

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
327-38 (LS)	William A. Parkinson	AN ACT TO <i>AMEND</i> SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO <i>ADD</i> NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.	5/22/26 10:16 a.m.	5/29/26	Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs.	Request: 5/29/26 Waiver: 6/3/26	9/2/26 8:00 a.m.	9/9/26	



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

September 3, 2026

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

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

RE: Committee Report on [Bill No. 327-38 \(LS\)](#) - William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.”

Håfa Adai Speaker Blas,

Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report on [Bill No. 327-38 \(LS\)](#) - William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.”

Committee Vote as follows:

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

Sincerely,

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



COMMITTEE ON RULES

RECEIVED:

September 3, 2026 3:39 p.m.
Marie Crisostomo



Office of Legislative Secretary

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

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

COMMITTEE REPORT

Bill No. 327-38 (LS) - William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.”



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

September 2, 2026

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

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

Subject: Committee Report on [Bill No. 327-38 \(LS\)](#) - William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.”

Transmitted herewith for your consideration is the Committee Report on [Bill No. 327-38 \(LS\)](#) - William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.”

- Notice of Hearing
- Hearing Agenda
- Hearing Sign-in Sheet
- Submitted Testimonies and Supporting Documents
- Committee Report Vote Sheet
- Committee Report Digest
- Copy of Bill No. 327-38 (LS)
- Fiscal Note

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane.

Sincerely,

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



COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

May 29, 2026

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

Attorney Darleen E.H. Phillips
Legislative Legal Counsel

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

Subject: **Referral of Bill No. 327-38 (LS)**

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. 327-38 (LS)** - William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.”

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

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

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





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

August 25, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media

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

Subject: First Notice of Public Hearing: Wednesday September 2, 2026, 8:00 A.M.

Håfa Adai!

The Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday September 2, beginning at 8:00 A.M., in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building.

The Committee will hear and accept testimony on the following:

[Guam Memorial Hospital Authority](#) – New Fee Package dated June 24, 2026.

[Bill No. 255-38 \(COR\)](#) - V. Anthony Ada, Christopher M. Dueñas, Vincent A.V. Borja. – “AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 67 OF TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING AND EXPANDING THE *GUAM OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS* (GOVA) WITH THE INTENT OF STRENGTHENING SERVICES, IMPROVING ACCOUNTABILITY, ESTABLISHING RESPONSIBILITIES IN STATUTE, AND ENHANCING SUPPORT FOR GUAM'S VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS.”

[Bill No. 327-38 \(LS\)](#) - William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.”

[Bill No. 343-38 \(LS\)](#) - Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina F. Perez. – “AN ACT TO AMEND § 4B104 AND § 4B105 OF ARTICLE 1B, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND § 67101(d), (e), AND (g) OF CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO DEFINING SPOUSE AND LEGAL GUARDIAN FOR CERTAIN LOCAL VETERANS' BENEFITS.”

[Resolution 204-38 \(LS\)](#)- Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina Flores Perez. – “Relative to Requesting the United States Government to Transfer “Lot Apra Harbor Reservation B-7” Consisting of Approximately Fifteen (15) Acres to the Government of Guam to be Preserved in Perpetuity for the Future Expansion of the Guam Veterans' Cemetery and the Masso Reservoir Conservation Area and Watershed.”

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



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

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

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

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



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

First Notice of Public Hearing: Wednesday September 2, 2026, 8:00 A.M.

3 messages

Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

Tue, Aug 25, 2026 at 1:00 PM

<office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

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

Bcc: Ann San Nicolas <ann.sn@guamlegislature.gov>, senator.sabrina@guamlegislature.gov, Sergio Salas <sergio.salas@guamlegislature.gov>, john.mafnas@guamlegislature.gov

August 25, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media

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Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

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Bill No. 343-38 (LS) Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina F. Perez. “AN ACT TO AMEND § 4B104 AND § 4B105 OF ARTICLE 1B, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND § 67101(d), (e), AND (g) OF CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO DEFINING SPOUSE AND LEGAL GUARDIAN FOR CERTAIN LOCAL VETERANS’ BENEFITS.”

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 **PH 8.25 First Notice 2026.09.02.pdf**
374K

Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

Tue, Aug 25, 2026 at 2:23 PM

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

Hafa adai and posted on the calendar.

[Quoted te t hidden]

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"Disclaimer: This message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information which is privileged, confidential, proprietary, or exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient or the individual responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are strictly prohibited from disclosing, distributing, copying, or in any way using this message. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender and immediately delete any copies you may have received. Thank you."

Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane
<office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>
To: Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

Tue, Aug 25, 2026 at 2:26 PM

i had to rescind and replace . can you repost please. xoxo

[Quoted text hidden]

First Notice of Public Hearing: Wednesday September 2, 2026, 8:00 A.M.

 PRINT

First Notice of Public Hearing: Wednesday September 2, 2026, 8:00 A.M.

PUBLIC HEARING

 **Posted on:** 08/25/2026 01:15 PM

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

 **Public Hearing Date:** 09/02/2026 08:00 AM

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

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

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

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

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

 **Share this notice**



Håfa Adai!

The Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday September 2, beginning at 8:00 A.M., in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building.

The Committee will hear and accept testimony on the following:

Guam Memorial Hospital Authority

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th Guam Legislature/Mess Comms 38th/Doc.%20No.%2038GL-26-2661.pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th%20Guam%20Legislature/Mess%20Comms%2038th/Doc.%20No.%2038GL-26-2661.pdf)) – New Fee Package dated June 24, 2026.

Bill No. 255-38 (COR)

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th Guam Legislature/Bills Introduced 38th/Bill%20No.%20255-38%20\(COR\)%20Referred%20Version.pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th%20Guam%20Legislature/Bills%20Introduced%2038th/Bill%20No.%20255-38%20(COR)%20Referred%20Version.pdf)) - V. Anthony Ada, Christopher M. Dueñas, Vincent A.V. Borja. – “AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 67 OF TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING AND EXPANDING THE GUAM OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (GOVA) WITH THE INTENT OF STRENGTHENING SERVICES, IMPROVING ACCOUNTABILITY, ESTABLISHING RESPONSIBILITIES IN STATUTE, AND ENHANCING SUPPORT FOR GUAM'S VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS.”

Bill No. 327-38 (LS)

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th Guam Legislature/Bills Introduced 38th/Bill%20No.%20327-38%20\(LS\).pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th%20Guam%20Legislature/Bills%20Introduced%2038th/Bill%20No.%20327-38%20(LS).pdf)) - William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.”

Bill No. 343-38 (LS)

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th Guam Legislature/Bills Introduced 38th/Bill%20No.%20343-38%20\(LS\).pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th%20Guam%20Legislature/Bills%20Introduced%2038th/Bill%20No.%20343-38%20(LS).pdf)) - Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina F. Perez. – “AN ACT TO AMEND § 4B104 AND § 4B105 OF ARTICLE 1B, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED AND § 67101(d), (e) AND (f) OF CHAPTER 67

**ANNOTATED, AND SECTIONS (E), AND (G) OF CHAPTER 97,
TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO DEFINING
SPOUSE AND LEGAL GUARDIAN FOR CERTAIN LOCAL
VETERANS' BENEFITS."**

Resolution 204-38 (LS)-

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/COR_Res_38th/Res.%20No.%20204-38%20\(LS\).pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/COR_Res_38th/Res.%20No.%20204-38%20(LS).pdf)) **Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina Flores Perez. - "Relative to Requesting the United States Government to Transfer "Lot Apra Harbor Reservation B-7" Consisting of Approximately Fifteen (15) Acres to the Government of Guam to be Preserved in Perpetuity for the Future Expansion of the Guam Veterans' Cemetery and the Masso Reservoir Conservation Area and Watershed."**

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

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

Office Submitting Request: Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

Date of Request: September 2, 2026

POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Annie San Nicolas

Contact #:

Email: ann.sn@guamlegislature.gov

PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS

Notice Type: Public Hearing ☒ Informational Briefing ☐ Roundtable

Discussion ☐ **Oversight Hearing** ☐ **Committee Meeting** ☐ **Other:** ☐

Notice Title / Bill(s) 255-38, 327-38, 343-38 **Resolution(s) / Appointment:**

Date of Event: Tuesday September 2, 2026 **Start Time:** 8:00AM

Run Dates: August 25, 2026 to September 2, 2026

Location: Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room

MEDIA HANDLING

Recording Format: ☒ MP4 ☐ MP3 ☐ Other: ☐

Delivery Method: ☒ Email ☐ USB Drive ☐ Cloud Link ☐ Other: ☐

CERTIFIED BY:

Name: Zachary Quivarta

Signature: 

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND VETERANS AFFAIRS



Notice of Public Hearing

Wednesday September 2, 2026, 9:00 A.M.

The Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday September 2, 2026, beginning at 8:00 A.M., in the Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building.

The purpose of this Hearing is to hear on the following:



Guam Memorial Hospital Authority – New Fee Package dated June 24, 2026.

Bill No. 255-38 (COR) - V. Anthony Ada, Christopher M. Dueñas, Vincent A.V. Borja. – “AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 67 OF TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING AND EXPANDING THE *GUAM OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS* (GOVA) WITH THE INTENT OF STRENGTHENING SERVICES, IMPROVING ACCOUNTABILITY, ESTABLISHING RESPONSIBILITIES IN STATUTE, AND ENHANCING SUPPORT FOR GUAM’S VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS.”

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SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND VETERANS AFFAIRS



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

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

August 31, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media

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

Subject: Second Notice of Public Hearing: Wednesday September 2, 2026, 8:00 A.M.

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

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

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

Second Notice of Public Hearing: Wednesday September 2, 2026, 8:00 A.M.

1 message

Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

Mon, Aug 31, 2026 at 8:00 AM

<office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

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

Bcc: Ann San Nicolas <ann.sn@guamlegislature.gov>, senator.sabrina@guamlegislature.gov, john.mafnas@guamlegislature.gov, Sergio Salas <sergio.salas@guamlegislature.gov>

August 31, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media

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

Subject: Second Notice of Public Hearing: Wednesday September 2, 2026, 8:00 A.M.

Håfa Adai!

The Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday September 2, beginning at 8:00 A.M., in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building.

The Committee will hear and accept testimony on the following:

Guam Memorial Hospital Authority – New Fee Package dated June 24, 2026.

Bill No. 255-38 (COR) V. Anthony Ada, Christopher M. Dueñas, Vincent A.V. Borja. “AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 67 OF TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING AND EXPANDING THE *GUAM OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS* (GOVA) WITH THE INTENT OF STRENGTHENING SERVICES, IMPROVING ACCOUNTABILITY, ESTABLISHING RESPONSIBILITIES IN STATUTE, AND ENHANCING SUPPORT FOR GUAM’S VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS.”

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Second Notice of Public Hearing: Wednesday September 2, 2026, 8:00 A.M.

 PRINT

Second Notice of Public Hearing: Wednesday September 2, 2026, 8:00 A.M.

PUBLIC HEARING

 **Posted on:** 08/31/2026 07:54 AM

 **Posted by:** Annie San Nicolas

 **Public Hearing Date:** 09/02/2026 08:00 AM

 **Department(s):**

GUAM LEGISLATURE (/notices?department_id=92)

 **Division(s):**

OFFICE OF SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE (/notices?
division_id=295)

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

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

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Guam Memorial Hospital Authority

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th Guam Legislature/Mess Com ms 38th/Doc.%20No.%2038GL-26-2661.pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th%20Guam%20Legislature/Mess%20Comms%2038th/Doc.%20No.%2038GL-26-2661.pdf)) – **New Fee Package dated June 24, 2026.**

Bill No. 255-38 (COR)

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th Guam Legislature/Bills Introduced 38th/Bill%20No.%20255-38%20\(COR\)%20Referred%20Version.pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th%20Guam%20Legislature/Bills%20Introduced%2038th/Bill%20No.%20255-38%20(COR)%20Referred%20Version.pdf)) - **V. Anthony Ada, Christopher M. Dueñas, Vincent A.V. Borja. – “AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 67 OF TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING AND EXPANDING THE *GUAM OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS* (GOVA) WITH THE INTENT OF STRENGTHENING SERVICES, IMPROVING ACCOUNTABILITY, ESTABLISHING RESPONSIBILITIES IN STATUTE, AND ENHANCING SUPPORT FOR GUAM’S VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS.”**

Bill No. 327-38 (LS)

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th Guam Legislature/Bills Introduced 38th/Bill%20No.%20327-38%20\(LS\).pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th%20Guam%20Legislature/Bills%20Introduced%2038th/Bill%20No.%20327-38%20(LS).pdf)) - **William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.”**

Bill No. 343-38 (LS)

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th Guam Legislature/Bills Introduced 38th/Bill%20No.%20343-38%20\(LS\).pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th%20Guam%20Legislature/Bills%20Introduced%2038th/Bill%20No.%20343-38%20(LS).pdf)) - **Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina F. Perez. – “AN ACT TO AMEND § 4B104 AND § 4B105 OF ARTICLE 1B, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND § 67101(d), (e), AND (g) OF CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO DEFINING SPOUSE AND LEGAL GUARDIAN FOR CERTAIN LOCAL**

**ST. JOSE AND LEGAL GUARDIAN FOR CERTAIN LOCAL
VETERANS' BENEFITS."**

Resolution 204-38 (LS)-

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/COR_Res_38th/Res.%20No.%20204-38%20\(LS\).pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/COR_Res_38th/Res.%20No.%20204-38%20(LS).pdf)) **Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina Flores Perez. - "Relative to Requesting the United States Government to Transfer "Lot Apra Harbor Reservation B-7" Consisting of Approximately Fifteen (15) Acres to the Government of Guam to be Preserved in Perpetuity for the Future Expansion of the Guam Veterans' Cemetery and the Masso Reservoir Conservation Area and Watershed."**

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

Office Submitting Request: Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

Date of Request: September 2, 2026

POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Annie San Nicolas

Contact #:

Email: ann.sn@guamlegislature.gov

PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS

Notice Type: Public Hearing ☒ Informational Briefing ☐ Roundtable

Discussion ☐ **Oversight Hearing** ☐ **Committee Meeting** ☐ **Other:** ☐

Notice Title / Bill(s) 255-38, 327-38, 343-38 **Resolution(s) / Appointment:**

Date of Event: Tuesday September 2, 2026 **Start Time:** 8:00AM

Run Dates: August 25, 2026 to September 2, 2026

Location: Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room

MEDIA HANDLING

Recording Format: ☒ MP4 ☐ MP3 ☐ Other: ☐

Delivery Method: ☒ Email ☐ USB Drive ☐ Cloud Link ☐ Other: ☐

CERTIFIED BY:

Name:

Zachary Quivarta

Signature:

[Handwritten Signature]

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND VETERANS AFFAIRS



Notice of Public Hearing

Wednesday September 2, 2026, 9:00 A.M.

The Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday September 2, 2026, beginning at 8:00 A.M., in the Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building.

The purpose of this Hearing is to hear on the following:



Guam Memorial Hospital Authority – New Fee Package dated June 24, 2026.

Bill No. 255-38 (COR) - V. Anthony Ada, Christopher M. Dueñas, Vincent A.V. Borja. – “AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 67 OF TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING AND EXPANDING THE *GUAM OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS* (GOVA) WITH THE INTENT OF STRENGTHENING SERVICES, IMPROVING ACCOUNTABILITY, ESTABLISHING RESPONSIBILITIES IN STATUTE, AND ENHANCING SUPPORT FOR GUAM’S VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS.”

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SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND VETERANS AFFAIRS



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

August 25, 2026,

TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL:

Dr. Joleen Aguon
Director, GMHA
Joleen.aguon@gmha.guam.gov

Therese C. Arriola
Director, DPHSS
Theresa.c.arriola@dphss.guam.gov

Baltazar Hattori
Baltazar.hattori@dphss.guam.gov

Johanna Bamba
Johanna.bamba@ocme.guam.gov

Roy Gamboa
[REDACTED]

Jose San Agustin
Director, Guam Office of Veterans Affairs
jose.sanagustin@gvao.guam.gov

Breanna Sablan
breanna.sablan@dphss.guam.gov

AG Douglas Moylan
Attorney General
dbmoylan@oagguam.org

Norman Miller Jr.
nmillerjr@oagguam.org

Subject: Invitation to Public Hearing on Wednesday September 2, 2026, at 8:00 A.M.

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

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane
38th Guam Legislature

Cc: [Redacted list of names]



Office of Legislative Secretary

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

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

Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs





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

Invitation to Public Hearing on Wednesday September 2, 2026, at 8:00 A.M.

6 messages

Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

Wed, Aug 26, 2026 at 8:00 AM

<office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

To: "Aguon, Joleen, MD" <joleen.aguon@gmha.guam.gov>, Jose San Agustin <jose.sanagustin@gvao.guam.gov>, "Theresa C. Arriola" <theresa.c.arriola@dphss.guam.gov>, Breanna Sablan <breanna.sablan@dphss.guam.gov>, baltazar.hattori@dphss.guam.gov, Attorney General Douglas Moylan <dbmoylan@oagguam.org>, "johanna.bamba@ocme.guam.gov" <johanna.bamba@ocme.guam.gov>, "nmillerjr@oagguam.org" <nmillerjr@oagguam.org>



August 25, 2026,

TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL:**Dr. Joleen Agnon**

Director, GMHA

joleen.aguon@gmha.guam.gov

Jose San Agustin

Director, Guam Office of Veterans Affairs

jose.sanagustin@gvao.guam.gov

Therese C. Arriola

Director, DPHSS

Theresa.c.arriola@dphss.guam.gov

Breanna Sablan

breanna.sablan@dphss.guam.gov

Baltazar Hattori

Baltazar.hattori@dphss.guam.gov

AG Douglas Moylan

Attorney General

dbmoylan@oagguam.org

Johanna Bamba

Johanna.bamba@ocme.guam.gov

Norman Miller Jr.

nmillerjr@oagguam.org

Roy Gamboa

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Smat

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

38th Guam Legislature

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Office of Legislative Secretary

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

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

Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

163 W. Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov

671-989-2572

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Status: 5.1.1

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550 5.1.1 <https://support.google.com/mail/?p=NoSuchUser> 6a1803df08f44-90cc62d5dfdsor8082086d6.1 - gsmtip

Last-Attempt-Date: Tue, 25 Aug 2026 15:00:30 -0700 (PDT)

 noname
6K

Mail Delivery Subsystem <mailer-daemon@googlemail.com>
To: office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov

Wed, Aug 26, 2026 at 8:00 AM



Address not found

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found, or is unable to receive mail.

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550 5.1.1 The email account that you tried to reach does not exist. Please try double-checking the recipient's email address for typos or unnecessary spaces. For more information, go to <https://support.google.com/mail/?p=NoSuchUser> 6a1803df08f44-90cc60c61c1sor6534756d6.0 - gsmtip

Final-Recipient: rfc822; [REDACTED]

Last-Attempt-Date: Tue, 25 Aug 2026 15:00:30 -0700 (PDT)

 noname
6K

Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane
<office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>
To: Joseph Meno <joseph.meno@gvao.guam.gov>

Wed, Aug 26, 2026 at
12:34 PM

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 Invitation PH 2026.09.02.pdf
427K

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

Wed, Aug 26, 2026 at
12:36 PM

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

From: Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>
Date: Wed, Aug 26, 2026 at 8:00 AM
Subject: Invitation to Public Hearing on Wednesday September 2, 2026, at 8:00 A.M.
To: Aguon, Joleen, MD <joleen.aguon@gmha.guam.gov>, Jose San Agustin <jose.sanagustin@gvao.guam.gov>, Theresa C. Arriola <theresa.c.arriola@dphss.guam.gov>, Breanna Sablan <breanna.sablan@dphss.guam.gov>, <baltazar.hattori@dphss.guam.gov>, Attorney General Douglas Moylan <dbmoylan@oagguam.org>, johanna.bamba@ocme.guam.gov <johanna.bamba@ocme.guam.gov>, nmillerjr@oagguam.org <nmillerjr@oagguam.org>, [REDACTED]
Cc: <jesse.quenga@gmha.guam.gov>, <yukari.hechanova@gmha.guam.gov>, <[REDACTED]>

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Invitation PH 2026.09.02.pdf
427K

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

Wed, Aug 26, 2026 at
12:38 PM

To:

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

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

Date: Wed, Aug 26, 2026 at 8:00 AM

Subject: Invitation to Public Hearing on Wednesday September 2, 2026, at 8:00 A.M.

To: Aguon, Joleen, MD <joleen.aguon@gmha.guam.gov>, Jose San Agustin <jose.sanagustin@gvao.guam.gov>, Theresa C. Arriola <theresa.c.arriola@dphss.guam.gov>, Breanna Sablan <breanna.sablan@dphss.guam.gov>, <baltazar.hattori@dphss.guam.gov>, Attorney General Douglas Moylan <dbmoylan@oagguam.org>, johanna.bamba@ocme.guam.gov <johanna.bamba@ocme.guam.gov>, nmillerjr@oagguam.org <nmillerjr@oagguam.org>, [REDACTED]

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Invitation PH 2026.09.02.pdf
427K



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

PUBLIC HEARING

September 2, 2026, 8:00AM
Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building

Agenda

Guam Memorial Hospital Authority – New Fee Package dated June 24, 2026.

Bill No. 255-38 (COR) - V. Anthony Ada, Christopher M. Dueñas, Vincent A.V. Borja. – “AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 67 OF TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING AND EXPANDING THE *GUAM OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS* (GOVA) WITH THE INTENT OF STRENGTHENING SERVICES, IMPROVING ACCOUNTABILITY, ESTABLISHING RESPONSIBILITIES IN STATUTE, AND ENHANCING SUPPORT FOR GUAM’S VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS.”

Bill No. 327-38 (LS) - William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM’S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.”

Bill No. 343-38 (LS) - Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina F. Perez. – “AN ACT TO AMEND § 4B104 AND § 4B105 OF ARTICLE 1B, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND § 67101(d), (e), AND (g) OF CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO DEFINING SPOUSE AND LEGAL GUARDIAN FOR CERTAIN LOCAL VETERANS’ BENEFITS.”

Resolution 204-38 (LS)- Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina Flores Perez. – “Relative to Requesting the United States Government to Transfer “Lot Apra Harbor Reservation B-7” Consisting of Approximately Fifteen (15) Acres to the Government of Guam to be Preserved in Perpetuity for the Future Expansion of the Guam Veterans’ Cemetery and the Masso Reservoir Conservation Area and Watershed.”

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



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

PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday September 2, 2026, 8:00 AM

Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building

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

Name (Please Print)	Agency /Organization	Contact Information	Bill No./Doc No. Appointment	Participation	Stance
Catherine Angao	DPHSS	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] 204-38	☐ Observing ☒ Written ☐ Verbal	☒ In Support ☐ Not In Support
SANDRA Cruz	DPHSS	[REDACTED]	GMHA FEES 255-38 (COR) 343-38 (COR) 327-38 (LS) 204-38	☐ Observing ☒ Written ☐ Verbal	☒ In Support ☐ Not In Support
Brian Merenda	VF W PST 2917	[REDACTED]	GMHA FEES 255-38 (COR) 343-38 (COR) 327-38 (LS) 204-38	☐ Observing ☐ Written ☒ Verbal	☐ In Support ☒ Not In Support
DENNIS Ponce	VET COM	[REDACTED]	GMHA FEES 255-38 (COR) 343-38 (COR) 327-38 (LS) 204-38	☐ Observing ☐ Written ☐ Verbal	☐ In Support ☐ Not In Support
Tom Ada	Self	[REDACTED]	GMHA FEES 255-38 (COR) 343-38 (COR) 327-38 (LS) 204-38	☐ Observing ☐ Written ☐ Verbal	☐ In Support ☐ Not In Support
			GMHA FEES 255-38 (COR) 343-38 (COR) 327-38 (LS) 204-38	☐ Observing ☐ Written ☐ Verbal	☐ In Support ☐ Not In Support
			GMHA FEES 255-38 (COR) 343-38 (COR) 327-38 (LS) 204-38	☐ Observing ☐ Written ☐ Verbal	☐ In Support ☐ Not In Support



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

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

Name (Please Print)	Agency /Organization	Contact Information	Bill No./Doc No. Appointment	Participation	Stance
CHRIS FLORES	VETERAN	[REDACTED]	GMHA FEES 255-38 (COR) ✓ 343-38 (COR) 327-38 (LS) 204-38	☐ Observing ☐ Written ☐ Verbal	☐ In Support ☒ Not In Support
VINCENT SANTIAGO	Veteran Combat	[REDACTED]	GMHA FEES 255-38 (COR) ✓ 343-38 (COR) 327-38 (LS) 204-38	☐ Observing ☒ Written ☒ Verbal	☐ In Support ☒ Not In Support
JOE MGENAS	VALIASION G.O.	[REDACTED]	GMHA FEES 255-38 (COR) 343-38 (COR) 327-38 (LS) 204-38	☐ Observing ☐ Written ☒ Verbal	☐ In Support ☒ Not In Support
JOE SAN AGUSTIN	GOVA	[REDACTED]	GMHA FEES 255-38 (COR) ✓ 343-38 (COR) 327-38 (LS) 204-38	☐ Observing ☐ Written ☒ Verbal	☐ In Support ☒ Not In Support
Frank Dumanal	GUSAF VA	[REDACTED]	GMHA FEES 255-38 (COR) 343-38 (COR) 327-38 (LS) 204-38	☒ Observing ☐ Written ☐ Verbal	☐ In Support ☒ Not In Support
YVKA HECANONG	COMHA	[REDACTED]	GMHA FEES 255-38 (COR) ✓ 343-38 (COR) 327-38 (LS) 204-38	☐ Observing ☐ Written ☒ Verbal	☒ In Support ☐ Not In Support
SYDIE TAVACHAN	COMHA	[REDACTED]	GMHA FEES 255-38 (COR) ✓ 343-38 (COR) 327-38 (LS) 204-38	☐ Observing ☐ Written ☒ Verbal	☒ In Support ☐ Not In Support



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
MAGA HAGAN GUAHAN
GOVERNOR OF GUAM

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
SEGUNDO MAGA LAHEN GUAHAN
L.T. GOVERNOR OF GUAM

GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

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



THERESA C. ARRIOLA, MBA
DIRECTOR

PETERJOHN D. CAMACHO, MPH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

August 31, 2026

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

RE: Testimony on Bill 327-38

Håfa Adai, Senator Salas Matanane and Esteemed Senators of the 38th Guam Legislature:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Bill No. 327-38 (LS): An Act to Amend Subsections (e) and (f) of § 3216 of Article 2, Chapter 3, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, and to Add New Subsections (k), (l), and (m) to § 3216 of Article 2, Chapter 3, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, Relative to Modernizing Guam's Death Registration Law by Extending the Medical Attention Window for Natural Death Certification and Aligning Death Registration with The Post-Mortem Examination Act, introduced by Senator William A. Parkinson.

As Director of DPHSS, I appreciate the Legislature's efforts to address challenges faced by families, healthcare providers, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and the vital statistics system when registering deaths that occur outside healthcare facilities.

The bill appropriately extends the medical-attention period for natural death certification from 72 hours to 12 months. This reflects current healthcare practices, particularly for individuals receiving hospice, palliative, home health, or other ongoing care. It will also reduce unnecessary burdens on families when an expected natural death occurs outside a healthcare facility.

DPHSS supports allowing qualified medical providers to rely on available medical records, treatment history, medications, and other relevant information when certifying an expected natural death. A physician's physical presence at the time of death should not be required when sufficient medical information exists to determine a probable or presumed natural cause.

At the same time, the Department emphasizes that the bill must preserve the authority of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Deaths involving trauma, violence, suspicious or unexplained circumstances, or other matters requiring medicolegal investigation must continue to receive appropriate review.

DPHSS also supports the proposed good-faith protection for medical certifiers while maintaining accountability for gross negligence, willful misconduct, or knowingly false statements.

To ensure consistent implementation, DPHSS recommends that clear administrative guidance be developed addressing:

- The documentation and medical records necessary to support certification of an expected natural death;
- The appropriate use of probable or presumed causes of death;
- The circumstances under which a death must be referred to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner;
- The responsibilities of healthcare providers and other qualified certifiers; and
- Procedures for maintaining accurate, timely, and complete death registration records.

These safeguards will help ensure that the modernization of Guam's death registration process does not compromise the accuracy of vital statistics or the integrity of the medicolegal death investigation system.

In conclusion, DPHSS supports the passage of Bill No. 327-38 (LS). The proposed legislation will modernize Guam's death registration process, reduce unnecessary delays and burdens for families, provide greater clarity for healthcare providers, and better reflect contemporary healthcare practices, while preserving the integrity and authority of Guam's medicolegal death investigation system.

Un Dangkulu na si Yu'us ma'åse' for the opportunity to provide testimony.


THERESA C. ARRIOLA, MBA



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



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
MAGA'HAGAN GUAIAN
GOVERNOR OF GUAM

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
SEGUNDO MAGA'LAHEN GUAHAN
LT. GOVERNOR OF GUAM

THERESA C. ARRIOLA, MBA
DIRECTOR

PETERJOHN D. CAMACHO, MPH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

AUG 31 2026

Honorable William A. Parkinson
38th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
Hagatna Guam, 96910
RE: Legislative Testimony on Bill 327-38 (LS)

Håfa Adai Senator William A. Parkinson, Committee on Health Chair, Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane, and members of the 38th Guam Legislature. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Bill No. 327-38 (LS), introduced by Senator William Parkinson, which seeks to modernize Guam's death registration laws by extending the medical-attention window for natural death certification and aligning local statutes with the Post-Mortem Examination Act. The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) expresses its strong support for this measure.

As stipulated in the bill, the current requirement under §3216 of Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, limits medical certification of death to cases in which the patient received medical attention within the previous seventy-two (72) hours. This standard, while well-intended decades ago, no longer aligns with modern clinical care or the realities of chronic illness management on Guam. Many individuals with terminal or advanced diseases—such as end-stage cancer, heart failure, dementia, renal failure, COPD, and those under hospice or palliative care—may pass away at home or outside a facility well beyond 72 hours after their most recent clinical encounter. Yet their treating providers remain the clinicians best positioned to certify a probable or presumed natural cause of death.

DPHSS also recognizes the concerns raised by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME). As noted in the legislative findings, Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Keng-Chih “Kenny” Su has advised that the current 72-hour rule forces physicians to decline signing natural death certificates even when medical history clearly indicates a recognizable illness. This results in unnecessary referrals to the OCME, delays funeral arrangements, and creates hardship for grieving families, at times even compounding dignity issues related to the late handling of remains.

Bill No. 327-38 (LS) addresses these gaps by:

- Extending the medical-attention window from 72 hours to 12 months, acknowledging the continuity of care in chronic and end-of-life conditions.

- Elucidating that a patient who dies at home or outside an institution is not automatically an unattended death, and that more than 72 hours without a medical visit is not, by itself, grounds for refusing certification.
- Allowing certifiers to rely on reasonable medical judgment, using medical records, hospice notes, palliative-care records, home-health documentation, medications, and other available information. The bill authorizes terms such as “probable” or “presumed” when medically appropriate.
- Affirming that cases requiring medicolegal investigation, such as violent, suspicious, sudden, or unclear deaths, remain under the jurisdiction of the OCME, ensuring that public safety and forensic responsibilities remain protected.
- Providing civil and professional liability protections for medical certifiers acting in **good faith**, while preserving accountability in cases of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

From a public health perspective, accurate, timely death certification is essential for:

- Supporting families with funeral, estate, insurance, and administrative processes
- Maintaining high-quality vital statistics for epidemiologic surveillance
- Enhancing our ability to track chronic disease patterns and mortality trends
- Reducing preventable burdens on the OCME, allowing that office to focus on cases that truly require investigation

In conclusion, Bill No. 327-38 (LS) represents a vital modernization of Guam’s death registration system. It aligns our laws with clinical realities, reduces unnecessary suffering for families, improves public-health data quality, and ensures that the OCME’s resources remain directed where they are most urgently needed. DPHSS respectfully urges the Legislature to support this measure.

Si Yu’os Ma’åse’.


 **THERESA C. ARRIOLA, MBA**
Director



GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

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



LOURDESA A. LEON GUERRERO
MAGA'HAGAN GUAHAN
GOVERNOR OF GUAM

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
SEGUNDO MAGA'HAGAN GUAHAN
LT. GOVERNOR OF GUAM

THERESA C. ARRIOLA, MBA
DIRECTOR

PETERJOHN D. CAMACHO, MPH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

WRITTEN TESTIMONIAL

BILL NO. 327-38

AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.

Hafa Adai. My name is Sandra C. Cruz, and I serve as the Territorial Registrar with the Department of Public Health and Social Services. I respectfully submit this written testimony in support of Bill No. 327-38 (LS), "An Act to Amend Subsections (e) and (f) of § 3216 of Article 2, Chapter 3, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, and to Add New Subsections (k), (l) and (m) to § 3216, Relative to Modernizing Guam's Death Registration Law by Extending the Medical Attention Window for Natural Death Certification and Aligning Death Registration with the Post-Mortem Examination Act."

In my work at the Office of Vital Statistics, I am responsible for reviewing and processing death certificates and coordinating closely with healthcare providers responsible for medical certification. A critical component of this process is ensuring that the death certificate is certified by the most appropriate medical professional, specifically, a physician with recent and direct knowledge of the decedent's health and medical history.

The proposed amendment clarifies that when a physician saw a decedent within the previous twelve (12) months, that physician may certify the death certificate. This change recognizes that the physician who provided recent care is often the individual most familiar with the patient's medical condition, treatment history, and underlying health issues. As such, they are best positioned to determine and document the cause and manner of death accurately.

This amendment improves the death registration process in several important ways:

- Reduces delays that may occur when the physician present at the time of death is unavailable or lacks sufficient knowledge of the patient's medical history.

- Ensures that certification is completed by a physician with direct knowledge of the decedent's health condition and course of treatment.
- Enhances the accuracy and quality of vital records and public health data.
- Minimizes delays and unnecessary referrals, thereby easing additional stress on grieving families.
- Families receive the death certificate sooner, allowing them to move forward with funeral, legal, and financial matters.

By stating clearly that the attending hospital physician must certify the death certificate when the decedent has a documented medical history within the past year, this legislation improves efficiency, reduces delays, and ensures that responsibilities are properly assigned.

For these reasons, I respectfully support Bill No. 327-38 (LS) and its efforts to modernize Guam's death registration laws while ensuring the integrity and accuracy of vital records.



SANDRA C. CRUZ
Territorial Registrar
Office of Vital Statistics



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

COMMITTEE VOTE SHEET

Bill No. 327-38 (LS) - William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.”

COMMITTEE MEMBERS	SIGNATURE AND DATE	TO DO PASS	TO NOT PASS	TO REPORT OUT ONLY	TO ABSTAIN	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE
Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane Chairperson	 E-VOTE 9/3/26			X		
Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada Vice Chair, Committee on Health						
Senator Vincent A.V. Borja Vice Chair, Committee on Veterans Affairs	E-VOTE 9/3/26			X		
Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr. Member						
Senator Jesse A. Lujan Member	E-VOTE 9/3/26			X		
Senator Shelly V. Calvo Member	E-VOTE 9/3/26			X		
Senator Christopher M. Duenas Member	E-VOTE 9/3/26			X		
Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao Member	E-VOTE 9/3/26			X		
Senator Tina Rose Muna Barnes Member						



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

Request for E-Vote-Committee Report for Bill No. 327-38 (LS)

7 messages

Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

Wed, Sep 2, 2026 at 5:30 PM

<office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

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

Hafa Adai Committee Members:

Please see the attached Committee Report relative to **Bill No. 327-38 (LS) - William A. Parkinson.** – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.”

- 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.

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

--

Annie San Nicolas

Administrative Officer/Committee Director



Office of Legislative Secretary

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE*I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* | 38th Guam Legislature

Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

163 W. Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov

671-989-2572

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 **Committee Report 327-38 (LS)_Redacted.pdf**
9761K

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

Thu, Sep 3, 2026 at 8:09 AM

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

Cc: "Speaker Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, Vice Speaker Tony Ada

<vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Rose Muña-Barnes

<senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Shelly Calvo

<officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Shawn Gumataotao

<office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>, Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>

To Report Out Only

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Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas

Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

(671) 989-9554

[Quoted text hidden]

Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

Thu, Sep 3, 2026 at 8:24 AM

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

Cc: "Speaker Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, Vice Speaker Tony Ada

<vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Rose Muña-Barnes

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

Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Borja

<contact@senatorvinceborja.com>, Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>

Hafa adai,

To Report Out Only

Respectfully,

Jacqueline Munoz



Office of the People | Senator Shelly V. Calvo

Majority Whip & Chairwoman

Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration

38th Guam Legislature

163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T +1 (671) 989-5682

E officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov

On Wed, Sep 2, 2026 at 5:30 PM Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

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

Thu, Sep 3, 2026 at 8:28 AM

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

To: office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov

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

Håfa Adai,

To Report out Only.

Please contact our office if you have any questions.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse',



Caden Nathaniel Ong Poblete

Office of Senator Vincent A. V. Borja

671-969-8423

caden.poblete@guamlegislature.gov

DNA Building Suite 502, Hagatna

[Quoted text hidden]

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

Thu, Sep 3, 2026 at 8:34 AM

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

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

To Report Out only.



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]

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

Thu, Sep 3, 2026 at 9:01 AM

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

Cc: "Speaker Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, Vice Speaker Tony Ada <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Rose Muña-Barnes

<senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Shelly Calvo
<officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of
Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>, Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>

To Report Out Only

On Wed, Sep 2, 2026 at 5:30 PM Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

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Office of Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard
38th Guam Legislature
[120 Father Duenas Avenue](#) Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
(671) 647-1409/1411

Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

Thu, Sep 3, 2026 at
3:18 PM

<office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

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

Cc: "Speaker Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, Vice Speaker Tony Ada

<vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Rose Muña-Barnes

<senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Shelly Calvo

<officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of
Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>, Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>

To report Out Only.

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[Quoted text hidden]



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

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

I. OVERVIEW:

The Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs conducted a Public Hearing on Wednesday September 2, 2026, scheduled to begin at 8:00 AM., in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building.

Among other items, on the agenda for discussion was [Bill No. 327-38 \(LS\)](#) - William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.”

Public Notice Requirements

In accordance with Open Government Law, the public notice for this public hearing was disseminated via email to all senators and main media broadcasting outlets on August 25, 2026, and August 31, 2026. This public notice was also posted on the Guam Legislature website and the Public Notice Portal.

Senators Present

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane, Chairperson of the Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs
Senator Shawn Gumataotao
Senator William Parkinson

Appearing before the Committee:

Sandra Cruz
Katheryn Ancao

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY AND DISCUSSION:

This Public Hearing was called to order at 8:00 AM.

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE - WE WILL NOW MOVE ON TO BILL 327-38 INTRODUCED BY SENATOR WILLIAM PARKINSON IF YOU ARE HERE TO TESTIFY ON THIS BILL PLEASE HAVE A SEAT AT THE TABLE BEFORE US. SENATOR PARKINSON YOU MAY OPEN ON YOUR BILL.

SENATOR WILLIAM PARKINSON-THANK YOU MADAM CHAIR MEMBERS ON THE COMMITTEE AND EVERYONE HERE TODAY THANK YOU FOR HEARING BILL 327-38 THE NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION ACT OF 2026 THIS BILL IS INTRODUCED AT THE REQUEST

Committee Report Digest: [Bill No. 327-38 \(LS\)](#) - William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.”

Wednesday September 2, at 8:00 AM.

Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building

OF THE FORMER CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER OF GUAM DR. KENNY SU WHO EMAILED EVERY SENATOR AND SPECIALLY ASKED THEM TO CHANGE THIS LAW HIS MESSAGE WAS REMARKABLY DIRECT DR. SU WROTE IN 10 GCA HEALTH AND SAFETY CHAPTER 3 SECTION 3216 DEATH REGISTRATION THIS PROVIDES AND ACCEPTING WINDOW FOR PHYSICIAN WHICH IS ACTUALLY TOO NARROW 72 HOURS HE GAVE US REAL PRACTICAL EXAMPLE EVEN IF AN END STAGE DISEASE PATIENT DIED AT HOME 73 HOURS AFTER BEING DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL OR CLINIC PHYSICIANS IN CHARGE CAN REFUSE ISSUING DEATH CERTIFICATES FOR THEIR PATIENTS BY USING THE EXCEPTION WINDOW OF 72 HOURS AND HIS RECOMMENDATION WAS EQUALLY DIRECT. HERE I STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT THE EXCEPTION WINDOW IN 3216 DEATH REGISTRATION BE ADJUSTED TO AT LEAST 12 MONTHS AND THAT IS WHY I INTRODUCED THIS BILL GUAM LAW CURRENTLY SAYS THAT THE PHYSICIAN IN CHARGE OF THE ILLNESS OR CONDITION RESULTING IN DEATH NORMALLY COMPLETES THE MEDICAL CERTIFICATION ACCEPT WHEN THE PATIENT RECEIVES NO MEDICAL ATTENTION PROCEEDING 72 HOURS WHEN THAT HAPPENED THE STATURE SHIFTS THE MATTER TOWARDS THE MEDICAL EXAMINER AND THAT WAS PRECISELY DR. SU'S CONCERN HE WROTE EVEN IN PATIENTS WITH RECOGNIZABLE DISEASE PHYSICIANS IN CHARGE CAN STILL REFUSE ISSUING DEATH CERTIFICATES FOR THEIR PATIENTS AND WE OCME HAS TO TAKE OVER THOSE PATIENTS CASES WHICH DOES NOT MAKE SENSE HE SPECIFICALLY POINTED OUT CONFLICTS WITH THE BASIC PURPOSE OF GUAMS POST MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT SECTION 81104 IDENTIFIES THE OFFICE OF POST MORTEM EXAMINATION IS SUPPOSE TO INVESTIGATE. VIOLENT DEATHS SUDDEN DEATHS NOT CAUSED BY READILY UNRECOGNIZABLE DISEASE SUSPICIOUS DEATHS AND CERTAIN CASES THAT THE BODIES WILL THERE AFTER BE UNAVAILABLE FOR EXAMINATION. YET OUR DEATH REGISTRATION STATUTES CAN PUSH A READABLY RECOGNIZABLE NATURAL DEATH TOWARDS THAT SAME OFFICE MERELY BECAUSE 72 HOURS PASSED NO MEDICAL ATTENTION. THESE TWO CONCEPTS DO NOT FIT COMFORTABLE TOGETHER DR SU PUT IT EVEN MORE PLAINLY THE CURRENT SHORT WINDOW PROVIDES EXCUSES FOR PHYSICIANS WHO KNOW THEIR PATIENTS BEST TO NOT HAVE TO ISSUE DEATH CERTIFICATES THE HE TOLD US WHO ULTIMATELY PAYS FOR THAT INEFFICIENCY IT ONLY CAUSES MORE DELAYS IN INCONVENIENCE FOR FAMILIES FAMILIES NEED TO MAKE FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS SETTLE ESTATES PROCESSES INSURANCE CLAIMS SOCIAL SECURITY OR VETERANS BENEFITS MANS RETIREMENT BENEFITS AND BEGIN CLOSING THE LEGAL AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF SOMEONE THEY LOVE FLORIDA'S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SPECIALLY IDENTIFIES THE SAME CONSEQUENCES WHEN EXPLAINING TIMELY CERTIFICATION SHOULD MATTERS THIS REFORM IS NOT UNUSUAL THE PRINCIPAL BEHIND THIS LEGISLATION IS WELL ESTABLISH ELSEWHERE AN EXPECTED NATURAL DEATH SHOULD GENERALLY BE CERTIFIED BY A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL WHO KNOWS THE PATIENTS CONDITION AND HAS ADEQUATE INFORMATION RATHER THAN AUTOMATICALLY BECOMING A MEDICAL

Committee Report Digest: [Bill No. 327-38 \(LS\)](#) - William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.”

Wednesday September 2, at 8:00 AM.

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EXAMINER CASE BECAUSE AN ARBITRARY CASE CUT OFF FLORIDA PROVIDES A PARTICULAR COMPARISON ITS GUIDANCE EXPRESSLY SAYS BEING UNATTENDED BY PR ACTIONER DOES NOT SIMPLY MEAN THAT A PATIENT DIED AT HOME WHEN THE MEDICAL EXAMINER DETERMINES OUTSIDE THE OFFICES JURISDICTION RESPONSIBILITY GOES TO THE PRACTITIONER WHO TREATED THE PATIENT DURING THE 12 MONTHS ARIZONA GOES EVEN FURTHER IT DIVIDES CURRENT CARE TO INCLUDE EXAMINATIONS PATIENTS AND TREATMENT PRESCRIBING MEDICATIONS OR CARE FOR AN ACUTE OR CHRONIC CONDITION WITH THE PROCEEDING 18 MONTHS IT ALSO PERMITS CERTIFICATIONS ON A REASONABLE AVAILABLE MEDICAL HISTORY RECORDS PERSONAL EXAMINATIONS AND OTHER EVIDENCE WASHINGTON PRESIDES IT'S THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PATIENTS PROVIDER TO TIMELY COMPLETE THE CERTIFICATIONS CERTIFICATES BASED UPON THE PROVIDERS KNOWLEDGE OF THE PATIENT WHILE MASSACHUSETTS PROVIDED SPECIFICALLY NOTES OF THE MOST NATURAL DEATHS DO NOT MEET THE CRITERIA TO BE SENT TO THE MEDICAL EXAMINER SO THIS LEGISLATION REFLECTS A BROADER MODERN APPROACH TO DEATH CERTIFICATION PUT ROUTINE NATURAL DEATHS IN THE HANDS OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS WHO KNOWS THE PATIENTS MEDICAL HISTORY PUT SUSPICIONS UNEXPLAINED DEATHS VIOLENT DEATHS IN THE HANDS OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER THAT IS A RATIONAL DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY BILL 327 THEREFORE EXTENDS GUAMS MEDICAL ATTENTION PERIOD FROM 72 HOURS TO 12 MONTHS WHEN THERE IS DOCUMENTS CARE FOR THE ILLNESS CONDITION THAT CAUSED THE DEATH IT RECOGNIZES DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENTS PRESCRIPTIONS TELEHEALTH HOSPITAL HOSPICE PALLIATIVE CARE AND HOME HOSPICE AN UNRELATED ROOM VISIT WOULD NOT QUALIFY IT ALSO PRESERVES THE MEDICAL EXAMINERS JURISDICTION WHENEVER VIOLENCE INJURY POISON INJURY NEGLECT SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES AND OTHER LEGALLY INVESTIGABLE CONDITION IS PRESENT AND IMPORTANTLY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES HAS NOW SUBMITTED TESTIMONY SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF BILL 327 PUBLIC HEALTH REFLECTS THAT THE 12 MONTHS PERIOD REFLECTS CONTEMPORARY CARE PRACTICES PARTICULARLY HOSPICE PALLIATIVE CARE AND HOME HEALTH AND SUPPORTS ALLOWING QUALIFIED PROVIDERS TO RELY UPON MEDICAL RECORDS AND TREATMENT HISTORY WHILE PRESERVING THE MEDICAL EXAMINERS INVESTIGATION AUTHORITY THERE IS ANOTHER REASON THAT THIS HEARING IS IMPORTANT TWO DAYS AGO AUGUST 31ST WAS DR SU'S LAST DAY AS CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER GUAM ONCE AGAIN FINDS ITSELF WITHOUT A PERMANENT FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST WE WORKED SO HARD TO RECRUIT DR SU RESIGNED LESS THAT TWO YEARS AND THE COMMISSION ON POST MORTEM EXAMINATIONS BEEN DISCUSSING HIS DEPARTURE RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION SUCCESSOR I'M NOT GOING TO CLAIM THAT THIS PARTICULAR LAW CAUSED DR SU TO LEAVE BUT I WILL SAY THIS WE CANNOT RECRUIT HIGHLY SPECIALIZED PROFESSIONALS TO GUAM ASK THEM TO FIX BROKEN SYSTEMS INFORM THEM WHEN THEY IDENTIFY THOSE PROBLEMS AND THEN WONDER

Committee Report Digest: [Bill No. 327-38 \(LS\)](#) - William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.”

Wednesday September 2, at 8:00 AM.

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WHY RETAINING PROFESSIONALS BECOMES SO DIFFICULT. DR SU CAME HERE RAN THE OFFICE HE EXPERIENCE THE PROBLEMS FIRST HAND HE RESEARCHED HOW OTHER JURISDICTION HANDLED IT THE HE EMAILED EVERY SENATOR AND SAID THIS LAW DOES NOT MAKE SENSE FOR MY OFFICE IT DELAYS FAMILIES AND PLEASE FIX IT HIS FINAL WORDS TO US IN THAT EMAIL WERE PLEASE HELP WITH THE EXCEPTION WINDOW IN 3216 THAT REGISTRATION SHOULD BE ADJUSTED TO BE AT LEAST 12 MONTHS SO FAR I CAN HELP WITH ISSUING THESE DEATH CERTIFICATES THIS REALLY DOESN'T MAKE SENSE IT REALLY ONLY CAUSES MORE DELAYS AND INCONVENIENCE FOR FAMILIES PLEASE HELP GUAM PEOPLE BE BETTER IN MEDICINE ASAP AND I TOOK HIM SERIOUSLY THIS IS WHY BILL 327 IS BEFORE US TODAY AND ALTHOUGH DR SU ISN'T SITTING IN THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OFFICE THE DEFECT IN THE LAW THAT HE IDENTIFIED DID NOT LEAVE WITH HIM IF ANYTHING WITH GUAM ONCE AGAIN WITHOUT A CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER THERE IS EVEN GREATER REASON THAT SCARCE FORENSIC RESOURCES RESERVED FOR THE CASES THAT ACTUALLY REQUIRE FORENSIC INVESTIGATION WE SHOULD LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE WE HIRED TO DO THESE JOBS WE SHOULD REMOVE UNNECESSARY BURDENS WHEN THEY ARE IDENTIFIED BILL 327 IS A SMALL STATUTORY CHANGE BUT IT REFLECTS A LARGER PRINCIPAL EXPERTS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DO THE JOBS WE HIRED THEM TO DO AND GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT MAKE GRIEF HARDER THAN IT ALREADY IS I RESPECTFULLY ASK FOR THE COMMITTEES SUPPORT WITH THAT I THANK YOU MRS CHAIR AND I YIELD THE REST OF MY TIME.

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE-THANK YOU SENATOR PARKINSON WE DO HAVE REPRESENTATIVES FROM PUBLIC HEALTH HERE TO TESTIFY ON THE BILL IF YOU COULD INTRODUCE YOURSELF YOUR NAME AND TITLE

KATHERYN ANCAO – GOOD MORNING MADAM CHAIR MY NAME IS KATHERYN ANCAO ON BEHALF OF OUR DIRECTOR THERESE ARRIOLA KINDLY ALLOW ME TO READ THE WRITTEN TESTIMONY AS SUBMITTED.

RE: TESTIMONY ON BILL 327-38

HAFA ADAI, SENATOR SALAS MATANANE AND ESTEEMED SENATORS OF THE 38TH GUAM LEGISLATURE:

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE TESTIMONY ON BILL NO. 327-38 (LS): AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (E) AND (F) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (K), (I), AND (M) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT, INTRODUCED BY SENATOR WILLIAM A. PARKINSON.

Committee Report Digest: [Bill No. 327-38 \(LS\)](#) - William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.”

Wednesday September 2, at 8:00 AM.

Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building

AS DIRECTOR OF DPHSS, I APPRECIATE THE LEGISLATURE'S EFFORTS TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES FACED BY FAMILIES, HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS, THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER, AND THE VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEM WHEN REGISTERING DEATHS THAT OCCUR OUTSIDE HEALTHCARE FACILITIES.

THE BILL APPROPRIATELY EXTENDS THE MEDICAL-ATTENTION PERIOD FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION FROM 72 HOURS TO 12 MONTHS. THIS REFLECTS CURRENT HEALTHCARE PRACTICES. PARTICULARLY FOR INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING HOSPICE, PALLIATIVE, HOME HEALTH, OR OTHER ONGOING CARE. IT WILL ALSO REDUCE UNNECESSARY BURDENS ON FAMILIES WHEN AN EXPECTED NATURAL DEATH OCCURS OUTSIDE A HEALTHCARE FACILITY.

DPHSS SUPPORTS ALLOWING QUALIFIED MEDICAL PROVIDERS TO RELY ON AVAILABLE MEDICAL RECORDS, TREATMENT HISTORY, MEDICATIONS, AND OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION WHEN CERTIFYING AN EXPECTED NATURAL DEATH. A PHYSICIAN'S PHYSICAL PRESENCE AT THE TIME OF DEATH SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED WHEN SUFFICIENT MEDICAL INFORMATION EXISTS TO DETERMINE A PROBABLE OR PRESUMED NATURAL CAUSE.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE DEPARTMENT EMPHASIZES THAT THE BILL MUST PRESERVE THE AUTHORITY OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER. DEATHS INVOLVING TRAUMA, VIOLENCE, SUSPICIOUS OR UNEXPLAINED CIRCUMSTANCES, OR OTHER MATTERS REQUIRING MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATION MUST CONTINUE TO RECEIVE APPROPRIATE REVIEW.

DPHSS ALSO SUPPORTS THE PROPOSED GOOD-FAITH PROTECTION FOR MEDICAL CERTIFIERS WHILE MAINTAINING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR GROSS NEGLIGENCE, WILLFUL MISCONDUCT, OR KNOWINGLY FALSE STATEMENTS.

TO ENSURE CONSISTENT IMPLEMENTATION, DPHSS RECOMMENDS THAT CLEAR ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE BE DEVELOPED ADDRESSING:

- THE DOCUMENTATION AND MEDICAL RECORDS NECESSARY TO SUPPORT CERTIFICATION OF AN EXPECTED NATURAL DEATH;
- THE APPROPRIATE USE OF PROBABLE OR PRESUMED CAUSES OF DEATH;
- THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH A DEATH MUST BE REFERRED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

MEDICAL EXAMINER;

Committee Report Digest: [Bill No. 327-38 \(LS\)](#) - William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.”

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- THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS AND OTHER QUALIFIED CERTIFIERS; AND
- PROCEDURES FOR MAINTAINING ACCURATE, TIMELY, AND COMPLETE DEATH REGISTRATION RECORDS.

THESE SAFEGUARDS WILL HELP ENSURE THAT THE MODERNIZATION OF GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION PROCESS DOES NOT COMPROMISE THE ACCURACY OF VITAL STATISTICS OR THE INTEGRITY OF THE MEDICOLEGAL DEATH

INVESTIGATION SYSTEM.

IN CONCLUSION, DPHSS SUPPORTS THE PASSAGE OF BILL NO. 327-38 (LS). THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WILL MODERNIZE GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION PROCESS, REDUCE UNNECESSARY DELAYS AND BURDENS FOR FAMILIES, PROVIDE GREATER CLARITY FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS, AND BETTER REFLECT CONTEMPORARY HEALTHCARE PRACTICES, WHILE PRESERVING THE INTEGRITY AND AUTHORITY OF GUAM'S MEDICOLEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATION SYSTEM.

UN DANGKULU NA SI YU'US MA'ASE' FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE TESTIMONY.

HONORABLE WILLIAM A. PARKINSON

38TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

GUAM CONGRESS BUILDING

HAGATNA GUAM, 96910

RE: LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY ON BILL 327-38 (LS)

HAFA ADAI SENATOR WILLIAM A. PARKINSON, COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CHAIR, SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE, AND MEMBERS OF THE 38TH GUAM LEGISLATURE. THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE TESTIMONY ON BILL NO. 327-38 (LS), INTRODUCED BY SENATOR WILLIAM PARKINSON, WHICH SEEKS TO MODERNIZE GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAWS BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL-ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING LOCAL STATUTES WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT. THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES (DPHSS) EXPRESSES ITS STRONG SUPPORT FOR THIS MEASURE.

AS STIPULATED IN THE BILL, THE CURRENT REQUIREMENT UNDER §3216 OF TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, LIMITS MEDICAL CERTIFICATION OF DEATH TO CASES IN WHICH THE PATIENT RECEIVED MEDICAL ATTENTION WITHIN THE PREVIOUS SEVENTY-TWO (72) HOURS. THIS STANDARD, WHILE WELL-INTENDED DECADES AGO, NO LONGER

Committee Report Digest: [Bill No. 327-38 \(LS\)](#) - William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.”

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Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building

ALIGNS WITH MODERN CLINICAL CARE OR THE REALITIES OF CHRONIC ILLNESS MANAGEMENT ON GUAM. MANY INDIVIDUALS WITH TERMINAL OR ADVANCED DISEASES-SUCH AS END-STAGE CANCER, HEART FAILURE, DEMENTIA, RENAL FAILURE, CO PD, AND THOSE UNDER HOSPICE OR PALLIATIVE CARE-MAY PASS AWAY AT HOME OR OUTSIDE A FACILITY WELL BEYOND 72 HOURS AFTER THEIR MOST RECENT CLINICAL ENCOUNTER. YET THEIR TREATING PROVIDERS REMAIN THE CLINICIANS BEST POSITIONED TO CERTIFY A PROBABLE OR PRESUMED NATURAL CAUSE OF DEATH.

D PHSS ALSO RECOGNIZES THE CONCERNS RAISED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER (OCME). AS NOTED IN THE LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS, CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER DR. KENG-CHIH "KENNY" SU HAS ADVISED THAT THE CURRENT 72-HOUR RULE FORCES PHYSICIANS TO DECLINE SIGNING NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATES EVEN WHEN MEDICAL HISTORY CLEARLY INDICATES A RECOGNIZABLE ILLNESS. THIS RESULTS IN UNNECESSARY REFERRALS TO THE OCME, DELAYS FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS, AND CREATES HARDSHIP FOR GRIEVING FAMILIES, AT TIMES EVEN COMPOUNDING DIGNITY ISSUES RELATED TO THE LATE HANDLING OF REMAINS.

BILL NO. 327-38 (LS) ADDRESSES THESE GAPS BY:

EXTENDING THE MEDICAL-ATTENTION WINDOW FROM 72 HOURS TO 12 MONTHS, ACKNOWLEDGING THE CONTINUITY OF CARE IN CHRONIC AND END-OF-LIFE CONDITIONS.

- ELUCIDATING THAT A PATIENT WHO DIES AT HOME OR OUTSIDE AN INSTITUTION IS NOT AUTOMATICALLY AN

UNATTENDED DEATH, AND THAT MORE THAN 72 HOURS WITHOUT A MEDICAL VISIT IS NOT, BY ITSELF, GROUNDS FOR REFUSING CERTIFICATION.

- ALLOWING CERTIFIERS TO RELY ON REASONABLE MEDICAL JUDGMENT, USING MEDICAL RECORDS, HOSPICE NOTES, PALLIATIVE-CARE RECORDS, HOME-HEALTH DOCUMENTATION, MEDICATIONS, AND OTHER AVAILABLE INFORMATION. THE BILL AUTHORIZES TERMS SUCH AS "PROBABLE" OR "PRESUMED" WHEN MEDICALLY APPROPRIATE.

- AFFIRMING THAT CASES REQUIRING MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATION, SUCH AS VIOLENT, SUSPICIOUS, SUDDEN, OR UNCLEAR DEATHS, REMAIN UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE OCME, ENSURING THAT PUBLIC SAFETY AND FORENSIC RESPONSIBILITIES REMAIN PROTECTED.

Committee Report Digest: [Bill No. 327-38 \(LS\)](#) - William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.”

Wednesday September 2, at 8:00 AM.

Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building

- PROVIDING CIVIL AND PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY PROTECTIONS FOR MEDICAL CERTIFIERS ACTING IN GOOD FAITH, WHILE PRESERVING ACCOUNTABILITY IN CASES OF GROSS NEGLIGENCE OR WILLFUL MISCONDUCT.

FROM A PUBLIC HEALTH PERSPECTIVE, ACCURATE, TIMELY DEATH CERTIFICATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR:

- SUPPORTING FAMILIES WITH FUNERAL, ESTATE, INSURANCE, AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES
- MAINTAINING HIGH-QUALITY VITAL STATISTICS FOR EPIDEMIOLOGIC SURVEILLANCE
- ENHANCING OUR ABILITY TO TRACK CHRONIC DISEASE PATTERNS AND MORTALITY TRENDS
- REDUCING PREVENTABLE BURDENS ON THE OCME, ALLOWING THAT OFFICE TO FOCUS ON CASES THAT TRULY REQUIRE INVESTIGATION

IN CONCLUSION, BILL NO. 327-38 (LS) REPRESENTS A VITAL MODERNIZATION OF GUAM'S DEATH

REGISTRATION SYSTEM. IT ALIGNS OUR LAWS WITH CLINICAL REALITIES, REDUCES UNNECESSARY SUFFERING FOR FAMILIES, IMPROVES PUBLIC-HEALTH DATA QUALITY, AND ENSURES THAT THE OCME'S RESOURCES REMAIN DIRECTED WHERE THEY ARE MOST URGENTLY NEEDED. DPHSS RESPECTFULLY URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT THIS MEASURE.

SANDRA CRUZ – GOOD MORNING MY NAME IS SANDRA CRUZ AND I SERVE AS THE TERRITORIAL REGISTRAR WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS I RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT THIS TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL NUMBER 327-38 **AN ACT TO AMEND** SUBSECTIONS (E) AND (F) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (K), (L), AND (M) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT IN MY WORK IN THE OFFICE OF VITALS STATISTICS I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR REVIEWING AND PROCESSING DEATH CERTIFICATES COORDINATING CLOSELY WITH HEALTH PROVIDERS RESPONSIBLE FOR MEDICAL CERTIFICATIONS A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF THIS PROCESS ENSURING THAT THE DEATH CERTIFICATES IS CERTIFIED BY THE MOST APPROPRIATE MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL SPECIFICALLY A PHYSICIAN WITH RECENT DIRECT KNOWLEDGE

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Wednesday September 2, at 8:00 AM.

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OF THE DECEDENTS HEALTH AND MEDICAL HISTORY THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT CLARIFIES WHEN A PHYSICIANS DECIDED WITHIN THE 12 MONTHS THAT PHYSICIAN MAY CERTIFY THE DEATH CERTIFICATE THIS CHANGE RECOGNIZES THAT THE RECENT CARE OF THE INDIVIDUAL IS MOST FAMILIAR WITH THE PATIENT MEDICAL CONDITION TREATMENT HISTORY AND UNDERLINING HEALTH ISSUES AS SUCH THEY ARE BEST POSITIONS TO DETERMINE AND DOCUMENT THE CAUSE OF AND MANNER OF DEATH ACCURATELY THIS AMENDMENT APPROVES THE DEATH CERTIFICATION PROCESS IN SERVAL IMPORTANT WAYS REDUCES THAT MAY OCCUR WHEN THE PHYSICIAN PRESENTS AT THE TIME IS UNAVAILABLE OR LACKS SUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE OF THE PATIENTS MEDICAL HISTORY AND ENSURES THE PATIENT IS COMPLETED BY A PHYSICIAN WITH DIRECT KNOWLEDGE OF THE DECIDED HEALTH CONDITIONS AND COURSE OF TREATMENT ENHANCES THE QUALITY OF VITAL RECORDS AND PUBLIC HEALTH DATA MINIMIZES DELAYS AND UNNECESSARY REFERRALS AND ADDITIONAL STRESS ON GRIEVING FAMILIES FAMILIES RECEIVED THE DEATH CERTIFICATE SOONER ALLOWING THEM MOVE FORWARD WITH FUNERALS LEGAL AND FINANCIAL MATTERS BY STATING CLEARLY THAT THE ATTENDING HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS CERTIFY THE DEATH CERTIFICATE WHEN THE DECEDENT HAS DOCUMENTS MEDICAL HISTORY OR THEIR PRIMARY PHYSICIANS WITHIN THE PAST YEAR THIS LEGISLATION WILL IMPROVE CONSISTENCY WILL ENSURE RESPONSIBILITIES ARE PROPERLY ASSIGNED FOR THESE REASONS I RESPECTFULLY SUPPORT BILL NO 327-38 AND ITS EFFORT TO MODERNIZED GUAMS DEATH REGISTRATION LAW WHILE ENSURE THE INTEGRITY AND ACCURACY OF VITAL RECORDS THANK YOU AND SI YUUS MAASI

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE-THANK YOU FOR THE TESTIMONY SENATOR PARKINSON YOU MAKE START WITH YOUR QUESTION

SENATOR WILLIAM PARKINSON-I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY QUESTIONS JUST AS WE GO ALONG WITH THIS PROCESS YOU FIND OTHERS THINGS THAT ARE DEFICIENT BE CHANGED WITH THIS PROCESS CONTINUE TO BRING THAT FEED BACK FORWARD WE HAVE VERY GOOD MARK UP MEETINGS WITH THIS COMMITTEE CHAIR AND I ENCOURAGE YOU AS WE GO ALONG WITH THIS PROCESS IF WE THINK OF MORE THINGS THAT ARE DEFICIENT OR INEFFICIENT WITH THIS OFFICE NOW THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO CHANGE IT FOR RECRUITING A NEW MEDICAL EXAMINER IF THEY SEE THAT THE PROBLEMS THAT THE OFFICE IS STILL THERE IT WILL MAKE IT HARDER FOR US TO RECRUIT AS THE PROCESS COME ALONG LETS FIND WAYS TO BETTER STREAMLINE THIS PROCESS. THANK YOU

KATHERYN ANCAO-DULY NOTED SENATOR

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE-SENATOR GUMATAOTAO

Committee Report Digest: [Bill No. 327-38 \(LS\)](#) - William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.”

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SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO-THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH US THIS MORNING I'M HOPING YOU CAN ANSWER THE QUESTION I HAVE RECOGNIZING THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO KNOWN INSTANCES THAT A DOCTOR AT GUAMS ONLY PUBLICLY OPERATED HOSPITAL WHO REFUSED TO SIGN A DEATH CERTIFICATE CAN YOU TELL US HOW MANY DEATH CERTIFICATE ARE PENDING WHICH ARE LINKED TO DEATHS WITHOUT MEDICAL ATTENDANCE OR WHERE INQUIRY IS REQUIRED BY THE POST MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT ARE YOU ABLE TO TELL US HOW MANY ARE PENDING? THAT YOU KNOW OF

KATHERYN ANCAO-SENATOR WILL WILL GET BACK TO YOU ON THAT WE DON'T HAVE THE CURRENT DATE

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO-OK I'M HOPING YOU CAN GET THAT BACK TO THE COMMITTEE ITS VERY IMPORTANT DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA OF THE AVERAGE DELAY OF A FUNERAL HOME ARE CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING DUE TO INCOMPLETE OR CONTESTED DEATH CERTIFICATES

SANDRA CRUZ-I'VE NOTICE LATELY THAT IT HAS GOTTEN BETTER WITH SUBMISSION OF THE DEATH CERTIFICATES USUALLY THE AVERAGE WOULD BE A WEEKS' TIME THAT THE DEATH CERTIFICATE WILL BE SUBMITTED TO OUR OFFICE

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO-ARIGHT THANK YOU AND FINALLY BASED ON POLICY HOW WOULD PUBLIC HEALTH COMMUNICATE THE NEW CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS TO PHYSICIANS NURSE PRACTITIONERS HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET THAT OUT TO THEM ALL IF IT GOES INTO LAW

KATHERYN ABCAO-SENATOR AS THE CHIEF OFFICER THAT OVERSEES THE OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS ONCE THIS BILL IS PASSED INTO THE LAW WE WILL SEND A NOTIFICATION TO ALL LICENSED PHYSICIANS AND ALLIED PROFESSIONALS WHO CAN CERTIFY THAT CERTIFICATE TO THE OFFICE OF HEALTH LICENSING OFFICE MASS EMAIL NOTIFICATION TO THEM

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO- THANK YOU FOR THAT THANK YOU THAT'S ALL MY QUESTIONS THANK YOU MAM

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE-SENATOR PARKINSON YOU CAN CLOSE ON YOUR BILL

SENATOR WILLIAM PARKINSON-THANK YOU MADAM CHAIR I ASK MY COLLEAGUES AND THE COMMITTEE CHAR FOR THEIR SUPPORT ON THIS LEGISLATION NOT BECAUSE IT IS MINE BUT IT IS REQUESTED BY ONE OF THE PROFESSIONALS THAT WE HAD RECRUITED TO COME OUT HERE AND WHILE THAT PROFESSIONAL IS NO LONGER WITH US HIS RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROBLEMS THAT HE ASKED TO BE FIX ARE STILL HERE THE

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OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER IS DESIGNED FOR QUESTIONABLE DEATHS THAT WE ARE NOT CLEAR WHAT THE CAUSE ARE ABOUT SOMEBODY THAT IS TERMINALLY SICK WITH CANCER FOR THE YEAR AND REACHED THEIR NATURAL CONCLUSION THAT'S NOT THE JOB OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER TO DO THAT WE KNOW WHAT THE CAUSE IS AND THE PRIMARY DOCTOR SHOULD BE FINISHING THAT RESPONSIBILITY BECAUSE WE HAVE A LIMITED NUMBER OF CAPACITY AND STAFF AT THE OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER AND WE SHOULD BE DOING OUR VERY BEST TO MAKE SO THAT HE COULD DO THE JOBS AND EXAMINATIONS THAT ONLY HER CAN DO IF THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE THAT CAN DO SOME OF THESE DEATH CERTIFICATES FOR CERTAIN TYPES OF PASSINGS THEN WE SHOULD AMEND OUR LAWS TO BE MORE INLINE WITH MODERN PRACTICES ONCE AGAIN I WOULD LIKE TOI THANK THE COMMITTEE FOR HEARING THIS BILL AND THANK YOU TO DR SU FOR HIS WORK HERE ON GUAM AND HIS RECOMMENDATION THO YOUR TENURE WAS SHORT I APPRECIATE YOUR SERVICE AND THE PEOPLE OF GUAM ARE VERY GRATEFUL AND HOPE WE CAN FIX THESE ISSUES AND RECRUIT ANOTHER MEDICAL EXAMINER IN THE FUTURE WITH THAT MADAM CHAIR I YIELD THE REST OF MY TIME.

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE-THANK YOU SENATOR PARKINSON AND THANK YOU TO PUBLIC HEALTH FOR APPEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AND YOUR TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THIS LEGISLATION AND AS I MENTIONED OTHER BILLS THAT CAME BEFORE US MY TEAM WILL WORK TO GET THESE BILLS REPORTED OUT OF THE COMMITTEE AND ONTO THE SEPTEMBER SESSION AGENDA SCHEDULED FOR LATER THIS MOth AND THANK YOU FOR APPEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AND THANK YOU SENATOR PARKINSON THAT CONCLUDES TESTIMONY ON THIS BILL AND IT ALSO CONCLUDES THIS PUBLIC HEARING BEING HELD BY THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND VETERANS AFFAIRS THE TIME IS NOW 10:18AM WE ARE NOW ADJOURNED.

III. Findings and Recommendations

Findings: The Committee finds that Bill 327-38 modernizes Guam's death registration process by extending the medical-attention window for natural death certification from 72 hours to 12 months. The testimony indicates that the current 72-hour requirement can result in unnecessary referrals to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), delays in funeral arrangements, and additional burdens on grieving families, particularly in cases involving hospice, palliative, home health, and chronic care. DPHSS and the Office of Vital

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Statistics support the measure and agree that qualified medical providers should be able to rely on existing medical records and treatment history to certify expected natural deaths.

Recommendations: The Committee recommends advancing Bill 327-38 for further legislative consideration and passage, while ensuring clear administrative guidance is established regarding required documentation, use of probable or presumed causes of death, circumstances requiring OCME referral, responsibilities of certifying providers, and timely maintenance of death records. The Committee also recommends preserving OCME authority over violent, suspicious, unexplained, or otherwise legally investigable deaths and ensuring the new requirements are clearly communicated to physicians and other qualified certifiers.

The Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs hereby reports- out on [Bill No. 327-38 \(LS\)](#) - William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.” “With the recommendation TO REPORT OUT ONLY.

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

Bill No. 327-38 (LS)

Introduced by:

William A. Parkinson 

AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the timely completion of death certificates is essential to grieving families, funeral arrangements, estate matters, insurance claims, public health reporting, and the orderly administration of vital records.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan further finds that § 3216 of Article 2, Chapter 3, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, currently requires the medical certification of death to be completed by the physician in charge of the patient's care for the illness or condition which resulted in death, except when the patient has received no medical attention within seventy-two (72) hours prior to death, or when inquiry is required under the Post-Mortem Examination Act.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan further finds that this seventy-two (72) hour limitation is too narrow for modern medical practice. Patients with end-stage cancer, heart failure, dementia, renal failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, hospice

1 diagnoses, palliative-care conditions, and other readily recognizable illnesses may
2 die at home or outside a medical facility more than seventy-two (72) hours after their
3 last medical encounter. In such cases, the treating physician is often the person best
4 able to certify the probable or presumed natural cause of death.

5 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that Guam's Chief Medical Examiner, Dr.
6 Kenny Su, has requested that Guam extend this medical-attention window to at least
7 twelve (12) months. Dr. Su has advised that the current law allows physicians who
8 know a patient's medical history to decline to sign a death certificate solely because
9 the patient's last medical attention occurred more than seventy-two (72) hours before
10 death, even when the death was caused by a readily recognizable disease. This
11 unnecessarily shifts routine natural-death certifications to the Office of the Chief
12 Medical Examiner and causes delays for families.

13 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that recent public reporting by the Pacific
14 Daily News regarding Guam's death investigation system, including concerns that
15 physicians have refused to sign death certificates and reports that some bodies were
16 received with wrists and ankles bound with rope, underscores the need for clearer
17 legal responsibility, more timely certification, and greater dignity in the handling of
18 deceased persons.

19 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that the Post-Mortem Examination Act
20 properly reserves the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for deaths requiring
21 medicolegal investigation, including violent deaths, suspicious deaths, sudden
22 deaths not caused by readily recognizable disease, and deaths where the body will
23 be unavailable for later examination. Routine natural deaths should not be referred
24 to the Chief Medical Examiner solely because of an outdated seventy-two (72) hour
25 rule.

26 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that mainland guidance supports allowing
27 death certification based on reasonable medical judgment, medical history, medical

1 records, hospice records, palliative-care records, home health records, medications,
2 and other reliable information. Other jurisdictions recognize that medical certifiers
3 may use terms such as “probable” or “presumed” when appropriate and that a patient
4 who dies at home is not automatically an unattended death.

5 It is therefore the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to amend § 3216 of Article
6 2, Chapter 3, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, to extend the medical-attention
7 window for natural death certification from seventy-two (72) hours to twelve (12)
8 months; to require the appropriate medical provider to complete the medical
9 certification when the death appears natural and does not require inquiry under the
10 Post-Mortem Examination Act; to protect good-faith medical certification based on
11 reasonable medical judgment; to preserve the jurisdiction of the Chief Medical
12 Examiner over deaths requiring investigation; and to reduce unnecessary delay,
13 hardship, and indignity for families.

14 **Section 2.** This Act shall be cited as the “Natural Death Certification
15 Modernization Act of 2026.”

16 **Section 3.** Subsections (e) and (f) of § 3216 of Article 2, Chapter 3, Title
17 10, Guam Code Annotated, are hereby *amended* to read:

18 “(e) The medical certification shall be completed and signed within twenty-
19 four (24) hours after death by a registered nurse pursuant to 10 GCA § 12332; or by
20 the physician in charge of the patient’s care for the illness or condition which
21 resulted in death, or, if such physician is unavailable within the time required by this
22 Subsection, by another physician licensed to practice in Guam who has access to the
23 decedent’s relevant medical records and who can certify the cause of death in good
24 faith, except when the patient has ~~received no medical attention within seventy-two~~
25 (72) hours not received medical attention for the illness or condition which resulted
26 in death within twelve (12) months prior to death, or when inquiry is required in
27 accordance with the Post-Mortem Examination Act (10 GCA Chapter 81).

1 (f) When death occurred without medical attendance as set forth in ~~paragraph~~
2 Subsection (e) of this section, or when inquiry is required by the Post-Mortem
3 Examination Act, the ~~Medical Examiner or his duly authorized representative~~ Chief
4 Medical Examiner or the Chief Medical Examiner's duly authorized representative
5 shall investigate the cause of death and shall complete and sign the medical
6 certification within twenty-four (24) hours after taking charge of the case."

7 **Section 4.** New Subsections (k), (l), and (m) are added to § 3216 of Article
8 2, Chapter 3, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, to read as follows:

9 "(k) For purposes of Subsections (e) and (f) of this Section, a decedent shall
10 be deemed to have received medical attention within twelve (12) months prior to
11 death when a physician or other health care provider acting within the lawful scope
12 of practice examined, diagnosed, treated, prescribed medication for, provided
13 telehealth care for, provided hospice care for, provided palliative care for, issued
14 home health orders for, or otherwise provided documented clinical care for the
15 illness or condition which resulted in death. Medical attention shall not include a
16 single emergency or urgent care encounter that is unrelated to the illness or condition
17 which resulted in death.

18 (l) When a decedent received medical attention within twelve (12) months
19 prior to death for the illness or condition which resulted in death, and the death
20 appears to be a natural death caused by a readily recognizable disease, illness, or
21 medical condition, the medical certifier required by Subsection (e) of this Section
22 shall not decline to complete and sign the medical certification solely because:

23 (1) the death occurred at the decedent's home;

24 (2) the death occurred outside a hospital, clinic, hospice inpatient
25 facility, nursing facility, or other institution;

26 (3) more than seventy-two (72) hours elapsed between the decedent's
27 last medical attention and the decedent's death; or

1 (4) the certifier did not personally pronounce the decedent dead.

2 Nothing in this Subsection shall require a medical certifier to complete and
3 sign a medical certification of death when the certifier has reasonable cause to
4 believe that inquiry is required under the Post-Mortem Examination Act, 10 GCA
5 Chapter 81, or when the certifier cannot, in good faith, determine a probable or
6 presumed natural cause of death from the information reasonably available.

7 (m) A medical certification of death completed pursuant to Subsection (e) of
8 this Section may be based upon the certifier’s reasonable medical opinion formed
9 from the decedent’s medical history, medical records, course of treatment,
10 medications, hospice records, palliative-care records, home health records,
11 information from the institution or person having custody of the dead human body,
12 and any other information reasonably available to the certifier. A certifier may use
13 terms such as “probable” or “presumed” when medically appropriate. A certifier
14 who completes and signs a medical certification of death in good faith pursuant to
15 this Section shall not be subject to civil liability or professional disciplinary action
16 solely for completing and signing such certification, absent gross negligence, willful
17 misconduct, or a knowing false statement.”

18 **Section 5. Implementation.** Within ninety (90) calendar days after
19 enactment of this Act, the Director of the Department of Public Health and Social
20 Services, in consultation with the Chief Medical Examiner, the Guam Registrar of
21 Vital Statistics, the Guam Board of Medical Examiners, and representatives of
22 hospitals, clinics, hospice providers, and funeral service providers, shall update all
23 applicable death registration forms, electronic death registration systems, written
24 instructions, training materials, and public guidance necessary to implement this
25 Act.

26 **Section 6. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
27 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity shall not

1 affect the other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without
2 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are
3 severable.

4 **Section 7. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment.



COMMITTEE ON RULES

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Chairperson

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

38th Guam Legislature

June 3, 2026

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

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

Subject: **Fiscal Note Waiver for Bill No. 327-38 (LS)**

Håfa Adai!

Find the attached, Fiscal Note Waiver for the following bill:

Bill No. 327-38 (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

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Post Office Box 2950, Hagåtña Guam 96932



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR

LESTER L. CARLSON, JR.
DIRECTOR

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

JUN 02 2026

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada
Chairperson, Committee on Rules
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
38th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Hafa Adai, Vice Speaker Ada:

The Bureau requests that Bill No. 327-38 (LS) be granted a waiver pursuant to Public Law 12-229 as amended for the following reason(s):

Bill No. 327-38 (LS) is an act to amend subsections (e) and (f) of § 3216 of Article 2, Chapter 3, Title 10 of the Guam Code Annotated (GCA), and to add new subsections (k), (l), and (m) to § 3216 of Article 2, Chapter 3, Title 10, GCA, relative to modernizing Guam's death registration law by extending the medical attention window for natural death certification and aligning death registration with the Post Mortem Examination Act.

The proposed legislation shall be cited as the "Natural Death Certification Modernization Act of 2026," which seeks to extend the medical-attention window for natural death certification from seventy-two (72) hours to twelve (12) months; to require the appropriate medical provider to complete the medical certification when the death appears natural and does not require inquiry under the Post-Mortem Examination Act; to protect good faith medical certification based on reasonable medical judgement; to preserve the jurisdiction of the Chief Medical Examiner over deaths requiring investigation; and to reduce unnecessary delay, hardship, and indignity for families.

Based on comments received regarding Bill No. 327-38 (LS), the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) has stated that there is no fiscal impact for this bill. The OCME notes that the bill is mainly to set an acceptable medical practice guideline for physicians to serve their patients. However, the bill is determined to be administrative in nature and poses no fiscal impact upon any funds of the Government of Guam.

Senseramente,

LESTER L. CARLSON, JR.