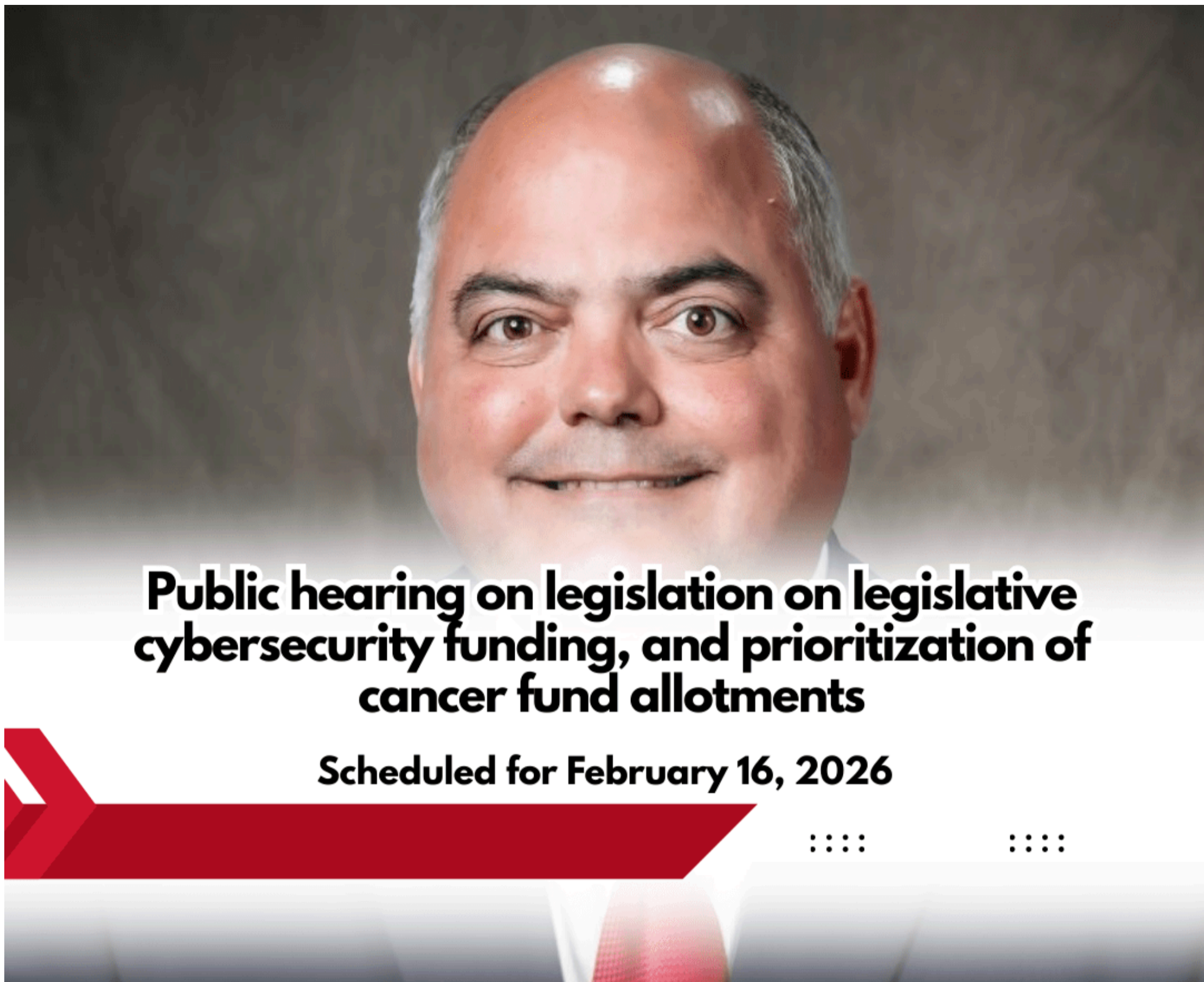
- Bill No. 246-38 (COR) – Telo T. Taitague - AN ACT TO AMEND  
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# Public hearing on legislation on legislative cybersecurity funding, and prioritization of cancer fund allotments

Scheduled for February 16, 2026



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

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

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

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## Invitation to a Public Hearing on Bill No. 262-38 (LS)

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Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>  
To: Joann Camacho <joann.camacho@guamlegislature.gov>

Mon, Feb 9, 2026 at 3:58 PM

Buenas yan Hafa Adai!

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations invites you to a public hearing where **Bill No. 262-38 (LS)** 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](mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov) at least 48 hours before the public hearing.

Please note, if you plan to testify with a digital presentation via external 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](mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov)

(671) 989-9554



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# *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](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).



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. 262-38 (COR) – V. Anthony Ada - "AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY THOUSAND (\$890,000) TO I LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN FOR ITS CYBERSECURITY AND AUTOMATIONS NEEDS FOR FY 2026."

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Joann Remachos	Guam Legislature	[REDACTED]	joann.remachos@guamlegis.gov	✓		✓	
2	Justin Pereda	"	[REDACTED]	Justin.Pereda@guamlegis.gov	✓		✓	
3								
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# THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Testimony for Bill No. 262-38 (LS)

February 16, 2026

# Overview of MIS

- The Guam Legislature's **Management Information Systems (MIS)** Department is to provide secure, reliable, and innovative technology services that support the legislative process, safeguard sensitive information, and ensure continuity of government operations.
- We are committed to a proactive approach toward cybersecurity and IT governance — identifying risks before they become incidents, strengthening our defenses through continuous monitoring and improvement, and aligning our technology practices with recognized standards and best practices.



# Importance of Cybersecurity

**The Guam Legislature** is a critical government institution that stores sensitive legislative records, legal documents, budgetary data, employee information, and confidential communications.

- As a public-facing body, it is also a high-visibility target for cybercriminals, ransomware groups, political hacktivists, and foreign threat actors.
- Because Guam operates in a strategically significant region in the Indo-Pacific, government systems may face elevated geopolitical risk compared to many mainland municipalities.



# Importance of Cybersecurity

**An above-average cybersecurity posture is necessary to:**

- Protect sensitive government and constituent data
- Ensure continuity of legislative operations
- Prevent ransomware shutdowns that disrupt public services
- Maintain public trust and institutional credibility
- Comply with federal cybersecurity expectations and best practices



# Importance of Cybersecurity

- The **National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework** and the **Center for Internet Security (CIS) Critical Security Controls** are widely used standards used by federal agencies, state governments, and critical infrastructure organizations across the United States. Both frameworks agree that effective cybersecurity requires strong governance, risk management, technical safeguards, continuous monitoring, and enforced policy compliance.
- According to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center, ransomware losses in the U.S. topped **\$1.1 billion in 2023**, and state and local governments were among the most targeted.



# Cybersecurity Threats



**Malware Attacks** - Malware (malicious software) is any software intentionally designed to disrupt operations, steal data, or gain unauthorized access to systems.

## **Common Types:**

**Ransomware** – Encrypts files and demands payment for restoration

**Viruses/Worms** – Self-replicating programs that spread across systems

**Trojans** – Malicious programs disguised as legitimate software

**Spyware** – Secretly collects user activity and sensitive information



# Cybersecurity Threats

## **How It Spreads:**

- Phishing emails and malicious attachments
- Infected websites or downloads
- Exploiting unpatched software vulnerabilities

## **Impact:**

- Operational shutdowns
- Data breaches
- Financial loss
- Reputational damage



# Cybersecurity Threats



**Social Engineering** -Social engineering is the psychological manipulation of people to gain unauthorized access to systems, data, or funds.

## **Common Techniques:**

**Phishing** – Fraudulent emails impersonating trusted entities

**Spear Phishing** – Targeted attacks against specific individuals

**Pretexting** – Creating a false scenario to obtain information

**Business Email Compromise (BEC)** – Impersonating executives for financial fraud



# Cybersecurity Threats

## **Impact:**

- Credential theft
- Unauthorized financial transfers
- Network compromise

## **Why It Works:**

Attackers rely on urgency, authority, or fear to prompt quick decisions without verification.



# Cybersecurity Threats



**Denial-of-Service (DoS) Attacks** - A Denial-of-Service (DoS) attack attempts to make a system, network, or website unavailable by overwhelming it with excessive traffic or requests.

## **DDoS (Distributed DoS):**

- Conducted using thousands of compromised devices (botnets)
- Harder to block because traffic comes from many sources



# Cybersecurity Threats

## **Impact:**

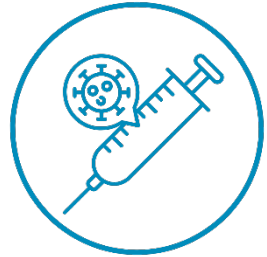
- Website or system outages
- Disruption of public services
- Financial and operational losses

## **Key Point:**

The goal is disruption — not necessarily data theft.



# Cybersecurity Threats



**Injection Attacks (e.g., SQL Injection)**-Injection attacks occur when untrusted input is sent to an application and interpreted as executable code instead of data.

## **Common Example: SQL Injection**

Attackers manipulate input fields (such as login forms or search boxes)

The system executes unauthorized database commands



# Cybersecurity Threats

## **Potential Consequences:**

Data extraction

Data modification or deletion

Privilege escalation

Full system compromise

## **Why It Happens:**

Poor input validation

Insecure coding practices



# Cybersecurity Threats

## Key Takeaway

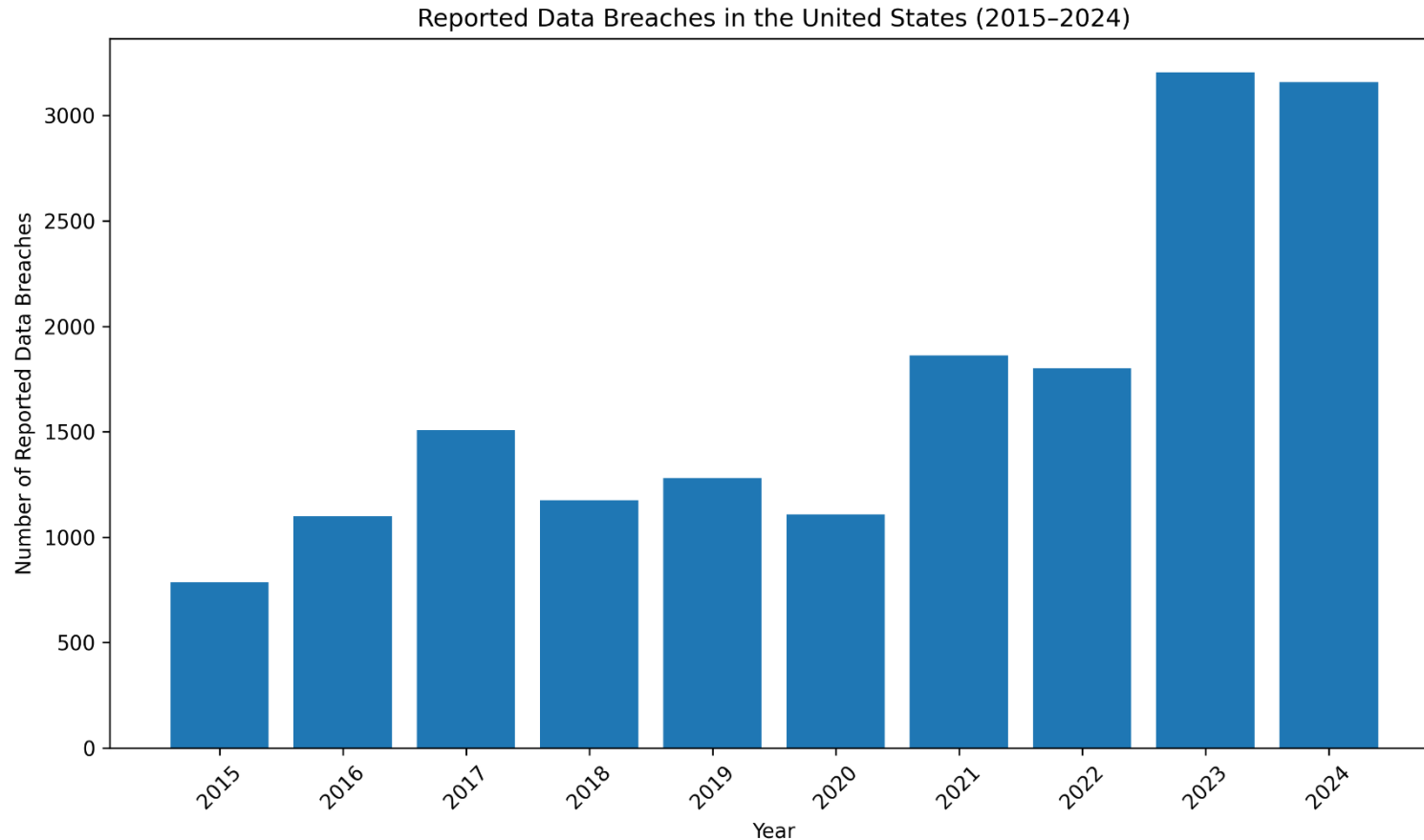
- Cyber threats target both **technology and people**
- Many attacks exploit **unpatched systems, weak authentication, or lack of verification procedures**

## Effective defense requires:

- Technical controls
- User training
- Monitoring and incident response planning



# Cybersecurity Threats



In just ten years, reported U.S. data breaches have surged by more than 300% — climbing from 785 incidents in 2015 to over 3,100 in 2024 — signaling that cyber threats are not stabilizing, they are accelerating.

**Bottom line:** Organizations today are operating in a threat environment that is dramatically more aggressive and persistent than it was a decade ago.



# Guam's Risk Environment



**The Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA)**, Guam's main public hospital, has faced multiple cybersecurity challenges in recent years, highlighting the importance of strong cybersecurity practices in critical public services.



# Guam's Risk Environment

## Ransomware Attack (2018/2019)

- GMHA experienced a **ransomware attack** in December 2018 that impacted its systems and potentially exposed the **electronic protected health information (ePHI)** of approximately **5,000 patients**.
- Ransomware is malware that encrypts systems and can disrupt operations or lead to data compromise if not properly mitigated. This incident triggered a federal investigation.

## Unauthorized Access Incident (2023)

- In March 2023, two former employees were found to have accessed GMHA systems without authorization, prompting the **shutdown of nearly 100 computerized systems** as a precaution.
- This incident was investigated by the **FBI and Guam Homeland Security** due to its potential impact on patient care and operations.



# Guam's Risk Environment

## Federal Investigation & HIPAA Settlement (2025)

- The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR)** reviewed these incidents and **found that GMHA had failed to perform a thorough risk analysis** of its systems — a foundational requirement for protecting patient data under the **HIPAA Security Rule**.
- GMHA settled the matter in **2025**, agreeing to pay **\$25,000** and undertake a **three-year corrective action plan** monitored by OCR.

## Operational Impact and Security Challenges:

- The 2023 incident caused temporary system shutdowns that affected operations like billing and telemedicine services, illustrating how cybersecurity events can disrupt patient care.
- GMHA IT leadership has noted the need for **significant cybersecurity staffing increases** and infrastructure upgrades to better protect against threats.



# Guam's Risk Environment



**Guam Legislature Fiscal Server Incident (May 2025)** - In May 2025, the Guam Legislature experienced a critical failure of its Fiscal Department server, resulting in operational disruption and highlighting the importance of proper system configuration, governance, and backup planning.



# Guam's Risk Environment

## Root Cause

- The incident was determined to be an **operating system failure caused by prior system misconfiguration** under a previous MIS administration.
- Configuration inconsistencies and lack of standardized documentation contributed to system instability.
- The failure was internal in nature and not the result of an external cyberattack.

## Operational Impact

- The Fiscal Department experienced **significant system slowdowns for approximately 2–3 weeks**.
- Key financial processes were delayed, affecting internal workflows and reporting timelines.
- Staff were required to implement temporary manual processes to maintain continuity of operations.



# Guam's Risk Environment

## Recovery Challenges

- Full restoration of services took approximately **three and a half weeks**.
- Recovery time was extended due to the **absence of an up-to-date offsite backup system**.
- Backup gaps required additional time for data verification, system rebuilding, and integrity testing.

## Lessons Identified

- The need for standardized configuration management and documentation
- The importance of routine system audits and governance oversight
- The critical role of **regular, tested offsite backups** in reducing downtime
- The value of a proactive IT and cybersecurity posture rather than a reactive one



# Guam's Risk Environment

## Key Takeaway

- The Fiscal Server incident demonstrated that technology failures — even when not caused by cyberattacks — can significantly disrupt government operations. Strong IT governance, configuration controls, and reliable backup strategies are essential to ensure operational resilience and public trust.



# Guam's Risk Environment

- Guam has been identified as a high-value cyber target because of its strategic location, government systems, and role in global telecommunications. In recent years, foreign-linked threat groups successfully broke into Guam's telecommunications and critical infrastructure systems. These were real attacks, showing how weaknesses could be exploited during emergencies or natural disasters.
- Investigations into these incidents consistently reveal that they were **largely preventable** through modernized infrastructure, centralized monitoring, reliable backups, and most importantly, **enforced cybersecurity policies**.



# Current Guam Legislature IT Infrastructure

The Guam Congress Building was rebuilt in 2016, and the majority of the IT hardware installed at that time remains in service today. Nearly a decade later, the infrastructure has **not undergone a comprehensive modernization**. Upgrades have been reactive and piecemeal — not strategic.

As a result:

- Critical systems are approaching or exceeding recommended lifecycle limits
- Hardware failure risk is increasing
- Security vulnerabilities expand as equipment ages
- Performance limitations affect operational efficiency



# Current Guam Legislature IT Infrastructure

## **Bottom Line:**

Operating a government institution on nearly decade-old core infrastructure significantly increases the risk of system failure, cybersecurity exposure, and operational disruption. Immediate modernization planning is necessary to protect continuity of government operations.



# Projection for the Future

- **NIST** and **CIS** agree that cybersecurity controls are useless without proper governance and enforcement. Even if Bill 262-38 (LS) passes and all technical upgrades are made, the Legislature will still be at risk unless formal cybersecurity policies are adopted and enforced.
- These policies must apply to all senators, offices, employees, contractors, and third-party providers. They should clearly cover acceptable use, access controls, device and software rules, data handling, mandatory training, and consequences for violations.
- NIST estimates that over **80% of cybersecurity** incidents result from stolen credentials, phishing, or user mistakes. This shows that cybersecurity isn't just an IT problem—it's an organizational responsibility that requires leadership support and accountability at every level.

**Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!**



Testimony of Joann G. Camacho  
Executive Director, Guam Legislature  
In Support of Bill No. 262-38 (LS)

## **Appropriating \$890,000 for IT Modernization, Legislative Software, and Cybersecurity**

Håfa Adai, Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Bill No. 262-38 (LS), which appropriates \$890,000 to the Guam Legislature for critical upgrades to its information technology systems, legislative software, and cybersecurity infrastructure. This funding is not about luxury technology upgrades. It is about *meeting minimum, nationally recognized cybersecurity standards* required to protect legislative operations, sensitive data, and continuity of government.

We must stop kicking the can down the road and address this long-standing, way overdue issue of technology upgrades for the Legislature.

*Upgrades which have not occurred in more 10 years is simply no longer acceptable.*

Simply put you our Senators and the operations of the central office cannot operate securely, efficiently, or in a transparent manner for the people of Guam without these necessary upgrades.

### **1. Information Technology Infrastructure Upgrades**

The Legislature's Management Information Systems (MIS) Division has identified significant deficiencies in our current network hardware, much of which is outdated, end-of-life, and no longer supported by manufacturers. Replacing switches, routers, and firewalls across the Guam Congress Building and all senator district offices is necessary to restore reliability, improve bandwidth, and support secure connectivity between offices.

These upgrades will establish a modern, enterprise-grade network capable of supporting legislative operations and future technology needs.

### **2. Legislative Drafting, Publishing, and Automation Software**

- Legislative drafting and automation software
- Cybersecurity protection and compliance

For these reasons, I respectfully request the Committee's favorable consideration and passage of this bill.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse' for your time and commitment to strengthening the operations of the Guam Legislature.



Jeann G. Camacho  
Executive Director, 38<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature



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

**COMMITTEE VOTE SHEET**

**Bill No. 262-38 (LS)** - As amended by the Committee on Finance and Government Operations –  
“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.”

Committee Members	Signature	TO DO PASS	TO NOT PASS	TO REPORT OUT ONLY	TO ABSTAIN	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE
<b>Senator Christopher M. Dueñas</b> <i>Chairperson</i>		X				
<b>Senator V. Anthony Ada</b> <i>Vice Chairperson</i>	Evote 3/2/26	X				
<b>Senator Frank F. Blas, Jr.</b> <i>Member</i>	Evote 3/2/26	X				
<b>Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane</b> <i>Member</i>	Evote 3/2/26	X				
<b>Senator Jesse A. Lujan</b> <i>Member</i>	Evote 3/2/26	X				
<b>Senator Vincent A.V. Borja</b> <i>Member</i>	Evote 3/2/26	X				
<b>Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes</b> <i>Member</i>						
<b>Senator Joe S. San Agustin</b> <i>Member</i>						



FP1 Mariñas

## REQUEST FOR EVOTE: Bill No. 262-38 (LS)

7 messages

FP1 Mariñas

Mon, Mar 2, 2026 at 2:45 PM

To: cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

*Håfa Ådai* Committee Members!


Please see attached Committee Report for Bill No. 262-38 (LS) - V. Anthony Ada - *As Amended* - 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.

Indicate your preferred action:

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

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

--  
Senseremente,  
**FP1 Mariñas**  
Independent Contractor

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8472K

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

Mon, Mar 2, 2026 at 4:27 PM

To: FP1 Mariñas

Cc: cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

To do pass.



### Office of Majority Leader Jesse A. Lujan

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

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov

(671) 969-6525

[Quoted text hidden]

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

Mon, Mar 2, 2026 at 4:34 PM

To: Senator Jesse Lujan &lt;senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov&gt;

Cc: FP1 Mariñas, cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

To do pass

[Quoted text hidden]

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

Mon, Mar 2, 2026 at 4:39 PM

To: [contact@senatorvinceborja.com](mailto:contact@senatorvinceborja.com)  
 Cc: Senator Jesse Lujan <[senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov)>, Mariñas FP1 [REDACTED]  
[cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov)

To do pass

On Mar 2, 2026, at 4:34 PM, Office of Senator Borja <[contact@senatorvinceborja.com](mailto:contact@senatorvinceborja.com)> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

**Senator Chris Duenas** <[senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov)>

Mon, Mar 2, 2026 at 5:52 PM

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

To do pass



**Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas**

*Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations*

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

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

(671) 989-9554

[Quoted text hidden]

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

Mon, Mar 2, 2026 at  
5:52 PM

<[office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov)>  
 To: "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada" <[vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov)>  
 Cc: [contact@senatorvinceborja.com](mailto:contact@senatorvinceborja.com), Senator Jesse Lujan <[senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov)>, Mariñas FP1  
 [REDACTED], [cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov)

To do pass



**Office of Legislative Secretary**

**SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE**

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

Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

163 W. Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

📧 [office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov)

☎ 671-989-2572

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[Quoted text hidden]

**Speaker Frank Blas Jr.** <[speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov)>

Mon, Mar 2, 2026 at 9:32 PM

To: Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <[office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov)>  
 Cc: "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada" <[vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov)>, [contact@senatorvinceborja.com](mailto:contact@senatorvinceborja.com), Senator Jesse Lujan <[senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov)>, Mariñas FP1 [REDACTED],  
[cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov)

To do pass.

Frank

**Judy Shockley**  
Office Administrator



## **Office of Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr.**

**I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahan 38<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature**

**Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagatña**

**(671)969-6456**

**[speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov)**

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**COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST***Committee on Finance and Government Operations*

Senator Christopher M. Dueñas, Chairman

**I. OVERVIEW**

Bill No. 262-38 (LS) was introduced by Senator V. Anthony Adaon January 27, 2026 and referred to the Committee on Finance and Government Operations by the Committee on Rules on February 3, 2026. The Committee held a public hearing on February 16, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Guam Congress Building's Public Hearing Room.

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

**SENATORS PRESENT**

Christopher M. Dueñas, Chairman

Legislative Secretary, Sabrina Salas Matanane, MemberEulogio *Shawn* Gumataotao

Telo T. Taitague

Therese M. Terlaje

**ORAL TESTIMONY:**

Joann Camacho, Executive Director, Guam Legislature

Justin Peredo, IT Support Officer, Guam Legislature

**II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION**

The public hearing for Bill No. 186-38 (COR) was called to order at **9:00AM.**

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRMAN: SENATOR****CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** Welcome back, Senators,

and now we are moving on now to the discussion on Bill Number 262-38. Once again, I will read the title. This bill is introduced, as the title will indicate, by our Vice Speaker, Anthony Ada. An act to appropriate the sum of \$890,000 to the *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* for its cybersecurity and automation needs for fiscal year 2026. The Vice Speaker is currently off island, and so he has asked me to read his opening statement before we go to testimony on the bill. The statement from the Vice Speaker is as follows: *Håfa Adai* colleagues and the listening public. I am pleased to open discussion on Bill Number 262-38, introduced by, himself, Vice Speaker Tony Ada, who is off island today. As co-sponsor and chairman of the committee, I am proud to present this measure because it addresses a need that has been deferred for far too long. This bill appropriates \$890,000 to the Guam Legislature for its automation and cybersecurity needs for fiscal year 2026, with the intent to finally modernize the Legislature’s information technology systems—upgrades that are not only overdue but essential to the daily operations of this branch and to the transparency we owe the people of Guam. For years, our IT infrastructure, both here in the Guam Congress Building and across our satellite senator offices, has relied on outdated, end-of-life equipment. This funding allows us to replace critical network hardware, restore reliability, and support secure connectivity for all legislative offices. The general public views our website, our television feeds, and our YouTube channel. All of these need major improvements to continue to promote accessibility and transparency. Just as important, this appropriation enables the Legislature to procure the modern legislative drafting, publishing, and automation software that our staff need to efficiently produce bills, committee reports, and public documents. Access to research services, AI technology, and other applications will assist the Legislature with serving the public more effectively and efficiently, giving our citizens, attorneys, and government agencies the most accurate and easily accessible information possible. These tools directly improve the accuracy, speed, and public access to legislative information. And finally, Bill 262-38 strengthens our cybersecurity posture. With increasing threats to government systems nationwide, this measure ensures we can conduct a full cybersecurity audit, implement stronger protections, and secure our data through cloud-based backups and off-site redundancy. In short, this bill delivers long-delayed but critical upgrades. It modernizes our IT infrastructure, improves our legislative process through nationally utilized software, and safeguards the cybersecurity of this branch. Further, the Legislature will likely

need to continue support for these endeavors annually. I respectfully ask for the body's support so that the Legislature can continue to operate securely, efficiently, and transparently for the people we serve. So at this time, I would like to recognize our Executive Director, First Lady Joann Camacho, for testimony, and also for the testimony of the IT Division. Please proceed First Lady.

**JOANN CAMACHO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** Thank you Sir. *Hafa Adai* Madam Chair of the Information Technology and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Bill 262-38 (LS), which appropriates \$890,000 to the Guam Legislature for critical upgrades to its information technology systems, legislative software, and cybersecurity infrastructure. This funding is not about luxury technology upgrades. It is about meeting minimum nationally recognized cybersecurity standards required to protect legislative operations, sensitive data, and continuity of government. We must stop kicking the can down the road and address this longstanding, way overdue issue of technology upgrades for the Legislature. Upgrades which have not occurred in more than 10 years are simply no longer acceptable. Simply put, you as senators and the operation of central office cannot operate securely, efficiently, and in a transparent manner for the people of Guam without these necessary upgrades. Information technology infrastructure upgrades: The Legislature's Management Information Systems (MIS) Division has identified significant deficiencies in our current network hardware, much of which is outdated, end-of-life, and no longer supported by manufacturers. Replacing switches, routers, and firewalls across the Guam Congress Building and all senators' district offices is necessary to restore reliability, improve bandwidth, and support secure connectivity between offices. These upgrades will establish a modern enterprise-grade network capable of supporting legislative operations and future technology needs. Legislative drafting, publishing, and automation software: Bill 262-38 also supports the acquisition of updated legislative drafting and automation tools, as stated in the fiscal note memorandum. These systems are essential for improving the accuracy, speed, and accessibility of legislative documents, including bills, committee reports, and archival materials. Modernizing these tools would enhance public access, streamline internal workflows, and ensure that the Legislature meets its obligation to maintain transparency and efficiency for the people of Guam. Cybersecurity

enhancements: Cybersecurity threats to government institutions continue to grow in frequency and sophistication. MIS assessment highlights the urgent need for a third-party penetration test and full cybersecurity audit, enhanced protection for all external senators' offices, and cloud-based backup imaging and off-site backup servers. These measures are critical in safeguarding sensitive legislative data, ensuring continuity of operations, and meeting recognized cybersecurity standards such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Center for Internet Security (CIS), as referenced in the bill. This funding aligns the Legislature with minimum NIST and CIS standards used nationwide. It replaces unsupported systems, adds required monitoring, and establishes baseline protection. In conclusion, the Legislature has never received a meaningful upgrade to the technology that runs this organization. In fact, when the move was made from the Hesler location to the current building, no upgrades were planned in this new building. The risks associated with outdated infrastructure and insufficient cybersecurity protection are now too great to ignore. The funding provided in Bill 262-38 LS directly supports the three core areas necessary for a modern, secure, transparent legislative branch. Its infrastructure modernization, legislative drafting and automation software, and cybersecurity protection and compliance. For these reasons, I respectfully request the committee's favorable consideration and passage of this bill. If I may add, as you all know, we have had some issues in the last year and a half regarding our internet, our system. It failed a few times, and we had to like do bandaids. So this upgrade is really necessary to move forward today and in the future. *Si Yu'os Ma'åse* for your time and commitment to strengthening the operations of the Guam Legislature. Respectfully, Joann Camacho.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'*, First Lady Joanne Camacho, the Executive Director of the 38th Guam Legislature, for your testimony. Mr. Justin Peredo, I understand you will be testifying and also have a PowerPoint presentation. So please proceed.

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** *Håfa Adai.* Senator Dueñas, Senator Terlaje, Senator Calvo, Senator Taitague, Senator Gumataotao, and Senator Salas Matanane. My name is Justin Paredo. I am the IT Support Officer with the MIS Department here at the

Guam Legislature. I served five years in the government of Guam as a computer systems analyst for the Office of Technology and the Department of Public Health and Social Services. I presented a little presentation here to inform the public and the senators here on the cybersecurity threats we face at the Legislature and some of the issues we've encountered. Next slide, please. An overview of MIS: the Guam Legislature's Management Information Systems Department is to provide secure, reliable, and innovative technology services that support the legislative process, safeguard sensitive information, and ensure continuity of government operations. We are committed to a proactive approach toward cybersecurity and IT governance—identifying risks before they become incidents, strengthening our defenses through continuous monitoring and improvements, and aligning our technology practices with recognized standards and best practices. Next slide, please. The importance of cybersecurity. The Guam Legislature is a critical government institution that stores sensitive legislative records, legal documents, budgetary data, employee information, and confidential communications. As a public-facing body, it is also a highly visible target for cybercriminals, ransomware groups, political activists, and foreign threat actors. Because Guam operates in a strategically significant region in the Indo-Pacific, government systems may face elevated geopolitical risk compared to many mainland municipalities. Next slide, please. An above-average cybersecurity posture is necessary to protect sensitive government and constituent data, ensure continuity of legislative operations, prevent ransomware shutdowns that disrupt public services, maintain public trust and institutional credibility, and comply with federal cybersecurity expectations and best practices. Next slide. The National Institute of Standards and Technology, also known as NIST, Cybersecurity Framework and the Center for Internet Security (CIS) Critical Security Controls are widely used standards by federal agencies, state governments, and critical infrastructure organizations across the United States. Both frameworks agree that effective cybersecurity requires strong governance, risk management, technical safeguards, continuous monitoring, and enforcement of policy compliance. According to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center, ransomware losses in the United States topped \$1.1 billion in 2023, and state and local governments were among the most targeted. Next slide. This is just explaining some of the cybersecurity threats we here at the Legislature face on a daily basis, starting with malware attacks. Malware, also known as malicious software, is software intentionally designed to disrupt operations, steal

data, or gain unauthorized access to systems. Common types include ransomware, which encrypts files and demands payment for restoration; viruses and worms, which are self-replicating programs that spread across systems; Trojans, malicious programs disguised as legitimate software; and spyware, which secretly collects user activity and sensitive information. Next slide. How it spreads: phishing emails and malicious attachments, infected websites or downloads, and exploiting unpatched software vulnerabilities. The impact can include operational shutdowns, data breaches, financial losses, and reputational damage. Next slide. Social engineering. Social engineering is the psychological manipulation of people to gain unauthorized access to systems, data, or funds. Common techniques include phishing, which are fraudulent emails impersonating trusted entities; spear phishing, which are targeted attacks against specific individuals; pretexting, creating a false scenario to obtain information; and business email compromise, which is impersonating executives for financial fraud. Next slide. The impact we face in this is credential theft, unauthorized financial transfers, and network compromises. Why it works: attackers rely on urgency, authority, or fear to promote quick decisions without verification. Next slide. Denial of service attacks, also called DoS attacks, a denial of service attack attempt to make a system, network, or website unavailable by overwhelming it with excessive traffic or requests. An example of that would be a distributed denial of service (DDoS) attack is conducted using thousands of compromised devices, also called botnets, and is harder to block because traffic comes from many sources. And I'd also like to add that with the advent of AI technologies, these attacks have become more sophisticated and faster. Next slide. The impact we could face is website or system outages, disruption of public services, and financial and operational losses. The key point is that the goal is disruption, not necessarily data theft. Next slide. Injection attacks. Our financial system is very vulnerable to this. Injection attacks occur when untrusted input is sent to an application and interpreted as executable code instead of data. A common example is SQL injection, where attackers manipulate input fields such as login forms or search boxes, the system executes unauthorized database commands. Next slide. Potential consequences for this are data extraction, data modification or deletion, privilege escalation, and full system compromise. And why this happens, is from poor input validation and insecure coding practices from the program itself. Next slide. The main key takeaway is that cyber threats target both technology and people. Many attacks exploit unpatched systems, weak

authentication, or lack of verification procedures. Effective defense that is requires technical controls, user training, monitoring, and incident response planning. Next slide. If you look at this statistic, in just 10 years the United States reported 785 incidents in 2015, and that has risen to over 3,100 in 2024. This signaling that cyber threats are not stabilizing—they are accelerating. The bottom line is that organizations today operating in a threat environment that is dramatically more aggressive and persistent than it was a decade ago. Next slide. This is just touching on Guam’s risk environment and a few major cybersecurity incidents that occurred in recent years. The Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, Guam’s main public hospital, has faced multiple cybersecurity challenges in recent years, highlighting the importance of strong cybersecurity practices in critical public services. Next slide. The ransomware attack of 2018–2019: GMH experienced a ransomware attack in December 2018 that impacted its systems and potentially exposed the electronic protected health information of approximately 5,000 patients. Ransomware is malware that encrypts systems and can disrupt the operations or lead to data compromise if not properly mitigated. This incident triggered a federal investigation. In 2023, there was an unauthorized access incident. In March 2023, two former employees were found to have access to GMH systems without authorization, prompting a shutdown of nearly 100 computerized systems as a precaution. The incident was investigated by the FBI and Guam Homeland Security due to its potential impact on patient care and operations. Next slide. The federal investigation and HIPAA settlement in 2025: the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights reviewed these incidents and found that GMH had failed to perform a thorough risk analysis of its systems, a foundational requirement for protecting patient data under the HIPAA Security Rules. GMH settled the matter in 2025, agreeing to pay \$25,000 and undertake a three-year corrective action plan monitored by OCR. The operational impact and security challenges of this incident. The 2023 incident caused temporary system shutdowns that affected operations like billing and telemedicine services. Illustrating how cyber security events can disrupt patient care. GMH IT leadership noted the need for significant cybersecurity staffing increases and infrastructure upgrades to better protect against threats. Next slide. This is an incident that occurred last year here at the Guam Legislature itself. The Guam Legislature fiscal incident. In May 2025, the Guam Legislature experienced a critical failure of its financial department server, resulting in operational disruption and highlighting the

importance of proper system configuration, governance, and backup planning. Next slide. The root cause of this incident was determined to be an operational system failure caused by prior system misconfiguration under previous MIS administration. Configuration inconsistencies and lack of standardized documentation contributed to the system's instability. The failure was internal in nature and not the result of an external cyberattack. The operational impact of this, the fiscal Department experienced significant system slowdowns for approximately two to three weeks. Key financial processes were delayed, effecting internal workflows and reporting timelines. Staff were required to implement temporary manual processes to maintain continuity of operations. Next slide. The recovery challenges we faced were full restoration of services took approximately three and a half weeks. Recovery time was exceeded, was extended due to the absence of an up-to-date off-site backup system. Backup gaps require additional time for data verification, system rebuilding and integrity testing. Lessons we identified from this incident: the need to standardize configuration management and documentation, the importance of routine system audits and governance oversight. The critical role of regular tested off-site backups in reducing downtime, and the value of proactive IT and cybersecurity posture rather than a reactive one. Next slide. The key takeaway is the financial server incident demonstrated that technology failures—even when not caused by cyberattacks—can significantly disrupt government operations. Strong IT governance, configuration controls, and reliable backup strategies are essential to ensure operational resilience and public trust. Next slide. Guam has been identified as a high-valued cyber target due to its strategic location, government systems, and role in global telecommunications. In recent years, foreign-linked threat groups successfully broke into Guam's telecommunications and critical infrastructure systems. These were real attacks. Showing how weaknesses could be exploited during emergencies or natural disasters. Investigations into these incidents consistently reveal that these were largely preventable through modernized infrastructure, centralized monitoring, reliable backups, and most importantly, enforced cybersecurity policies. Next slide. This is the status of the current Guam Legislature IT infrastructure. The Guam Congress Building was rebuilt in 2016, and the majority of the IT hardware installed at that time remains in service today. Nearly a decade later, the infrastructure has not undergone a comprehensive modernization. Upgrades have been reactive and piecemeal, not strategic. As a result, critical systems are

approaching or exceeding recommended lifecycle limits. Hardware failure risk is increasing, security vulnerabilities expand as our equipment ages, and performance limitations affect operational efficiency. Next slide. The bottom line is that operating a government institution on nearly decade-old core infrastructure significantly increases the risk of system failure, cybersecurity exposure, and operational disruption. Immediate modernization planning is necessary to protect continuity of government operations. Next slide. These are our future projections, for the future. NIST and CIS agree that cybersecurity controls are useless without proper governance and enforcement. Even if Bill 262-38 passes and all technical upgrades are made, the Legislature will remain at risk unless formal cybersecurity policies are adopted and enforced. These policies must apply to all senators, offices, employees, contractors, and third-party providers. They should clearly cover acceptable use, access controls, device and software rules, data handling, mandatory training, and consequences for violations. NIST estimates that over 80% of cybersecurity incidents result from stolen credentials, phishing, or user mistakes. This shows that cybersecurity is not just an IT problem; it is an organizational responsibility requiring leadership support and accountability at every level. Thank you and *Si Yu'os Ma'åse*.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* Justin Peredo. And just as a note for the record, there are some communications ongoing that certain funding sources that are supported in this legislation may not be available. As the committee chair, I want to rest assured that this bill will be as marked up. We will find an alternative funding source in the event that that remains to be the case, as being reported by the executive branch. So we will continue to hear the bill, but the committee will ensure a stable and solid funding source going forward for this endeavor. So at this time, I'd like to recognize Senator Telo Taitague for any questions of the panel.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Hey, it's nice to see you on this side of the table now. Everyone. I greatly appreciate—you know, I signed up as a co-sponsor of this legislation. I mean, I oversee the Office of Technology and also work in so many other things dealing with AI, deepfake, all those other things—phishing, hijacking, cybersecurity. There's just so much that there's not enough time in the day to talk about all the threats that are out there.

And the Legislature, which holds a lot of critical information, historical data that's needed and needs to be banked here and stored here, is important. Now some of the information, of course, goes to the law clerk's office or in the judiciary branch holding information there. But what if they go down? What if their server goes down? They have to find another avenue in which that critical information and data is held. So I truly believe that this is something that we need to move in. Also, the fact that it hasn't been upgraded. Now you and I have been talking a lot throughout the year about how slow the internet issues, you know, dropping, and most—the worst one of all—is people hacking into the emails. You know. We know about how FOIA can also play a part in not providing information to us in a timely matter so that we can address it. That's an issue. So there's a lot more that can go on, but my only concern about the legislation, again, is that—and it's my fault—I should have read it thoroughly and asked the author of the bill why was the legislative intent is discussing more of a previous bill that was passed in the 12th Guam Legislature way back in the day, and then it was repealed in another—the 15th Guam Legislature. It's just, you know, the legislative intent, I don't think, talks about what you talked to us about today. I think, if anything, Mr. Chair, I would highly recommend that we amend the legislative intent so that it clearly focuses on the issues on why we're doing this, because I don't see really how it refers to this bill. And I think it would provide even more of a better background to discuss the issue at hand. So other than that, I really don't have anything else. I just hope that we can find some money. I looked at the CRER report recently to find out any excess revenue that could be there in FY26—that's money that's sitting there right now. And if we can move just this small amount of money to the Legislature on any excess revenue in FY26 that's recognized, that we do this sooner than later, because we've lost so much information. And the biggest thing I'm concerned is, the public at large, who rely on listening to us in the Legislature constantly, it's being disrupted or it completely blacks out and they can't hear what's going on until they have to wait until the YouTube comes up. And that's another thing that we have to do. YouTube will not base themselves on us—keep this public hearing up for the next 10 years, the next 5 years. They're a private company. So we have to find a way to—and can we do that is a question to the IT department—can we find a way to store all these videos that come out on our public hearings and our sessions so that we have that historical data as to why certain bills were passed and

why that information—can we take that instead of relying on a private company like YouTube moving forward?

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** I'd just like to say that on the subject of YouTube, one of the main hurdles we would have is our infrastructure cannot handle the load of multiple users engaging live if we were to do our own live streaming service. Our current infrastructure cannot handle that kind of load, and we put ourselves even more at risk from cyber denial-of-service attacks and other cyber attacks that are open for the public to witness. So currently, that's why we need this funding to enhance our infrastructure and stabilize our security so we could possibly, in the future, accommodate that. But currently right now, we cannot do that.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE:** And will this funding help us reach that goal so that we become our own information server here instead of relying on YouTube?

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** Absolutely. But it's also important that we have our redundant backups. So in the event, say, of a natural disaster here, everything will be lost if we keep all our eggs in one basket. So we need to have off-site redundant backups also to accommodate that.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE:** Have you had the opportunity to talk to OTECH, because they have servers there that keep critical information and data for other government agencies like Rev and Tax, I believe, is down there, GPD provides their information and data down there to be stored at OTECH—which, by the way, we need to find another place for OTECH because that is such a bad location. It's a flood zone. It has asbestos. I mean, I'm working diligently. They're trying to find a location for OTECH to move their equipment, their office, to another location—another secure—not another secure, it's not even secure where they're at right now—but a location that is secure for them. Have you talked to them to provide that data there?

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** Yes, absolutely. Earlier last year, just to do an assessment, we asked if we could store our backups for

our financial server there, but they don't have the space to accommodate us. They only offered to house an additional server that we would have to purchase. So they could not accommodate us.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE:** And how much would that cost, that additional server to give to OTECH so that you have a second location in case some data is lost?

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** Off the top of my head, I would say in the range of \$10,000 to \$20,000, depending on the size.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE:** And the funding that you're asking for today—will that cover that for OTECH?

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** That was not originally in the plan, so we would have to do another assesment and research.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE:** Well, I recommend that you go ahead and request that in this legislation so that we have the funding and that we're not delayed any longer or miss any opportunities, or worse, lose data because we didn't have that second server.

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** Well, I've been reaching out to OTECH and they're not very good at responding. So it's really up to them. They need to respond to our emails.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE:** Well, next time that happens, you just give me a call. I'll continue to reach out to them as the oversight. They are very busy, I know that, and understaffed as well, and just not have the funding to support all the infrastructure there, software, data, and like you said, to provide servers for other agencies like the Guam Legislature. So I will reach out to them again to make sure that they answer your emails. I'll do that today.

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** Okay. Thank you, Senator. I really appreciate it.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE:** Thank you so much. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** *Si Yu'os* Senator Taitague. Senator Gumataotao, you're recognized.

**SENATOR EUOLIGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO:** Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you for being with us this morning. Just a few questions. So I know you mentioned OTECH just a few minutes ago, but to what extent has the Guam Legislature consulted our friends at our sister branch, the Judiciary of Guam, the University of Guam, Guam Community College, and other organizations for any technical advice, support, recommendations in preparation for procurement efforts should this bill become law?

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** I'd just like to say we have reached out to the island cybersecurity program that's run by Civil Defense, and they have not responded. And we have not reached out yet on the procurement side.

**SENATOR EUOLIGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO:** Again, I just encourage the engagement, especially of the Judiciary. Their systems are very robust, and I believe that they can provide that technical support. Joanne, please.

**JOANN CAMACHO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** We have—well, we were looking at the AI capability of being able to do the bills, and the Judiciary was part of our meeting. So we certainly will, if we go forward, be able to engage them.

**SENATOR EUOLIGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO:** Yes, and especially in our close collaboration with the compiler, it makes a bit of sense for us to engage the Judiciary. And I look at GCC and UOG more so from a procurement standpoint, that they can help in terms of either providing technical support to our branch, because I know that our branch does very few things, does good things, but there are these other folks who really understand the proper procurement of these types of things.

**JOANN CAMACHO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** We certainly will.

**SENATOR EUOLIGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO:** Okay. And then my only question and comment: recognizing that legislation from as far back as the 28th Guam Legislature proposed to include certain positions in the Guam Legislature, including accounting, HR, MIS, and clerical support personnel within the classified service, what discussions, if any, have been put forward regarding the conversion of certain legislative positions which have existed in this branch for many years to ensure proper and efficient implementation and maintenance of costly but necessary equipment going forward?

**JOANN CAMACHO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** I couldn't agree with you more. It's actually my first time to work here at the Legislature, and since last year I questioned the same thing. Because every two years it rotates, and we need to have some stability. I just don't know which senator or which area will be able to come forth and say, okay, we need to have people that are classified, that are here and understand the needs of the branch and for continuity and stuff. I agree with you.

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** Yeah, and I'd like to comment that cybersecurity credentials and IT credentials should be emphasized on MIS positions.

**SENATOR EUOLIGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO:** Thank you so much for that. And Mr. Chair, I think as folks are watching or as we're looking at the committee report from this public hearing, I think that what should not be lost on this community is the losses in productivity as a result of these disruptions that have occurred to our branch of government. I think that folks think that we just kind of do our thing. The rules that have had to come in place because of what we're seeing across this branch—I think it should give many people in this community some concern that we're not just looking at \$800,000 or whatever the case might be to make things comfortable. These are serious concerns to a co-equal branch of government. And I think that there are some great policies, again at our sister branch, that can help control and use. I think I was part of the team that helped create those, and I think that they're worth consideration in this particular

branch. Mr. Chairman, and probably as important as some of the things that are happening here in terms of the intrusions, some of those things I'm certain that our local law enforcement folks are well aware of—some of these intrusions into our branch of government. And I think any and all support to be able to support what we're doing here should be priority number one for this branch. Thank you, Mr. Chair, for the time.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** *Si Yu'os Ma'ãse'*, Senator Gumataotao. Senator Terlaje, you're recognized.

**SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE:** *Si Yu'os Ma'ãse'*. I understand how we want to upgrade our systems, and I'm in favor of that, but I'm really not in favor of describing it that we are at a high cybersecurity risk here in the Legislature. There is so little information that we possess that has to do with any citizen Social Security numbers, patient data, crime investigation data, money. We have backup systems for all of these. We're supposed to have. And maybe it's just a matter of getting backups for all of it like you described. But I mean, I'm not saying this is not a nice plan, and it sounds like you have a plan, but we don't have that in front of us either. And if I could ask that we see the actual plan that you have that you want to implement, because I just want to see what the priorities really are. Because you're describing it as—and you've admitted already—that we really haven't faced any real threats. So it's really a problem of just setting up our system so that we have backups and that we can access those things. Pardon? I'm not asking a question right now. I will. And you said “configuration inconsistencies and lack of standardized documentation contributed to system instability. Failure was internal in nature and not the result of an external cyber attack”, right? And so you said the threats are data extraction, data modification or deletion, privilege escalation, full system compromise, and we might be delayed in our process, right? Yes. Well, we're suffering delays in our process right now, and that's not at all because our systems are inadequate. That's because we can't get our live streaming to operate, and we have not switched to a different live streaming platform so that the public can actually watch what we are doing. Even parts of this hearing itself were taken offline because we only rely on YouTube, and we haven't since we've been having problems we haven't switched to anything else, or we have no backup on that. And I know you're going to say, oh, we have a Wi-Fi internet problem. I

am so sure that we can solve that. We have done that in the past where we would have different systems in here, different companies even, to make sure that if one goes down, the other one is going to work. And so I am not the expert in this, but all I know is we're not the ones handling the money. We are not the ones handling the patients' data. We're not the ones handling the critical information of the government. We are pretty much subject to FOIA, and all our email—we should be having backups for all of what we actually produce here. And we used to have hard copies that were actually stored in non-waterproof containers, so they were destroyed in typhoons. We had backup videos—same problem, destroyed in typhoons. So we can make—we should be doing backups. That, I think, would solve all the problems that we actually have here. But to upgrade—I mean, I don't have any objection to that. I really just object that we are going to say that the Legislature, of all the branches of government, instead of GMH, Public Health, and all of these other agencies, that we are the one with the cybersecurity problem when we've suffered no threats at all. And we're taking this money from a pot that bills already exist to put toward the Mayor's Council of Guam, for Agat's multi-purpose facility, for UOG repairs and maintenance, for DPW village streets, for the Guam Preservation Trust, for the DISID private care services, for GWA wastewater facility, for workers' comp, for Guam Behavioral Health intensive psychiatric treatment stabilization, for the residential treatment fund for our children, for the airport's fuel taxes arrearages—and this doesn't even include DOE, Public Health, or GMH's list of needs. And so all I'm saying is yes, I know we should upgrade. We should do our systems. But what we have done is allow our live stream to go down and not find any other solution for our live stream at this time. We've allowed our old archive to be turned off. That could have been a backup system, but we completely turned it off. We cannot access it at all. And now we have to go through a new system that doesn't necessarily include all the information. They're still finding gaps today. And I'm wondering—so my question to you is, is the Legislature eligible for any of the federal funds for cybersecurity grant programs that the government of Guam is currently applying for?

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** Yeah. According to the island cybersecurity readiness program, we would still have to be in compliance. There are certain steps we would have to

take in order to qualify for grant funding. But I'd just like to add—how could you say we are not at risk of cybersecurity attacks already?

**SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE:** You said we..

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** —excuse me—already last year our AV department was compromised because they intercepted malicious software from a public hearing on a USB drive, and it infected their systems. We had significant downtime for about a week. Also, they had pirated software on their systems, which was somehow provided by a previous MIS. So I don't know how you can say we're not at risk for cybersecurity attacks. This is the main governing body right here. We're always at risk because we televise to the public. We put a target on our back here.

**SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE:** But don't you take care of those things? Isn't that your job here to take care of those things?

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** How can I do my job if our firewalls are outdated and they cannot detect new threats?

**SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE:** Well we should update them, right? We should update whatever you need to update. No one is saying not to do what we're supposed to regularly do. All I'm saying—that's why I want to see what the plan is. Is this plan just regular maintenance and upgrade? Or is it like you're saying we're going to go out and take care of the cybersecurity of the Legislature above GMH, above Public Health, above everybody else. I'm saying taking care of these things should have been done already in regular operations.

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** Yes, it should have been done a long time ago, but for some reason now it's only happening now.

**SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE:** I'm just saying, don't mix the two. If you want to talk about the risk that we're having that you're unable to protect us from, that's something. But the things that so far you've stated are can all be taken care

of in-house. Just like the problems that we've had seem to be in-house decisions and in-house directions that we are making.

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** Absolutely not. Cyber attacks happen at any hour of the day. That's why we need 24-hour monitoring services. We need each senator's office to follow the policies and rules in order to protect the Legislature itself.

**JOANN CAMACHO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** Senator, we've inherited a lot, and we're just discovering it. That's why we're coming before the body to say we really need an upgrade. The systems we have are very antiquated.

**SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE:** Yes, an upgrade—I totally support you in an upgrade. I just don't like it that we're going to compare what's happening here at the Legislature—the problems that we're having broadcasting our sessions—it's not related to a cybersecurity attack. It's related to the Legislature has decided, first of all, to continue with session when it goes offline. Second of all, not to use any other platform. They've just decided they're going to stick with the one that, for some reason, they can't understand why it keeps going off—or else they know why and they won't tell us. It's just as simple as that. Like we are supposed to be concerned for the people of Guam, so make it for them. And so that's what I would ask, is that your plan prioritizes these very very simple things that we can fix. You want to protect things going into the computers here.

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** I'm sorry Ma'am. These are not simple things we can just, these are not simple things we can just click a button and fix. The main problem is the infrastructure backing these things such as live stream and our workloads. Everything is digital now nowadays. The financial system, the financial system runs off a server

**SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE:** You're telling me the infrastructure—the live stream,.. Mr. Peredo, Mr. Peredo, Mr. Chair,..

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** Senator, Senator..

**SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE:** Mr. Peredo, please just answer my questions. My question to you is this,

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** Senator.

**SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE:** Is the live stream going down because of an infrastructure problem that we're having here?

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** Absolutely. Absolutely.

**SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE:** The YouTube, that's the problem.

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** It's not YouTube itself. It's the infrastructure that is powering these cameras right here. It's the network that connects it to the internet.

**SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE:** So tell me why we are going offline? Why are we going off of YouTube? Because that would be a totally different answer than the ones that –,

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** Because we have adequate equipment and it's unreliable.

**SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE:** So it's our equipment that's taking us offline, not YouTube.

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** Absolutely. Yes.

**SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE:** That is a totally different answer than what I've been given by everybody else who has discussed with us.

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** Well, I don't know, but that is what, based on MIS's assessment, that is what we've proven.

**SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE:** And what equipment is it that you're lacking to keep the legislature's live stream on YouTube?

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** Our network, our network switches, our firewalls, and our internet connection. You know, we're only on 100 megs per second. That is too slow. This is an enterprise organization, and we need enterprise grade, which is at least 1,000 megs or one gig fiber internet.

**SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE:** And you're not procuring that yet?

**JOANN CAMACHO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** We are. Yes, we are.

**SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE:** Okay see? Mr. Peredo, that's my question, is that of course if those are just simple fixes, then we can procure those and we should be procuring.

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** This is not a simple fix. It's not a simple fix. I don't know why you're trivializing it into something simple.

**SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE:** I'm not trivializing it. I think you're trivializing that the legislature cyber security risk is so great.

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** It is great!

**SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE:** You are, that is out of proportion to the cyber security risk of all the rest of the government of Guam.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** Senator, Senator, Senator, as the Chair, I'm going to say that this is argumentative. The Substance –

**SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE:** Well because he keeps interrupting me while I'm speaking and I have the floor right now. Right? Mr. Chair?

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** You do, but I'm going to keep it to the bill. You've asked the individual a question. He's giving you an answer on what equipment he needs. Whether you believe him or don't believe

him, that's up to you. If you don't have any more questions, we're not going to do this back and forth. You have three minutes, three more minutes.

**SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE:** I have many questions, Mr. Chair. I ask for the plan. The plan is not in front of us. So I have to ask these questions one by one.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** I instruct my committee to time three minutes. Please get your questions and not go back and fourth. Please ask direct questions to the witness.

**SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE:** What I'm trying to say is that without the plan, we can't see what the priorities are going to be, and we just want to justify that we are going to take this money away from all the other areas that supposedly it's being proposed to be used in the rest of the government, and that these are critical. And now I believe that backup for the legislature's data, the unique data that we have here, of course is critical, and ensuring that we can function and put us on live stream like is required by the open government law, that's critical. That should be done today. It shouldn't have to wait for—I'm not even sure what else we're waiting for. If that's the plan, we don't have enough bandwidth, then we should get more bandwidth today. It's not going to cost us \$890,000. So that's why I'm just saying that this bill, if we can see very clearly what it's going to be used for. But I would also like to hear from our administration before we appropriate this, what you are able to take care of right away. You've heard me, Madam Director. I think that we really, really need to solve the live streaming problem immediately, today if possible. We have problems with the microphones, but we have a backup system. So I'm glad that audio created that backup system. If our Wi-Fi internet—it seems like you've solved that now, or else you're still working on that—but you are working on it and it's moving. So I'm grateful for those things. And I'm not saying we're not going to do security because we always have to do that. That's of course a given. I just don't want to say that the legislature is at greater risk than any other agency of the government of Guam. And we have some agencies that are underfunded with critical risks. If we have to stop session for an hour to fix it, nobody's going to pass away and no one's personal data is going to be taken.

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** Senator, if I may, that's where you are wrong right there. All of you senators' offices collect constituent data right there. That's private data of your constituents. And if any of that were to leak, they have every right to sue you. So I don't know why you're trivializing this and saying we're not essential here. We are a governing body. We are very essential.

**SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE:** We are very essential. And we rely on our central staff—

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** And you also have the data of your employees right here.

**SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE:** Mr. Peredo, Mr. Peredo.

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** You have personal information of your employees. If that were to leak—

**SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE:** Yes. And I'm very much hopeful that you guys are taking care of that information. That's what every agency has to do. And I'm not objecting to taking care of information. I'm just saying we are going to weigh this based on the amount and based on the priorities that are in this plan that you have. And I want to see if this is going to—I'm just—I guess we're going to be relying on—I am not asking you a question, Mr. Peredo—but we're going to be relying on something, Madam Director, that does not sound like it's going to immediately solve those current issues.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you, Senator. Your time is expired. Senator Matanane, you're recognized.

**SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. And thank you to the executive director, thank you to MIS for being here today. And just so the public, I used to work in the media and we used to do live streams with multimedia, the internet, television, and so I understand the kind of upgrades that you're talking about in terms of needing equipment. So I do support this bill. Obviously, I'm a co-sponsor. I'm glad that we're updating the technology here

because when I first got here, we were having problems with establishing our emails. The equipment that I received—I had laptops that were missing connections, couldn't do anything—and that caused a delay for us to accept bills. Not only that, when I was in the office maybe for a couple of weeks, maybe a couple of months, my email was hacked. So I lost all of the data, all of the constituent communications for a couple of months because we had to just wipe my email and all of that was gone. And you know that because you helped me with that. Somebody had started a fake account on some social media platform and it just froze everything. So people that had emailed and said we've been trying to get a hold of you, I had to apologize because my email was hacked. So I totally understand all of this. And then there was an incident with, I think, the accounting records. The system was down again with AV, the slides that were presented. Of course we all know the YouTube live stream and it's the equipment. I think I can go on and on. So I'm glad that this bill is introduced. As you said, it's been a decade since you've upgraded the technology here. But for the people of Guam, you should probably also come down here because the building itself hasn't been fully maintained. There's termite infestation. It could have been resolved in the last legislature. When we came in, the maintenance was terrible. The roofs—it was black. So I appreciate this bill. And there's more that needs to be done, not just technology but just upgrades to our facilities here. The committee chair on rules has been doing his best job. The maintenance guys, everybody here in central, is working with what they have and what they inherited, just like the bills and the problems and the issues that are affecting not just the government but the people of Guam. And I will say this, that the Guam Memorial Hospital as well as the Department of Public Health, we've provided funding. They also have federal grants to upgrade their technology, and I'll be working with them to see that through. So thank you for coming here. The other thing I did want to ask, though, is have you had any communications with the Office of Public, OIPD because they administer the BEAD program where there's some federal funding there for broadband expansion? There is, I believe it's called the Community Anchor Institution. You can put in an application through that, work with OIPD, and hopefully the legislature can qualify under that and receive some federal grant funding. Thank you.

**JOANN CAMACHO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** Senator, we are looking into grants also, making it available. But I have to admit, our system is very antiquated. It's very old. We really need to improve. It's like driving a car of 1980 when we really should be in 2026. And Senator, I just want you to know that we didn't just come up with this amount. There were some work discussions on what's really needed and what we need to acquire, and that's how we got there. Is it the right amount? I mean, I could ask for over a million dollars, but we're not. We're just trying to keep it so that we can bring us to a modernization level here at the legislature. And we did put together an IT policy manual because we never really had one, which I'm giving to the vice speaker to be able to introduce to be part of the standing rules because there's really been no order in how IT is really managed. And that's why when somebody brought in a disc, a USB, and it affected our system, we need to scan things before we actually put it into our system. And that's what they're doing. So as we go along, we find issues, we're trying to fix it as well. So please know that we're doing our best, but it's time to upgrade our legislative information system, make it modern.

**SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE:** What about the live streaming, Madam Director?

**JOANN CAMACHO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** Live streaming? Yes. Our contract's coming out. Hopefully there will be no protests. A contract is coming out to give us one gig versus the 100 megabytes that we have now. So that should take care of that concern.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you, Senator Matanane. So I will ask my questions now. Mr. Peredo, please, I want you to restate how you were attempting to answer what are these clear issues that you're facing and that you do have a plan and you will support this appropriation request. So go ahead and restate the fact that this is a serious issue.

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** Yes, I'd just like to reiterate that we are a governing body and we are always at risk for cyber security attacks. Like anywhere you go in the private sector, the public sector, it is just as important as accounting and

maintenance, whatever. And I'd like to say that the reason for this bill is to upgrade our infrastructure. We do have a modernization plan, which I can submit to you later so you can look over it. We just don't have it right now with us at the moment. But I'd like to say that cyber security is important, and also if we were to upgrade our infrastructure such as our internet, our network devices that control all these devices here within this room, you will see more reliability and a significant increase in our streams. But I really don't understand why that's the main or the only thing you're emphasizing today because our plan involves the whole legislature as a whole, not just central operations but also the outside senators' offices, to stay secure and not disrupt operations so we can basically communicate with the public and govern Guam.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** So, Mr. Peredo, I was a little concerned. In your testimony, I did not hear you raising the legislature to any higher position than any other critical areas within the government. Those were for purposes of illustrating how cyber attacks can really affect any institution, right? You weren't differentiating and making the legislature a higher priority, were you?

**JUSTIN PEREDO, IT SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** No, I do not state that the legislature is above all other government institutions. I'm saying that we should all be treated equally. No matter where you are, if you're a small office like Tamuning or whatever, it doesn't matter. Cyber security is important because it'll disrupt operations. It can lead to financial losses and reputational damage. So all agencies on Guam need to be held to the same standards.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** So my final question, executive director, once again, this is not an arbitrary number. It was done through research, and when you came in, you did a thorough examination along with our IT support of everything in the legislature and the offices, the 15 offices that operate out of this legislature, that use all of that and rely on the IT department within the legislature, that this is a result of that complete assessment. Is that correct, executive director?

**JOANN CAMACHO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** Yes, sir. Yes, Senator.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay. Well, thank you. I certainly look forward to the markup. I certainly look forward to us providing once again for the debate on the floor of this bill, that we will have all of the supporting documentation and everything else and the plan and the reasoning once again for this. And as a co-sponsor, I fully support it. I do agree. Ten years is a long time. And look, I also, as chair, I don't want to diminish any outside entity, including OTECH, that's asked us time and time again for more money than ever has been requested from the governor's office. And so the fact is that is up to those entities, instrumentalities, and those responsible to advocate, and to advocate even outside of the governor's office if they're not getting what they think they need in order to be able to move forward. So I appreciate this team for stepping forward and saying you need it, and then we'll debate this on the floor after the bill is reported out. So with that, colleagues, I'd like to now close on this public hearing. Now that Bill 246-38, as well as the earlier bill, or excuse me, Bill 262-38 as well, has been heard, at this time the committee is adjourned. Thank you.

**JOANN CAMACHO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE:** Thank you, Senator.

**[COMMITTEE ADJOURNS]**

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

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations finds that Bill No. 262-38, “An Act to appropriate the sum of Eight Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$890,000) to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* for its cybersecurity and automation needs for Fiscal Year 2026,” as amended by the Committee on Finance and Government Operations, addresses critical and long-deferred information technology needs of the Guam Legislature that directly affect continuity of operations, reliability of internal systems, and public transparency. Testimony received during the public hearing reflected that the Legislature’s infrastructure has operated for years on aging, end-of-life hardware and that disruptions to core functions, including communications and public-facing services, have underscored the urgency of modernization and strengthened cybersecurity posture. The Committee further

notes that cybersecurity is not a theoretical concern, but a practical operational requirement for any governmental entity that handles constituent communications, employee information, fiscal systems, and legislative records, and that vulnerabilities may arise not only from external threats but also from internal system limitations and configuration failures.







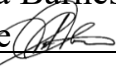
The Committee also recognizes that, in the 38th Guam Legislature, the Management Information Systems (MIS) Division, under the leadership of Executive Director Joann Camacho, has made meaningful strides in strengthening cybersecurity practices and implementing improved protocols, reflecting a more proactive approach to governance and risk management than in prior years; however, the Committee finds that additional investments remain necessary to fully address longstanding infrastructure gaps and to further enhance the Legislature’s cybersecurity resilience and operational reliability. As amended, the bill appropriately clarifies the funding source and timing by tying the appropriation to excess accumulated General Fund revenues (Excess Reserves) for Fiscal Year 2026 as reflected in the CRER as of February 1, 2026, ensuring that the Legislature is not required to wait until the close of the fiscal year to act on urgent needs, while also maintaining that the appropriated funds shall not lapse and remain available until fully expended.

Based on the foregoing, the Committee recommends that Bill No. 262-38, as amended by the Committee on Finance and Government Operations, “An Act to appropriate the sum of Eight Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$890,000) to *Liheslaturan Guåhan* for its cybersecurity and automation needs for Fiscal Year 2026,” be reported out with the recommendation to to do pass.

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

**Bill No. 262-38 (LS)**

Introduced by:

V. Anthony Ada   
Christopher M. Dueñas   
Frank F. Blas, Jr.   
Sabrina Salas Matañane   
Shelly V. Calvo   
Tina Rose Muña Barnes   
Telo T. Taitague 

**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.**

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

**Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds

that there has never been a significant investment in its Information Technology (IT) Systems, for *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, since the Guam Law Review Commission law was repealed and reestablished in the judicial branch as the Compiler of Laws.

In addition to the functions that are commonly automated or outsourced, such as payroll, personnel records and accounting, by other branches of Government and autonomous agencies, the *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* has an obligation to the public to make its legislative information available to the public through a modern and updated website. This process begins with its internal operations that include the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature and the Committee on Rules. Example of IT requirements include accurate and fast automated transcription of audio from hearings, round table and informational meetings and regular and special sessions.

These systems also include the conversion of scanned documents using Optical

1 Character Recognition (OCR) that will allow attorneys, legislative staffers and  
2 patrons in general to quickly peruse testimony and other information submitted to  
3 the legislature in consideration of pending bills and resolutions.

4 To disseminate such information, the legislature needs a viable Local Area  
5 Network (LAN) that includes a database of all legislative information (bills, public  
6 laws, floor amendments, committee reports, etc.). For cybersecurity, the legislature  
7 needs a viable firewall and a Wide Area Network (WAN) of remote servers to  
8 provide backup, redundancy and website hosting.

9 Examples of Commercial Legislative Systems include: International Roll-  
10 Call Corporation (IRC), Propylon, Granicus, ArborText (PTC), LexisNexis State Net  
11 and Bloomberg Government.

12 Key Technology Trends in state legislatures and city and town councils and  
13 school district boards in the United States are rapidly moving to IT for dissemination  
14 of legislative information.

15 State legislatures are increasingly adopting modern technologies to enhance  
16 efficiency and public access, including:

- 17 1. Web-based applications for remote participation and information access.
- 18 2. Videoconferencing and teleconferencing for remote meetings.
- 19 3. Artificial intelligence (AI) for tasks like chatbots, data management, and  
20 legislative tracking.
- 21 4. Electronic bill filing and co-sponsorship applications.

22 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that state legislatures frequently mandate  
23 that their agencies, and sometimes private contractors, adhere to established,  
24 government-recognized cybersecurity standards that include *NIST (The National*  
25 *Institute of Standards and Technology) Cybersecurity Framework and Standards,*  
26 *CIS (Center for Internet Security) Controls and Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA).*

1 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that the unappropriated, unallotted and  
2 unexpended General Fund balance from Fiscal Year 2025 has not been fully  
3 appropriated and is sufficient to cover the cost of the legislative branch’s  
4 cybersecurity and automation needs and upgrades for the remainder of FY 2026.  
5 It is therefore the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to appropriate the sum of Eight  
6 Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$890,000) to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* for its IT  
7 needs.

8       **Section 2. Appropriation.** The sum of Eight Hundred Ninety Thousand  
9 Dollars (\$890,000) from unappropriated General Fund FY 2025 revenue is  
10 appropriated to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* for its cybersecurity and Information  
11 Technology (IT) needs. Notwithstanding any other provision of laws, the funds  
12 appropriated by this Act shall not lapse at the end of any fiscal year and are available  
13 until fully expended.

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

**Bill No. 262-38 (LS)**

As Amended by the Committee on  
Finance and Government Operations

Introduced by:

V. Anthony Ada  
Christopher M. Dueñas  
Frank F. Blas, Jr.  
Sabrina Salas Matanane  
Shelly V. Calvo  
Tina Rose Muña Barnes  
Telo T. Taitague

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13 Notwithstanding any other provision of laws, the funds appropriated by this Act shall  
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***I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2026 (SECOND) Regular Session**

**Bill No. 262-38 (LS)**

As Amended by the Committee on  
Finance and Government Operations

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Introduced by:

V. Anthony Ada  
Christopher M. Dueñas  
Frank F. Blas, Jr.  
Sabrina Salas Matanane  
Shelly V. Calvo  
Tina Rose Muña Barnes  
Telo T. Taitague

**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.**

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

**Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that there has never been a significant investment in its Information Technology (IT) Systems, for *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, since the Guam Law Review Commission law was repealed and reestablished in the judicial branch as the Compiler of Laws. In addition to the functions that are commonly automated or outsourced, such as payroll, personnel records and accounting, by other branches of Government and autonomous agencies, the *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* has an obligation to the public to make its legislative information available to the public through a modern and updated website. This process begins with its internal operations that include the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature and the Committee on Rules. Example of IT requirements include accurate and fast automated transcription of audio from hearings, round table and informational meetings and regular and special sessions.

1 These systems also include the conversion of scanned documents using Optical  
2 Character Recognition (OCR) that will allow attorneys, legislative staffers and  
3 patrons in general to quickly peruse testimony and other information submitted to  
4 the legislature in consideration of pending bills and resolutions.

5 To disseminate such information, the legislature needs a viable Local Area  
6 Network (LAN) that includes a database of all legislative information (bills, public  
7 laws, floor amendments, committee reports, etc.). For cybersecurity, the legislature  
8 needs a viable firewall and a Wide Area Network (WAN) of remote servers to  
9 provide backup, redundancy and website hosting.

10 Examples of Commercial Legislative Systems include: International Roll-  
11 Call Corporation (IRC), Propylon, Granicus, ArborText (PTC), LexisNexis State Net  
12 and Bloomberg Government.

13 Key Technology Trends in state legislatures and city and town councils and  
14 school district boards in the United States are rapidly moving to IT for dissemination  
15 of legislative information.

16 State legislatures are increasingly adopting modern technologies to enhance  
17 efficiency and public access, including:

- 18 1. Web-based applications for remote participation and information access.
- 19 2. Videoconferencing and teleconferencing for remote meetings.
- 20 3. Artificial intelligence (AI) for tasks like chatbots, data management, and  
21 legislative tracking.
- 22 4. Electronic bill filing and co-sponsorship applications.

23 *I Liheslaturan Guðhan* further finds that state legislatures frequently mandate  
24 that their agencies, and sometimes private contractors, adhere to established,  
25 government-recognized cybersecurity standards that include *NIST (The National*  
26 *Institute of Standards and Technology) Cybersecurity Framework and Standards,*  
27 *CIS (Center for Internet Security) Controls and Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA).*

1 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that the unappropriated, unallotted and  
2 unexpended General Fund balance from Fiscal Year 2025 has not been fully  
3 appropriated and is sufficient to cover the cost of the legislative branch’s  
4 cybersecurity and automation needs and upgrades for the remainder of FY 2026.  
5 It is therefore the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to appropriate the sum of Eight  
6 Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$890,000) to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* for its IT  
7 needs.

8 **Section 2. Appropriation.** The sum of Eight Hundred Ninety Thousand  
9 Dollars (\$890,000) from excess accumulated General Fund revenues (Excess  
10 Reserves) for Fiscal Year 2026, as reflected in the Consolidated Revenue and  
11 Expenditure Report (CRER) as of February 1, 2026, is appropriated to *I Liheslaturan*  
12 *Guåhan* for its cybersecurity and Information Technology (IT) needs.  
13 Notwithstanding any other provision of laws, the funds appropriated by this Act shall  
14 not lapse at the end of any fiscal year and are available until fully expended.

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Deleted: unappropriated General Fund FY 2025 revenue



# COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

February 3, 2026

## VIA E-MAIL

[lester.carlson@bbmr.guam.gov](mailto:lester.carlson@bbmr.guam.gov)

[admin@bbmr.guam.gov](mailto:admin@bbmr.guam.gov)

**To:** Lester L. Carlson, Jr.  
Director, Bureau of Budget and Management Research  
P.O. Box 2950  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

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

**Subject:** Request for Fiscal Note

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*Håfa Adai* Director Carlson,

Transmitted herewith is *I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan's* referred bill:

**Bill No. 262-38 (LS)** - V. Anthony Ada, Christopher M. Dueñas, Frank F. Blas, Jr., Sabrina Salas Matanane, Shelly V. Calvo, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Telo T. Taitague. – “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.”

Pursuant to §§ 9102 and 9103 of Chapter 9, Title 2, Guam Code Annotated each bill is required to be accompanied by a fiscal note or wavier thereof. Therefore, I respectfully request the preparation of a fiscal note or wavier for the bill referenced above.

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






## COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

February 13, 2026

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

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

**Subject:** **Fiscal Note for Bill No. 262-38 (LS)**

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*Håfa Adai!*

Find the attached, Fiscal Note for the following bill:

**Bill No. 262-38 (LS).**

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. 262-38 (LS)**

**AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$890,000) TO I LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN FOR ITS CYBERSECURITY AND AUTOMATIONS NEEDS FOR FY 2026.**

**Department/Agency Appropriation Information**

<b>Dept./Agency Affected:</b> I Liheslaturan Guahan	<b>Dept./Agency Head:</b> Joann G. Camaacho, Executive Director
<b>Department's General Fund (GF) appropriation(s) to date:</b> Operations (\$9,619,035); Office of Finance and Budget (\$498,740)	<b>\$10,117,775</b>
<b>Department's Other Fund appropriation(s) to date:</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total Department/Agency Appropriation(s) to date:</b>	<b>\$10,117,775</b>

**Fund Source Information of Proposed Appropriation**

	General Fund:	(Specify Special Fund):	Total:
<b>FY 2025 Unreserved Fund Balance</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>FY 2026 Adopted Revenues</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>FY 2026 Appro. (P.L. 38-60)</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Sub-total:</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Less appropriation in Bill</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total:</b>	\$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
<b>General Fund</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Special Fund</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total 1/</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

- |  |                         |   |
|--|-------------------------|---|
| <b>1. Does the bill contain "revenue generating" provisions?</b><br>If Yes, see attachment   | / / Yes                 | / X / No                                  |
| <b>2. Is amount appropriated adequate to fund the intent of the appropriation?</b><br>If no, what is the additional amount required? \$ _____  | / / N/A<br>/ X / N/A    | / X / Yes<br>/ / No                       |
| <b>3. Does the Bill establish a new program/agency?</b><br>If yes, will the program duplicate existing programs/agencies?<br>Is there a federal mandate to establish the program/agency? | / / Yes<br>/ X / N/A    | / X / No<br>/ / No<br>/ / Yes<br>/ X / No |
| <b>4. Will the enactment of this Bill require new physical facilities?</b>   | / / Yes                 | / X / No                                  |
| <b>5. Was Fiscal Note coordinated with the affected dept/agency? If no, indicate reason:</b><br>/ / Requested agency comments not received by due date                                   | / X / Yes<br>/ / Other: | / / No                                    |

<b>Analyst:</b>  Aubrey Olivia Reyes, BMA I	<b>Date:</b> 02/10/2020	<b>Director:</b>  Lester L. Carlson, Jr., Director	<b>Date:</b> FEB 10 2026
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**Notes:**  
1/ See attached comments.

**BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH  
COMMENTS ON BILL NO. 262-38 (LS)**

The proposed legislation intends to appropriate the sum of \$890,000 from unappropriated General Fund FY 2025 revenue to *I Liheslaturan Guahan* for its cybersecurity and Information Technology (IT) needs. *I Liheslatura* provided an assessment (attached) of its IT hardware and cybersecurity needs and identified several critical upgrades necessary to strengthen cybersecurity compliance, enhance operational continuity, and replace outdated systems.

Based on the September 2025 Consolidated Revenue and Expenditure Report (CRER), the Net Unobligated FY25 General Fund Revenue was \$33,044,179. It should be noted that from this amount, the sum of \$13,100,000 was appropriated to the Department of Public Health and Social Services for SNAP and WIC benefits, pursuant to P.L. 38-75, effectively reducing the Net Unobligated FY25 General Fund Revenue to \$19,944,179. It should be noted that there are several competing proposed legislative measures seeking to utilize funds from this available balance. The subtotal amount of the competing measures amounts to \$64,138,528, or \$44,194,349 more than the net unobligated General Fund revenues for FY 2025 of \$19,944,179, inclusive of Bill No. 262-38 (LS), as shown in the table below.

<b>Net Unobligated Projected FY 25 General Fund Revenue (as of September 2025)</b>	<b>\$33,044,179.00</b>
<b>Appropriations passed from unexpended, unencumbered FY 2025 Excess Revenues</b>	
Public Law 38-75: DPHSS SNAP and WIC Supplement Benefits	\$13,100,000.00
<b>Available Net Unobligated FY 2025 General Fund Revenues</b>	<b>\$19,944,179.00</b>
<b>Proposed appropriations from unexpended, unencumbered FY2025 Excess Revenues</b>	
Bill No. 9-38 (COR) - GPA - Credit Round 7	\$15,828,000.00
Bill No. 36-38 (COR) - MCOG - Hagat Multi-Purpose Facility	\$1,000,000.00
Bill No. 37-38 (COR) - Guam Unique Merchandise and Art (GUMA)	\$1,000,000.00
Bill No. 38-38 (COR) - UOG Repairs, Maintenance, CIP and Accreditation	\$4,000,000.00
Bill No. 39-38 (COR) - DPW - Village Streets and Roads Resurfacing and Repairs	\$10,000,000.00
Bill No. 40-38 (COR) - Guam Preservation Trust Rehabilitation of FQ Sanchez	\$3,500,000.00
Bill No. 60-38 (COR) - DISID - Private Care Services	\$150,000.00
Bill No. 98-38 (COR) - GWA - Wastewater Facility over Northern Guam Lens Aquifer	\$10,000,000.00
Bill No. 193-38 (COR) - Workers Compensation Fund	\$4,656,568.00
Bill No. 196-38 (COR) - GBHWC - Intensive Psychiatric Treatment Stabilization	\$2,912,086.00
Bill No. 196-38 (COR) - DOA - Residential Treatment Fund	\$947,249.00
Bill No. 229-38 (COR) - GIAA - Aviation Fuel Tax Arrearages	\$9,254,625.00
<b>Bill No. 262-38 (LS) - Legislature - Cybersecurity and Automation Needs</b>	<b>\$890,000.00</b>
<b>Total Proposed Appropriations from FY2025 Excess Revenues</b>	<b>\$64,138,528.00</b>
<b>Variance</b>	<b>(\$44,194,349.00)</b>

As such, it appears there is sufficient net unobligated FY 2025 General Fund revenues to enact a combination of the abovementioned measures, but not all at this time.



**Central Operations**  
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guahan

Executive Director  
Joann G. Camacho  
163 Chalan Santo Papa  
Guam Congress Building  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

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Bureau of Budget and  
Management Research

February 9, 2026

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Lester Carlson, Director Bureau of Budget and Management Research (BBMR)

**From:** Joann Camacho  
Executive Director-Guam Legislature

**Subject:** Cost Estimates for Information Technology Hardware and Cybersecurity Upgrades – Legislature

Director Carlson,

In support of BBMR's preparation of a fiscal note for Bill No. 262-38 (LS), this memorandum provides the cost estimates developed by the Legislature's Management Information Systems (MIS) Division for the proposed modernization of the Guam Legislature's information technology infrastructure and cybersecurity systems.

MIS conducted a comprehensive assessment of existing equipment, network vulnerabilities, and operational requirements across the Guam Congress Building and all twelve (12) senatorial district offices. This assessment identified several critical upgrades necessary to strengthen cybersecurity compliance, enhance operational continuity, and replace outdated systems.

**Summary of MIS Cost Estimates**

- **Replacement of network firewalls, routers, and switches within the Guam Congress Building**  
*To replace aging and unsupported equipment, eliminate security vulnerabilities, and ensure reliable, secure internal network operations.*
- **Procurement and installation of new firewalls, routers, and switches for all external branch offices, including senatorial district offices and the Office of Finance and Budget**  
*To establish secure, standardized connectivity and enable centralized network and security monitoring between all branch offices and the Legislature's MIS Department.*
- **Procurement of Microsoft 365 Enterprise licensing for all 150+ employees**  
*To enhance email security, identity protection, data loss prevention, and secure collaboration, while improving productivity and compliance with modern cybersecurity standards.*
- **Procurement and deployment of an off-site backup server and cloud-based imaging capability**  
*To ensure continuity of legislative operations and protect critical data from loss due to hardware failure, ransomware attacks, or natural disasters.*
- **Engagement of a third-party firm to conduct penetration testing and a comprehensive cybersecurity audit**  
*To independently assess network vulnerabilities, validate security controls, and meet recognized cybersecurity best practices and compliance expectations.*
- **Replacement of the Legislature's Sage 300 financial management system**  
*To address system obsolescence, security risks, and functional limitations that impact financial reporting, internal controls, and audit readiness.*



- **Professional services for system installation, configuration, integration, and project management**  
*To ensure proper deployment, minimize operational disruptions, and achieve timely and effective implementation of all technology upgrades.*
- **Procurement of legislative drafting, publishing, and automation management software for all legislative offices**  
*To improve efficiency, accuracy, and consistency in legislative drafting, document management, and public dissemination of legislative materials.*
- **Procurement of 24/7 cybersecurity monitoring services for the Guam Congress Building and all external branch offices**  
*To provide continuous threat detection, rapid incident response, and real-time monitoring against cyber threats targeting legislative systems.*
- **Cybersecurity program procurement, including service contract, system implementation, and staff training**  
*To establish a sustainable cybersecurity framework supported by trained personnel and ongoing vendor support.*
- **Contingency allocation for procurement, shipping, and implementation variables**

**Estimated One-Time Total:**

\$850,000, plus \$40,000 for contingency

These proposed investments address longstanding gaps in cybersecurity, network reliability, process automation, and data protection, and are essential to safeguarding legislative operations and public information systems.

Please advise if BBMR requires any additional information or clarification from MIS as you prepare the fiscal note.

Best Regards,



Joann G. Camacho  
Executive Director  
38th Guam Legislature



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

February 12, 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. 262-38 (LS)

*Håfa Adai* Chairman Duenas,

Pursuant to the Standing Rules of the 38<sup>th</sup> 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. 262-38 (LS), 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.

The proposed bill appropriates Eight Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$890,000) from unappropriated General Fund FY 2025 revenue to the Guam Legislature for its cybersecurity and Information Technology (IT) needs.

Based on Bureau of Budget and Management Research's Consolidated Revenue and Expenditure Report as of September 30, 2025, the net unobligated projected FY 2025 General Fund Revenue is \$33,044,179. However, Public Law 38-75 appropriates \$13,100,000 to the Department of Public Health and Social Services for SNAP and WIC benefits. This reduces the net unobligated projected FY 2025 General Fund revenue to \$19,944,179, which can still cover the proposed bill appropriation amount of \$890,000. However, it should be noted that there are multiple proposed legislative measures utilizing the FY 2025 General Fund net unobligated balance. Also note, the actual General Fund balance is not definite as the FY 2025 Government of Guam audit has not been completed and is anticipated to be released towards the end of 2026 or early 2027.

Respectfully,

  
Stephen J. Guerrero



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

**Funding Availability Checklist on Bill No. 262-38 (LS)**

- 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 12, 2026, 4:10pm*

Approved

Disapproved

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen J. Guerrero, Director