

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
186-38 (COR)	Sabrina Salas Matanane Christopher M. Dueñas Vincent A. V. Borja Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao Frank F. Blas, Jr. Jesse A. Lujan Sabina Flores Perez V. Anthony Ada Joe S. San Agustin	AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE UN-ALLOTTED BALANCE OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL FUND TO THE GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.	9/10/25 2:39 p.m. ^9/22/25 10:46 a.m.	9/25/25	Committee on Finance and Government Operations.	Request: 9/25/25 10/3/25	10/27/25 2:00 p.m.	11/13/25 As Amended.	



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

October 31, 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. 186-38 (COR) As Amended - An Act To Appropriate The Un-Allotted Balance Of The Pharmaceutical Fund To The Guam Memorial Hospital Authority.

Buenas yan Håfa Ådai Speaker,
Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report on Bill No. 186-38 (COR) As Amended - Sabrina Salas Matanane, Christopher M. Duenas, Vincent A.V. Borja, Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, Frank F. Blas, Jesse A. Lujan, Sabina Flores Perez, V. Anthony Ada, Joe S. San Agustin - An Act To Appropriate The Un-Allotted Balance Of The Pharmaceutical Fund To The Guam Memorial Hospital Authority.

Committee votes are as follows:

<u>6</u>	TO DO PASS
<u> </u>	TO NOT PASS
<u>1</u>	TO REPORT OUT ONLY
<u> </u>	TO ABSTAIN
<u> </u>	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE



COMMITTEE ON RULES

RECEIVED:

November 3, 2025 7:17 a.m.

Marie Crisostomo

Revisions Received:

November 12, 2025 3:46 p.m.

Senseremente,


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

OFFICE OF SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORT

BILL NO. 186-38 (COR)

**An Act To Appropriate The Un-Allotted
Balance Of The Pharmaceutical Fund To
The Guam Memorial Hospital Authority.**

INTRODUCED BY

**Sabrina Salas Matanane, Christopher
M. Duenas, Vincent A.V. Borja, Eulogio
Shawn Gumataotao, Frank F. Blas, Jesse
A. Lujan, Sabina Flores Perez, V.
Anthony Ada, Joe S. San Agustin**



Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

October 31, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Members
Committee on Finance and Government Operations

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

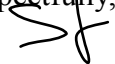
Subject: Committee Report on Bill No. 186-38 (COR)

Transmitted herewith for your consideration is the Committee Report on **Bill No. 186-38 (COR)** - Sabrina Salas Matanane - "An Act To Appropriate The Un-Allotted Balance Of The Pharmaceutical Fund To The Guam Memorial Hospital Authority."

This report includes the following:

- Copy of COR Referral of Bill No. 186-38 (COR)
- Notices of Public Hearing
- Copy of the Public Hearing Agenda
- Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet
- Copies of Testimony Supporting Document
- Committee Vote Sheet
- Committee Report Digest
- Copy of Bill No. 186-38 (COR), As Introduced
- Copy of Bill No. 186-38 (COR), As Amended
- Copy of Bill No. 186-38 (COR), Markup
- Fiscal Note/Fiscal Note Waiver
- Funding Availability Note
- Related News Reports

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

September 25, 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. 186-38 (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. 186-38 (COR)** – Sabrina Salas Matanane, Christopher M. Dueñas, Vincent A. V. Borja, Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, Frank F. Blas, Jr., Jesse A. Lujan, Sabina Flores Perez, V. Anthony Ada, Joe S. San Agustin. – “AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE UN-ALLOTTED BALANCE OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL FUND TO THE GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.”

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

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

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





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

FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on October 27, 2025

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

Mon, Oct 20, 2025 at 8:00 AM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 20, 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 October 27, 2025

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will hold a public hearing on **Monday, October 27, 2025**, beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

- **Bill No. 186-38 (COR)** – Sabrina Salas Matanane - AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE UN-ALLOTTED BALANCE OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL FUND TO THE GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.
- **Bill No. 140-38 (COR)** – Chris Barnett - AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 90.16.2 TO ARTICLE 1 OF CHAPTER 90, TITLE 9, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO SALARY, RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION STUDIES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS EMPLOYED BY THE GUAM DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS; TO BE KNOWN AS THE “FAIR COMPENSATION AND RETENTION FOR CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS ACT OF 2025.”

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

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

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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



1N 10-27-25 (186 & 140).pdf

354K



Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 20, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

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

OFFICE OF SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS

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FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on October 27, 2025

 PRINT

**FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on October 27,
2025**

PUBLIC HEARING



 **Posted on:** 10/20/2025 08:12 AM

 **Posted by:** Ashley Shinohara

 **Public Hearing Date:** 10/27/2025 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

October 20, 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 October 27, 2025

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Bill No. 186-38 (COR)

([http://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20186-38%20\(COR\)%20Referred%20Version.pdf](http://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20186-38%20(COR)%20Referred%20Version.pdf)) – Sabrina Salas Matanane - AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE UN-ALLOTTED BALANCE OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL FUND TO THE GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

Bill No. 140-38 (COR)

([http://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20140-38%20\(COR\)%20Referred%20Version.pdf](http://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20140-38%20(COR)%20Referred%20Version.pdf)) – Chris Barnett - AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 90.16.2 TO ARTICLE 1 OF CHAPTER 90, TITLE 9, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO SALARY, RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION STUDIES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS EMPLOYED BY THE GUAM DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS; TO BE KNOWN AS THE “FAIR COMPENSATION AND RETENTION FOR CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS ACT OF 2025.”

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

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2729-00011-0000	10/28/2025	1
Official Invoice	Date	Page

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2729-00011-0000 O 10/28/2025 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:
Est. Number:
Co-Op:
Description:
Salesperson: San Agustin, Christie

Date	Day	Length		Qty	Rate	Total
10/28/2025	TUE		KUAM TV PUBLIC HEARING – OCTOBER 27, 2025 FIRST NOTICE - AIR DATE: 10/20/25 1x :15 SECOND AD 1x :15 SECOND AD (KUAM MATCH) SECOND NOTICE - AIRDATE: 10/24/25 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 October 27, 2025

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

Fri, Oct 24, 2025 at 8:00 AM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 24, 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 October 27, 2025

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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



2N 10-27-25 (186 & 140).pdf

354K



Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 24, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

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OFFICE OF SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS

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SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on October 27, 2025

 PRINT

SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on October 27, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING



 **Posted on:** 10/24/2025 11:41 AM

 **Posted by:** Ashley Shinohara

 **Public Hearing Date:** 10/27/2025 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

October 24, 2025

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To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government
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([http://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20140-38%20\(COR\)%20Referred%20Version.pdf](http://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20140-38%20(COR)%20Referred%20Version.pdf)) – Chris Barnett - AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 90.16.2 TO ARTICLE 1 OF CHAPTER 90, TITLE 9, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO SALARY, RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION STUDIES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS EMPLOYED BY THE GUAM DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS; TO BE KNOWN AS THE “FAIR COMPENSATION AND RETENTION FOR CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS ACT OF 2025.”

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(<https://www.youtube.com/@GuamLegislatureMedia>)).



Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

Monday, October 27, 2025 – Guam Congress Building

2:00PM:

- **[Bill No. 186-38 \(COR\)](#)** – Sabrina Salas Matanane - AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE UN-ALLOTTED BALANCE OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL FUND TO THE GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.
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Date: October 27, 2025

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

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Bill No. 186-38 (COR)

Sabrina Salas Matanane - AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE UN-ALLOTTED BALANCE OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL FUND TO THE
GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Jesse Quen	GMH					✓	
2	Belle Rada	GMH					✓	
3	Christine Tudero						✓	
4	Lizel Concepcion						✓	
5	Dr. Joleen Aquino	GMH			✓		✓	
6	Yvona Hechavera	GMH					✓	
7	Zaldy Tugade	GMHA					✓	
8	Manny Gabriel	GMHA					✓	
9	RODALYN GERARDO	GMHA					✓	
10	Pauline Lirana	GMHA						
11								
12								

GMHA Pharmaceuticals Fund: Budget vs. CRER vs. Audit (FY 2019- FY 2025)																		
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
	FY 2019				FY 2020				FY 2021				FY 2022					
Funding Source	Budget Act (P.L. 34-116)	CRER	Audit	Variance (C - A)	Budget Act (P.L. 35-36)	CRER	Audit	Variance (G - E)	Budget Act (P.L. 35-99)	Amended FY 2021 Budget (Amended in FY 2022 Budget Act (P.L. 36-54))	CRER	Audit <i>(Note: Audit did not contain Budget-to- Actual schedule)</i>	Variance (L - J)	Budget Act (P.L. 36-54)	Amended FY 2022 Budget (P.L. 36-106)	CRER	Audit	Variance (Q - O)
Business Privilege Taxes	311,528,514	308,774,620	314,946,414	3,417,900	314,890,009	297,815,191	296,518,767	(18,371,242)	304,439,509	304,439,509	290,466,240	296,805,879	(7,633,630)	238,928,196	290,505,719	323,792,630	327,114,910	36,609,191
GMHA Pharmaceuticals Fund	19,283,615	19,113,149	19,495,183	211,568	19,491,692	18,434,760	18,354,512	(1,137,180)	18,844,806	18,844,806	17,979,860	18,372,284	(472,522)	14,789,655	17,982,304	20,042,764	20,248,413	2,266,109
GMHA Pharmaceuticals Fund Received			17,154,801				18,434,759					17,979,452	-				17,982,304	
Authorized vs. Received Variance			2,340,382				(80,247)					392,832	-				2,266,109	
	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	AA	BB	CC	DD	EE					
	FY 2023				FY 2024				FY 2025									
Funding Source	Budget Act (P.L. 36-107)	Total Amended Budget Act (P.L. 37-03 & 37- 05)	CRER	Audit	Variance (V - T)	Budget Act (P.L. 37-42)	CRER	Audit <i>(Note: Not available)</i>	Variance (Y - X)	Budget Act (P.L. 37-125)	CRER (Tracking as of July 2025)	Audit <i>(Note: Not available)</i>	Variance (CC - BB)	Total Variances FY 2019 - 2024				
Business Privilege Taxes	302,116,165	332,507,712	365,964,518	368,613,203	36,105,491	350,796,922	414,229,254		63,432,332	390,986,495	403,325,383		12,338,888	Total GMHA Pharm Fund Variances				7,029,367
GMHA Pharmaceuticals Fund	18,700,991	20,582,227	22,653,204	22,817,157	2,234,930	21,714,329	25,640,791		3,926,462	24,202,064	24,965,841		763,777	Total Authorized vs. Received Variances				12,031,182
GMHA Pharmaceuticals Fund Received				19,631,513			21,714,329				22,185,316							
Authorized vs. Received Variance				3,185,644			3,926,462				2,780,525		-					

When we look at the GMH Pharmaceutical Fund, there are two kinds of differences shown:

1. Yellow highlights (smaller difference): This shows the gap between how much was supposed to go into the fund according to the budget, and how much the auditors later confirmed was actually in the fund. Example: In FY2019, the budget said GMH should get \$19.28 million. But the audit showed the fund actually had \$19.49 million. That's a \$211,000 difference—meaning there was a little more money in the fund than originally budgeted.
2. Orange highlights (larger difference): This shows cases where—even though money was budgeted for GMH—the Department of Administration (DOA) didn't actually hand over the full amount to the hospital. Example: Again, in FY2019, GMH was budgeted \$19.28 million. But only \$17.15 million was actually delivered to the hospital. That means GMH was shorted \$2.34 million that year. This problem repeats in other years. Sometimes GMH was appropriated the money, but the full amount never made it to their bank account.

The Bottom Line: From FY2019 through FY2024, the total shortfall between what GMH was authorized versus what they actually received adds up to about \$12 million. But since FY2024 is not fully audited yet, we take out that part (\$3.9 million) to be conservative. That leaves a firm, verified shortfall of about \$8.1 million owed to GMH



Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

COMMITTEE VOTE SHEET

Bill No. 186-38 (COR), As Amended - “An Act To appropriate The Un-Allotted Balance Of The Pharmaceutical Fund To The Guam Memorial Hospital Authority.”

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>	EVOTE 10/31/25			X		
Senator Frank F. Blas, Jr. <i>Member</i>	EVOTE 10/31/25	X				
Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <i>Member</i>	EVOTE 10/31/25	X				
Senator Jesse A. Lujan <i>Member</i>	EVOTE 10/31/25	X				
Senator Vincent A.V. Borja <i>Member</i>	EVOTE 10/31/25	X				
Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes <i>Member</i>						
Senator Joe S. San Agustin <i>Member</i>	EVOTE 10/31/25	X				



FP1 Mariñas

URGENT REQUEST FOR EVOTE: Bill No. 186-38 (COR)

9 messages

FP1 Mariñas

Fri, Oct 31, 2025 at 10:16 AM

To: cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

Håfa Ådai Committee Members!

Please see attached Committee Report for Bill No. 186-38 (COR).

Indicate your preferred action:

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

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

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Senseremente,
FP1 Mariñas
Independent Contractor

 **BN186-Route.pdf**
17321K

Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

Fri, Oct 31, 2025 at

<office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

11:09 AM

To: FP1 Mariñas

Cc: cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

To Do Pass.

[Quoted text hidden]

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Respectfully,

Sabrina Salas Matanane

Senator and Legislative Secretary, 38th Guam Legislature
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs



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 Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>

Fri, Oct 31, 2025 at 11:10 AM

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

Cc: FP1 Mariñas [REDACTED], cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

To do pass

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Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas

Chairman, Committee on Government Finance and Operations

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

(671) 989-9554

[Quoted text hidden]

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

Fri, Oct 31, 2025 at 11:17 AM

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

Cc: Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>, FP1 Mariñas [REDACTED], cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

To Do Pass



Office of Majority Leader Jesse A. Lujan

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

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov

(671) 969-6525

[Quoted text hidden]

Speaker Frank Blas Jr. <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>

Fri, Oct 31, 2025 at 11:23 AM

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

Cc: Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>, FP1 Mariñas [REDACTED], cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

TO DO PASS



Speaker, Frank F. Blas, Jr.

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

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagatña

(671)969-6456

speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov

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Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

Fri, Oct 31, 2025 at 11:36 AM

<office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

To: "Speaker Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Chris Duenas

<senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, FP1 Mariñas [REDACTED], cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

To Do Pass

[Quoted text hidden]

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[Quoted text hidden]

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

Fri, Oct 31, 2025 at 11:52 AM

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

To: speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov

Cc: senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov, senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov, office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov,

[REDACTED], cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov, speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov

To Do Pass

Respectfully,

**Denise R. Cabrera****Office Manager****Office of Senator Vincent A.V. Borja**

Committee on Education, Libraries, & Public Broadcasting

38th Guam Legislature

Suite 502, DNA Bldg. 238 Archbishop Flores St.

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

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E contact@senatorvinceborja.com

[Quoted text hidden]

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

Fri, Oct 31, 2025 at 11:56 AM

To: FP1 Mariñas [REDACTED]

Cc: cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

To Report Out Only

On Fri, Oct 31, 2025 at 10:16AM FP1 Mariñas <fp1marianas@gmail.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

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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

[Quoted text hidden]

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

Fri, Oct 31, 2025 at 12:04 PM

To: FP1 Mariñas [REDACTED]

Cc: cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

To Do Pass

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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COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST*Committee on Finance and Government Operations*

Senator Christopher M. Dueñas, Chairman

I. OVERVIEW

Bill No. 186-38 (COR) was introduced by Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane on September 10, 2025 and referred to the Committee on Finance and Government Operations by the Committee on Rules on September 25, 2025. The Committee held a public hearing on October 27, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. in the Guam Congress Building's Public Hearing Room.

Notices for the hearing were posted on the Government Public Notices Portal and distributed via email to all senators and major media outlets on October 20, 2025 (5-day notice) and again on October 24, 2025 (48-hour notice).

SENATORS PRESENT

Christopher M. Dueñas, Chairman

Legislative Secretary, Sabrina Salas Matanane, Member, Bill Author

Vincent A.V. Borja, Member

D. Chris Barnett

Eulogio *Shawn* Gumataotao**ORAL TESTIMONY:**

Dr. Joleen M. Aguon, Interim Hospital Administrator/CEO, Guam Memorial Hospital (GMH)

APPEARED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE:

Yuka Hechanova, Chief Financial Officer, GMH

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The public hearing for Bill No. 186-38 (COR) was called to order at [2:01PM](#).

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRMAN: *Manana Si Yu'us!* Good afternoon and welcome to your Guam Legislature – the 38th Guam legislature. This afternoon's public hearing is being conducted by the Committee on Finance and Government Operations and is called to order at this time. It is 2:01 in the afternoon on Monday, October 27, 2025. First notice of this public hearing was disseminated to all senators and media outlets on October 20, 2025 with its second notice disseminated on October 24, 2025. These hearing notices were also made available on the Guam Legislature's website, our legislative calendar and the government of Guam's public notice portal. The committee will hear testimony on the following bills. Bill number 186-38 (COR) introduced by Sabrina Salas Matanane – it's *An Act To Appropriate The Un-Allotted Balance Of The Pharmaceutical Fund To The Guam Memorial Hospital Authority*. We'll also hear bill number 140-38 (COR) introduced by Senator Chris Barnett – it is *An Act To Add A New § 90.16.2 To Article 1 Of Chapter 90, Title 9, Guam Code Annotated, Relative To Salary, Recruitment And Retention Studies For Law Enforcement Officers Employed By The Guam Department Of Corrections; To Be Known As The "Fair Compensation And Retention For Correctional Officers Act Of 2025*. At this time I would like to thank the colleagues of mine who have joined for this hearing this afternoon. First of all, Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane. Thank you. Senator Shawn Gumataotao, Senator Vince Borja and Senator Chris Barnett. Thanks once again, colleagues for joining us. Because before we begin, I'd like to remind everyone in attendance of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* general rules of conduct. Individuals testifying shall first be recognized by the chairperson before speaking and shall state their full name for record keeping purposes. Questions and testimony shall be confined to the substance or nature of the bill on the agenda. Bill or bills on the agenda. Personal inferences to the character or motive of any senator or individual testifying is not permitted. The chairperson of the committee may order the removal from the hearing of any member of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* or the public audience who fails to observe proper decorum pursuant to the 38th Guam Legislature standing rules. Any violation of this general rule of conduct will result in immediate removal from this public hearing room. With that, we will now proceed to testimony on bill number 186-38. But before we proceed, I'd like to ask the author to please open on the bill and discuss any pertinent information that we

may need before bringing forward those who will testify. Senator Matanane, you're recognized.

LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY, SABRINA SALAS MATANANE, MEMBER,

BILL AUTHOR: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Bill 186 is about making sure that the Guam Memorial Hospital finally receives money that is already theirs but that hasn't been released to them. I first attempted this during the budget session earlier this year. In the early morning hours of the final day, I introduced the concept as an amendment. Unfortunately, it didn't garner enough support from my colleagues at that time. Their main concern was verifying the numbers. I respected that and I did not give up. Bill 186 is a continuation of that effort – this time – with the full verification my colleagues asked for – provided by the Office of Finance and Budget (OFB). For years, the law has said that a portion of the Business Privilege Tax, 6.19%, goes into a special account called the Pharmaceutical Fund. This fund is supposed to help GMH pay for medicine, medical supplies and equipment. The whole point of this law was to make sure GMH has a dedicated, steady source of funding separate from the general fund. But here's the problem: Even when tax collections came in higher than expected, deposits into the Pharmaceutical Fund were capped at the budgeted level. That practice has shortchanged GMH year after year. According to the audited financials, the Department of Administration still owes GMH \$2.3 million from fiscal year 2019, \$393,000 from FY 2021, \$2.2 million from FY 2022 and \$3.2 million from fiscal year 2023. That is a total of about \$8.1 million dollars in funds already collected but never released to the hospital. At the same time, GMH struggles in unpaid bills to vendors, companies that supply the hospital with medicine, equipment and other essentials. This backlog means it's harder for the hospital to get the supplies they need. What Bill 186 does is very simple. It tells the government to give GMH the money it is already owed. No new taxes, no new borrowing, just paying what is due. The Department of Administration would have 30 days after the bill is passed to release the money directly to GMH. This is important because GMH is our only public hospital. We are years away from a new hospital being built. Families rely on it for emergency care, maternity services, surgeries and so much more. When GMH struggles financially, it affects every single person on Guam. We often hear frustration about insurance companies not paying their fair share. But in this case, it's our own government that hasn't paid up. Passing Bill 186 shows that we are

holding ourselves accountable and that we stand with GMH in their mission to care for our people. This bill came at the request of GMH leadership. And I introduced it because I listened to their concerns. More importantly, I introduced it because our people deserve a hospital that can meet their needs without constantly being held back by money that was promised but never delivered. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRMAN: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse*, Senator Matanane and I believe our sign in sheet is being brought in here momentarily. But for those from the GMH team who wish to testify, please come forward. We'll prepare for you now, and anybody else that's come to sign up, please feel free to come up to sign in to testify.

Okay, so, Dr. Aguon, it looks like you have a solid support team, but you're going solo today – as far as testimony, so whenever you're comfortable. Interim CEO, from what I understand, and General Manager, Dr. Aguon, the floor is yours...

DR. JOLEEN M. AGUON, INTERIM HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR/CEO, GMH: For the record, I am Jolene M. Aguon. Good afternoon, Chairman Dueñas, Health Oversight Chair, Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane, and members of the 38th Guam Legislature. My name is Dr. Jolene M. Aguon, interim hospital administrator and CEO, and I'm here today to offer testimony in *strong support* of Bill 186-38 on behalf of the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority. This bill, as introduced, directly confronts the critical financial challenges that impacts our ability to deliver care. The legislative intent is clear to ensure GMHA has the resources necessary to meet our obligations for pharmaceuticals, medical supplies and equipment. The appropriation of the unallotted balance of the pharmaceutical Fund, as detailed in the bill, is a necessary step towards stabilizing our hospital's finances. The funding provided by this measure will allow us to address significant unmet needs. First, it will be directed toward fulfilling our anticipated accounts payable for essential medical supplies and services in fiscal year 2026. As the bill notes, GMHA faces a substantial backlog of vendor payables, which was largely addressed through the passage of Public Law 38-59. However, we are tracking a \$3 million dollar gap between the requested budget amount and what was approved through Public Law 38-60. This appropriation will directly reduce that burden and strengthen our relationship with the suppliers and ensure our teams have the

uninterrupted flow of resources required to focus entirely on outcomes. Second, this measure will cover the necessary upfront costs associated with strategically enhancing our operational capacity. This includes exploring the outsourcing of certain functions and departments identified as lacking sufficient capacity, as well as supporting the acquisition of new software to further improve overall operational efficiency. This proactive approach aims to boost service quality, enabling our clinical staff to focus entirely on patient outcomes. It represents a forward thinking step to modernize our hospital and elevate the overall patient experience. I must extend our deepest gratitude to Oversight Chair on Health Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane. Senator, we acknowledge and sincerely thank you for your persistent efforts to address these needs within the fiscal year 2026 budget discussions and more importantly, for your dedicated leadership in authoring this bill to see the solution through to fruition. We also extend our gratitude to the co sponsors of this legislation, Chairman Senator Chris Dueñas, Senator Vince Borja, Senator Shawn Gumataotao, Speaker Frank Blas Jr. Senator Jesse Lujan, Senator Sabina Perez, Vice Speaker Tony Ada, and Senator Joe San Agustin. Your commitment to the health and well being of the people of Guam is evident in this legislation. On behalf of the entire staff and most importantly the patients we serve at the Guam Memorial Hospital, we thank you for your consideration and urge your full support of this bill. *Si Yu'os Ma'åse!*

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRMAN: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse,* Dr. Aguon and so before I turn to the author for questions or comments on the bill, I would just like to say at this point we are at \$49.9 million, basically \$50 million and counting in our commitment from this 38th Guam legislature to the Guam Memorial Hospital. And that consists of the \$10 million in the – of the \$40 million that was recently passed into law that is available for capital improvement. The pending \$19.8 million that we intend to hear in the November session, the \$20 million dollars in the first revenue in excess revenue from fiscal year 2026 and now this bill totaling close to \$8.1 million dollars as noted in the bill. So we hope all of this comes to fruition. This will be \$20 million dollars approximately in excess to what was even requested for capital improvements in the 30, or the 26th to fiscal year budget. So if we are able to see all of this through, we have stood by our word in our commitment to assist the hospital on all of these capital improvement needs.

With that, Madam Senator, author of this bill, it's your turn to ask any questions or make any comments that you would like on the bill.

LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY, SABRINA SALAS MATANANE, MEMBER, BILL AUTHOR: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I actually really don't have any questions for GMH. I think we have been in constant communication on ways that we can assist you and whether it's with money or, or any kind of resources that you need. So I just thank you guys for always being open, this open communication that we have with each other and you can always count on me to advocate for you. So thank you.

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRMAN: *Si Yu'os Ma'ãse*, Senator. Senator Vince Borja, you were first to come and it's your turn at this point.

SENATOR VINCENT A.V. BORJA, MEMBER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't necessarily have any questions. I think Chairwoman Salas Matanane was very clear in her opening in regards to just, you know, delivering on our commitment to ensure that GMH has the resources – or actually, I think I just have another question, actually, or one question. I know that we've gone back and forth since budget and you're new, but in the last committee of the hall, I forgot what it was when we went over all the additional appropriation. Where – how does this help? I mean, I'm sure any, any, any amount can help GMH but from your budget requests to the additional appropriation at 40 million to this – where does that put in regards to what you guys asked for initially for your budget for the fiscal year?

DR. JOLEEN M. AGUON, INTERIM HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR/CEO, GMH: So on the delivery of the subsidies that the legislature has provided, we are short roughly \$3 million. And so this additional \$8 million would leave us with essentially \$5 million. And in my testimony, I mentioned it's not just the CIP, we also have critical projects that we'd like to put this funding towards, such as software upgrades. So we do have a lot of legacy systems, including our EHR. But this is not for the EHR and that's to improve our efficiency. And I can give you examples. So our materials and management as well as pharmacy, we don't have a good system that keeps track of our inventory. And so trying to get that off paper and manual mode and increase the efficiency of that. Also with HR and payroll, the

AS 400 is legacy and trying to improve upon that as well. So those are some of the softwares. We also have some memberships that we'd like to acquire. The MGMA is a big resource for the hospital. It offers online training not just for staff, but for the providers as well. It also provides the deep dive that we use to benchmark our physicians salaries that we've mentioned in the past and other memberships. We're also looking at outsourcing several of our departments because we lack capacity. Our division heads have been doing a deep dive to right size our departments and we're looking at areas where we can make improvement.

SENATOR VINCENT A.V. BORJA, MEMBER: I have no further – thank you for that – and I have no further questions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Senator Borja. Senator Gumataotao, you're recognized.

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you Dr. Aguon for being with us this afternoon. I only have a couple of questions if I could. For the record, what portion of the estimated \$26.3 million dollars in outstanding vendor payables as cited in the bill have been settled with the \$40 million dollars in additional general fund support that was authorized in Public Law 38-59, which was enacted on September 17, 2025. And what is the running balance?

DR. JOLEEN M. AGUON, INTERIM HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR/CEO, GMH: For the accounts payables?

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO: You're outstanding vendor payables.

DR. JOLEEN M. AGUON, INTERIM HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR/CEO, GMH: Accounts payables. Correct. So – and you can come – Yuka. (*Yuka Hechanova, GMH's CFO, joins Dr. Aguon before the committee*) But for the, you know, the \$40 million, we actually have paid everything to date. But keep in mind that the payables will continue daily. It's fluid, right. It's not static. Just because we pay it off today doesn't mean tomorrow we won't generate new accounts.

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO: Oh no. I completely understand that. I'm just, just trying to understand where you're at with, with the \$20 – the estimated \$26.3

YUKA HECHANOVA, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, GMH: From the \$40 million appropriation we received, we're holding on to \$10 million for the two projects that it had stated. So that left \$30 million to pay our vendors and we have maybe about a hundred and thirty thousand dollars left in the vendor payments. So our accounts payable looks really good right now.

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO: Oh, and no thank you. And I was going to ask what the running balance was so a hundred and thirty?

YUKA HECHANOVA, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, GMH: I'll also provide a report. We're required to provide a quarterly report. So after we get the next or last payment from DOA next week, I can prepare the report as of October 31st and prepare it for the legislature so everybody knows where we are with that funding.

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO: Thank you so much for that, Yuka. And as a follow up to my inquiry during the joint legislative oversight hearing on GMHA back in on September 25, what tangible steps has GMHA taken in the last three weeks, including seeking assistance from the Office of the Attorney General to secure the \$10 million dollars in excess fiscal year 2019 income tax and BPT collections, which was required by the fiscal year 2020 budget law to be deposited into the hospital capital improvement fund established by the same budget.

DR. JOLEEN M. AGUON, INTERIM HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR/CEO, GMH: Okay, so I'll – Senator, I'll have to follow up on that. Our legal has made a commitment to this, so I will find out where we are with that.

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO: All right, thank you so much, Doctor Aguon. Thank you, Mr. Chair, for allowing me to ask questions today. Thank you.

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRMAN: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse*, Senator Barnett, you're recognized at this time.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse*, Mr. Chair and *Biba Lunas* to the people of Guam. Thank you for watching on our YouTube channel and on our TV channels as well. And congratulations, Dr. Aguon, on your appointment as the Interim Administrator. And thank you to the GMH team for coming out to testify. Definitely support the bill. And I just had a couple questions if the chair would indulge. Are you able to say for the record, I know you kind of touched on it with Senator Gumataotao, but how much of the \$40 dollars million has been received and how much is been spent?

YUKA HECHANOVA, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, GMH: We're still pending another payment of about \$5.9 million that will come in on October 30th on the – based on the schedule from DOA.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: Okay. And you said the current amount outstanding on your vendor payables is just over \$100,000?

YUKA HECHANOVA, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, GMH: From the listing of vendors we were going to pay, but the current accounts payable right now, including our CIPs, is around \$4 million.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: Okay, so it sounds like the vendors are getting some nice treats for Halloween and then we're getting a treat on Friday when you file that quarterly report.

YUKA HECHANOVA, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, GMH: Yes.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: Thank you. Can you also give us the status, if you don't mind, of the electrical panel replacement?

DR. JOLEEN M. AGUON, INTERIM HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR/CEO, GMH: So we met with GPA this morning. The goal is not to replace the panel yet. That's not the initial goal. The goal is to stabilize the system. And right now

they're going to be changing out the auto transfer switch. They're going to replace all of the motor controllers, which is the load center change out and then we are looking at two 1.6 megawatt generators. So we have three generators. We have the Old Faithful which is 1.6, and then we have one that's about half that, I think about 650. 650. And then another old one that's 1.6. So our goal is to actually get two new ones. GPA is working very closely with GMH right now. And the first part of the procurement, I guess, the notice to the AG should be going out soon.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: Thank you. Last question. I don't really have much. So what methods is the hospital using to communicate information to the public relative to just events, public notices? And do you intend or are you in the process of retaining any type of contractual services for public relations or anything like that?

DR. JOLEEN M. AGUON, INTERIM HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR/CEO, GMH: We have, yeah. So we just recently contracted part – What's that? (Dr. Aguon speaks with GMH off mic) Action plan AT. Am I saying that right? Jesse? Action by A.B.? We have – does that, does that make sense? Action by AB Action by...?

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: Action by AB?

DR. JOLEEN M. AGUON, INTERIM HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR/CEO, GMH: Yes.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: And how much is that? If you don't mind?

DR. JOLEEN M. AGUON, INTERIM HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR/CEO, GMH: \$55 per hour.

SENATOR CHRIS BARNETT: Okay. Okay, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair. *Si Yu'os Ma'ase! Biba* GMH!

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRMAN: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase*, Senator Barnett. Senator Matanane, would you like to close on the bill?

LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY, SABRINA SALAS MATANANE, MEMBER,
BILL AUTHOR: No.

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRMAN: Okay, well then I will by once again thanking the GMH family for coming down. And you know, I'll follow up closely of course, as it is my job, Dr. Augon and Yuka, to see these things through from the Office of Finance and Budget side. But I want to say, you know, from the day that we did the pre budget meeting and really knew that we had a challenge in front of us to see how this was going to work, whether or not we were going to be able to finesse this into the budget or we were going to have to, you know, go out and stay committed to what we all committed to in the beginning, which was find alternative funding sources. And so I'm glad as a team we've been able to do that. And it looks like we've achieved, you know, more than what our goal was. Now it's just to execute it. And that's going to have to be on our side as well as we have a job to do next month, we know the money's there. So the \$19.8 from the savings that was realized in the fiscal year's real money and it should be there as soon as we pass the law and the governor signs it and then we'll be tracking the \$20 million. So as your procurement goes out for your projects, you should be able to realize that excess revenue in the beginning of the year and it's dedicated completely towards you. And then once again looking forward to this funding source which I'm attempting to and believe I can get this on also the November session. So that should make us very comfortable for the projects that you have and that are coming up within the fiscal year and then of course the \$20 million as it tracks going through the fiscal year. So we'll make sure that happens and if not, then we'll come back to the table on that \$20 million if there's any interruption. But other than that, we should have more than enough to make sure that we can work closely with you to see through all of these projects. So at this time, nice and short and sweet for a GMH hearing and for my committee, which are normally long hearings that will conclude this public hearing on Bill 186-38 (COR). And to the hospital family, thank you again for all that you do and have a great afternoon.

DR. JOLEEN M. AGUON, INTERIM HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR/CEO,
GMH: Thank you.

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Thank you, Doc.

DR. JOLEEN M. AGUON, INTERIM HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR/CEO, GMH: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse.*

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRMAN: *Hagu mas.*

[COMMITTEE ADJOURNED]

III. FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee *finds* that Bill No. 186-38 (COR) addresses an immediate and long-overdue obligation of the Government of Guam to the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority. The record clearly establishes that approximately \$8.1 million in Pharmaceutical Fund revenues, lawfully collected for GMHA, have not been released. This failure has directly impacted the hospital's ability to purchase vital medicine, supplies and equipment, placing unnecessary strain on patient care and hospital operations.

The Committee *recognizes* that GMHA is the island's only public hospital and remains the central provider of emergency and critical care services for the people of Guam. The withholding of funds intended for GMHA represents not only a financial shortfall but a breach of legislative intent. Immediate corrective action is required to restore integrity to the statutory funding process and to ensure that the hospital receives the resources it has already earned.

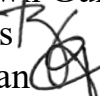
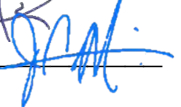
The Committee *further finds* that the appropriation authorized by Bill No. 186-38 (COR) will provide critical relief to GMHA. Testimony confirms that these funds will be directed toward paying vendors, updating outdated financial and inventory systems and strengthening hospital operations. This measure will directly improve the hospital's capacity to deliver quality care and reduce dependence on emergency appropriations in the future.

Accordingly, the Committee *recommends* to To Do Pass.

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

Bill No. 186-38 (COR)

Introduced by:

Sabrina Salas Matanane 
Christopher M. Duenas 
Vincent A.V. Borja 
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao 
Frank F. Blas 
Jesse A. Lujan 
Sabina Flores Perez 
V. Anthony Ada 
Joe S. San Agustin 

**AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE UN-ALLOTTED
BALANCE OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL FUND TO THE
GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) serves a critical role in the health and well-being of the people of Guam, requiring consistent and adequate funding to meet its pharmaceutical, medical supplies, and equipment needs. Recognizing the indispensable nature of these services, the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority Pharmaceuticals Fund was established to ensure that GMHA has a dedicated source of revenue to fulfill its obligations. This fund, distinct from the General Fund, receives six and nineteen hundredths' percent (6.19%) of all Business Privilege Taxes collected in Guam, and these revenues are solely appropriated for

1 pharmaceuticals, drugs, medical supplies, medical equipment, blood and blood
2 products, and medicines for GMHA.

3 GMHA is currently facing significant financial challenges, including a
4 substantial backlog of vendor payables amounting to \$26.3 million as of August
5 2025. These outstanding obligations have placed a strain on the hospital's ability to
6 maintain operations, procure essential medical supplies, and ensure the timely
7 delivery of quality healthcare services.

8 *I Liheslaturan* recognizes that pharmaceutical funds owed to the GMHA from
9 previous fiscal years remain outstanding. These include \$2,340,382 from FY2019,
10 \$392,832 from FY2021, \$2,266,109 from FY2022, and \$3,185,644 from FY2023.
11 Altogether, this amounts to a total of \$8,184,967 in audited but unallocated funds.
12 These funds represent a critical resource that can be utilized to address the hospital's
13 financial obligations and alleviate the burden of vendor payables. By applying these
14 funds to reduce the hospital's outstanding debts, the GMHA will be better positioned
15 to stabilize its financial standing, improve vendor relationships, and ensure the
16 continuity of essential healthcare services for the people of Guam.

17 **Section 2. Appropriation of Un-Allotted Pharmaceutical Funds to**
18 **Guam Memorial Hospital Authority.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law;
19 the un-allotted balance of the Pharmaceutical Fund in the amount of \$8,149,967 is
20 hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the GMHA and shall not expire until
21 fully expended by GMHA. The Department of Administration shall promptly allot
22 the balance of the fund to GMHA no later than thirty (30) days following enactment.
23 The funds appropriated by this Act shall be used to address outstanding obligations
24 to vendors, utility providers, and other critical service providers.

25 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
26 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity shall not
27 affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without

1 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are
2 severable.

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

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

Bill No. 186-38 (COR)

As amended by the Committee on Finance and Government Operations.

Introduced by:

Sabrina Salas Matanane
Christopher M. Duenas
Vincent A.V. Borja
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Frank F. Blas
Jesse A. Lujan
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BALANCE OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL FUND TO THE
GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

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15 to stabilize its financial standing, improve vendor relationships, and ensure the
16 continuity of essential healthcare services for the people of Guam.

17 **Section 2. Appropriation of Un-Allotted Pharmaceutical Funds to**
18 **Guam Memorial Hospital Authority.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law;
19 the un-allotted balance of the Pharmaceutical Fund in the amount of Eight Million
20 One Hundred Eighty-Four Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Seven Dollars
21 (\$8,184,967) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the GMHA and shall
22 not expire until fully expended by GMHA. The Department of Administration shall
23 promptly allot the balance of the fund to GMHA no later than thirty (30) days
24 following enactment. The funds appropriated by this Act shall be used to address
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I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2025 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 186-38 (COR)

As amended by the Committee on Finance and Government Operations.

Introduced by:

Sabrina Salas Matanane
Christopher M. Duenas
Vincent A.V. Borja
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**AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE UN-ALLOTTED
BALANCE OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL FUND TO THE
GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

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that the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) serves a critical role in the health and well-being of the people of Guam, requiring consistent and adequate funding to meet its pharmaceutical, medical supplies, and equipment needs. Recognizing the indispensable nature of these services, the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority Pharmaceuticals Fund was established to ensure that GMHA has a dedicated source of revenue to fulfill its obligations. This fund, distinct from the General Fund, receives six and nineteen hundredths' percent (6.19%) of all Business Privilege Taxes collected in Guam, and these revenues are solely appropriated for

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24 following enactment. The funds appropriated by this Act shall be used to address
25 outstanding obligations to vendors, utility providers, and other critical service
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3 affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without
4 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are
5 severable.

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

Bureau of Budget & Management Research
Fiscal Note of Bill No. 186-38 (COR)

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE UN-ALLOTTED BALANCE OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL FUND TO THE GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

Department/Agency Appropriation Information

Dept./Agency Affected: Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA)	Dept./Agency Head: Dr. Joleen M. Aguon, Interim Hospital CEO/Administrator
Department's General Fund (GF) appropriation(s) to date:	\$29,786,146
Department's Other Fund (GMHA Pharmaceuticals Fund) appropriation(s) to date:	\$22,828,406
Total Department/Agency Appropriation(s) to date:	\$52,614,552

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 1/	\$0	\$8,149,967	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Special Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total 1/	\$0	\$8,149,967	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

1. Does the bill contain "revenue generating" provisions? / / Yes /X/ No
If Yes, see attachment
2. Is amount appropriated adequate to fund the intent of the appropriation? / / N/A /X/ 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: / / Yes /X/ No
/X/ Requested agency comments not received by due date / / Other:

Analyst: Joaquin A.J. Guerrero II

Date: 10/2/25

Director: Lester L. Carlson, Jr.

Date: OCT 03 2025

Comments:

1/ The Bill intends to appropriate audited but unallocated pharmaceutical funds totaling \$8,184,967 to the GMHA, specifically \$2,340,382 from FY 2019, \$392,832 from FY 2021, \$2,266,109 from FY 2022, and \$3,185,644 from FY 2023 as enumerated in Section 1 of the proposed legislation. The Bureau notes that the General Fund appropriation of \$8,149,967 to the GMHA in Section 2 of the bill is inconsistent with the total amount specified in Section 1. Further, the Bureau is unable to comment on a determination of any fiscal impacts absent information from the Department of Administration (DOA). It should be noted that requests for comments and/or testimony were made to the GMHA and DOA, but no responses were provided to date.



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

November 12, 2025

MEMORANDUM

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

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

Re: Funding Availability Note: Bill No. 186-38 (COR)

Håfa Adai Chairman Duenas,

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

The Office has received Bill No. 186-38 (COR), AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE UN-ALLOTTED BALANCE OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL FUND TO THE GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

The proposed bill appropriates Eight Million One Hundred Forty-nine Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Seven Dollars (\$8,149,967) from the General Fund to the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA). By statute, GMHA is obligated six and nineteen hundredths' percent (6.19%) of Business Privilege Taxes collected and placed into the GMHA Pharmaceutical Fund. GMHA recognizes that they have not received the full balance of the GMHA Pharmaceutical Fund and are requesting it due to critical financial challenges.

Based on Bureau of Budget and Management Research's Consolidated Revenue and Expenditure Report as of September 30, 2025, the net unobligated projected FY 2025 General Fund Revenue is \$33,044,179. The proposed bill estimates \$8,149,967 owed to GMHA for the GMHA Pharmaceutical Fund balance, which the net unobligated projected FY 2025 General Fund Revenue of \$33,044,179 can cover. However, it should be noted that there are multiple proposed legislative measures utilizing the FY 2025 General Fund. Also, the actual General Fund balance is not definite because the FY 2025 Government of Guam audit has not been completed and is anticipated to be released towards the end of 2026.

Respectfully,


Stephen J. Guerrero

https://www.postguam.com/news/local/hospital-oversight-hearing-next-week/article_cde28900-f2db-42c9-bb41-7a7d3c59995a.html

Hospital oversight hearing next week

NESTOR LICANTO | THE GUAM DAILY POST

SEP 16, 2025



Sabrina Salas Matanane

DAVID R.CASTRO



Chris Duenas



PUBLIC HOSPITAL: Guam Memorial Hospital is seen on Monday, April 14, 2025, in Tamuning. *David Castro/The Guam Daily Post*

DAVID R.CASTRO

Senators will present their plans to address the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority's most recent budget woes directly to the employees who are most affected.

A joint oversight hearing on legislation to address critical needs at GMHA is set for next week Thursday and will be held on location at the Tamuning hospital.

The Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs Chair Sen. Sabrina Salas Matanane and the Committee on Finance and Government Operations Chair Sen. Chris Duenas will preside over the hearing.

In a news release Tuesday, Matanane said the purpose of the oversight is to hear directly from hospital leaders and staff on:

- vendor payments
- capital improvement projects (such as electrical panels, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, and other infrastructure)
- information technology system upgrades
- medical supplies and equipment
- cost containment initiatives
- safety protocols

“I’ve said it many times before: while I absolutely support building a new hospital, we cannot ignore the one we have today. GMH is our only public hospital, and it needs help now,” Matanane said.

She has two measures that would provide more than \$40 million for the cash-strapped hospital.

Bill 186-38 would appropriate \$8.1 million to GMHA from the Pharmaceutical Fund from previous fiscal years that were audited but unallocated. "These funds represent a critical resource that can be utilized to address the hospital's financial obligations and alleviate the burden of vendor payables," Salas Matanane said.

Bill 187-38 would appropriate approximately \$32 million from the refunding of government bonds. "These savings present an opportunity to address critical infrastructure needs ... and other health-related facilities," she said.

Some of the big-ticket expenditures specifically identified in the bill include:

- \$14.5 million for the electronic health record system
- \$5.1 million for electrical panel removal, replacement, and emergency genset access road
- \$5.0 million for IT infrastructure

▸ \$2.6 million for life-saving supplies and materials

"This oversight allows us to meet GMH on their turf. As the husband of a critical-care nurse, I've seen firsthand the struggles and sacrifices of our hospital staff," Duenas said.

"Holding this hearing onsite will give our colleagues a chance to see and hear for themselves what GMH employees go through every single day. It's not just numbers on paper - it's real people working under real pressure. This visit will help us better understand the funding GMH truly needs," he added.

The Legislature also passed Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero's Bill 3S last Thursday, which appropriates \$40 million to GMH from the government of Guam's general fund.

The funding will specifically cover \$26 million in vendor payments and \$14 million in maintenance, repairs, medication, and supply purchases.

Leon Guerrero, as of Tuesday afternoon, had not yet taken action on the measure.

Shortly after it was passed by the Legislature last Thursday, Leon Guerrero called it a positive and necessary step that provided "breathing room, not a rescue."

The joint oversight hearing will take place on Sept. 25 at 9:30 a.m. in the GMH education classroom located on the fourth floor, according to a press release from Matanane's office.

Nestor Licanto

[Learn more about your privacy options](#)

https://www.guampdn.com/news/gmh-backs-bill-to-provide-8-1m-in-extra-pharmaceutical-fund-revenue/article_b26f0761-b735-48fe-8f74-7c5267ed953f.html

GMH backs bill to provide \$8.1M in extra Pharmaceutical Fund revenue

By Joe Taitano II Pacific Daily News
Oct 28, 2025



The Guam Memorial Hospital in Tamuning on July 29, 2025.

Rick Cruz/Pacific Daily News



Guam Memorial Hospital leadership on Monday backed a bill to give GMH about \$8.1 million it's owed from the Department of Administration.

The funding comes from revenue in the GMH Pharmaceutical Fund that was never disbursed, hospital oversight chair Sen. Sabrina Salas Matanane said.

Every year, GMH gets a fixed 6.19% of all business privilege taxes deposited into the fund, so that it can pay for medicine, medical supplies and equipment.

BPT revenues have come in tens of millions of dollars higher than projected in the last few GovGuam budgets.

“But here’s the problem,” Salas Matanane said on Monday. “Even when tax collections came in higher than expected, deposits into the Pharmaceutical Fund were capped at the budgeted level.”

Her Bill 186-38 would give GMH the extra funds accumulated in the past few fiscal years. Salas Matanane said GMH struggles with unpaid bills to vendors for equipment and medicine, while the money sits.

According to Salas Matanane, GMH is owed:

- \$2.3 million from fiscal year 2019
- \$393,000 from fiscal 2021
- \$2.2 million from fiscal 2022
- \$3.2 million from fiscal 2023

If Bill 187-38 becomes law, DOA would get 30 days to pay out the funds.

Interim GMH Administrator Dr. Joleen Aguon was the sole person to appear to testify on the bill.

Aguon said the funds will be first used to cover payments that GMH anticipates for essential medical supplies and services in fiscal 2026.

Between the hospital’s budget for the next fiscal year and a \$40 million bailout passed by lawmakers last month, there’s still about a \$3 million gap to cover, according to Aguon.

She said an estimated \$26.3 million in outstanding vendor payables was almost entirely paid off, but the number was fluid.

“Just because we pay it off today doesn’t mean tomorrow we won’t generate new accounts,” she said.

After that, GMH will use the money for “strategically enhancing” operational capacity.

She said the funds will get materials and management, and GMH’s pharmacy off “paper and manual mode” for tracking inventory.

It will also replace a legacy AS400 system used to manage human resources and payroll.

“We’re also looking at outsourcing several of our departments because we lack capacity,” Aguon said. “Our division heads have been doing a deep dive to right size our departments, and we’re looking at areas where we can make improvement.”

A fiscal note from the Bureau of Budget and Management Research indicates the \$8.1 million is available. But the note states there’s no word from DOA on what impact, if any, the appropriation will have.

Budget chair Sen. Chris Duenas said Monday that he intends to place Bill 186-38 on the agenda for the November legislative session, along with other measures that would give GMH \$19.8 million saved in BPT bond refunding.

Reach reporter Joe Taitano II at JTaitano@guampdn.com.

Joe Taitano II

Reporter

[Learn more about your privacy options](#)

https://www.postguam.com/news/local/additional-funding-proposed-for-gmh/article_c58c242b-7e6c-45f3-9438-662c4617c61a.html

Additional funding proposed for GMH

NESTOR LICANTO | THE GUAM DAILY POST

OCT 27, 2025



HOSPITAL: Guam Memorial Hospital is seen in Tamuning on Friday, Oct. 17, 2025. *Frank San Nicolas/The Guam Daily Post*

Another financial shot-in-the-arm for the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority was discussed during a public hearing on Monday.

Bill 186-38 by Sen. Sabrina Salas Matanane would appropriate some \$8.1 million in outstanding Pharmaceutical Fund remittances to GMHA.

"We often hear frustration about insurance companies not paying their fair share, but in this case, it's our own government that hasn't paid up. Passing Bill 186 shows that we are holding ourselves accountable and that we stand with GMH in their mission to care for our people," Matanane said.

Supposedly, 6.19% of business privilege taxes collected each year are to go to the Pharmaceutical Fund, but the bill states that there were no allocations for the following years: \$2,340,382 from FY2019, \$392,832 from FY2021, \$2,266,109 from FY2022, and \$3,185,644 from FY2023.

Altogether, this amounts to a total of \$8,184,967 in audited but unallocated funds, the bill states.

Interim GMHA Administrator and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Joleen Aguon said the money will be used to pay for essential medical supplies or services.

"This appropriation will directly reduce that burden and strengthen our relationship with the suppliers and ensure teams have the uninterrupted flow of resources required to focus entirely on outcomes," she said.

"Second, this measure will cover the necessary upfront costs associated with strategically enhancing our operational capacity," she added.

Aguon said GMHA is exploring the outsourcing of certain functions and departments identified as lacking sufficient capacity and the purchase of new software "to further improve overall operational efficiency."

Committee on Finance and Government Operations Chair Sen. Chris Duenas noted that GMHA has basically received about \$50 million in supplemental funding from the Legislature, "and counting."

"That consists of the \$10 million of the \$40 million that was recently passed into law that is available for capital improvement, the pending \$19.8 million that we intend to hear in the November session, the \$20 million in excess revenue from fiscal year 2026, and now this bill totalling close to \$8.1 million," Duenas said.

"We have stood by our word and our commitment to assist the hospital on all of these capital improvement needs," he added.

The bill would require the Department of Administration to allot the balance of the Pharmaceutical Fund to GMHA no later than 30 days following enactment.

Nestor Licanto

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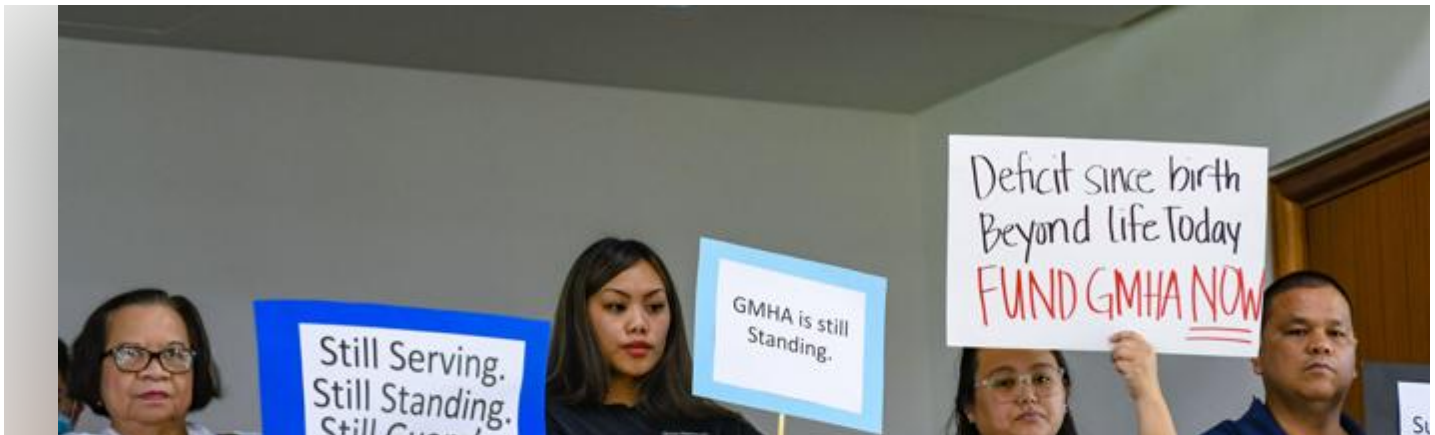
TOP STORY

Lawmakers weigh governor's new bill to give \$40M for GMH

By Joe Taitano II Pacific Daily News
Sep 10, 2025

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Lawmakers went back into session Wednesday afternoon to consider Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero's bill that would provide \$40 million for the Guam Memorial Hospital to fix its facilities and pay past-due bills.

The governor's bill would have the Department of Administration handle the money.

GMH Administrator Lillian Perez-Posadas told lawmakers the hospital is again about \$26 million behind on vendor payments.

The hospital also needs another \$16 million to \$17 million to fix its old electrical panel and other parts of the electrical system that led to a fire late last month, the GMH administrator said.

The governor's \$40 million spending bill was just one of four separate measures introduced Wednesday to pump funds into the cash-strapped hospital.

The flurry of spending proposals came hours after senators rejected a budget compromise from the governor that would give \$40 million to GMH by eliminating business privilege tax cuts in the fiscal year 2026 budget.

Leon Guerrero's newest bill would give DOA \$40 million from the General Fund to pay GMH's capital improvement projects, inclusive of electrical system fixes, and for operational costs and supplies.

Lawmakers called the Adelup fiscal team and GMH leadership into the legislative session hall Wednesday afternoon to answer questions related to the bill.

They questioned them until past 6 p.m.

Republican Sens. Sabrina Salas Matanane and Telo Taitague each introduced other bills Wednesday to infuse tens of millions of dollars into GMH, using money from bond savings and the GMH Pharmaceutical Fund.

Back in session

Leon Guerrero on Friday vetoed the budget act passed by senators. She took issue with the BPT rollback and what she said was an inadequate amount of funding for GMH.

On Wednesday morning, senators adjourned a special session instead of weighing the governor's budget compromise, which contained several other major changes to Guam law.

The governor called them into another special session shortly after, to deal with a new bill specific to the hospital.

Lawmakers were back in session by 4 p.m. that afternoon.

Source of funding

Department of Administration Director Ed Birn told senators that the \$40 million for GMH in the governor's bill would come from any funds that end up in the government's General Fund balance.

The General Fund is GovGuam's main operational fund.

According to Birn, excess revenues could be pulled into its fund balance, or other revenues that weren't spent.

For example, more revenue than projected could come in this fiscal year or the next, he said.

Birn said there was also potentially \$30 million left over from fiscal 2024, which was awaiting confirmation by GovGuam's unfinished audit for the fiscal year.

One thing that would make the collection of the \$40 million for GMH less likely would be senators cutting business privilege taxes, he added.

Hospital oversight chair Salas Matanane asked Birn why the administration had not brought up a potential source of money for GMH in the past.

"How long have you known about this \$40 million? Because the Guam Memorial Hospital is in a state of emergency," she asked Birn.

"Yes, and that's why this bill is necessary," Birn responded.

The DOA director said the money was "available" but was not "appropriable."

"Strictly speaking, you shouldn't spend that fund balance," Birn told Salas Matanane.

It was prudent accounting to save up money GovGuam had in its fund balances, he said, "however, this has struck."

DOA wants funds

Birn also told senators that DOA wants to be the agency to handle the \$40 million meant for GMH.

Part of the reason was that a good amount of money GMH owed was to the rest of GovGuam. That included \$8 million for health insurance payments, he said.

Notably, GMH also owes about \$2 million to the Guam Power Authority, the Pacific Daily News has reported.

Likewise, the director said it would be easier to distribute the funds, as they would not come in all at once.

Birn said GMH has also had some issues with the way it handles its payments.

“We have found that there have been some compliance issues, and we want to weed those out, because compliance issues delay audits,” he said.

GMH’s Perez-Posadas said she did not want DOA put in charge of the money.

She said the administration department did not always provide information to the hospital, when it paid out vendors.

“Maybe we can find a middle way on this,” Birn said.

How long?

Republican Majority Leader Sen. Jesse Lujan, at one point, asked GMH leadership how long their \$40 million would last before the hospital comes back to ask for more funding.

“We need to know, as a body, to anticipate that you’re going to be in here six months or a year with another need,” Lujan said.

GMH human resources administrator Jesse Quenga replied that the hospital was short because it asked lawmakers for \$72 million this fiscal year, and instead got about \$58 million in their budget.

“If the legislature in the future provides for the full operational need, then we wouldn’t need to have a bailout that we’ve seen in the past fiscal years,” he said.

GMH asked lawmakers for an \$80 million subsidy in its fiscal 2026 budget.

The budget act passed by senators, and vetoed by the governor, provides about \$47 million.

Another \$35 million is also included in the budget, but the Adelup fiscal team and lawmakers disagree over whether that funding exists.

Funding bills

Taitague, joined by Democrat Sens. Sabina Flores and Chris Barnett and Republican Sen. Shelly Calvo, on Wednesday introduced Bill 188-38, which would appropriate nearly \$19.75 million in bond savings to GMHA.

That money would support the hospital’s critical capital improvements, electrical upgrades and essential medical supplies.

The funding source comes from debt service savings realized through the issuance of the GovGuam business privilege tax refunding bonds, Series 2025G, which are being used to redeem the outstanding Series 2015D bonds.

Taitague said by leveraging lower interest rates through this refinancing, the government will free up nearly \$19.75 million without raising taxes or adding new debt.

Calvo, as bill co-sponsor, said this is “a solution that delivers real dollars, not theoretical appropriations, to GMHA.”

“This bill ensures that the hospital receives the benefit of refinancing savings already realized, rather than relying on uncertain General Fund projections,” Calvo added.

Salas Matanane, meanwhile, introduced two bills that would appropriate a total of \$40 million to assist Guam’s only public hospital:

- Bill 186-38, which seeks to appropriate \$8 million in unallotted balance of the Pharmaceutical Fund to GMHA.
- Bill 187-38, which would appropriate \$32 million from the General Fund realized from bond refunding savings that will become available in fiscal 2026.

Guam Memorial Hospital Administrator Lillian Perez-Posadas reacts to lawmakers adjourning a special session called to address the financial and safety issues at GMH on Sept. 10, 2025.

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