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
360-38 (COR)	Frank F. Blas, Jr.	AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW §§ 66215, 66216, 66217 and 66218 TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 66, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THIRD-PARTY ASSISTANCE IN PERMIT APPLICATIONS.	9/10/26 1:51 p.m. ^9/21/26 2:47 p.m.	9/23/26	Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture, Parks, and Infrastructure.	Request: 9/23/26 9/29/26	10/29/26 9:30 a.m.	11/13/26 As Amended.	

OFFICE OF THE VICE SPEAKER
V. Anthony Ada

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

Chairperson - Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture, Parks, and Infrastructure

November 13, 2026

Honorable Frank F. Blas, Jr
Speaker
Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

VIA: Honorable V. Anthony Ada
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Re: Committee Report on Bill No. 360 – 38 (COR) As amended by the Committee

Håfa adai Speaker Blas:

Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report on Bill No. 360-38 (COR) As amended – Frank F. Blas, Jr. - AN ACT TO ADD A NEW §§ 66215, 66216, 66217 AND 66218 TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 66, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THIRD-PARTY ASSISTANCE IN PERMIT APPLICATIONS.

Committee votes are as follows:

4 TO DO PASS

0 TO NOT PASS

2 TO REPORT OUT ONLY

0 TO ABSTAIN

0 TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE

COMMITTEE ON RULES
RECEIVED:
November 13, 2026 8:45 a.m.
Marie Crisostomo

Si Yu'os ma'åse',

V. Anthony Ada

OFFICE OF THE VICE SPEAKER
V. Anthony Ada
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
Chairperson - Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture, Parks, and Infrastructure

COMMITTEE REPORT

Bill No. 360-38 (COR)

Introduced by Frank F. Blas, Jr.

AN ACT TO ADD A NEW §§ 66215, 66216, 66217 AND 66218 TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 66, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THIRD-PARTY ASSISTANCE IN PERMIT APPLICATIONS

As Amended by the Committee

by Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada

Guam Congress Building • 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
Tel: (671) 989-0855 • Email: vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov

OFFICE OF THE VICE SPEAKER
V. Anthony Ada

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

Chairperson - Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture, Parks, and Infrastructure

November 12, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Members**
Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture, Parks and Infrastructure

From: **Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada**
Committee Chairperson

Subject: **Committee Report on Bill No. 360-38 (COR) as Amended**

Transmitted herewith is the Bill No. 360-38 (COR) As amended – Frank F. Blas, Jr. - AN ACT TO ADD A NEW §§ 66215, 66216, 66217 AND 66218 TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 66, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THIRD-PARTY ASSISTANCE IN PERMIT APPLICATIONS.

This report includes the following:

- Copy of COR Referral of Bill No. 360-38 (COR)
- Notices of Public Hearing & Other Correspondence
- Copy of the Public Hearing Agenda
- Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet
- Testimony and Supporting Documents
- Committee Vote Sheet
- Committee Report Digest
- Copy of Bill No. 360-38 (COR)
- Copy of Bill No. 360-38 (COR) As amended
- Copy of Bill No. 360-38 (COR) Committee markup
- Copy of Fiscal Note from Bureau of Budget and Management Research

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

Si Yu'os ma'åse'

Guam Congress Building • 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
Tel: (671) 989-0855 • Email: vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov

COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

September 23, 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. 360-38 (COR)**

Håfa Adai,

As per my authority as Chairperson of the Committee on Rules and subject to §6.01(d)(1), Rule VI of our Standing Rules, I am forwarding the referral of **Bill No. 360-38 (COR)** - Frank F. Blas, Jr.– "AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW §§ 66215, 66216, AND 66217 TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 66, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THIRD-PARTY ASSISTANCE IN PERMIT APPLICATIONS AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "PERMIT APPLICATIONS REVIEW CONDITIONAL APPROVAL ACT OF 2026."

Please ensure that the subject bill is referred to the Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture, Parks, and Infrastructure chaired by Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada. 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.

FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing: October 29, 2026

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov> Thu, Oct 22, 2026 at 8:00 AM
Bcc: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov, "Speaker Frank F. Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, Jay Forsyth <jay@forsythpr.com>, Desiree Lizama <Desiree.lizama@guamcontractors.org>, Michelle Lastimoza <michelle.lastimoza@epa.guam.gov>, "Joseph M. Borja" <joseph.borja@land.guam.gov>, "Rossana SM. Tiston" <rossana.sm.tiston@land.guam.gov>, Jessica Urbano <jessica.urbano@land.guam.gov>, earl.garrido@cltc.guam.gov, Dexter Tan <dexter.tan@cltc.guam.gov>, CLTC Admin <cltc.admin@cltc.guam.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 22, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media
From: Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada
Re: FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing: October 29, 2026

The Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture, Parks and Infrastructure will conduct a public hearing on **Thursday, October 29, 2026 at 9:30 am** in the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

Bill No. 360-38 (COR) – Frank F. Blas, Jr. - AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW §§ 66215, 66216, AND 66217 TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 66, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THIRD-PARTY ASSISTANCE IN PERMIT APPLICATIONS AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "PERMIT APPLICATIONS REVIEW CONDITIONAL APPROVAL ACT OF 2026."

Bill No. 364-38 (LS) – V. Anthony Ada - AN ACT TO *ADD* NEW § 75A127 TO CHAPTER 75A, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO PROTECTING ALL FUNDS OF THE CHAMORU LAND TRUST FROM LAPSING OR DIVERSION FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN INTENDED BY PUBLIC LAW OR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATION.

If you are interested in participating in the Public Hearing to provide testimony, please contact the Office of Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada at (671) 989-0855 or via electronic mail at vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov for further guidance.

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The Public Hearing will broadcast LIVE on local television (GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117) and stream online via i Liheslaturan Guåhan's live feed. Written testimonies may be sent via email at vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov.

All government activities, programs, and services are accessible for people with disabilities in

compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Should you or interested parties require assistance or special accommodations to fully participate in this public hearing, please contact the Office of Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada at (671) 989-0855 or via email at vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov.

--

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

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3 attachments

2026-10-22 FIRST Notice .pdf
806K

Bill No. 364-38 (LS).pdf
888K

Bill No. 360-38 (COR) Referred Version.pdf
988K

OFFICE OF THE VICE SPEAKER
V. Anthony Ada

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

Chairperson - Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture, Parks, and Infrastructure

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 22, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, Media**
From: **Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada**
Re: **FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing: October 29, 2026**

The Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture, Parks and Infrastructure will conduct a public hearing on **Thursday, October 29, 2026** at **9:30 am** in the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

- **Bill No. 360-38 (COR)** - Frank F. Blas, Jr. – "AN ACT TO ADD A NEW §§ 66215, 66216, AND 66217 TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 66, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THIRD-PARTY ASSISTANCE IN PERMIT APPLICATIONS AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "PERMIT APPLICATIONS REVIEW CONDITIONAL APPROVAL ACT OF 2026."

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FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 10/22/2026 08:45 AM

Posted by: Erin Grajek

Public Hearing Date: 10/29/2026 09:30 AM

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

Division(s): OFFICE OF VICE SPEAKER V. ANTHONY ADA (/notices?division_id=261)

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

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

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 22, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media
From: Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada
Re: FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing: October 29, 2026

The Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture, Parks and Infrastructure will conduct a public hearing on **Thursday, October 29, 2026 at 9:30 am** in the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

Bill No. 360-38 (COR)
(https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20360-38%20(COR)%20Referred%20Version.pdf) – Frank F. Blas, Jr. - AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW §§ 66215, 66216, AND 66217 TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 66, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THIRD-PARTY ASSISTANCE IN PERMIT APPLICATIONS AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "PERMIT APPLICATIONS REVIEW CONDITIONAL APPROVAL ACT OF 2026."

Bill No. 364-38 (LS)
(https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20364-38%20(LS).pdf) – V. Anthony Ada - AN ACT TO *ADD* NEW § 75A127 TO CHAPTER 75A, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO PROTECTING ALL FUNDS OF THE CHAMORU LAND TRUST FROM LAPSING OR DIVERSION FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN INTENDED BY PUBLIC LAW OR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATION.

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VICE SPEAKER V. ANTHONY ADA
COMMITTEE ON LAND, ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING, AGRICULTURE, PARKS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, October 29, 2026 – 9:30 am

The Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture, Parks and Infrastructure will conduct a public hearing on **Thursday, October 29, 2026** at **9:30 am** in the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

Bill No. 360-38 (COR) - Frank F. Blas, Jr. – "AN ACT TO ADD A NEW §§ 66215, 66216, AND 66217 TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 66, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THIRD-PARTY ASSISTANCE IN PERMIT APPLICATIONS AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "PERMIT APPLICATIONS REVIEW CONDITIONAL APPROVAL ACT OF 2026."

Bill No. 364-38 (LS) - V. Anthony Ada – "AN ACT TO ADD NEW § 75A127 TO CHAPTER 75A, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO PROTECTING ALL FUNDS OF THE CHAMORU LAND TRUST FROM LAPSING OR DIVERSION FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN INTENDED BY PUBLIC LAW OR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATION."

VICE SPEAKER V. ANTHONY ADA
COMMITTEE ON LAND, ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING, AGRICULTURE, PARKS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

If you are interested in participating in the Public Hearing to provide testimony, please contact the Office of Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada at (671) 989-0855 or via electronic mail at vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov for further guidance.

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GUAM LEGISLATURE
AUDIO VISUAL DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Office Submitting Request: Office of Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada

Date of Request: 10/20/2026

POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Erin M. Grajek Contact #: 989-0855

Email: erin.grajek@guamlegislature.gov

PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS

Notice Type: ☑ Public Hearing ☐ Informational Briefing ☐ Roundtable Discussion

☐ Oversight Hearing ☐ Committee Meeting ☐ Other: _____

Notice Title / Bill(s) / Resolution(s) / Appointment: BILL 360 (FFB) BILL 364 (VAA)
~~FIRST~~ 10/22/26 (FIRST NOTICE) - 10/27/26 (SECOND NOTICE

Date of Event: 10/29/2026

Start Time: 9:00 AM End Time: 12PM OR UNTIL ADJOURNED

Location: Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building

MEDIA HANDLING

Recording Format: ☑ MP4 ☐ MP3 ☐ Other: _____

Delivery Method: ☑ Email ☐ USB Drive ☐ Cloud Link ☐ Other: _____

CERTIFIED BY AV:

Name: Zachary Quinata Signature: _____

Posted on/Air Date: 10/29/26

SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing: October 29, 2026

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov> Tue, Oct 27, 2026 at 7:59 AM
Bcc: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov, "Speaker Frank F. Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, Jay Forsyth <jay@forsythpr.com>, Desiree Lizama <Desiree.lizama@guamcontractors.org>, Michelle Lastimoza <michelle.lastimoza@epa.guam.gov>, "Joseph M. Borja" <joseph.borja@land.guam.gov>, "Rossana SM. Tiston" <rossana.sm.tiston@land.guam.gov>, Jessica Urbano <jessica.urbano@land.guam.gov>, earl.garrido@cltc.guam.gov, Dexter Tan <dexter.tan@cltc.guam.gov>, CLTC Admin <cltc.admin@cltc.guam.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 27, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media
From: Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada
Re: SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing: October 29, 2026

The Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture, Parks and Infrastructure will conduct a public hearing on **Thursday, October 29, 2026 at 9:30 am** in the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

Bill No. 360-38 (COR) – Frank F. Blas, Jr. - AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW §§ 66215, 66216, AND 66217 TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 66, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THIRD-PARTY ASSISTANCE IN PERMIT APPLICATIONS AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "PERMIT APPLICATIONS REVIEW CONDITIONAL APPROVAL ACT OF 2026."

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--

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

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3 attachments

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Bill No. 360-38 (COR).pdf
988K

OFFICE OF THE VICE SPEAKER
V. Anthony Ada

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

Chairperson - Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture, Parks, and Infrastructure

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 27, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, Media**
From: **Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada**
Re: **SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing: October 29, 2026**

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SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 10/27/2026 08:00 AM

Posted by: Erin Grajek

Public Hearing Date: 10/29/2026 09:30 AM

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

Division(s): OFFICE OF VICE SPEAKER V. ANTHONY ADA (/notices?division_id=261)

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

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

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 27, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media
From: Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada
Re: SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing: October 29, 2026

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OFFICE OF THE VICE SPEAKER
V. Anthony Ada

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

Chairperson - Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture, Parks, and Infrastructure

Public Hearing

Public Hearing Room · Guam Congress Building
Thursday · October 29, 2026 · 9:30 am

Agenda

Bill No. 360-38 (COR) - Frank F. Blas, Jr. – "AN ACT TO ADD A NEW §§ 66215, 66216, AND 66217 TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 66, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THIRD-PARTY ASSISTANCE IN PERMIT APPLICATIONS AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "PERMIT APPLICATIONS REVIEW CONDITIONAL APPROVAL ACT OF 2026."

Bill No. 364-38 (LS) - V. Anthony Ada – "AN ACT TO ADD NEW § 75A127 TO CHAPTER 75A, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO PROTECTING ALL FUNDS OF THE CHAMORU LAND TRUST FROM LAPSING OR DIVERSION FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN INTENDED BY PUBLIC LAW OR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATION."

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Written testimonies may be submitted to the Office of Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada at (671) 989-0855 or via electronic mail at vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov.

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Guam Congress Building • 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
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OFFICE OF THE VICE SPEAKER
V. Anthony Ada

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

Chairperson - Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture, Parks, and Infrastructure

PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-IN SHEET

Thursday, October 29, 2026 · 9:30 am · Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building

Bill No. 360-38 (COR)

"AN ACT TO ADD A NEW §§ 66215, 66216, AND 66217 TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 66, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THIRD-PARTY ASSISTANCE IN PERMIT APPLICATIONS AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "PERMIT APPLICATIONS REVIEW CONDITIONAL APPROVAL ACT OF 2026."

Frank F. Blas, Jr.

	NAME	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	POSITION	TESTIMONY	CONTACT INFO
1.	Peter Bautista	GEPA	SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	[redacted]
2.	Kristan K Finney	GEPA	SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
3.	Earl Gorosh	Self	SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☒	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	[redacted]
4.	LOUIS THOMPSON	PACIFIC PIM CONSTRUCTORS INC	SUPPORT ☒ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☒ ORAL ☐	[redacted]
5.	JOSEPH SAN NICOLAS		SUPPORT ☒ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☒ ORAL ☐	[redacted]
6.	CAPT Elizabeth DeGuzman	GEPA	SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☒ ORAL ☒	[redacted]

OFFICE OF THE VICE SPEAKER
V. Anthony Ada

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

Chairperson - Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture, Parks, and Infrastructure

PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-IN SHEET

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Bill No. 360-38 (COR)

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Frank F. Blas, Jr.

NAME	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	POSITION	TESTIMONY	CONTACT INFO
1. Randolf Salas	Proserve	SUPPORT ☑ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☑	[redacted]
2. Desiree Lizama	GCA	SUPPORT ☒ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
3.		SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
4.		SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
5.		SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	
6.		SUPPORT ☐ OPPOSE ☐	WRITTEN ☐ ORAL ☐	

Pacific RIM

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October 29, 2026

The Honorable Anthony Ada, Chairperson
Committee on Land, Environment, Housing,
Agriculture, Parks, and Infrastructure
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Re: Bill No. 360-38 (COR), the "Guam EPA Third-Party Review and Conditional Approval Act of 2026": Testimony in Support

Dear Chairman Ada and Members of the Committee:

We write on behalf of Pacific Rim Constructors, Inc. ("Pacific Rim") to support Bill No. 360-38. We are a small local business contractor founded in 2012. In the past 14 years, we completed federal, government and public clients. We developed and built low-income housing. Last year, we were named Contractor of the Year by the Guam Contractors Association and received our Accredited Quality Contractor certification by the Associated Builders and Contractors. We have also received back-to-back National Safety Pinnacle Awards from Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) — a recognition that reflects the standard of care we bring to every project, our workforce and subcontractors, ensuring every person in our job sites go home safe and sound. Our CEO and President, Keith Stewart was recognized as the 2025 Small Business Person of the Year in Guam by the Small Business Administration. As a local contractor rooted in Guam, we thank Speaker Blas for taking up a problem our industry deals with every working day, and we thank the Committee for the chance to be heard.

Thorough expert environmental review is essential for clearing, grading, grubbing, and stockpile work. Currently, the process requires as much as twelve to eighteen months. These delays regularly occur after fully stamped drawings, prepared by licensed architects and engineers, have been delivered to Guam EPA. The Legislative Findings support the same conclusion, which finds that review times can run to several years. It would be unfair to place all the responsibility on Guam EPA because they are being pushed beyond their capacity.

Guam EPA acknowledged it is understaffed and limited by government pay scales. On March 19, 2026, a Citizen Portal summary of the board meeting reports that Acting Administrator Glenn Smith told the board the agency has 53 full-time employees and is operating at less than 50% staffing in some programs, creating delays in inspections and jeopardizing grant objectives. It adds that the board discussed salary studies and recruitment strategies. On September 3, 2026, a second summary reports that the Administrator told the board the agency has 54 full-time employees. Further, wage competition from military construction has prevented it from recruiting engineers and inspectors. This is a capacity problem, not a problem of effort or good faith, and it will not be solved by waiting for the agency to hire its way out while projects sit in the queue.

The current practice of permit approval means that an applicant today cannot tell a lender, a subcontractor, or an owner whether approval will take three weeks or eighteen months. Fixed deadlines allow contractors to schedule crews, equipment, and financing with some confidence.

Second, this Bill if passed will lead to better submittals. Agency engineers receive applications that a qualified professional has already screened for completeness and technical adequacy, which should reduce repeated deficiency rounds and free staff time for the complex, higher-risk projects that need it most.

Pacific Rim and other small businesses face hardship waiting six months or more for a permit. Large firms can carry that cost. Small, local firms and individual homeowners often cannot.

Fourth, the bill does not trade protection for speed. Reviewers are advisory. Sensitive categories are excluded from conditional approval. Interim controls apply, and the agency's power to inspect and revoke remains intact. Section 5(h) also allows work to continue during a fourteen-day corrective period only while it stays in compliance with all other laws, permit conditions, and protective measures.

For government, the bill moves the cost of added review capacity from the taxpayer to the applicant. Guam EPA will not need to fund the positions it has struggled to fill. The optional ten percent expedited-review fee in § 66217 can generate revenue for the agency. Firm deadlines and a published reviewer list should also reduce status inquiries, rework, and disputes, which consume staff time even though no budget line records them.

For industry and, ultimately, consumers, delays are expensive. Idle crews and equipment, extended financing and insurance, repeated mobilization, and rising material prices all add to a project's cost, and those costs pass through to home buyers, tenants, and public agencies. Earlier permits also mean earlier construction jobs, gross receipts and payroll tax revenue, and earlier delivery of housing and infrastructure the island needs.

In conclusion, Pacific Rim supports the bill and respectfully offers the following suggestions.

(1) Define "extenuating circumstances" in § 66217 and clarify whether the sixty-day extension may be used only once and whether it suspends the conditional-approval clock.
(2) Require Guam EPA to publish average processing times and third-party review usage.
(3) Direct third-party and expedite fees to a dedicated fund for Guam EPA staff retention and training.

Bill 360-38 gives applicants clear deadlines, brings qualified professionals into a backlogged process, and leaves final authority and every environmental safeguard with Guam EPA. We respectfully urge the Committee to report it out favorably, and we would be glad to provide further information or language at the Committee's request.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Colin M. Thompson
General Counsel & VP Corporate Strategy
Pacific Rim Constructors, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Frank F. Blas, Jr., Speaker, 38th Guam Legislature

GUAM ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • AHENSIAN PRUTEKSIÓN LINA'LA' GUÅHAN
LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO • GOVERNOR OF GUAM | JOSHUA F. TENORIO • LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF GUAM
MICHELLE C. R. LASTIMOZA • ADMINISTRATOR

October 29, 2026

HONORABLE V. Anthony Ada
Vice Speaker
Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture,
Parks, and Infrastructure
38th Guam Legislature
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Guam Congress Building, 2nd Floor
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Guam EPA Testimony on Bill No 360 38 COR

RE: Permit Applications Review Conditional Approval Act of 2026

Håfa adai Vice Speaker Ada and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Bill No. 360-38 (COR). Guam EPA supports the goal of a timely, clear, and accountable permitting system that helps residents, small businesses, and homeowners move projects forward while protecting public health and the environment. Qualified third-party reviewers can provide useful technical assistance, provided Guam EPA retains final permitting authority and the ability to enforce environmental requirements. We offer the following operational concerns and recommended amendments to help ensure the proposed framework delivers those benefits in practice.

Guam EPA's statutory mission is to protect human health and Guam's land, water, and air. Our responsibilities include water pollution control, safe drinking water, air pollution control, solid waste management, pesticides regulation, and hazardous waste regulation. The Agency carries out this island-wide mandate with 55 total full-time equivalents. Any new review framework must account for the staff time and technical resources needed to administer it while maintaining these responsibilities.

Third party assistance and agency accountability

A third-party certification does not bind Guam EPA's permit decision. The bill provides for Agency review and final action, including approval, the imposition of conditions, or denial with a written explanation. It also provides for reviewer approval, conflict disclosures, and suspension or revocation of reviewer authorization. These are important safeguards. Implementing provisions should make clear that third-party assistance supplements Guam EPA's technical capacity and does not transfer its public responsibility for environmental protection.

To make this approach effective, the Agency recommends the following clarifications and safeguards:

Reviewer qualifications and independence. Sections 66216(a) and (c) should establish clear, consistent criteria for professional qualifications, equivalent credentials, relevant experience, and knowledge of Guam's environmental requirements. Transparent evaluation rubrics, testing criteria where appropriate, and passing thresholds would reduce inconsistent decisions and disputes. Guam EPA recommends clarifying that the certification described in subsection (a)(D) supplements, rather than substitutes for, the applicable professional credentials in subsections (A) through (C).

The bill's conflict disclosure provisions should be supported by enforceable standards addressing self-certification, financial relationships, and review of work prepared by the reviewer or the reviewer's firm. Because applicants hire and pay reviewers, the framework must guard against financial incentives that could compromise independent technical judgment. Clear review standards should also promote consistent application of environmental requirements and prevent interpretations that favor an applicant at the expense of public protection.

Review quality and oversight. Third-party submissions should follow standardized technical checklists and documentation requirements so that they reduce avoidable Agency work. Guam EPA must still understand the project and verify compliance before taking final action. Without clear standards, third-party review could duplicate Agency review, increasing applicant costs without shortening timelines. The Agency also needs sufficient resources to monitor reviewer performance and conduct suspension or revocation proceedings under § 66216(e).

Liability, records, and inspections. The framework should clearly assign responsibility for deficient certifications and designs, including corrective work and environmental harm, so that costs are not shifted to the public. Records supporting third-party certifications should be available to Guam EPA and subject to applicable public disclosure and participation requirements. Third-party reports must supplement direct Agency access to compliance information and inspections, preserving Guam EPA's ability to independently verify conditions in the field.

Predictable timelines and environmental safeguards

Guam EPA recognizes that uncertain review timelines can delay construction, increase costs, and make it harder for families and businesses to plan. We support clear deadlines, timely completeness determinations, and communication about outstanding issues. The bill also provides a process to extend review when circumstances beyond the Agency's reasonable control require additional time. The following amendments would help make these timelines workable:

Application completeness and applicant response times. Incomplete submittals and delayed applicant responses are significant sources of permitting delays. The bill should define a complete application, require adequate initial documentation, and establish reasonable deadlines for applicants to address identified deficiencies. It should expressly pause the applicable review clock while requested information, plans, or specifications remain outstanding and clearly state

how the clock resumes upon receipt. This would provide applicants with predictable expectations while distinguishing Agency review time from time awaiting applicant action.

Permit scope and coordination. Agency records indicate that most delayed permits involve building permits, which may require case-specific review under multiple regulatory programs, rather than CGGS permits alone. The legislation should clearly define its application to CGGS reviews and explain how projects requiring both CGGS and building permits will be handled, including whether reviews proceed separately or sequentially. Faster action on one permit should not be understood to authorize work requiring other outstanding approvals.

Default conditional approvals under § 66217(f). We acknowledge the bill's safeguards: conditional approval is limited to qualifying applications, does not waive applicable local or federal requirements, and does not eliminate Guam EPA's authority to address noncompliance and environmental risks. Our concern is how the default mechanism would operate when material technical issues remain unresolved at the end of the review period, particularly for projects affecting the Groundwater Protection Zone and the Northern Lens Aquifer.

Guam EPA recommends removing automatic default conditional approval where it would allow work to proceed before necessary preventative technical review is complete. If the Committee retains a default mechanism, we recommend expressly defining qualifying applications, the work that may proceed, and the environmental issues that must be resolved beforehand. These provisions should preserve meaningful Agency review and the ability to impose protective conditions. Otherwise, unresolved risks may shift from the review process to more costly field monitoring, corrective work, and enforcement.

Corrective periods and enforcement under § 66217(h). The 14-calendar-day period to address outstanding comments must distinguish minor corrections from deficiencies that affect the safety or environmental acceptability of the entire project. We recognize that the restriction on stop-work orders based solely on outstanding comments is conditioned on compliance with other applicable laws, permit conditions, and interim protective measures. The statute should make clear that this provision does not prevent prompt action when work poses an environmental or public health risk. Tracking responses, reassessing technical issues, and taking enforcement action within this period will also require adequate Agency staffing.

Resources for successful implementation

Sections 66215 and 66216 would require Guam EPA to evaluate and publish approved reviewer lists, promulgate rules under the Administrative Adjudication Act, monitor performance, and conduct disciplinary proceedings. Although applicants would pay third-party review costs, those payments do not address the Agency's administrative, technical, and legal expenses. The legislation should provide dedicated implementation funding or an appropriate fee allocation so that these responsibilities do not reduce capacity for substantive permit review.

The ten-percent expedited review surcharge under § 66217(h)(iii) also requires clarification. The statute or implementing rules should establish the service applicants receive, how expedited applications are prioritized, and how unresolved deficiencies affect the timeline. The Legislature

should clarify whether this revenue supports Agency operations or third-party professionals and ensure that expedited processing does not compromise technical review.

Third-party assistance should be accompanied by direct investment in Guam EPA's core capacity. Operational funding and competitive salaries for Division Engineers and other technical staff are necessary to recruit and retain qualified personnel. Continued enhancement of the WALTERS database can improve document routing, inter-program coordination, and application tracking across permit types. These investments support the same goal as the bill: a permitting process that is more predictable and responsive.

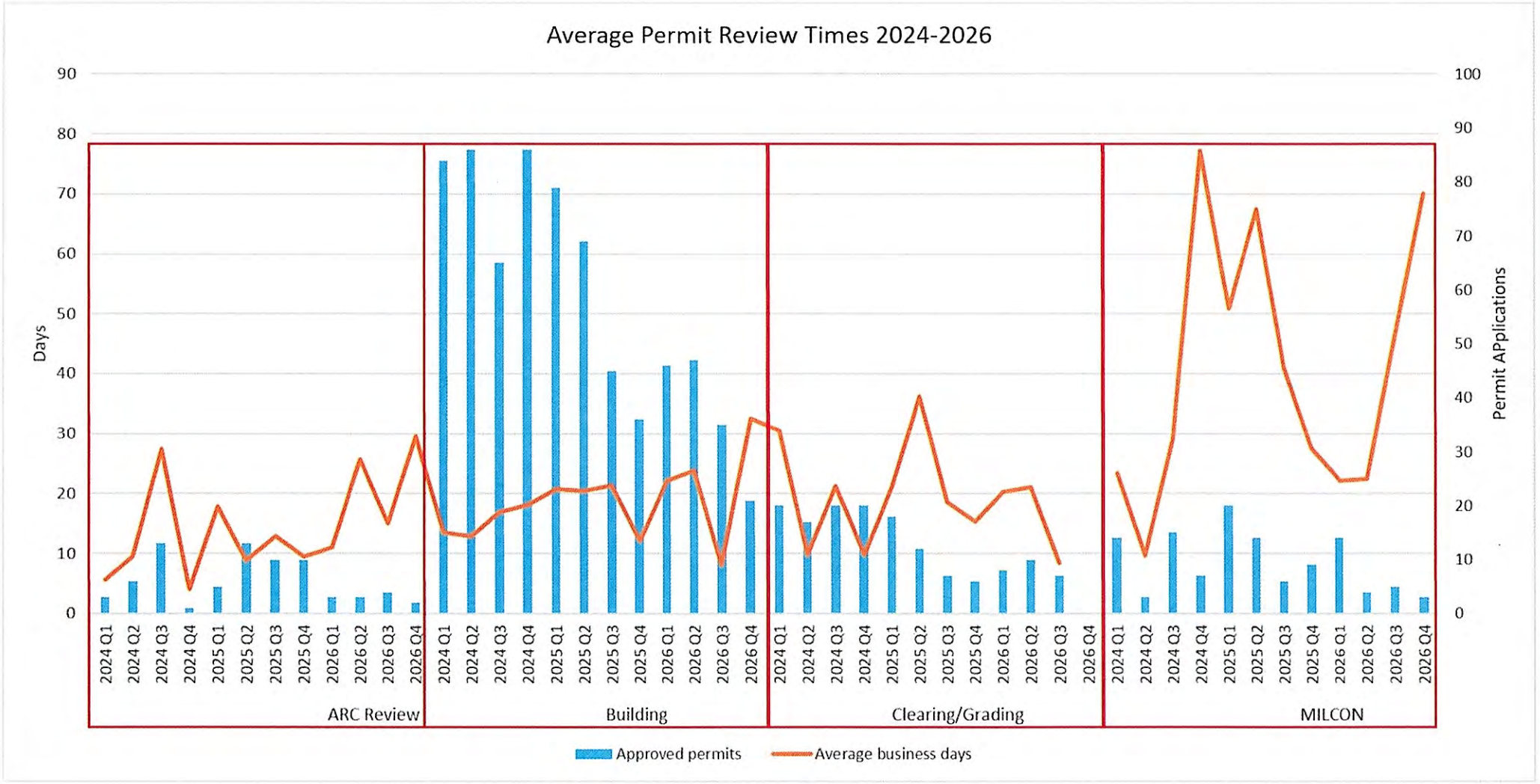
Guam EPA shares the Administration's commitment to helping residents and businesses move projects forward while safeguarding our natural resources. We respectfully request amendments that translate the bill's safeguards into clear operational requirements, address unresolved risks in the conditional approval process, and provide the resources needed for implementation. With those issues addressed, qualified third-party assistance can complement a stronger Agency while preserving the environmental oversight on which our community depends.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I am available to answer any questions the Committee may have.

Dångkolu na si Yu'us ma'åse'.

Michelle C. R. Lastimoza

MICHELLE C. R. LASTIMOZA
Administrator


Average Permit Review Times 2024-2026
Days
Permit APplications
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
2024 Q1
2024 Q2
2024 Q3
2024 Q4
2025 Q1
2025 Q2
2025 Q3
2025 Q4
2026 Q1
2026 Q2
2026 Q3
2026 Q4
ARC Review
Building
Clearing/Grading
MILCON
Approved permits
Average business days

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR

UFISINAN I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

October 15, 2026

VIA E-MAIL: vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov

The Honorable V. Anthony Ada, Vice Speaker
38th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Testimony of Lieutenant Governor Joshua Tenorio
In Support of Bill No. 360-38 (COR)

Hafa Adai, Chairman Ada and members of the 38th Guam Legislature:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Bill No. 360-38, which would help many residents turn critical investments into real assets more quickly, while aiding important government regulators with staffing and resource capacity concerns.

For a small business owner preparing a site for a new venture, or a homeowner trying to complete a project on their property, long and uncertain permit timelines can add unaffordable costs.

Delays in permitting hold up construction, increase expenses, and make it harder for people to plan. This bill offers a way to make the review process more predictable and help projects move forward sooner.

By authorizing GEPA-approved reviewers to assess technical elements such as application completeness, erosion and sediment controls, and stormwater plans, the Government of Guam can do its part to prevent these delays.

Our island already has a familiar example of this kind of oversight through the Judiciary of Guam's Private Process Server Program. People who provide services through that program must meet established qualifications and certification requirements. The Judiciary determines who qualifies and can exclude those who fail to meet its standards.

Bill No. 360-38 uses the same basic safeguard: GEPA would approve qualified reviewers, maintain the list of approved reviewers, and retain the authority to suspend or revoke a reviewer's authorization.

My support for this measure is based on a key provision I see as a guardrail to maintain our fundamental mission to protect our natural resources from harm: the third-party reviewer's certification does not bind GEPA on the permit decision. The bill still requires reviewed applications to go to GEPA for the agency's own review and final action.

As the bill clearly states, GEPA may approve an application, impose conditions, or deny it with a written explanation. In other words, even when a third-party reviewer certifies an application or recommends approval, GEPA can still reject it if the agency's review identifies deficiencies, regulatory concerns, or environmental risks. GEPA retains the final permitting authority, as well as its authority to inspect work, require corrections, and enforce environmental requirements.

This means while qualified reviewers can add technical support and help applications receive timely attention, GEPA will always retain authority over the decisions that protect our environment.

But this process will not keep companies or homebuilders in limbo forever. The bill establishes timelines for completeness determinations and final agency action. It also gives GEPA a process to extend the review period when circumstances beyond its reasonable control require more time.

Those timelines can give applicants greater clarity while allowing the agency to explain what issues remain under review.

I also note that the measure includes additional safeguards. Reviewers must meet professional qualifications and demonstrate relevant experience and regulatory knowledge. They must disclose conflicts, and GEPA can suspend or revoke their authorization for negligence, deficient work, or violations. Any conditional approval is limited to qualifying applications and does not remove the applicant's obligation to follow local and federal requirements or comply with protective measures. GEPA also retains authority to address noncompliance and environmental risks after a conditional approval.

Our administration supports an environmental permitting system that is timely, clear, and accountable. Small businesses and young families need a process they can plan around, and GEPA needs practical tools to keep reviews moving while protecting the island's land and water.

Bill No. 360-38 offers a useful path toward both goals, and that is why I support its passage.

Si Yu'os ma'åse'.

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
Segundo Maga'låhen Guåhan
Lieutenant Governor of Guam

OFFICE OF THE VICE SPEAKER
V. Anthony Ada

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

Chairperson - Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture, Parks, and Infrastructure

COMMITTEE VOTE SHEET

Bill No. 360-38 (COR) As amended – Frank F. Blas, Jr. - AN ACT TO ADD A NEW §§ 66215, 66216, 66217 AND 66218 TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 66, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THIRD-PARTY ASSISTANCE IN PERMIT APPLICATIONS.

	SIGNATURE/ DATE OF SIGNATURE	TO DO PASS	TO NOT PASS	TO REPORT OUT ONLY	TO ABSTAIN	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE
Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada Chairperson	11/12/26	✓				
Senator Christopher M. Dueñas Vice Chairperson	EVOTE 11/12/26	✓				
Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr. Member	EVOTE 11/12/26	✓				
Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane Member	EVOTE 11/13/26			✓		
Senator Shelly V. Calvo Member						
Senator Vincent A.V. Borja Member	EVOTE 11/12/26	✓				
Senator Sabina F. Perez Member						
Senator Chris Barnett Member	EVOTE 11/13/26			✓		
Senator Tina Muña Barnes Member						
Senator Joe S. San Agustin Member						

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THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

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

URGENT REQUEST for Evote: Bill No. 360-38 (COR)

Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov> Thu, Nov 12, 2026 at 5:18 PM
To: "Speaker Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc: Senator Vince Borja <vince.borja@guamlegislature.gov>, vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov, office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov, officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov, office.senatorperez@guamlegislature.gov, senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov, malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov, senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com

To Do Pass

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259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910
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(671) 989-9554

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THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

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

URGENT REQUEST for Evote: Bill No. 360-38 (COR)

Senator Darrel Christopher Barnett <malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov> Fri, Nov 13, 2026 at 5:06 AM
To: Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc: "Speaker Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Vince Borja <vince.borja@guamlegislature.gov>, vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov, office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov, officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov, office.senatorperez@guamlegislature.gov, senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov, senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com

Hafa Adai,

To Report out Only.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Office of Senator Chris Barnett
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
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THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

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

URGENT REQUEST for Evote: Bill No. 360-38 (COR)

Speaker Frank Blas Jr. <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov> Thu, Nov 12, 2026 at 4:23 PM
To: Senator Vince Borja <vince.borja@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc: vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov, senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov, office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov, officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov, office.senatorperez@guamlegislature.gov, senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov, malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov, senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com

To Do Pass

Speaker, Frank F. Blas, Jr.

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

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THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

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

URGENT REQUEST for Evote: Bill No. 360-38 (COR)

Office of Legislative Secretary <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov> Fri, Nov 13, 2026 at 6:44 AM
To: "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc: Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "Speaker Frank F. Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Vince Borja <vince.borja@guamlegislature.gov>, Office Senator Perez <office.senatorperez@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Muna Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Darrel Christopher Barnett <malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov>, "Senator Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>

To report out only

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
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URGENT REQUEST for Evote: Bill No. 360-38 (COR)

Senator Vince Borja <vince.borja@guamlegislature.gov> Thu, Nov 12, 2026 at 4:10 PM
Reply-To: Senator Vince Borja <vince.borja@guamlegislature.gov>
To: vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov, speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov, office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov, officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov, office.senatorperez@guamlegislature.gov, senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov, malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov, senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com

To Do Pass.

Respectfully,

Office of Senator Vincent A.V. Borja

Committee on Education, Libraries, & Public Broadcasting

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COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

I. OVERVIEW

Bill No. 360-38 (COR) was introduced on **September 21, 2026,** by Frank F. Blas, Jr. and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Rules to the Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture, Parks and Infrastructure on **September 23, 2026.**

The Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture, Parks and Infrastructure convened a public hearing on **October 29, 2026, at 9:30 am** at the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building.

Public Notice Requirements
Public Hearing notices were disseminated via **e-mail** to all senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on **October 22, 2026** (5-Day Notice), and again on **October 27, 2026** (48-Hour Notice).

Senators Present
Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Committee Chairman
Senator Frank F. Blas, Jr., Primary Sponsor
Senator Therese M. Terlaje
Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

Attendees
Captain Elizabeth DeGrange, Senior Science Advisor – Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA)
Peter Bautista, Chief Engineer – GEPA
Dean Bates, Vice President of Engineering – Black Construction
Randolf Salas – Proferre, Inc.
Colin Thompson, General Counsel & VP Corporate Strategy – Pacific Rim Constructors, Inc.

Written Testimony Provided by
Michelle Lastimoza, Administrator – Guam Environmental Protection Agency
Lieutenant Governor Joshua Tenorio
Colin M. Thompson, General Counsel & VP Corporate Strategy – Pacific Rim Constructors, Inc.

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The **public hearing** was Called-to-Order at **9:32 am**

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Chairperson – Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture, Parks and Infrastructure: Håfa adai and good morning. This public hearing conducted by the Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture, Parks and Infrastructure is called to

order at 9:32 am. Today's date is Thursday, October 29, 2026. Notice of the hearing was disseminated to all local media outlets on October 22, 2026, with the second notice provided on October 27, 2026. Notice of the hearing was also made known on the Guam Legislature's website and the Government of Guam Public Notices Portal. This morning, the Committee will hear testimony on the following bills: Bill No. 360-38 (COR), introduced by Speaker Frank Blas, Jr., "AN ACT TO ADD A NEW §§ 66215, 66216, AND 66217 TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 66, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THIRD-PARTY ASSISTANCE IN PERMIT APPLICATIONS AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "PERMIT APPLICATIONS REVIEW CONDITIONAL APPROVAL ACT OF 2026." and Bill No. 364-38 (LS), a measure that I introduced, "AN ACT TO ADD NEW § 75A127 TO CHAPTER 75A, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO PROTECTING ALL FUNDS OF THE CHAMORU LAND TRUST FROM LAPSING OR DIVERSION FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN INTENDED BY PUBLIC LAW OR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATION." I would, now, like to welcome my colleagues joining us, today. To my right is Speaker Frank Blas. Good morning, Speaker and Senator Terlaje. Thank you, colleagues, for being here. Before we begin, I'd like to go over general rules of conduct. Individuals testifying shall first be recognized by the Chair before speaking and shall state their name for record-keeping purposes. Questions and testimony shall be confined to the substance or nature of the agenda. Personal inference as to the character or motive of any Senator or individual testifying is not permitted. The Chairperson of the Committee may order the removal from a hearing any member of I Liheslaturan Guahan who fails to observe proper decorum pursuant to the 38th Guam Legislature standing rules. Any violation of this general rule of conduct will result in the removal from the hearing by the host. We will now proceed with hearing testimony on Bill No. 360-38 (COR), introduced by Speaker Frank F. Blas.

I'd like to call to the to the table Mr. Peter Bautista. Anyone else who would like to come up? Uh, ma'am, please. Uh, Siñot Garrido, you're also testifying on bill 360. No. Will you be testifying on Bill 360? No. Okay. Uh, Pacific Rim, uh, representatives, uh, Colin Thompson. Yes. Good morning, sir. And also, Joey San Nicolas. Anyone else that wants to uh testify, please come up. Yeah. Desiree Lizama. Okay. Okay. I'm going to go ahead and have uh Speaker Blas introduce this bill and then uh we'll go from there.

Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr., Primary Sponsor: Good morning. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, and good morning to everybody that's here today. Um you know bill 360-38 is finally here. Um earlier in the term we had introduced bill 133-30HCR which was a broad proposal to be able to uh provide the um I guess a clearer path and a quicker path for permit application review and to proceed with various projects that were seemingly on hold because of um delays. uh you know within uh the review process. Today we have bill 360-38 COR which is an act to add a new subsection 66215 66216 and 66217 to article 2, chapter 66 title 21 Guam code annotated relative to authorizing the use of third-party assistance in permit applications and to cite this act as the permit applications review conditional approval act of 2026. And I want to emphasize the, you know, the act itself and as far as the permit applications review conditional approval. And what this basically provides is an opportunity to be able to um first off assist in the approval in the review process and in providing this. Uh earlier in the term I had constituted what was a uh business review uh commission and one of the main problems or the concerns that were brought up in the commission was uh the delays in the in the application review process in in many fronts. And one most notably is the application review process that takes place uh with uh the environmental protection agency. And so, what 133 had evolved in is now what is now what is before you as bill 360 in that first off, it provides the authorization for the use of a third-party technical review for the uh for the permits uh working in tandem with um the regulatory agency and work the permitting agency to be able to assist in being able to uh do the work necessary for the review process. It further puts criteria as to who can be qualified, who is actually uh the standards and the qualifications for this third-party reviewer. So that it's not a matter of individuals who don't know um what is necessary or how to be able to work with them. Again, it's in full concert with uh the regulatory agency. In this case is the environmental protection agency. In no way does it say that we want to uh

you know diminish the role and the purpose for the reviews or the agency itself. It provides the entity and it provides for the process uh to have the assistance necessary uh that can be needed to be to move the process along and that there are timelines that if the certain timelines cannot be met that then they're consequence to the timelines not being met is an approval but still the qualifications and what is necessary uh for the approval of the application or for moving forward still continues. So, it provides this opportunity for the um again the process to move along. Um you know right now Guam is experiencing tremendous growth in in in many aspects and one of them is in the area of construction and moving things and they're competing you know not only with timelines and with the external factors that exist. um you know the possibility of first off losing a substantial amount of money to be able to complete a project but more importantly is to lose the opportunity for these completed projects to be able to function in the way it needs to function. Uh and again, this bill is in no way uh taking away from what is necessary uh to move things along. It's a bill that provides assistance to be able to make sure that these processes uh are you know u can move along uh with the assistance of a in this case a third-party reviewer which is a matter of fact paid for by the contractor. Okay. Um, it's to help this this process move along. So, with that, Mr. Chair, I look forward to the uh testimony to be provided and the questions that may arise as a result of this hearing. Thank you very much.

Chairman Ada: Thank you, Speaker Blas. I'll go ahead and start with Captain Degrange, and she will start your testimony, then we'll just go from you now.

Captain Elizabeth DeGrange, Senior Science Advisor – Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA): good morning, Speaker, Vice Speaker, Senators Terlaje and Gumataotao. Uh I thank you for the opportunity to be here. I'm representing administrator Lastimoza and simply reading her testimony uh as we provided from the agency. Uh thank you for the opportunity. Oh, sorry. Captain Elizabeth DeGrange, Environmental Protection Agency, uh Guam Senior Science Adviser.

[Written testimony presented orally]

Uh, Chief Bautista and I are available to answer questions that the committee may have.

Chairman Ada: Thank you, Captain Degrange. Will you be providing testimony to Mr. Bautista? Sure, please. You may proceed.

Peter Bautista, Chief Engineer – GEPA: Good morning, everyone. My name is Pete Bautista, chief engineer of Guam PA and the under the water division. My testimony or my talk is based on the metrics, the spreadsheet, the uh graph here provided as part of our testimony to provide factual information on actual permit numbers and turnaround review times. It's limited to um these four categories, although we have many more operating permits and certificate operator permit certifications that we do. uh in our agency mission. However, this is these are the four categories that may affect the agency and the government of Guam as far as permitting goes. Um but here is some metrics and information from the past three years or two years 2020 2024 25 and six. So, three years. Um, and you see that on the on the left axis is the days of turnaround. On the right axis is the number of permit applications that we've approved and reviewed and approved. And then on the bottom axis are the categories. So, the ARC reviews, those are for land use changes and variances, and we normally turn those around under 30 days. And those are the numbers that we receive that we process in a given year. The building permit which in many times involves includes clearing and grading particularly for commercial industry type you know construction permits complexes subdivisions things like that industry commercial enterprises are very complicated. They're very uh and they integrate the grading and the clearing plans. That's the CGS permit part. So, we did outline an issue uh in our testimony that addresses that. How is that going to be addressed with this the bill to uh in the use of third-party um per uh reviewers? Um but the next the next uh category of this uh permits is clearing and grading.\ And if you look at the numbers, this isn't the totality of us of our realm, but it's a significant portion of it. But if you look at the numbers, clearing and grading is about 10% of our workload. And the turnaround times are clearly under 60 days. There are spikes and those spikes represent the hold times. when we run across a project that triggers the federal threshold for a uh notice of intent to the US EPA region 9 office for the construction permit requirement. We tell them you don't have that as part of your package; you need to include that. And so, what they'll do normally then is hire an engineer and provide the erosion control plans, the notice of intent application to the federal government and an environmental protection plan.

That's what takes time and that's why the clock spins um in them against us in their well it's just against us. So those are the spikes in general for these three years. The average is 18.6 six days for a turnaround. Roughly 50% of the CGGS permits are under an acre. The threshold for the federal requirement is an acre. The 50% under an acre is substantially less than two weeks. Two weeks being the max. And most of those don't even require an engineer. However, we still have regulations they have to meet like a site plan, an access road, BMPs, erosion control measures, you know, and even drainage control during construction and after construction. So, that's what that's what those are the technical issues that are needed to be addressed. And the environmental impacts really happen during clearing and grading, not necessarily only during building. It's when you level the place and you mitigate you uh you know you how would you say you not restore but you alter the drainage pattern and you alter the landscape and the flora and fauna. That's the most impactful time is during clearing and grading. And our rags specifically address that. During the building permit time, it's mostly code building code that's addressed and we don't have a say in that. That's where DPW and the fire department and uh the utilities would provide their comments for clearing and grading. It's clearly the environmental regulations that are being evaluated. And then the last category here is the mil-con projects, the military construction projects. And these are relatively few but very significant and complicated in terms of intensity and complexity. And we review their designs at the 60 90 100% stages. And we use contracting engineers, contracted engineers that are contracted by the Department of War, third party if you if you will, and they're very effective and we work with them. That's the kind of support we need if we want to boast review times. Um anyway, the Milcom projects are very intense. They're very uh painstaking uh both ways. But we get it done. And we protect the aquifer. We protect our critical resources in and out of the fence. So that's all I got. And unless you guys have questions, thank you.

Chairman Ada: Thank you, sir, for your testimony this morning. We're going to go ahead and go to the gentleman next to you to you'll be providing testimony this morning as well, sir. Turn on your mic and just state your name for the record.

Dean Bates, Vice President of Engineering – Black Construction: Yes. Uh my name is Dean Bates. Uh I'm vice president of engineering for Black Construction. Uh I think you folks might know that Black's been on the island doing business for 65 years and were a or a proud member of the community and also um as a member of community very conscious about environmental protection. Um I as uh I've worked for black for over 30 years and the last 20ome years here on Guam and um recent projects that I've been involved with is as a project manager directly uh are up at Camp BL and uh also uh, I'm currently involved with um the P181 project. It's called the um feeder hardening project for Navy Base Guam, which is going to put underground uh electrical duck banks between um PT all the way down to Navy Base Guam as well as up to um NAVME. Anyhow, um you know, in my experience, uh you know, some of these larger projects, uh I know for a fact that, uh the two projects I oversaw up at, uh Camp Laz that the federal government, the Navy had actually given their uh 65% designs early on to uh GEA um and this is like background. We learned after we won the project when we went to GEA to get our permits. We were told by GPA that they didn't have time to review those 65% design drawings from the Navy that gave them. So, then we had to um do additional calculations uh with res with respect to sedimentation basins and things like that in order to um backfill I guess uh the work that wasn't done prior and wasn't reviewed prior and it only came to light after we were awarded the project that this kind of thing had to be done. So, we did do it, but that delayed the project by about three months. And that's happened on those two projects. It's happened on other projects up at um Anderson Air Force Base as well. And those delays uh kind of hurt us in in many ways. It increases our costs. It increases the time that we have, people not working that um we hadn't planned for. And that's why we think that this bill is a good idea if we could at least get started on um setting up our temporary facilities while we're working out the details with uh the GEA on additional things that uh perhaps, they didn't see during their prior review that uh we could work those details out with them. So, uh, that's why, uh, Black Construction would be supporting this bill 360.

Chairman Ada: Thank you, sir, for your testimony this morning. Um, Mr. Solace, you go ahead.

Randolf Salas – Proferre Inc: Hello. Um, my name is Randolf Salas. I am owner of a small contracting firm called Proferre. Uh, thank you again for letting us speak on behalf of this bill. Um,

you know, in construction, um, two of the biggest, important things that we always look at is schedules and cost. And for something like CGS permit, it tends to represent one of the first layers that has to be approved before we're even allowed on the job site. So often what ends up happening is we have some level of uncertainty at this as to the start of the fieldwork for the project and in doing so that creates risk and risk comes with cost. So, this bill would allow us to be able to have just a little bit more certainty as to when we can start these projects, when we can get boots on the ground, and allow us as contractors to formulate our own manpower strategies, our manpower allocation, um, our equipment allocation to make sure that we are maximizing the efficiency of our people and our equipment and our materials. and in doing so allows us to be able to use our people in the most effective manner to keep them working and keep it so they don't have to go home because we aren't able to work that day um because we haven't gotten the permit yet. So, allowing us to be able to uh hedge our risk and increase our certainty on the project speeds up the project and allows us to get on site. This does not mean that this is going to be the panacea for all of all contracting's problems. It is just one problem amongst many that we can hopefully fix in a way that is win-win for everybody. The in at least from what I can read, the intent here is not to absolve responsibility or shift control away from Guam EPA. The intent is to keep them with control and with responsibility but just allow them more resources whose costs are borne by the applicant to be able to do a faster job and make sure that they are we are all still compliant with all EPA regulations. I'm a local boy born and raised here on Guam. This is my home. I personally would not be in support of any bill that does not support environmental stewardship of our island as well. And from my interpretation of this bill, it's still to maintain control and responsibility with Guam EPA. That they are still ultimately the deciders for what we are and are not allowed to do and given the approvals that they will give up alongside the third-party certifier that we will be allowed to work on site and hopefully get to the projects faster and make it more successful for our clients, for the owners, and for our island as a whole. Thank you.

Chairman Ada: Thank you, sir, for your testimony this morning. Miss Thompson, you'd like to go ahead and provide your testimony.

Mr. Colin Thompson, General Counsel & VP Corporate Strategy – Pacific Rim Constructors, Inc.: [Written testimony presented orally]

Chairman Ada: Thank you, sir, for your testimony this morning. I'm going to go ahead and open up the panel to my colleagues who may have uh questions of you. I'll go ahead and start off with Senator Tahi. Thank you.

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Thank you all for your testimony. I appreciate it. Um if EVA could just walk us through, for example, what um Black Construction has discussed about uh the delay that they're describing because the plans from the military were not reviewed in advance and how this bill would impact that.

Mr. Bautista: Yeah, I'll take that. Thank you, Senator. So, Mr. Black Mr. uh Dean here and the black construction project delays. Um, what projects specifically are you talking about again? So, it's before my time. Unfortunately, I can't address it but, but we do have some intel from our permitting section that was delivered. Um, and I just want to preface this by saying we have a memorandum of understanding with the Navy. We do not dictate Navy work. We don't even entertain Navy work unless they tell us to. The process is known as a design approval construction permit process. And there's a liaison team that we work with. And within that liaison team, there's people from NAFAC, there's people that are contracting under NAFAC. And then there's people from uh JRM. They set the priorities. They give us a priority list of say 25 at a time. And it may be black's project for example. And if it's number one priority, it's our number one. We go through the design review process with their consultants, their designers. We look at their basis of design. We look at their plan sheets. We look at their specs, and we address our regulations and make sure that it's all addressed by the time it's approved 100%. So that takes months, sometimes years to thoroughly walk this through times all the hundreds of others that are in Q. Once it's approved, we send an approval letter to the customer saying we have approved it. Please include this in your permit submittal when you apply for one so that we can expedite the process. In other words, we have vetted the entire design. We don't see it at the permit

time for the first time like outside the fence. That's what makes outside the fence jobs sometimes very challenging is they want us to turn things around within a month's time and it's our first time to have seen it ever and we may not even agree with their design and that causes lots of back and forth. However, when it comes to the Milcom projects, we do vet it through with the designers and with the Navy and then we approve it once and for all and then they are then their contractors can start applying and once uh that they submit their applications, they include the design approval letter, they include their applications and then we are given by the Navy 90 days to get this done. if it's not 90 days, if we exceed 90 days, they do a conditional approval very similar to this sort of bill. But because we vetted the design, it normally happens within 30 to 60 days because it's still, we still have to solid waste still has to look at things has way still has to look at things. pesticide has to look at things before it gets to my division, the water division, which is really the brunt of the of the objections usually is why are you holding me up for an erosion control plan? I wasn't told. No, it's part of the design review. It says please include if the contractor is part of their scope uh if it's a design build project and the contractor is going to build it, it's their responsibility, not the designers to build to provide the permit requirement required plans, the erosion control plans, the EP, the uh during construction drainage control, post construction uh drainage is part of the design though. But so, I don't know where, you know, maybe in the past we didn't have a very fluid and workable process, but I've been around now for a year and a half almost, and you can ask the Navy what our turnaround times are and how we work with them. It's very workable. uh and we love the fact that there's you know reviewer reviewers provided to us to assist us through engineering consult consultants anyway permit the per the permit stage is a whole another game because that's us and the contractors and we do try to expedite it because the Navy gives us the per that's part of the priorities half of it is designs half of it is uh construction permits and they will jump on our case and we will follow up with it. However, sometimes things don't work out. You know, reality kicks in, there's a typhoon, there's a shortage of BMPs, there's a delay in the workforce, there's whatever happens and we will address it. We don't plan for it, but I mean, we plan for it. We don't uh we don't make it up. We don't we're not responsible for that is what I'm trying to say, but we'll accommodate it. Um, with respect to this particular job, the bachelor's officer's quarters, an um, the project was placed on hold by EPA due to the following requirements, and I'm assuming this is for permits. Missing water quality volume calculations, incomplete storm water pre-treatment details, permit renewal, and expiration timing. So, during renewals, our permits with the Navy as well as with outside defense permits for CGS um is only a one-year permit. It's given a one-year time frame. After a year, you got to re uh renew. So, these large MOCOM projects sometimes renew because their time of performance is like five years normally. So, they renew several times before they're completed. And sometimes we run into snafus or snags. So, but these are the three. It looks like their storm water requirements weren't addressed and so we asked for additional information and that's what caused the ho.

Senator Terlaje: Um, was this is a design build or

Mr. Bates: This this was this was a design bid build that the government didn't give in their erosion control plans apparently that so we got the contract the erosion control plans were there and then the comments from Mr. Bearden came out that they didn't do a good job on so we worked it out with the GPA over the next two months did the calculations got all of that. Yeah. So, at that time which was 5 years ago I would say you know um apparently there is a misstep that when the government initially gave uh Ga the drawings, they didn't they didn't get reviewed or those comments didn't come back in time the government awarded the project to us and then lo and behold we find out that there's problems with the design. Yeah.

Mr. Bautista: And a lot of that is outside of our control, unfortunately. But we'll take responsibility for what's within our control. But the Navy awards it, not us. And it harms you guys that are the contractors when it's awarded and you got a notice to proceed, but we haven't addressed the storm water calcs.

Mr. Bates: it was just that Bearden had told us that they didn't have time to look at

Senator Terlaje: all right. And that was five years ago. Would you agree that the process is as he described much smoother now for these military contract projects where they have their liaison and

they have a priority system for review?
Mr. Bates: I would say the process is improving.
Senator Terlaje: All right. And then um for EPA again where do you believe on page seven um H2 HII that this is enough uh it says that um 60 days that if you can't complete your review within 60 days that you can extend for certain reasons. Is this enough for you?
Mr. Bautista: I mean, our info, our data shows that we get things through. But there could be a time where there's an anomaly and we may have needed an extension.
Senator Terlaje: And then what about on H uh page six H subsection H? Uh just this part about uh if you issue written comments, condition or corrections uh with a conditional approval, it gives them 14 days to address and resolve it, but there's no stop work order. Well, just read line 18. It says during this 14-day period, the no stop work order shall be required. I think the 'the' should be deleted, right? But yeah, no stop work order. Is that all right?
Mr. Bautista: We have a well in our testimony, we have a an explain a recommendation on that that we don't per we don't prefer that because things can get done, I mean, clearing and grading can get done in a week. And they're given a 14-day no pass or no go no, you know, it's done.
Senator Terlaje: Okay. I think that's reasonable. But um uh All right. And I appreciate all your detailed recommendations so we can look at those one by one. Uh and then and I completely agree with the you trying to calculate when you want your workforce there when you can actually proceed. That all makes sense. And um do you do you have any dispute with the timelines that EPA has shown us that how they're getting their permits done? The graph in other words.
Mr. Bates: Uh I I'd like to hear again on the timelines on the milcon projects please.
Senator Terlaje: Oh, maybe can we get a copy of EPA's testimony for the panel please? So, on the milcon projects for all other projects things are reviewed within looks like the maximum 40 days even yeah or less for milcon projects there are spikes um going up to 80 80 days, I think.
Mr. Bautista: just in my personal involvement with black with Milcon I mean we've worked the cabas opera harbor improvements for the jetty and the sumi Polaris uh wharf improvements and that's a $500 million project for five years. we worked that within 90 days, and we've given permits out, you know, in time. So that and that's like maximum intensity as far as our scope can go. Um, and we're working with them right now in their conceptual design with the hardening project as well as many other projects in Camb Blaz and Andersen. So, if anybody has any questions with that I I'm ready to answer.
Senator Terlaje: Do you feel um EPA keep um that you the that you will be able to qualify others for this type of review?
Mr. Bautista: Yeah, that's a $65 question. is the search uh for qualifying these folks. Uh establishing uh the regs through the AAA pro uh process and then um monitoring and enforcing those uh that program and then you know going after you know uh issues that happen along the way. We're maxed out right now. We can accommodate these things if it's done right, but we need staff, too. We need money. Um, we're working at 50%. And the only reason why we're able to go through MilCon is because they give me another 100% capacity just for Milcon. Um, and my staff is suns setting. I'm a retiree working my second career because I love this island. Not because uh you know the pay. Are you kidding me? Black pays three times my salary for a project manager. And I'm just doing it for the love of this land. And that's what we all do in our agency at 50% capacity. So, we're not here to hassle everybody. We're protecting our island and our regulations. So, with all due respect, we work our asses off. Unappreciated, un understaffed, overworked.
Captain DeGrange: Thank you. Captain Graange, uh EPA senior science adviser. I think ma'am, you've brought up some of our concerns. uh the there are some ambiguity uh ambiguities in the bill with the language and you'll see in our testimony where we said hey you know it's not clear that any part of this fee comes to Guam PA to support right even in the building permit fee that goes to DPW that doesn't come to Guam PA and so uh as we look at how can we support uh recruitment and retention of staff right obviously looking at pay for uh engineering and technical staff which again we highlighted in our testimony. I ran some quick calculations on um some of the average numbers we have at the uh permit approval time averaged over quarters and for uh FY2020 or sorry calendar year 2024 the average permit approval took 35 days for milcon projects. In uh 2025 it took 46.5 days and uh calendar year

2026 the average is 40 days. There are obviously outliers and that tends to result from incomplete submissions as chief Bautista has discussed uh you know some of those missing things whether it's part whether it's Navy's fault or the contractor's fault or miscommunication between the agencies right those happen and so I think those numbers are irrelevant right um and even you know running those same averages for building permits and CGS permits the average is up over three calendar years FY or calendar year sorry uh 24 25 26 those are 15.5 18. 75 and 21.75 averages for building permits per each calendar year for a three-calendar year total average of 18.6 6 days for a building permit. The same metrics for uh CGS permits is 18.9 days, right? We looked at 40 permits that have been uh and again, I don't know any of this, but I do know numbers. So, I took a lot of his data, and I just ran calculations last night. Um for this calendar year, uh I believe there were 40 CGS permits that we had received and three of them took more than uh I think 35 or 40 days. uh and there were each issue of missing paperwork or uh missing calculations for that. So, I think the averages speak for the majority of the work uh obviously not the outliers.

Senator Terlaje: I appreciate that because there is a lot of talk out there about how EPA has delayed these projects so much. So, I appreciate you really bringing the data and the facts. What about this? So, and you do in your testimony say that uh we need a direct investment in EPA's core capacity, operational funding, competitive salaries for division engineers and other technical staff. And then you talk about enhancement of the Walters database. Is that requiring a financial investment or what else? What do you require to um grow that database?

Mr. Bautista: So, the Walters database has been in in in existence since 21 about the time Brian was with us and since that time our efficiencies have been improved by 50%. And that's because you know we can work in tandem with the various sections within our divisions. Um Walter's contract expired with our initial contractor It's funded by the federal government by EPA and we've asked them to continue uh contracting for the future and right now they're onboarding a new u awardee and you know GovGuam wise we're probably the only agency that has a platform and we're very accountable we're very transparent consequently uh CGS permits are minuscule in our realm of responsibilities. I did want to say that a lot of the hang-ups with CGS besides incomplete documentation when a threshold is met for the 1acre requirement for USPA permits. The other one is for stockpiling and processing. In other words, quarrying. We've been encountering quarrying quarries in the last several years that are very political, very convoluted and complicated. And what a quarry and what they'll do is they'll submit an application for clearing and grading knowing that it's a query and we have to somehow argue the point that you're quarying because your depths and then what are you doing with it? you're exporting it. By defy by definition, that's a quarry that needs a condition on use permit through the AR ARC process, not us. And then they would complain to you guys that we're hanging things up. Well, follow the law, especially when you're a very lucrative corporation. Give me give us a break. We know when you're pulling our strings, but quarries always is fault falls in this category. and it's always an issue. Thank you.

Captain DeGrange: I think just turning back to Walters, ma'am, uh it's a continuous improvement process. We uh worked with the prior uh contractor that US EPA actually manages that contract. Uh they are onboarding a new contractor now. There were some performance issues with the last contractor, which is why they're no longer the contractor. Uh but we meet with them regularly. We are constantly saying, "How can we make this better?" and we've seen those improvements over time. I think we'll continue that. Again, that that is supported by US EPA funding. Uh I do think that there would be benefit to uh being able to support that locally. Uh we're completely dependent on a contractor on the mainland to help us update that system. Uh I don't I'm not I'm unaware of other uh computer systems or tracking systems that are available because I like paper and notebooks and pens. That is not my skill, right? Um but I think there's always you know opportunity for improvement there. Thank you, ma'am.

Senator Terlaje: All right. Thank you everyone.

Chairman Ada: Thank you, Senator Terlaje. Senator Gumataotao you're recognized sir.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you uh panel for being with us uh today. Uh be let me start with this because the bill finds that uh significant delays continue

to exist in the review and approval process for clearing, grading, grubbing and stockpile permanent applications which can extend from several weeks to several years. What steps has Guam EPA taken at least during the last 5 to eight years to pursue technical assistance from US EPA and to strengthen staff capacity through above step recruitment whenever justified.

Mr. Bautista: Thank you, Senator Gumataotao. The question again is what have we steps have we taken to work with US EPA to addressing these the backlog issues with these permits? Well, the US EPA funds us 100%. For every year since our existence, except for this year, we have our appropriations through you guys this year because the um federal government is killing the grants that are funding us. Uh so fortunately, the Guam legislature has appropriated us funds. So, they're helping us out with Walters. They're paying that. They're taking it forward for the next five years with a new contract award that's in the millions. um they assist us on technical assistance on a daily basis, but the improvements we've made specific to this issue, Senator, um right, EPA doesn't pay for staff um or hires. um we apply for grants and from that that funds our budget correction. But what we've done specifically locally to address this is that we've given exemptions for permits that are minor house lots just process it, get it out. Everything is out in a week. So, house lots, quarter acres, those sorts of things, we move those along. We don't want to screw with the residents. We don't want to hang it hang them up. Um, our staff, um, anytime there's a hold on a permit, it's mandatory that a communicate goes out to the contractor, not the owner, but the applicant, which is the contractor in most cases. And then you hear from the owners from your phone saying, "EPA has held us up." No, we held up your contractor. he hasn't told you that he needs, you know, he's needing to uh resubmit some information or provide a stamped copy from an engineer or whatever the case may be. So, we mandatory send out messages to the applicant notifying them it's on hold for these reasons. And here's our direct contact number. This is the reviewer. Please follow up.

Senator Gumataotao: Okay, let me interrupt just so let me go back to this. So, the staff on the staff side. Yeah, above step recruitments. You guys haven't pursued any of that in that period of time. And if you don't have the answer, that's okay. Um, if you can get back to the committee, that would be important. I mean I appreciate some of the background, but I'm just trying to get to the issue of the because you mentioned just in your own testimony that you only have, you're understaffed. You're to help you and in order to get people to help you would mean perhaps looking at above recruitments to attract folks to work and support you. That's why I'm asking this particular question.

Mr. Bautista: I I'm sorry, Mr. Gumataotao. I didn't even realize you asked that. I am a above step recruitment recruiter. Well, we've been we've been recruiting for the last five years before I arrived. We didn't have a chief engineer for two to three years since Brian's departure. So, we were just acting filling it with actings. Um so they've been trying to recruit for the last five years. I picked up three in this last year. using the GHURA hiring.

Senator Gumataotao: So why not? Because that it goes back to the idea that across the board. I'm not talking only your position, but I'm hoping that for the committee we can understand. Are you using that process? Because if quite frankly there is a need to have folks on and you're trying to attract folks in, right? Why wouldn't Guam EPA use the above step recruitment process to bring in people that can support these projects that quite frankly I look at the list and I'm just going to say I'm not saying that I look at this it makes sense to me but when there's testimony and the bill's intent says that these projects are taking years you got one thing to worry about in your division that's fair but there's other parts of your organization that may or may not have the same luxury area of that than you do. And it's a way to get people to get to you. And I know we're trying to get folks from UOG and off island. But if you come and testify that we're not using an and like I said, don't you if you don't know, it's okay. But we but for the record, we want to make sure that EPA responds back to the committee saying we've used the above step recruitment for these positions. If you have not, we should be doing it.

Mr. Bautista: Yeah, we we've only flown recruitment for vacancies at the entry level for the last several years. So, that's why we don't use that. However, we did pick three up this last year. And um I am in support of a standing up an internship program with the OG College of Engineering along with many other partners like the utilities and some private firms.

Senator Gumataotao: Sure. And so, Mr. chair, for the committee's sake, um if we can at least try to

ask how many permit review positions are authorized and filled and how many hires use the above step the above step pay to get them there because I want to respect everyone's time here this morning at least on the committee side. But let me ask to what extent has Guam EPA engaged with the community defense liaison office to address your resource needs and what support if any have been made available particularly for the buildup uh projects and specifically for military buildup associated uh CGS permit applications. I can see the number here, but how have you engaged them or can you answer that? If you can't again, if you can get that back to the committee.

Mr. Bautista: Yeah, I know the cabinet engages with them, engages with our administrator on a daily basis for our needs and our issues and we engage with JRM and NFAC on a daily basis for projects. Um, we'll get back to the committee on

Senator Gumataotao: Yes. Yes, please. Thank you. Thank you for that, Mr. Chair. Also recognizing that the bill mirrors provisions that are contained in an earlier measure, as the speaker mentioned, bill 133-38. Does Guam EPA have a system currently in place to track and disclose to the public the average time that it takes for the agency to review and make decisions on permanent applications? And if Bill 360 moves forward as drafted, how can Guam EPA ensure that it is able to publicly disclose average permit processing times and establish a dashboard to track approvals, delays in third-party review usage to promote both transparency and efficiency as was suggested for bill 133 back in October of 2025.

Mr. Bautista: Also, I think you've heard the numbers that we presented today. So, obviously, we do have a way to track and calculate those numbers. Uh I don't believe that that is posted publicly on our website, but I think that would be easy enough for us to be able to post on our website.

Senator Gumataotao: And I say this to you with a lot of respect. I know it's easy one thing to say it, but in in an application, you guys got so much going on. So, you're saying for the record, you have the data, you have the ability to do it if it's required by policy.

Captain DeGrange: Yeah. So, any permit that comes to the agency is received and automatically entered into the system called Walters, right? That's our information management system and that's how that's how we pulled this data to provide to you today. Uh that's how we track reviews. So, they actually get routed. Now, one of the efficiencies that was added with that system was that instead of going from desk to desk to desk, all the necessary reviewers were notified at the same time. Their uh input to that record, their notes uh anytime they open and read the record, that's all tracked electronically in the system. Now, that is one of the newer improvements

Senator Gumataotao: and that's and that's fair. But going from a from that internally to a publicly facing effort, that's a that's just a different we quite frankly is different.

Mr. Bautista: We don't currently have a PIO. Um, and so all the communicate we put out is on us

Senator Gumataotao: this is doesn't require a PIO. It just needs the ability. I mean, you guys understand that it's going to have to be fa public facing In the absence of a PIO.

Captain DeGrange: Yeah. Um, so the same way that our beach report is also published online, that data is also captured in Walters and that so that interface already exists, and I believe that it would be not difficult to.

Senator Gumataotao: Okay. That's fair. Okay. Thank you for that. And then um I just uh for me, Mr. Chair, I know that in the fiscal note, it's been 30 days since the fiscal note was received on the policy and we think about the uh the 10% expedited review fee and all that, the impact, the fiscal impact. I'm hoping that at some point because EPA, it says in the fiscal report that EPA didn't respond. So, I hope you go back to your director to so they can have an idea what exactly this would if it's a good thing. How much money do you think that'll generate? And if it does, so you can let us know so we have a clear idea that this it's a positive impact. It's not a negative one.

Captain DeGrange: Sir, um I think in our testimony, uh one of our concerns was it's not necessarily clear where that 10% additional fee will go. So, I'm not I don't know. I can't speak to whether it was responded to or not obviously, but uh we will follow up with our administrator and deputy on that, but I don't think it's clear where that extra fee would go. Like is that meant to come to Guam PA directly to support additional staff? I think that was one of the questions that we have.

Senator Gumataotao: Sounds like it's a yes and a yes. Uh so that I mean they're trying to help. So that because the gentleman to your left and all of the private sector folks who rely on you and the federal

government folks that rely on you um there's a criticism that things take time. You you've made it clear about uh in in only your 18 months that things have turned around which is actually a really good thing. Um and but you can't speak for the rest of your division and or divisions across EPA can speak for yours but uh if it if it's not a log jam with you is it a log jam with others and no one I don't think anyone up here is being any in any way disrespectful to any process. We all want to protect the environment, but we also are trying to find in 2026, can we find ways to use the technologies and the folks that we have today to allow for these uh efforts to take place? Even if you just took off the federal projects off the table for a moment, just local projects. Uh I was pretty cl I mean I appreciate the idea that on certain projects that are below one acre uh that those are clear here, but we have stuff that are in between those and your division is just one and I appreciate you advocating on behalf of your own, but there are other people that are not at this table that represent different parts of the EPA family that would definitely uh in terms of this could be of help.

Mr. Bautista: thank you, Senator. I just want to interject and just say that that the turnaround time, the average of 18 days represents across the board in EPA, and the CGGS program falls under my division entirely. So that's why I, you know, am representing that

Senator Gumataotao: and I and I and I get that and then I guess that's why I was asking the transparency side because the private sector and contractors will be here telling us that it's taken taking time and it ain't 18 days. It's not even 60 days.

Mr. Bautista: It's anecdotal is what it is.

Senator Gumataotao: I know. I know. And over time, but I bet you got one part of the equation. I'm just saying that in like in totality these guys are here, and folks are testifying that it's just long

Mr. Bautista: and we meet with them annually in their venues their association uh conferences and we do present we always present because they want us to present turnaround times number permits issues blah blah blah. So, we do that normally.

Senator Gumataotao: yeah, and with that said I mean Mr. Sure, because as we fit we we've switched from federal to local funds now this becomes even more important for all of us because you know the demands are going to be significant to time and going back to we just we got to get make sure they have the people to be able to support all the mission that they're trying to get accomplished. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman Ada: Thank you, Senator Gumataotao. Uh go ahead and uh recognize Speaker Frank Blas now. Thank you, sir.

Speaker Blas: Thank you, Mr. chair, the vice speaker, and thank you for everybody that that testifies and um I'm pretty excited because I didn't hear anybody oppos oppose the bill, you know, and I recognize and that's the whole idea for this for this hearing process. Let's find out how we can make it work. And I think there's an agreement here that we can make it work and it can work. Okay? you know, um I read here as part of the testimony submitted by the lieutenant governor who's in full support of the measure and I appreciate, you know, the um the recommend the suggestions uh for amendments. And so, before I get into that, I'd like to ask, am I correct, Mr. to say that in your testimony you said the process of which we seek here for outside the fence is a process that already exists for milcon projects in the use of third-party viewers and the like

Mr. Bautista: what I meant to say senator was um it's very similar it's called a conditional 90-day conditional review process. And so, um, and then it's through the use of third-party reviewers that are contracted to work with us in the review process. Very similar, not identical, but similar

Speaker Blas: but similar. Which means it could work and federally, and we can, you know, if it works federally, we can somehow make it work locally as well. Am I correct?

Mr. Bautista: You know, I assume so. I work for the federal government in my past career, and we use third party providers is what they call them because that's what the federal government requires.

Speaker Blas: And I that's why I'm encouraged and I appreciate that this can work. you know, and you're right, you know, there's a lot of, you know, people who speak, for lack of a better term, speak badly about you, about EPA, but they also speak badly about the contractors as well. Okay? So, it's fair game for everybody. Um, and if I was to take the two different groups into a room and give you, okay, this is venting time. Trust me, I'm just going to have just as much finger pointing as and that's what we

don't want here. I don't want to I want to All right. There was enough blame to go around. How do we fix this? And so that's what I appreciate um about this. So, so going back to I like to challenge EPA because the accusations that we receive too as legislators is sometimes, we get we are accused of writing legislation without any meaning, okay? Or being ambiguous, if you will, in in us in in what we intend or what we want to see as the intent. And I noticed that there were a number of proposed amendments to this. I challenged I'd like to challenge EPA that can we sit with the committee and come up with those uh so that we can see how it can work. I don't see really and I didn't hear any real individual's um testify against some of the proposed suggested you know recommendation suggestions and if it's something that we can work you know and if we can compromise to this so that we can move things forward. let's do it let's do it okay Um, I don't know. Let me just ask based on some of the presentation from EPA, were there any of suggestions or recommendations that you heard of that would maybe be unreasonable uh in in their ask?

Mr. Thompson: Uh, no speaker. Um, I did want to address something brought up by the gentleman from GEPA.

Chairman Ada: Can you move closer to the mic, sir?

Mr. Thompson: Um, I think there was a concern raised that this bill might increase a burden because the requirements to create a regulatory framework. How do we um approve third parties and so forth, but that's not first the intent of this legislation and second, it's not the language of this uh legislation. It is at 66215F. Guam EPA may pro may promulgate regulations. They are not required to do so. And all of the language before that in the section outlines established methods for finding qualified, certified, licensed third-party experts. Again, something to bring expertise, assistance, and efficiency to the agency.

Speaker Blas: I appreciate that. You know, that's why I think there's, you know, again, I looked at the language, and I heard the re suggestion, recommendation. I said that's not too much of a too much of an ask. And I think that to add to again your concern with regards to the 10%. I will tell you it is the intent that the 10% goes to help to defray some of the cost and to build from there. Okay. You know, there's a whole other discussion with regards to staffing and everything, but I also see that this provides the expertise and the assistance needed to your personnel uh at their cost, okay, to be able to help you to help to get the job done, right? And if our if our um processing time and our application uh times are much quicker than they were even a year ago, it does not mean there's no room for improvement so that we can make it more not just we're quicker but more efficient. And that's the whole intent here. and you got the way I like to fashion bills. This is and the way this bill is fashioned along with the vice chairs. We recognize what our role is as legislators. We'll set the policy. You'll set the execution. How is it going to be executed? Okay? You don't want us to basically dictate what time you're supposed to come to work and how long you're supposed to work on this block. Okay? And all of that stuff. We'll let you dictate that. This is just a policy that we want you to see move forward and working together. It's never our intent. I don't want I don't want to produce legislation that is specific to how you know you put your right foot over your left and you can't turn you can't change directions until you go 150 ft down the road. It's not me. I'll let you do that. Okay. So, I appreciate Okay. The concerns. So, that's the challenge that I have with that. Okay. Up for it. Thanks a lot. Good for it. All right. Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman Ada: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Um, that will conclude the public hearing on bill number 360-38.

[See testimony proceedings on Bill No. 364-38 (LS)]

If there are no further questions or comments, this concludes today's public hearing. The Committee will continue to accept written statements on today's hearing within seven days from today which may be mailed to my office on the 2nd floor of the Guam Congress Building at 163 Chalan Santo Papa in Hagåtña. You may also send your statements to us at vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov. Thank you all for your participation. This public hearing is adjourned at 11:26 am.

The public hearing was adjourned at **11:26 am**

III. FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee finds that Bill No. 360-38 (COR) would authorize applicants for clearing grading, grubbing, and stockpile (CGGS) permits to use Guam EPA approved third-party reviewers to assist with technical reviews. The bill keeps those reviewers in an advisory role and reserves final permitting and enforcement authority to Guam EPA.

The bill establishes minimum reviewer credentials, experience, regulatory knowledge, conflict-of-interest restrictions, and grounds for suspending or revoking reviewer authorization. It also proposes deadlines for completeness determinations and final agency action, with conditional approval in certain circumstances if Guam EPA does not act within the review period. The proposed conditional approval excludes specified sensitive projects and preserves applicable environmental requirements, agency inspections, corrective measures, permit changes, and enforcement actions.

The Committee further finds that the bill's stated purpose is to improve the predictability and efficiency of CGGS permit reviews while maintaining environmental safeguards and Guam EPA's regulatory authority. Those objectives must be balanced carefully: an expedited process should not allow construction to proceed before material environmental risks and permit requirements have been adequately addressed.

The bill places the cost of third-party review on the applicant. The Committee therefore finds that any implementation should provide transparent reviewer selection and fee practices, meaningful independence from the applicant and project team, and clear agency oversight of reviewer work.

The Committee amends **Bill No. 360-38 (COR)** to address the following implementation and environmental-protection issues:

1. **Clarify when conditional approval may take effect.** Specify the required notice to Guam EPA, the applicant, and affected parties, and make clear that conditional approval does not authorize work requiring another permit or approval.

2. **Strengthen safeguards for sensitive projects.** Ensure that projects involving wetlands, hazardous materials, environmentally sensitive areas, or other designated categories cannot receive conditional approval unless Guam EPA has completed the substantive review required by law.

3. **Require transparent third-party reviewer oversight.** Direct Guam EPA to establish and publish reviewer qualifications, approval and renewal standards, conflict disclosures, fee practices, quality-control procedures, and a process for complaints and revocation.

4. **Clarify review deadlines and extensions.** Define when an application is considered received and complete, how requests for additional information affect deadlines, and how the statutory extension interacts with conditional approval.

5. **Protect the agency's ability to prevent or stop harmful work.** Clarify that the proposed 14-day corrective period does not limit Guam EPA's authority to issue an immediate stop-work order or other protective action when necessary to address imminent environmental harm or a violation of law.

6. **Require implementation rules and reporting.** Require Guam EPA to adopt implementing rules and periodically report on application volumes, review times, use of third-party reviewers, conditional approvals, corrective actions, and enforcement outcomes.

The Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture, Parks and Infrastructure hereby reports out Bill No. 360-38 (COR) – Frank F. Blas, Jr. - AN ACT TO ADD A NEW §§ 66215, 66216, 66217 AND 66218 TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 66, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THIRD-PARTY ASSISTANCE IN PERMIT APPLICATIONS as Amended by the Committee with the recommendation TO REPORT OUT ONLY.

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

Bill No. 360-38 (COR)

Introduced by: Frank F. Blas, Jr.

AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW §§ 66215, 66216, AND 66217 TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 66, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THIRD-PARTY ASSISTANCE IN PERMIT APPLICATIONS AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "PERMIT APPLICATIONS REVIEW CONDITIONAL APPROVAL ACT OF 2026."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "Guam EPA Third-Party Review and Conditional Approval Act of 2026."

Section 2. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that significant delays continue to exist in the review and approval process for Clearing, Grading, Grubbing, and Stockpile (CGGS) permit applications administered by the Guam Environmental Protection Agency (Guam EPA). Depending on the nature and complexity of a project, permit review timelines may extend from several weeks to several years, resulting in increased project costs, delayed economic activity, and administrative burdens on applicants and the government alike.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan further finds that the use of qualified third-party technical reviewers can improve efficiency in the permit review process while

maintaining compliance with applicable environmental laws, regulations, and standards.

It is therefore the intent of this Act to authorize the use of qualified third-party reviewers to assist Guam EPA in the technical review of CGGS permit applications; establish clear timelines for permit review and agency action; provide applicants with greater predictability and transparency in the permitting process; and preserve Guam EPA's ultimate regulatory and enforcement authority over all permits issued pursuant to this Chapter.

Section 3. A new § 66215 is *added* to Article 2, Chapter 66, Title 21, Guam Code Annotated to read:

"§ 66215. Authorization of Third-Party Technical Review for CGGS Permits.

(a) Applicants for CGGS permits may utilize qualified third-party approved by Guam EPA to assist in the technical review of permit applications.

(b) Third-party reviewers may evaluate and provide technical recommendations regarding:

(1) application completeness;

(2) compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and technical standards;

(3) adequacy of erosion and sediment control measures;

(4) stormwater management plans and best management practices; and

(5) other technical matters deemed necessary by Guam EPA.

(c) Third-party reviewers shall serve in an advisory capacity only.

(d) The cost of third-party review shall be borne by the applicant.

(e) Guam EPA shall maintain and publish a list of approved third-party reviewers authorized to perform reviews pursuant to this Act.

(f) Guam EPA may promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement and administer the provisions of this Act.

Section 4. A new § 66216 is *added* to Article 2, Chapter 66, Title 21, Guam Code Annotated to read:

"§ 66216. Qualifications and Standards for Third-Party Reviewers.

(a) A third-party reviewer authorized under this Act shall meet the following minimum qualifications.

(1) Professional Licensure or Certification. Shall possess at least one of the following qualifications:

(A) Professional Engineer (PE) licensed in civil or engineering; or

(B) Registered Landscape Architect (RLA); or

(C) Registered Architect (RA) with demonstrated experience in stormwater management or erosion and sediment control; or

(D) One or more of the following, or an equivalent credential recognized by Guam EPA;

(i) Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC);

(ii) Certified Professional in Storm Water Quality (CPSWQ);

(iii) Certified Erosion, Sediment, and Storm Water Inspector (CESSWI); or

(iv) Certified Inspector of Sediment and Erosion Control (CISEC).

(b) Experience.

(1) A minimum of three (3) years of professional experience in environmental permitting, construction management, civil engineering, stormwater compliance, erosion and sediment control, or related technical fields.

(c) Regulatory Knowledge.

(1) Demonstrated familiarity with:

(A) Guam EPA CGGS permit requirements;

(B) Erosion and sediment control standards;

(C) Applicable federal stormwater regulations, including National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements; and

(D) Applicable local and federal environmental laws and regulations.

(d) A third-party reviewer may be compensated by the applicant but shall not:

(1) serve as the project owner, contractor, or design professional for the project under review; or

(2) possess any financial or contractual interest that would create an actual conflict of interest in the review process.

(e) Guam EPA may suspend or revoke the authorization of any third-party reviewer for:

(1) fraud or misrepresentation;

(2) negligence or repeated deficient reviews;

(3) failure to disclose conflicts of interest or

(4) violation of applicable laws, regulations, or professional standards.

Section 5. A new § 66217 is *added* to Article 2, Chapter 66, Title 21, Guam Code Annotated to read:

"§ 66217. Permit Review Timelines and Conditional Approval Procedures.

(a) A CGGS permit application certified by an approved third-party reviewer shall be submitted to Guam EPA for review and final agency action.

(b) Guam EPA shall have fifteen (15) calendar days from receipt of the application to determine whether the application is complete.

(c) If Guam EPA determines that an application is incomplete, the Agency shall provide written notice to the applicant identifying the deficiencies or additional information required.

(d) If Guam EPA does not provide written notice of incompleteness within fifteen (15) calendar days, the application shall be deemed complete for purposes of review.

(e) Guam EPA shall issue a final decision within sixty (60) calendar days after an application is deemed complete. The agency may:

(1) approve the permit;

(2) approve the permit with conditions;

(3) deny the permit and provide a written explanation for the denial; or

(4) issue a conditional approval pursuant to subsection (f).

(f) If Guam EPA does not issue a final decision within the sixty (60) calendar day review period, the application shall be conditionally

approved, provided that:

(1) the application does not involve wetlands, hazardous materials, environmentally sensitive areas, or other categories designated by Guam EPA through regulation;

(2) the applicant complies with all interim erosion, sediment, and stormwater control requirements imposed by Guam EPA; and

(3) the applicant remains subject to all applicable local and federal laws and regulation.

(g) Conditional approval shall authorize the applicant to proceed only with activities specifically authorized under the conditional approval and shall not exempt the applicant from compliance with any applicable law, permit condition, or regulatory requirement.

(h) In the event Guam EPA issues written comments, conditions, or required corrections following issuance of a conditional approval, the permittee shall have fourteen (14) calendar days from receipt of such notice to address and resolve the identified matters. During this fourteen (14) day corrective period, the no stop-work order shall be required solely on the basis of the outstanding comments, provided that such work remains in compliance with all other applicable laws, permit conditions, and interim protective measures. Failure to adequately address the identified comments or corrections within the fourteen (14) day period may result in the issuance of a stop-work order by Guam EPA, in whole or in part, until such deficiencies are resolved to the satisfaction of the agency.

(i) Guam EPA retains full authority to:

(1) inspect permitted activities;

(2) require corrective measures;

(3) suspend, modify, or revoke a conditional approval upon discovery of non-compliance, material deficiencies, or environmental risks; and

(4) pursue enforcement actions authorized by law.

(ii) In the event of extenuating circumstances beyond the reasonable control of Guam EPA that prevent completion of the review within the sixty (60) calendar day period, Guam EPA may extend the review period for an additional period not to exceed sixty (60) calendar days by providing written notice to the applicant explaining:

(1) the basis for the extension;

(2) the outstanding issues requiring review; and

(3) the anticipated date of final agency action.

(iii) Applicants may request expedited review upon payment of an additional fee equal to ten percent (10%) of the applicable permit fee. Guam EPA may establish procedures governing expedited review through rules and regulations.

Section 6. Severability. If any provision of this Act or its application to any person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Act that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are severable.

Section 7. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon enactment.

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

Bill No. 360-38 (COR)
As amended by the Committee on
Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture,
Parks, and Infrastructure

Introduced by: Frank F. Blas, Jr.

AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW §§ 66215, 66216, 66217 and 66218 TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 66, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THIRD-PARTY ASSISTANCE IN PERMIT APPLICATIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "Guam EPA Third-Party Review and Conditional Approval Act of 2026."

Section 2. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that significant delays continue to exist in the review and approval process for Clearing, Grading, Grubbing, and Stockpile (CGGS) permit applications administered by the Guam Environmental Protection Agency (Guam EPA). Depending on the nature and complexity of a project, permit review timelines may extend from several weeks to several years, resulting in increased project costs, delayed economic activity, and administrative burdens on applicants and the government alike.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan further finds that the use of qualified third-party technical reviewers can improve efficiency in the permit review process while

maintaining compliance with applicable environmental laws, regulations, and standards.

It is therefore the intent of this Act to authorize the use of qualified third-party reviewers to assist Guam EPA in the technical review of CGGS permit applications; establish clear timelines for permit review and agency action; provide applicants with greater predictability and transparency in the permitting process; and preserve Guam EPA's ultimate regulatory and enforcement authority over all permits issued pursuant to this Chapter.

Section 3. A new § 66215 is *added* to Article 2, Chapter 66, Title 21, Guam Code Annotated to read:

"§ 66215. Authorization of Third-Party Technical Review for CGGS Permits.

(a) Applicants for CGGS permits may utilize qualified third-party approved by Guam EPA to assist in the technical review of permit applications.

(b) Third-party reviewers may evaluate and provide technical recommendations regarding:

(1) application completeness;

(2) compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and technical standards;

(3) adequacy of erosion and sediment control measures;

(4) stormwater management plans and best management practices; and

(5) other technical matters deemed necessary by Guam EPA.

(c) Third-party reviewers shall serve in an advisory capacity only.

(d) The cost of third-party review shall be borne by the applicant.

(e) Guam EPA shall maintain and publish a list of approved third-party reviewers authorized to perform reviews pursuant to this Act.

(f) Guam EPA may promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement and administer the provisions of this Act.

Section 4. A new § 66216 is *added* to Article 2, Chapter 66, Title 21, Guam Code Annotated to read:

"§ 66216. Qualifications and Standards for Third-Party Reviewers.

(a) A third-party reviewer authorized under this Act shall meet the following minimum qualifications that are relevant to the subject matter to be reviewed.

(1) Professional Licensure or Certification. Shall possess at least one of the following qualifications:

(A) Professional Engineer (PE) licensed in civil or engineering; or

(B) Registered Landscape Architect (RLA); or

(C) Registered Architect (RA) with demonstrated experience in stormwater management or erosion and sediment control; or

(D) One or more of the following, or an equivalent credential recognized by Guam EPA may be considered as a supplement to (A), (B) and (C) *supra*, but not as a substitute for said professional licenses;

(i) Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC);

(ii) Certified Professional in Storm Water Quality (CPSWQ);

(iii) Certified Erosion, Sediment, and Storm Water Inspector (CESSWI); or

(iv) Certified Inspector of Sediment and Erosion Control (CISEC).

(b) Experience.

(1) A minimum of three (3) years of professional experience in environmental permitting, construction management, civil engineering, stormwater compliance, erosion and sediment control, or related technical fields.

(c) Regulatory Knowledge.

(1) Demonstrated familiarity with:

(A) Guam EPA CGGS permit requirements;

(B) Erosion and sediment control standards;

(C) Applicable federal stormwater regulations, including National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements

(D) Applicable local and federal environmental laws and regulations and

(E) All such regulatory knowledge, *supra*, shall be relevant to the subject matter of the application to be reviewed.

(d) A third-party reviewer may be compensated by the applicant but shall not:

(1) serve as the project owner, contractor, or design professional for the project under review;

(2) possess any financial or contractual interest where a conflict of interest exists or that, would create an actual conflict of interest in the review process and disclose any and all possible conflicts of interest that exist or might exist.

(e) Guam EPA may suspend or revoke the authorization of any third-party reviewer for:

(1) fraud or misrepresentation;

(2) negligence or repeated deficient reviews;

(3) failure to disclose conflicts of interest;

(4) violation of applicable laws, regulations, or professional standards or

(5) determination, after the fact, that the third-party reviewer is found to lack the competency or ability to perform the expected review services.

(f) Records used to establish the qualifications of third-party reviewers are a matter of public record.

(g) The use of third-party reviewers must result in an expedited processing for review of applications, plans or other documents. Prior to collecting any fees to compensate third-party reviewers, the Guam Environmental Protection Agency shall disclose the amount of time that processing will be shortened by the use of such third-party reviewers.

(h) The Guam Environmental Protection Agency shall publish, annually, average processing times and third-party review usage.

Section 5. A new § 66217 is *added* to Article 2, Chapter 66, Title 21, Guam Code Annotated to read:

"§ 66217. Permit Review Timelines and Conditional Approval Procedures.

(a) A CGGS permit application certified by an approved third-party reviewer shall be submitted to Guam EPA for review and final agency action.

(b) Guam EPA shall have fifteen (15) calendar days from receipt of the application to determine whether the application is complete.

(c) If Guam EPA determines that an application is incomplete, the Agency shall provide written notice to the applicant identifying the deficiencies or additional information required.

(d) If Guam EPA does not provide written notice of incompleteness within fifteen (15) calendar days, the application shall be deemed complete for purposes of review.

(e) Guam EPA shall issue a final decision within sixty (60) calendar days after an application is deemed complete. The agency may:

(1) approve the permit;

(2) approve the permit with conditions;

(3) deny the permit and provide a written explanation for the denial; or

(4) issue a conditional approval pursuant to subsection (f).

(f) If Guam EPA does not issue a final decision within the sixty (60) calendar day review period, the application shall be conditionally approved, provided that:

(1) the application does not involve wetlands, hazardous materials, environmentally sensitive areas, or other categories designated by Guam EPA through regulation;

(2) the applicant complies with all interim erosion, sediment, and stormwater control requirements imposed by Guam EPA; and

(3) the applicant remains subject to all applicable local and federal laws and regulation.

(g) Conditional approval shall authorize the applicant to proceed only with activities specifically authorized under the conditional approval and shall not exempt the applicant from compliance with any applicable law, permit condition, or regulatory requirement.

(h) In the event Guam EPA issues written comments, conditions, or required corrections following issuance of a conditional approval, the permittee shall have fourteen (14) calendar days from receipt of such notice to address and resolve the identified matters. During this fourteen (14) day corrective period, the no stop-work order shall be required solely on the basis of the outstanding comments, provided that such work remains in compliance with all other applicable laws, permit conditions, and interim protective measures. Failure to adequately address the identified comments or corrections within the fourteen (14) day period may result in the issuance of a stop-work order by Guam EPA, in whole or in part, until such deficiencies are resolved to the satisfaction of the agency.

(i) Guam EPA retains full authority to:

(1) inspect permitted activities;

(2) require corrective measures;

(3) suspend, modify, or revoke a conditional approval upon discovery of non-compliance, material deficiencies, or environmental risks; and

(4) pursue enforcement actions authorized by law.

(ii) In the event of extenuating circumstances beyond the reasonable control of Guam EPA that prevent completion of the review within the sixty (60) calendar day period, Guam EPA may extend the review period for an additional single period not to exceed sixty (60) calendar days by providing written notice to the applicant explaining:

(1) the basis for the extension;

(2) the outstanding issues requiring review;

(3) the anticipated date of final agency action'

(4) The Guam Environmental Protection Agency shall publish a list of common extenuating circumstances that may extend the review period, *supra*. Such list shall include examples of such extenuating circumstances to aid applicants and reviewers with the purpose to limit or avoid them, and

(5) The Guam EPA can extend deadlines, with written notice, for incomplete submittals and delayed applicant responses.

(iii) Applicants may request expedited review upon payment of an additional fee equal to ten percent (10%) of the applicable permit fee. Guam EPA may establish procedures governing expedited review through rules and regulations.

(iv) This provision does not prevent prompt action when work poses an environmental or public health risk.

Section 6. A new § 66218 is *added* to Article 2, Chapter 66, Title 21, Guam Code Annotated to read:

"§ 66218. Amendments, Deletions or Additions to Administrative Rules and Regulations.

Permitting agencies may amend, delete or add to any applicable administrative rules and regulations related to this Article. Such rules and regulations may include, but not be limited to:

(a) That a third-party certification does not bind Guam EPA's permit decision.

(b) Agency review and final action, including approval, the imposition of conditions, or denial with a written explanation.

(c) Procedures for reviewer approval, conflict disclosures, and suspension or revocation of reviewer authorization.

(d) Make clear that third-party assistance supplements Guam EPA's technical capacity and does not transfer its public responsibility for environmental protection.

(e) Conflict disclosure provisions include enforceable standards addressing self-certification, financial relationships, and review of work prepared by the reviewer or the reviewer's firm. Because applicants hire and pay reviewers, the framework must guard against financial incentives that could compromise independent technical judgment. Clear review standards should also promote consistent application of environmental requirements and prevent interpretations that favor an applicant at the expense of public protection.

(f) Third-party submissions should follow standardized technical checklists and documentation requirements so that they reduce avoidable Agency work. Guam EPA must still understand the project and verify compliance before taking final action. Without clear standards, third-party review could duplicate Agency review, increasing applicant costs without shortening timelines.

(g) The framework should clearly assign responsibility for deficient certifications and designs, including corrective work and environmental harm, so that costs are not shifted to the public. Records supporting third-party certifications should be available to Guam EPA and subject to applicable public disclosure and participation requirements. Third-party reports may supplement direct Agency access to compliance information and inspections, preserving Guam EPA's ability to independently verify conditions in the field.

(h) Define a complete application, require adequate initial documentation, and establish reasonable deadlines for applicants to address identified deficiencies. Allow for Guam EPA to pause the applicable review clock while requested information, plans, or specifications remain outstanding and clearly state how the clock resumes upon receipt.

(i) Determine how that default conditional approvals mechanism would operate when material technical issues remain unresolved at the end of the review period, particularly for projects affecting the Groundwater Protection Zone and the Northern Lens Aquifer.

(j) Automatic default conditional approval can be withheld where such approval would allow work to proceed before necessary preventative technical review is complete.

Section 7. Severability. If any provision of this Act or its application to any person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Act that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are severable.

Section 8. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon enactment.

COMMITTEE MARKUP

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

Bill No. 360-38 (COR)
As amended by the Committee on
Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture,
Parks, and Infrastructure

Introduced by: Frank F. Blas, Jr.

AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW §§ 66215, 66216, ~~AND~~ 66217, AND 66218 TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 66, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THIRD-PARTY ASSISTANCE IN PERMIT APPLICATIONS. ~~AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "PERMIT APPLICATIONS REVIEW CONDITIONAL APPROVAL ACT OF 2026."~~

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "Guam EPA Third-Party Review and Conditional Approval Act of 2026."

Section 2. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that significant delays continue to exist in the review and approval process for Clearing, Grading, Grubbing, and Stockpile (CGGS) permit applications administered by the Guam Environmental Protection Agency (Guam EPA). Depending on the nature and complexity of a project, permit review timelines may extend from several weeks to several years, resulting in increased project costs, delayed economic activity, and administrative burdens on applicants and the government alike.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan further finds that the use of qualified third-party technical reviewers can improve efficiency in the permit review process while maintaining compliance with applicable environmental laws, regulations, and standards.

It is therefore the intent of this Act to authorize the use of qualified third-party reviewers to assist Guam EPA in the technical review of CGGS permit applications; establish clear timelines for permit review and agency action; provide applicants with greater predictability and transparency in the permitting process; and preserve Guam EPA's ultimate regulatory and enforcement authority over all permits issued pursuant to this Chapter.

Section 3. A new § 66215 is *added* to Article 2, Chapter 66, Title 21, Guam Code Annotated to read:

"§ 66215. Authorization of Third-Party Technical Review for CGGS Permits.

(a) Applicants for CGGS permits may utilize qualified third-party approved by Guam EPA to assist in the technical review of permit applications.

(b) Third-party reviewers may evaluate and provide technical recommendations regarding:

(1) application completeness;

(2) compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and technical standards;

(3) adequacy of erosion and sediment control measures;

(4) stormwater management plans and best management practices; and

(5) other technical matters deemed necessary by Guam EPA.

(c) Third-party reviewers shall serve in an advisory capacity only.

(d) The cost of third-party review shall be borne by the applicant.

(e) Guam EPA shall maintain and publish a list of approved third-party reviewers authorized to perform reviews pursuant to this Act.

(f) Guam EPA may promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement and administer the provisions of this Act.

Section 4. A new § 66216 is *added* to Article 2, Chapter 66, Title 21, Guam Code Annotated to read:

"**§ 66216. Qualifications and Standards for Third-Party Reviewers.**

(a) A third-party reviewer authorized under this Act shall meet the following minimum qualifications that are relevant to the subject matter to be reviewed.

(1) Professional Licensure or Certification. Shall possess at least one of the following qualifications:

(A) Professional Engineer (PE) licensed in civil or engineering; or

(B) Registered Landscape Architect (RLA); or

(C) Registered Architect (RA) with demonstrated experience in stormwater management or erosion and sediment control; or

(D) One or more of the following, or an equivalent credential recognized by Guam EPA may be considered as a supplement to (A), (B) and (C) *supra*, but not as a substitute for said professional licenses;

(i) Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC);

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(1) A minimum of three (3) years of professional experience in environmental permitting, construction management, civil engineering, stormwater compliance, erosion and sediment control, or related technical fields.

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(1) Demonstrated familiarity with:

(A) Guam EPA CGGS permit requirements;

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(C) Applicable federal stormwater regulations, including National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements~~; and~~

(D) Applicable local and federal environmental laws and regulations and

(E) All such regulatory knowledge, *supra*, shall be relevant to the subject matter of the application to be reviewed.

(d) A third-party reviewer may be compensated by the applicant but shall not:

(1) serve as the project owner, contractor, or design professional for the project under review; ~~or~~

(2) possess any financial or contractual interest where a conflict of interest exists or that, would create an actual conflict of interest in the review process and disclose any and all possible conflicts of interest that exist or might exist.

(e) Guam EPA may suspend or revoke the authorization of any third-party reviewer for:

(1) fraud or misrepresentation;

(2) negligence or repeated deficient reviews;

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(5) determination, after the fact, that the third-party reviewer is found to lack the competency or ability to perform the expected review services.

(f) Records used to establish the qualifications of third-party reviewers are a matter of public record.

(g) The use of third-party reviewers must result in an expedited processing for review of applications, plans or other documents. Prior to collecting any fees to compensate third-party reviewers, the Guam Environmental Protection Agency shall disclose the amount of time that processing will be shortened by the use of such third-party reviewers.

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(1) approve the permit;

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(1) the basis for the extension;

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(4) The Guam Environmental Protection Agency shall publish a list of common extenuating circumstances that may extend the review period, *supra*. Such list shall include examples of such extenuating circumstances to aid applicants and reviewers with the purpose to limit or avoid them, and

(5) The Guam EPA can extend deadlines, with written notice, for incomplete submittals and delayed applicant responses.

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(c) Procedures for reviewer approval, conflict disclosures, and suspension or revocation of reviewer authorization.

(d) Make clear that third-party assistance supplements Guam EPA's technical capacity and does not transfer its public responsibility for environmental protection.

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(g) The framework should clearly assign responsibility for deficient certifications and designs, including corrective work and environmental harm, so that costs are not shifted to the public. Records supporting third-party certifications should be available to Guam EPA and subject to applicable public disclosure and participation requirements. Third-party reports may supplement direct Agency access to compliance information and inspections, preserving Guam EPA's ability to independently verify conditions in the field.

(h) Define a complete application, require adequate initial documentation, and establish reasonable deadlines for applicants to address identified deficiencies. Allow for Guam EPA to pause the applicable review clock while requested information, plans, or specifications remain outstanding and clearly state how the clock resumes upon receipt.

(i) Determine how that default conditional approvals mechanism would operate when material technical issues remain unresolved at the end of the review period, particularly for projects affecting the Groundwater Protection Zone and the Northern Lens Aquifer.

(j) Automatic default conditional approval can be withheld where such approval would allow work to proceed before necessary preventative technical review is complete.

~~(k)~~

Section 7. Severability. If any provision of this Act or its application to any person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Act that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are severable.

Section ~~7~~8. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon enactment.

COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

September 29, 2026

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

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

Subject: **Fiscal Note for Bill No. 360-38 (COR)**

Håfa Adai!

Find the attached, Fiscal Note for the following bill:

Bill No. 360-38 (COR).

I also request that the same be sent to the respective Chairperson of the Standing Committee, to which this bill has been referred. Kindly copy the same to Management Information Services (MIS) for posting on our website.

Bureau of Budget & Management Research
Fiscal Note of Bill No. 360-38 (COR)

AN ACT TO ADD A NEW §§ 66215, 66216, AND 66217 TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 66, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THIRD-PARTY ASSISTANCE IN PERMIT APPLICATIONS AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "PERMIT APPLICATIONS REVIEW CONDITIONAL APPROVAL ACT OF 2026."

Department/Agency Appropriation Information		
Dept./Agency Affected: Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA)	Dept/Agency Head: Michelle Lastimoza, Director	
Department's General Fund (GF) appropriation(s) to date: Operations ($469,812)		469,812
Department's Other Fund (Specify) appropriation(s) to date: Guam Environmental Trust Fund ($411,424); Water Research and Development Fund ($86,374); Solid Waste Operations Fund ($202,992); Beach Monitoring ($46,903)		747,693
		1,217,505

Fund Source Information of Proposed Appropriation	General Fund:	(Specify Special Fund):	Total:
FY 2025 Unreserved Fund Balance		$0	$0
FY 2026 Adopted Revenues	$0	$0	$0
FY 2026 Appro. (P.L. 38-60)	$0	$0	$0
Sub-total:	$0	$0	$0
Less appropriation in Bill	$0	$0	$0
Total:	$0	$0	$0

Estimated Fiscal Impact of Bill	One Full Fiscal Year	For Remainder of FY 2026 (if applicable)	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
General Fund	$0	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/
Special Fund	$0	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/
Total	$0	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/

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

Analyst: _____ Date: 09/28/26 Director: _____ Date: SEP 29 2026
Glenn Tayag, BMA I Lester L. Carlson, Jr., Director

Comments:

1/ Bill No. 360-38(COR) authorizes the use of qualified third-party reviewers to assist Guam EPA in the technical review of clearing, grading, grubbing, and stockpile permit applications; establish clear timelines for permit review and agency action; provide applicants with greater predictability and transparency in the permitting process; and preserve Guam EPA's ultimate regulatory and enforcement authority over all permits issued.

Should Bill No. 360-38 (COR) be enacted, the Bureau does anticipate that there will be an expected increase in revenues through a ten percent (10%) expedited review fee added to applicable permit costs. However, the Bureau has sought input on the proposed Bill No. 360-38 (COR) from the Guam EPA, and no official comments have been received as of the date of this fiscal note. Due to the lack of detailed information, the Bureau is unable to provide an estimated fiscal impact to the Guam EPA at this time.