

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
128-38 (COR)	Therese M. Terlaje Sabina Flores Perez Chris Barnett Telo T. Taitague	AN ACT TO <i>AMEND</i> §6205 OF CHAPTER 6, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO REQUIRING THAT COPIES OF PETITIONS FOR ABOVE-STEP RECRUITMENTS BE POSTED ON THE GUAM PUBLIC NOTICE WEBSITE AND SENT TO THE SPEAKER OF <i>I LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN</i> .	4/23/25 3:13 p.m.	4/30/25	Committee on Finance and Government Operations.	Request: 4/30/25 Waiver: 5/5/25	9/9/25 2:00 p.m.	11/17/25	



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

November 14, 2025

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

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

RE: Committee Report on Bill No. 128-38 (COR)

Buenas yan Håfa Adai Speaker,

Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report on Bill No. 128-38 (COR) – Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina Flores Perez, Chris Barnett, Telo T. Taitague - “AN ACT TO AMEND §6205 OF CHAPTER 6, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO REQUIRING THAT COPIES OF PETITIONS FOR ABOVE-STEP RECRUITMENTS BE POSTED ON THE GUAM PUBLIC NOTICE WEBSITE AND SENT TO THE SPEAKER OF I LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN”.

Committee votes are as follows:

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

Senseremente,



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



COMMITTEE ON RULES

RECEIVED:

November 14, 2025 12:34 p.m.

Marie Crisostomo



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

COMMITTEE REPORT

BILL NO. 128-38 (COR)

INTRODUCED BY:

**Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina Flores Perez,
Chris Barnett, Telo T. Taitague**

**“AN ACT TO AMEND §6205 OF CHAPTER 6,
TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED
RELATIVE TO REQUIRING THAT COPIES OF
PETITIONS FOR ABOVE-STEP RECRUITMENTS
BE POSTED ON THE GUAM PUBLIC NOTICE
WEBSITE AND SENT TO THE SPEAKER OF
THE LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN.”**



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

November 14, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Members
Committee on Finance and Government Operations

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

Subject: Committee Report on Bill No. 128-38 (COR)

Transmitted herewith for your consideration is the Committee Report on **Bill No. 128-38 (COR)** - THERESE TERLAJE / SABINA PEREZ / CHRIS BARNETT / TELO TAITAGUE - "AN ACT TO AMEND §6205 OF CHAPTER 6, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO REQUIRING THAT COPIES OF PETITIONS FOR ABOVE-STEP RECRUITMENTS BE POSTED ON THE GUAM PUBLIC NOTICE WEBSITE AND SENT TO THE SPEAKER OF I LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN."

This report includes the following:

- Copy of COR Referral of Bill No. 128-38 (COR)
- Notices of Public Hearing
- Copy of the Public Hearing Agenda
- Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet
- Committee Vote Sheet
- Committee Report Digest
- Copy of Bill No. 128-38 (COR), As Introduced
- Fiscal Note/Fiscal Note Waiver

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

Respectfully, 

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



COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

April 30, 2025

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

Attorney Darleen Hiton
Legislative Legal Counsel

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

Subject: **Referral of Bill No. 128-38 (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. 128-38 (COR)** – Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina Flores Perez, Chris Barnett, Telo T. Taitague. – “AN ACT TO AMEND §6205 OF CHAPTER 6, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO REQUIRING THAT COPIES OF PETITIONS FOR ABOVE-STEP RECRUITMENTS BE POSTED ON THE GUAM PUBLIC NOTICE WEBSITE AND SENT TO THE SPEAKER OF *I LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN*.”

Please ensure that the subject bill is referred to the Committee on Finance and Government Operations chaired by Senator Christopher M. Dueñas. I also request that the same be copied to the Prime Sponsor of the subject bill and to Management Information Services (MIS) for posting on our website.

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

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



FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on September 9, 2025

1 message

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

Tue, Sep 2, 2025 at 8:17 AM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 2, 2025

MEMORANDUM**To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media****From: Senator Christopher M. Dueñas**
Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations**Re: FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on September 9, 2025**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, September 9, 2025**, beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

- **Bill No. 1-38 (COR)** – Telo T. Taitague - AN ACT TO AMEND § 26603(d)(5)(B) OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 26, TITLE 11 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION LEVEL TO THE GUAM CANCER TRUST FUND.
- **Bill No. 177-38 (LS)** – Frank F. Blas, Jr. - AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 1041, CHAPTER 10, TITLE 1, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; RELATIVE TO DESIGNATING DECEMBER 10 AS “INSULAR FORCE GUARD MEMORIAL DAY”.
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In compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), all government activities, programs, and services are accessible to individuals with disabilities. *If you or anyone you know requires assistance or special accommodations to participate in the public hearing, please contact the Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas at the contact information provided above.*

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Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas

Chairman, Committee on Government Finance and Operations

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

(671) 989-9554

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg

70K



1st Notice PH 9-9-25 (1, 177 & 128).pdf

300K



Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 2, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

OFFICE OF SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS

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

  LIKE AND FOLLOW @SENATORDUENAS

FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on September 9, 2025

 PRINT

FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on September 9, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING



 **Posted on:** 09/02/2025 08:17 AM

 **Posted by:** Ashley Shinohara

 **Public Hearing Date:** 09/09/2025 02:00 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 2, 2025

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Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government
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Bill No. 177-38 (LS)

([http://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20177-38%20\(LS\).pdf](http://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20177-38%20(LS).pdf)) – Frank F. Blas, Jr. - AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 1041, CHAPTER 10, TITLE 1, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; RELATIVE TO DESIGNATING DECEMBER 10 AS “INSULAR FORCE GUARD MEMORIAL DAY”.

Bill No. 128-38 (COR)

([http://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20128-38%20\(COR\).pdf](http://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20128-38%20(COR).pdf)) – Therese M. Terlaje - AN ACT TO AMEND §6205 OF CHAPTER 6, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO REQUIRING THAT COPIES OF PETITIONS FOR ABOVE-STEP RECRUITMENTS BE POSTED ON THE GUAM PUBLIC NOTICE WEBSITE AND SENT TO THE SPEAKER OF I LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN.

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September 2, 2025

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

Advertiser ID: 2729	Amount Paid	
2729-00006-0000	09/10/2025	1
Official Invoice	Date	Page

DETACH AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT

2729-00006-0000 O 09/10/2025 1

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

Purchase Order Number: **2538PO174**
Est. Number:
Co-Op:
Description:
Salesperson: San Agustin, Christie

Date	Day	Length		Qty	Rate	Total
09/10/2025	WED		KUAM TV PUBLIC HEARING – SEPTEMBER 09, 2025 FIRST NOTICE - AIR DATE: 09/02/25 1x :15 SECOND AD 1x :15 SECOND AD (KUAM MATCH) SECOND NOTICE - AIRDATE: 09/05/25 1x :15 SECOND AD 1x :15 SECOND AD (KUAM MATCH)			\$200.00

PAYMENT DUE UPON RECEIPT OF INVOICE.

Quantity	4	Total	\$200.00
Total Due			\$200.00

INVOICE



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

SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on September 9, 2025

2 messages

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

Fri, Sep 5, 2025 at 8:00 AM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 5, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on September 9, 2025

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Chairman, Committee on Government Finance and Operations

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

(671) 989-9554

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg

70K



2nd Notice PH 9-9-25 (1, 177 & 128).pdf

300K

Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

Fri, Sep 5, 2025 at 8:13 AM

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

Hafa Adai,

Calendar updated

[Quoted text hidden]

--



Edward S. Pocaigue, Jr.

Sergeant-at-Arms

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Guam Congress Building, 1st Floor

163 Chalan Santo Papa

Hagåtña, Guam 96910



1-671-969-3514



sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov

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Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 5, 2025

MEMORANDUM

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

OFFICE OF SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS

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

  LIKE AND FOLLOW @SENATORDUENAS

SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on September 9, 2025

 PRINT

SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on September 9, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING



 **Posted on:** 09/05/2025 08:27 AM

 **Posted by:** Ashley Shinohara

 **Public Hearing Date:** 09/09/2025 02:00 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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Bill No. 128-38 (COR)

([http://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20128-38%20\(COR\).pdf](http://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20128-38%20(COR).pdf)) – Therese M. Terlaje - AN ACT TO AMEND §6205 OF CHAPTER 6, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO REQUIRING THAT COPIES OF PETITIONS FOR ABOVE-STEP RECRUITMENTS BE POSTED ON THE GUAM PUBLIC NOTICE WEBSITE AND SENT TO THE SPEAKER OF I LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN.

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

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

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



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

Invitation to Public Hearing on Bill No. 128-38

5 messages

Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>
To: admin@guamopa.com, "bjcruz@guamopa.com" <bjcruz@guamopa.com>

Fri, Aug 29, 2025 at 3:50 PM

Buenas yan Hafa Adai!

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations invites you to a public hearing on [Bill No. 128-38 \(COR\)](#). The hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, September 9, 2025, beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Guam Congress Building.

We value your input and encourage you to attend and share your testimony. If you plan to present written testimony, please bring fifteen (15) copies.

If you cannot attend in person, please submit written testimony via email to senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov at least 48 hours before the public hearing.

Please confirm receipt of this email and whether you will attend the hearing. If you have any questions or need more information, please call our office at (671) 989-9554.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase!

--



Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas
Chairman, Committee on Government Finance and Operations
259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910
senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov
(671) 989-9554

Benjamin Cruz <bjcruz@guamopa.com>
To: Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc: admin@guamopa.com

Fri, Aug 29, 2025 at 8:28 PM

Please inform the Senator that the OPA will attend. BJ Cruz
Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 29, 2025, at 4:50 PM, Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Office of Public Accountability - Guam <admin@guamopa.com>
To: Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc: Benjamin Cruz <bjcruz@guamopa.com>

Tue, Sep 2, 2025 at 8:54 AM

Buenas Dias Senator Duenas,

Thank you for the invitation to the public hearing on Bill No. 128-38. The Office of Public Accountability will be in attendance.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!

[Quoted text hidden]

Benjamin Cruz <bjcruz@guamopa.com>
To: Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>

Wed, Sep 3, 2025 at 1:45 PM

My apologies. Please inform the Chairman that Vince Duenas and I will be in Saipan for the Association of Pacific Island Public Auditors Annual Congress from Sunday September 7 - 13th. I will prepare written testimony.
Benjamin J. F. Cruz

Public Auditor

Office of Public Accountability – Guam

www.opaguam.org

Tel. (671) 475-0390 ext. 209

Fax (671) 472-7951

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On Fri, Aug 29, 2025 at 3:50 PM Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>
To: Benjamin Cruz <bjcruz@guamopa.com>

Wed, Sep 3, 2025 at 2:06 PM

Hafa Adai Speaker Cruz,

Thank you for letting us know, and we will await your testimony.

Regards,



Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas

Chairman, Committee on Government Finance and Operations

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

(671) 989-9554

[Quoted text hidden]



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

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA
September 9, 2025 - Guam Congress Building

2:00PM:

- **Bill No. 1-38 (COR)** – Telo T. Taitague - An Act To Amend § 26603(D)(5)(B) Of Article 2, Chapter 26, Title 11 Guam Code Annotated, Relative To The Annual Appropriation Level To The Guam Cancer Trust Fund.
- **Bill No. 177-38 (LS)** – Frank F. Blas, Jr. - An Act To Add A New § 1041, Chapter 10, Title 1, Guam Code Annotated; Relative To Designating December 10 As “Insular Force Guard Memorial Day”.
- **Bill No. 128-38 (COR)** – Therese M. Terlaje - An Act To Amend §6205 Of Chapter 6, Title 4, Guam Code Annotated Relative To Requiring That Copies Of Petitions For Above-Step Recruitments Be Posted On The Guam Public Notice Website And Sent To The Speaker Of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*.

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

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The Public Hearings will be broadcast LIVE on local television (GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117) and streamed online through *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*’s YouTube Channel (@guamlegislaturemedia).



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

Date: September 9, 2025

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Bill No. 128-38 (COR) - Therese M. Terlaje - AN ACT TO AMEND §6205 OF CHAPTER 6, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO REQUIRING THAT COPIES OF PETITIONS FOR ABOVE-STEP RECRUITMENTS BE POSTED ON THE GUAM PUBLIC NOTICE WEBSITE AND SENT TO THE SPEAKER OF I LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN.

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	JERRICK HERNANDEZ	OPA	475-0390	jhernandez@guamopa.com	✓	✓	✓	
2								
3								
4								
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8								
9								
10								
11								
12								



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

COMMITTEE VOTE SHEET

Bill No. 128-38 (COR) - “AN ACT TO AMEND §6205 OF CHAPTER 6, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO REQUIRING THAT COPIES OF PETITIONS FOR ABOVE-STEP RECRUITMENTS BE POSTED ON THE GUAM PUBLIC NOTICE WEBSITE AND SENT TO THE SPEAKER OF I LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN.”

Committee Members	Signature	TO DO PASS	TO NOT PASS	TO REPORT OUT ONLY	TO ABSTAIN	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE
Senator Christopher M. Dueñas <i>Chairperson</i>				X		
Senator V. Anthony Ada <i>Vice Chairperson</i>	E-Vote 11/14/25			X		
Senator Frank F. Blas, Jr. <i>Member</i>						
Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <i>Member</i>	E-Vote 11/14/25			X		
Senator Jesse A. Lujan <i>Member</i>	E-Vote 11/14/25			X		
Senator Vincent A.V. Borja <i>Member</i>						
Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes <i>Member</i>						
Senator Joe S. San Agustin <i>Member</i>	E-Vote 11/14/25			X		



Karl Pangelinan <karl.p@guamlegislature.gov>

E-Vote for Bill #128-38

5 messages

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

Fri, Nov 14, 2025 at 9:14 AM

Hafa Adai Committee Members:

Please find committee report attached for Bill #128-38 - Sen. Therese Terlaje - "AN ACT TO AMEND §6205 OF CHAPTER 6, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO REQUIRING THAT COPIES OF PETITIONS FOR ABOVE-STEP RECRUITMENTS BE POSTED ON THE GUAM PUBLIC NOTICE WEBSITE AND SENT TO THE SPEAKER OF LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN."

Your action on this measure is respectfully requested.

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

TO DO PASS

TO NOT PASS

TO REPORT OUT ONLY

TO ABSTAIN

TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE

Please submit your response as soon as possible by **REPLY ALL** to this email. Your responses will be logged into the vote sheet, which will be submitted as part of the final Committee Report to the Committee on Rules.

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

Respectfully yours,

Karl Pangelinan

Office of Senator Chris M. Duenas - Chairman Finance & Gov't Operation

 **CR Bill 128-38 Final.pdf**
7227K

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

Fri, Nov 14, 2025 at 9:47 AM

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

To report out only

[Quoted text hidden]



Office of Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada

38th Guam Legislature

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Guam Congress Building, 2nd Floor

163 Chalan Santo Papa

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Phone: (671) 989-0855

Email: vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov

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Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

<office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

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

Cc: Karl Pangelinan <karl.p@guamlegislature.gov>, cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

Fri, Nov 14, 2025 at
10:20 AM

To report out only.

[Quoted text hidden]

--
All the best,

Isaiah Aguon

Director of Strategic Communications



Office of Legislative Secretary

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

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

Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

163 W. Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

☎ office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov

☎ 671-989-2572

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

Fri, Nov 14, 2025 at 10:21 AM

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

Cc: "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Karl Pangelinan <karl.p@guamlegislature.gov>, cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

To report out only.

[Quoted text hidden]



Office of Majority Leader Jesse A. Lujan

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

259 Martyr St., Hagåtña, Guam 96910

senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov

(671) 969-6525

Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>
To: Karl Pangelinan <karl.p@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc: cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

Fri, Nov 14, 2025 at 11:02 AM

To Report Out Only

The Office of Senator Joe S. San Agustin

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan

38th Guam Legislature

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

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

Website: www.senatorjoessanagustin.com

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

Public Hearing - Senator Christopher M. Duenas - September 9, 2025 2PM

Bill No. 128-38 (COR) – Therese M. Terlaje - AN ACT TO AMEND §6205 OF CHAPTER 6, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO REQUIRING THAT COPIES OF PETITIONS FOR ABOVE-STEP RECRUITMENTS BE POSTED ON THE GUAM PUBLIC NOTICE WEBSITE AND SENT TO THE SPEAKER OF I LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN.

Overview

Bill No. 128-38 (COR) was introduced by Therese M. Terlaje on April 23, 2025 and referred to the Committee on Finance and Government Operations by the Committee on Rules on April 30, 2025. The Committee held a public hearing on September 9, 2025, at 2:00 pm in the Guam Congress Building's Public Hearing Room.

Notices for the hearing were posted in the Government Public Notices Portal and distributed via email to all senators and major media outlets on September 2, 2025 (5-Day Notice) and again on September 5, 2025 (48-hour notice).

Senators Present:

Sen. Chris M. Duenas – Chairman
Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada
Sen. Sabrina Salas Matanane
Sen. Jesse A. Lujan
Sen. E. Shawn Gumataotao
Sen. Shelly V. Calvo
Sen. Sabina F. Perez
Sen. Chris Barnett
Sen. Telo T. Taitague

Appeared Before the Committee:

Mr. JERRICK HERNANDEZ, OFFICE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY



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

1:27:11 https://youtu.be/QG_MbTwVOAY?si=mJNqdZ_0HTHEJNg0

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUENAS, CHAIRPERSON: And so now, we will proceed to the final bill on the agenda. That bill is Bill No. 128-38 (COR). This bill is introduced by Senator Therese M. Terlaje, Senator Sabina Flores Perez, Senator Chris Barnett, and Senator Telo Taitague.

It's an act to amend §6205 of Chapter 6, Title 4, Guam Code Annotated, relative to requiring that copies of petitions for above step recruitment be posted on the Guam Public Notice website and sent to the Speaker of I Liheslaturan Guåhan.

I understand that Senator Sabina Flores Perez will be introducing this legislation on behalf of Senator Therese Terlaje. You may proceed, Senator Perez.

SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ: Saina Ma'åse, Chairman Dueñas.

Bill No. 128-38 seeks to improve transparency and accountability in government hiring by ensuring fairness and maintaining public trust. Specifically, this measure strengthens the process of above step recruitment so that it is open, well-documented, and safeguarded against misuse while upholding fiscal responsibility.

Under the current law, step one of the pay grade assigned to a classified position is the regular rate for initial employment in any department or agency. The law allows an appointing authority or head of an agency, department, or public corporation to petition the Director of Administration, the Judicial Council, or the appropriate governing board for recruitment at a higher step not to exceed step ten.

This can only be done because of documented recruitment difficulty or exceptional qualifications, and such petitions must be posted on the agency's website for ten days before an applicant is hired. However, these postings are temporary and often difficult to access afterward.

Bill No. 128-38 expands the requirement to include posting on the Guam Public Notices Portal website and notifying the Speaker of I Liheslaturan Guåhan at least ten days before the applicant is hired. This ensures petitions remain accessible to the public and the Legislature without causing recruitment delays or additional costs.

Publication will also help ensure that recruitment difficulty and exceptional qualifications are applied fairly and consistently across all government agencies. By making these petitions more



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

accessible, the measure enhances oversight, ensures hiring decisions are well justified, and promotes transparency in the use of taxpayer dollars.

This strengthens merit system protections, prevents salary disparities, and improves accountability in government hiring practices.

Colleagues, this is a simple but meaningful improvement to current law. It will give our people greater confidence that above step recruitments are being done fairly, for good cause, and with the necessary accountability.

I respectfully ask for your support for the passage of Bill No. 128-38.

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUENAS, CHAIRPERSON: Saina Ma'åse, Senator Perez, on behalf of Senator Terlaje.

We did send out invitations, and I understand that the Office of Public Accountability (OPA) and some of their team members are currently doing field work. However, I believe we have a representative from OPA who will be reading testimony into the record.

So, once again, sir, if you will introduce yourself who you are and who you represent and then proceed with your testimony. Saina Ma'åse.

JERRICK HERNANDEZ, OFFICE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Sher Hernandez, and I'm from the Office of Public Accountability. I'm here on behalf of Public Auditor Benjamin J.F. Cruz, who is currently attending the Association of Pacific Islands Public Auditors Conference in Saipan.

He asked me to be here to present his brief testimony in support of Bill No. 128-38. I will now read his statement into the record.

"Håfa adai, Senator Dueñas and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Bill No. 128-38. The Office of Public Accountability supports the intent of this bill in promoting more accountability and transparency in the Government of Guam's recruitment process—specifically on above step recruitment for government employees.

This aligns with OPA's vision of the Government of Guam being the standard of public trust and good governance.



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

I want to thank Senator Therese Terlaje and her co-sponsors for introducing this bill and wholeheartedly support its urgent passage.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Sincerely,
Benjamin J.F. Cruz, Public Auditor.”*

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUENAS, CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr. Hernandez. You may have a few questions from the group. Vice Speaker Tony Ada? No questions, thank you. Senator Gumataotao you are recognized.

SENATOR EULOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a couple of things, if I may.

Some recent examples of above step recruitment petitions include efforts to recruit a University of Guam Chemist II in October 2024 one year after initially attempting to fill the vacant position a Public Defender Service Corporation Attorney IV position in 2022, and a Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority Accountant I position.

For reference, Mr. Chair, a December 2021 media article reported that the Legislative Chairperson on Health at the time also the primary sponsor of Bill No. 128-38 sent a follow-up letter to the GMHA Board stating that she was awaiting copies of petitions for above step recruitments, as initially requested in November 2021. Those petitions were not available during the hearing, which sidestepped the purpose of that oversight.

So, my questions are:

How many weeks or months do agencies typically wait before considering filling an above step recruitment?

To what extent have agencies advertised employment opportunities regionally, nationally, and internationally, or consulted professional organizations such as the Guam Bar Association, Guam Board of Accountancy, or Guam Medical Association to attract qualified applicants especially after failed initial recruitment attempts?



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

And finally, what information can be disclosed confirming that certain individuals have requested, or agencies have offered, above step recruitment not necessarily based on documented recruitment difficulty?

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUENAS, CHAIRPERSON: Saina Ma'åse, Senator Blas. Thank you for those questions and for doing your homework. We'll take that into consideration during markup and include it in the committee report. Senator Taitague, you're recognized.

SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Of course, I'm a sponsor of this legislation because I truly believe this government needs to practice fairness in hiring.

In Fiscal Year 2021, Guam Memorial Hospital hired 245 individuals, 23 of whom were hired above the standard pay step and of those, 70 positions were non-clinical.

Speaker Terlaje, the author of this legislation, questioned the justification for these above step hires, especially in non-clinical roles, and expressed concerns about the lack of transparency. GMH did not provide the actual petitions for these recruitments.

The hearing at that time highlighted issues with GMH's documentation and reporting practices. There were calls for improvement to ensure that hiring decisions, particularly those involving above step salaries, were justified and aligned with public expectations.

There were also discussions about the balance between hiring for clinical and non-clinical positions, with concerns that resources might be diverted from essential medical staff.

Mr. Chair, it's obvious that with these shenanigans going on, it's just not fair for the people who take their tests, go to school, and meet the qualifications for these positions but are left behind. That should never happen.

We're here today to ensure fairness, and I truly support this legislation. I look forward to its quick passage because every day that goes by, we never know what other politically motivated hire could take place. Media reports and public commentary have raised concerns about "who you know" determining hiring outcomes in government positions. That needs to stop.

Next year is an election year now is the time to get this bill passed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.



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

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUENAS, CHAIRPERSON: Saina Ma'ase, Senator Taitague. Senator Jesse A. Lujan, you're recognized.

SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just one question. Section 6205 says every petition shall be scrutinized and amply justified before being approved. That should already be a standard, but are there any additional steps that can be taken to prevent misuse of above step recruitment authority? How does this bill strengthen that safeguard?

JERRICK HERNANDEZ (OPA): Thank you, Senator. In my reading of the bill, the only real change it makes is adding the requirement for posting and transmittal to the Legislature. I think that's a good step toward greater transparency. However, I agree with your point perhaps the principle of above step recruitment and its use could be further strengthened through additional measures.

SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN: Thank you. I think that's something we can look at during markup perhaps to add further steps to ensure this process isn't misused or abused.

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUENAS, CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Senator Lujan. Senator William Parkinson?

SENATOR WILLIAM A. PARKINSON: No questions, thank you, Mr. Chair.

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUENAS, CHAIRPERSON: Senator Chris Barnett, you're recognized.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you, Mr. Hernandez, for your testimony today in support of the bill of which I support obviously I am a co-sponsor of this bill, I think my good friend the senator from Tamuning is right to say, "there are a lot of shenanigans going on", and even when you hear from the actual above hires themselves like the justification they have for validating their above recruitment, it just doesn't add up. I mean you know, they're putting two plus two and coming out with twenty-two and that's not the right answer.

So I guess my only worry is that we're going to require the posting of this information and then we have ten days prior to the hiring. So, I just hope that that's enough time to enable the proper reactions and maybe even in sometimes the approval of this hiring. And so then I also support the semi-annual reports of above recruitment attempts to the Speaker. And I think if you kind of just go down and look at these above recruitments, a lot of them are hard to justify. You know



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

especially in the case of the Guam Memorial Hospital, where you have so many of these above recruitments being executed for non-medical personnel. I mean there was one recently where there was an above step recruitment of the Personnel Services Administrator and I'm sorry but those positions typically qualified applicants for those positions grow on trees. I mean, there's no shortage of individuals who are qualified at the regular step, not the above step recruitment. That's what I'm talking about when you ask some of these hirees, "why do you think you deserve an above step recruitment?" And they say, "Oh, because I have this degree, or that degree" and sometimes that it's not even relevant to the position.

And I think this is a great way to bring more transparency to this issue because many times as senators, we don't hear about these above step recruitments until well after they've been executed. And I know, you know what I'm talking about Mr. Hernandez and that's too late because the carabao has already left the barn, you know. So I'm very supportive of this measure and I hope that it gives us enough lead time to kind of interject not necessarily with a legislative process but maybe you give a phone call to your agency that you have oversight of and say, "Hey ketu naya fan."

Thank you Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to speak in support of the bill and si Yu'os Ma'åse again to the Office of Public Accountability for their testimony.

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUENAS, CHAIRPERSON: Saina Ma'åse, Senator Barnett. Senator Calvo?

SENATOR SHELLY V. CALVO: Håfa Adai and thank you Mr. Chair, I don't really have any questions and on that note, I yield my time.

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUENAS, CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Senator Perez, any final questions or closing remarks on behalf of Senator Terlaje?

SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Just one question for Mr. Hernandez: Has OPA ever conducted audits related to above step recruitment, and what were the findings?

JERRICK HERNANDEZ (OPA): No, we haven't conducted any specific audit on above step recruitment, but hiring practices have been raised as a concern by citizens in the past. It could be something for consideration in future audit planning.



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

SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ: Thank you. I support this bill fully. Upholding the merit system is crucial, and transparency ensures fairness in hiring. Above step recruitment should be reserved for truly hard-to-fill positions, such as clinical roles, where exceptional qualifications are necessary. I thank the Chair for holding this hearing and hope for swift passage of this bill.

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUENAS, CHAIRPERSON: Saina Ma'åse, Senator Perez. Having completed testimony and discussion on Bill No. 128-38 (COR), this concludes today's public hearing on Bills No. 177-38 and 128-38 (COR).

The Committee will continue to accept written testimony for seven calendar days from today, addressed to myself, Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairperson of the Committee, at 163 West Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910, or by email to senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

Today's public hearing is now adjourned. The time is 3:46 p.m. Si Yu'os Ma'åse to everyone who attended, and have a great afternoon.

Therefore, the Committee on Finance and Government Operations recommends to *I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan* that Bill No. 128-38 (COR) to report out only.

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

Bill No. 128-38 (COR)

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje *TMT*
Sabina Flores Perez *SFP*
Chris Barnett *CB*
Telo T. Taitague *TT*

**AN ACT TO AMEND §6205 OF CHAPTER 6, TITLE 4,
GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO
REQUIRING THAT COPIES OF PETITIONS FOR
ABOVE-STEP RECRUITMENTS BE POSTED ON THE
GUAM PUBLIC NOTICE WEBSITE AND SENT TO THE
SPEAKER OF *I LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN*.**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that transparency and accountability in government hiring practices are essential to promoting public trust. The recruitment of government employees at salary steps above the entry level, while sometimes necessary due to exceptional qualifications or recruitment difficulties, must be transparent to ensure fairness and fiscal responsibility.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan finds that current law requires posting of petitions for an above-step recruitment on agency website for ten (10) days after which period they are not easily accessible. Providing additional notice to the public and to the Speaker of *I Liheslatura* prior to above-step hiring allows for additional merit system protection and appropriate legislative awareness and oversight of personnel actions that may impact government personnel budgets or create salary disparities. Public

1 posting and legislative notification of such petitions will not delay the recruitment
2 and can be done without additional cost.

3 Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to require in addition to
4 being posted on agency website for ten (10) days, that a copy of any petition for
5 above-step recruitment be posted on the Guam Public Notice Website and
6 transmitted to the Speaker of *I Liheslatura* at least ten (10) days prior to the hiring
7 of the applicant.

8 **Section 2.** §6205 of Chapter 6, Title 4, Guam Code Annotated is hereby
9 *amended* to read:

10 “§ 6205. **Recruitment Above-Step.** Step 1 of the Pay Grade assigned to a
11 classified position shall be the regular rate for initial employment in any department
12 or agency. The appointing authority, or the head of an agency, department or public
13 corporation listed in 4 GCA § 4105(a) may petition the Director of Administration,
14 the Judicial Council (as to Judicial Branch employment) or the agency, department
15 or public corporation’s governing board or commission (as to an agency, department
16 or public corporation listed in 4 GCA § 4105(a)) for recruitment at a higher step not
17 to exceed Step 10, because of documented recruitment difficulty or exceptional
18 qualifications. The petition shall be posted on the agency’s website and the Guam
19 Public Notice Website for ten (10) days (Saturdays, Sundays and government of
20 Guam holidays excepted) and a copy of the petition shall be sent to the Speaker of *I*
21 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* ten (10) days prior to hiring. This petition shall be made before
22 an applicant is hired. Every petition shall be scrutinized and amply justified before
23 being approved. The Director of Administration, the Judicial Council and the
24 governing board or commission (as to an agency, department or public corporation
25 listed in 4 GCA § 4105(a)) may establish policies to administer this section and shall
26 send semi-annual reports of above-step recruitment attempts to the Speaker of *I*

- 1 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* no later than March 31 and September 30. Increment schedule
- 2 consisting of Steps 11 through 20 shall not be used for recruitment above step.”



COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

May 5, 2025

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

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

Subject: **Fiscal Note Waiver for Bill No. 128-38 (COR)**

Håfa Adai!

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

Bill No. 128-38 (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

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

MAY 05 2025

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

Hafa Adai! Vice Speaker Ada:

The Bureau requests that Bill No. 128-38 (COR) be granted a waiver pursuant to Public Law 12-229 as amended for the following reason(s):

Legislative Bill No. 128-38 (COR) intends to amend §6205 of Chapter 6, Title 4, Guam Code Annotated relative to requiring that copies of petitions for Above-Step Recruitments be posted on the Guam Public Notice Website and sent to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guahan*.

The proposed amendments are administrative in nature and poses no additional fiscal impact upon any funds of the Government of Guam in FY 2025.

Senseramente,

LESTER L. CARLSON, JR.