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
266-38 (COR)	Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam*	AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.	2/2/26 4:59 p.m.	2/3/26	Committee on Finance and Government Operations.		Refer to Committee Report	6/29/26	

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

June 23, 2026

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

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

RE: Committee Report on Bill No. 266-38 (COR)

Buenas yan Håfa Ådai Speaker,

Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report on Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Introduced by Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam, "AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS."

Committee votes are as follows:

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

COMMITTEE ON RULES
RECEIVED:
June 29, 2026 12:37 p.m.
Marie Crisostomo

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.DUENAS@GUAMLEGISLATURE.GOV
LIKE AND FOLLOW @SENATORDUENAS

COMMITTEE REPORT

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) -

Introduced by the Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåh*an, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam

AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

June 23, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Members**
Committee on Finance and Government Operations

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

Subject: **Committee Report on Bill No. 266-38 (COR)**

Transmitted herewith for your consideration is the Committee Report on **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)**- Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam, – "AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS."

This report includes the following:

- Copy of COR Referral of Bill No. 266-38 (COR)
- Notices of Public Hearing
- Copy of the Public Hearing Agenda
- Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet
- Copies of Submitted Written Testimony
- Committee Vote Sheet
- Committee Report Digest
- Copy of Bill No. 266-38 (COR), As Introduced

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

February 3, 2026

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

Attorney Darleen Hiton
Legislative Legal Counsel

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

Subject: **Referral of Bill No. 266-38 (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. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam. – "AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS."

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.

FY 2027 Budget Hearings on the following Agency/ Departments	Date Budget Hearing Was Held
Guam Community College (GCC)	April 09, 2026
Guam Charter School Council	April 10, 2026
Guam Department of Education (GDOE)	May 06, 2026
University of Guam (UOG)	May 15, 2026
Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA)	April 30, 2026
Department of Public Health & Social Services (DPHSS)	May 14, 2026
Department of Administration (DOA)	May 11, 2026
Customs & Quarantine Agency (CQA)	April 27, 2026
Department of Corrections (DOC)	May 04, 2026
Guam Fire Department (GFD)	April 28, 2026
Guam Police Department (GPD)	April 27, 2026
Department of Revenue and Taxation (DRT)	June 05, 2026
Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)	June 02, 2026
Department of Public Works (DPW)	June 04, 2026
Office of Attorney General (OAG)	May 07, 2026

COMMITTEE REPORT

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) -

INTRODUCED BY

Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam

AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

Thursday, April 09, 2026, at 9:00 A.M.

Guam Community College (GCC)

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 9, 2026

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Thu, Apr 2, 2026 at 8:30 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Christopher Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com, vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 2, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 9, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, April 9, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Guam Community College (GCC)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

--
Si Yu'os Ma'åse,

Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

FIRST NOTICE - GCC.pdf
691K

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 2, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 9, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, April 9, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Guam Community College (GCC)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 9, 2026

PRINT

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 9, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 04/02/2026 08:53 AM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 2, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 9, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, April 9, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** **(https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
Guam Community College (GCC)

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 budget hearing, 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.

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Notice of Budget Hearing

Thursday, April 9, 2026, 9:00 A.M.

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, April 9, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Guam Community College (GCC)

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

GUAM LEGISLATURE
AUDIO VISUAL DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Office Submitting Request: Senator Chris Dueñas

Date of Request: 4/01/26

POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Ashley Shinohara Contact #: 671-989-9554

Email: senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS

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

☐ Oversight Hearing ☐ Committee Meeting ☒ Other: Budget Hearing

Notice Title / Bill(s) / Resolution(s) / Appointment:
Bill 266-38 (COR) - Guam Community College

Date of Event: 4/09/2026 Start Time: 9:00 AM AM/PM

End Time: 12:00 PM AM/PM

Location: Public Hearing Room

MEDIA HANDLING

Recording Format: ☒ MP4 ☐ MP3 ☐ Other: _____

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

CERTIFIED BY AV:

Name: Kuay Perez Signature: _____

Posted on/Air Date: 4/2/26 – 4/9/26

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 9, 2026

1 message

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Tue, Apr 7, 2026 at 8:30 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com, vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com, Senator Christopher Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 7, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 9, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, April 9, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Guam Community College (GCC)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

SECOND NOTICE- GCC.pdf
697K

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 7, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 9, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, April 9, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
- Guam Community College (GCC)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 9, 2026

PRINT

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 9, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 04/07/2026 08:29 AM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 7, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 9, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, April 9, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR) (https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
Guam Community College (GCC)

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 budget hearing, 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.

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

BUDGET HEARING AGENDA

Thursday, April 9, 2026 – Guam Congress Building

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam – AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

9:00 am:

- Relative to Guam Community College (GCC)

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

Date: April 9, 2026 **Time: 9:00 a.m.**

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam. – "AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS." - (Guam Community College - GCC)

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Virginia Tudela	GCC	[redacted]	Virginia.tudela@guamcc	✓		✓	
2	Clarissa Padua	GCC		clarissa.padua@guamcc.edu			✓	
3	Carlo Leon Guzman	GCC		carlo@m80systems.com	✓		✓	
4	Mary Okada						✓	
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								

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

Date: April 9, 2026 Time: 9:00 a.m.

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam. – "AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS." - (Guam Community College - GCC)

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	John DelaRosa	GCC	[redacted]					
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								

GUAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

COPY

April 9, 2026

The Honorable Christopher M. Duenas
Chairperson, Committee on Finance and Government Operations
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Re: Guam Community College Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Hearing

Buenas yan Håfa Adai Chairman Duenas and Honorable Senators of the 38th Guam Legislature,

My name is Carlo Leon Guerrero, and I serve as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Guam Community College. I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of the College's Fiscal Year 2027 budget request and thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

Guam Community College continues to serve as a cornerstone of workforce development for our island, playing a pivotal role in preparing Guam's residents for employment in both emerging and established industries. GCC's programs are intentionally aligned with high-demand sectors such as healthcare, construction trades, information technology, hospitality, education, and public safety. Through industry-informed curriculum design, employer partnerships, and hands-on training, the College ensures that students graduate with the competencies, certifications, and practical experience required to succeed in today's workforce.

As Guam's economy evolves and diversifies, GCC remains responsive and forward-looking—expanding program offerings, modernizing instructional delivery, and strengthening career pathways that lead directly to employment. The College not only equips individuals with technical skills, but also creates upward mobility, supports economic self-sufficiency, and contributes to the long-term resilience and competitiveness of our island economy.

This work is grounded in two decades of institutionalized fiscal discipline and strategic investment. GCC has consistently exercised prudent financial management, carefully stewarding public funds while reinvesting in campus infrastructure, instructional resources, and student support services. Over the years, the College has made sustained improvements to its facilities, training environments, and technology to ensure students

have access to modern, industry-standard learning spaces. These investments reflect a long-term commitment to quality, accessibility, and student success.

The College remains firmly committed to fiscal responsibility and transparency. GCC is currently undergoing its annual independent audit and is proud to maintain a longstanding record of clean audits. This track record reflects not only compliance but a culture of accountability and careful planning that has enabled GCC to maximize the impact of every dollar entrusted to it.

Recently, GCC secured a consolidated grant of $1.6 million to support its secondary career and technical education programs. This funding will support innovative, career-aligned initiatives, including WorkKeys assessments, structured work experience opportunities, career interest inventory systems, and expanded after-school, summer, and intersession programming. These efforts are critical in building early awareness of career pathways and creating a seamless transition from secondary education into postsecondary training and employment.

In alignment with Guam's critical workforce needs, GCC is also advancing the development of a Paramedic training program under its Allied Health offerings. Supported through funding from the Office of the Governor, this initiative represents a strategic investment in the island's emergency medical services capacity. The College has engaged Xennia Pecina, a highly experienced registered nurse with a broad background across Guam's healthcare system, to lead this effort in collaboration with the Guam Fire Department and EMS partners.

As part of the accreditation pathway, GCC will participate in Accreditcon, the premier national conference focused on paramedic program accreditation. The College is preparing to launch an initial cohort, followed by the pursuit of full program accreditation. This effort underscores GCC's responsiveness to workforce demands and its commitment to strengthening Guam's emergency response infrastructure.

Additionally, funding associated with this initiative has supported the expansion of procurement training through GCC's Continuing Education and Workforce Development division. Currently, 30 participants are enrolled in advanced-level Government of Guam procurement training, with additional cohorts scheduled. These efforts contribute to building institutional capacity and professional competencies within the public sector while opening new professional pathways for participants.

The Board of Trustees is also nearing the completion of a comprehensive and inclusive search process for the College's next president. This process has incorporated input from key stakeholders across the campus and broader community to ensure alignment with institutional priorities and Guam's future needs. The Board anticipates announcing the selected candidate in the near future and remains committed to a transparent and orderly transition that promotes continuity, stability, and sustained progress.

In closing, the Board of Trustees reaffirms its commitment to advancing GCC's mission of delivering high-quality education and workforce training, expanding opportunities in

growing industries, strengthening student support systems, and ensuring program relevance in a dynamic economic landscape. GCC's decades of fiscal discipline and sustained investment in its campus and its students have positioned the College as a trusted and effective engine of opportunity for Guam.

We respectfully request your favorable consideration of GCC's FY2027 budget request and thank you for your continued partnership in supporting the people and future of Guam.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse',

Carlo M. Leon Guerrero
Chairman
Guam Community College Board of Trustees

GUAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Virginia C. Tudela, Ph.D.

April 09, 2026

The Honorable Christopher M. Duenas
Chairperson, Committee on Finance and Government Operations
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Subject: Testimony in Support of Guam Community College FY2027 Budget Request

Buenas yan Håfa Adai, Senator Duenas and distinguished members of the 38th Guam Legislature:

I am pleased to submit this testimony in support of the Guam Community College's Fiscal Year 2027 budget request. Thank you for the opportunity to present before you and for your continued commitment to the people of Guam.

My name is Dr. Virginia Tudela, Interim President of Guam Community College (GCC). I respectfully present the College's FY2027 budget request and reaffirm our commitment to advancing education and workforce development throughout our island community.

For more than forty years, GCC has served as Guam's primary institution for career and technical education, workforce development, and lifelong learning. Our mission remains clear: to provide accessible, high-quality education that equips our residents with the skills needed to succeed in today's economy and to meet the evolving workforce demands of our island.

As Guam continues its path toward economic recovery, modernization, and regional competitiveness, GCC plays a critical role in ensuring that our workforce is prepared—not only for today's jobs, but for the opportunities of tomorrow.

As reflected in our mission, *Guam Community College is a leader in career and technical workforce development, providing the highest quality, student-centered education and job training for Micronesia.* GCC remains dedicated to ensuring student success across all program areas, including Adult High School, certificate and degree programs, apprenticeship, secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE), and workforce bootcamps.

On December 11, 2025, GCC celebrated a significant milestone with the Pinning Ceremony of the first cohort of 20 students who completed the inaugural Associate Degree in Nursing (RN) program. Within three months, four graduates successfully obtained licensure as registered nurses. A second cohort of 20 students began in August 2025. This achievement underscores GCC's commitment to addressing the critical nursing shortage within Guam's healthcare system.

GCC respectfully requests a total FY2027 budget of **$23,842,581**, representing a **2% increase over FY2026**. The General Fund reflects a decrease of $127,747, primarily due to the reduction in the retirement contribution rate, offsetting projected salary increments. The Manpower Development Fund reflects an increase of $706,509, driven by rising operational costs and expanded workforce training needs in coordination with the POST Commission and law enforcement agencies.

The College has successfully completed several capital improvement projects this fiscal year, including the Administration Building Backup Generator, the Culinary Arts and Baking Center renovation, the Building 2000 solar installation, the expansion of Building B, and the Workforce Development Center in Barrigada. These projects enhance GCC's capacity to deliver high-quality instruction and workforce training.

GCC continues to advance several projects currently in progress, including the Wellness and Maintenance Center, solar parking and battery storage systems, and the Building 600 renovation. These initiatives support long-term infrastructure resilience, sustainability, and operational efficiency.

Through its renewable energy investments, GCC has reduced energy costs by over $193,000 year-over-year, demonstrating strong fiscal stewardship and a commitment to sustainability.

Additionally, GCC continues to expand workforce development programs, with 28 completers recognized this year in Truck Driving, Bus Driving, and Ship Repair bootcamps. More programs are underway to meet workforce demand.

The College is also transitioning to the Ellucian Banner Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) system, with a scheduled Go-Live date of May 26, 2026. This modernization effort will enhance efficiency and improve student services.

In closing, I respectfully request your support for Guam Community College's FY2027 budget request. GCC remains committed to serving our community by expanding educational opportunities, strengthening workforce pathways, and responsibly managing public resources.

On behalf of the College, I extend my sincere appreciation to our faculty, staff, administrators, trustees, and students for their continued dedication and contributions.

With your support, Guam Community College will continue to uphold its guiding principle:

Students First. Mission Always.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse' and thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Virginia Tudela
Interim President
Guam Community College

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

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

In accordance with Section 6.04(c)(1) of the Standing Rules of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, this committee digest provides a *summary* of the public hearing detailed below. To assist the general public in navigating this report, please note that all blue-highlighted text contains hyperlinks. Clicking on these links will direct you to the corresponding referenced sections/documents. For any questions or assistance regarding this digest, please contact our office at (671) 989-9554 or email us at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov.

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) – COMMITTEE ON RULES BY REQUEST OF I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN, THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

I. OVERVIEW

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) was introduced on **February 2, 2026** by **Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam** and was subsequently referred by the Committee on Rules to the **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** on **February 3, 2026.**

The **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** convened a Public Hearing on Bill No. 266-38 (COR) on **April 9, 2026** at **9:00AM** in the Guam Congress Building's Public Hearing Room.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Public Hearing Notices were posted to the Government Public Notices Portal and disseminated via electronic mail to all senators and all main media

broadcasting outlets on **April 2, 2026** (5-Day Notice), and again on **April 7, 2026** (48-Hour Notice).

SENATORS PRESENT
Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman
Vice Speaker Anthony v. Ada, Vice Chairman
Senator Telo T. Taitague
Senator Shawn Gumataotao

ORAL TESTIMONY:
Dr. Virgina Tudela, Interim President, Guam Community College
Carlo Leon Guerrero, Chairman, GCC Board of Trustees
Clarissa Padua, Guam Community College
Dr. Mary Okada, Retired President of GCC

WRITTEN TESTIMONY:
Carlo Leon Guerrero, Chairman, GCC Board of Trustees
Dr. Virgina Tudela, Interim President, Guam Community College

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The public hearing for **Bill Number 266-38 (COR)** was called to order at **9:00AM**

[Questions and Discussion] **[***Begins at 00:16:50 and ends at 01:04:00*]

Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance: Buenas yan Hafa Adai. The Committee on Finance and Government Operations is now called to order and the time is 9 o'clock on this April 9th, 2026 in our Easter season. Thank you everyone for being here and of course for the Guam Community College and joining us this morning for their, board budget oversight hearing.

First notice of this public hearing was disseminated to all senators and media outlets on April 2nd, 2026, with its second notice disseminated on April 7th, 2026. The 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 now hear Bill No. 266-38 (COR) introduced by The Committee on Rules by the request of *I Maga'hagan Guahan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam, AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS, once again to the Guam Community College.

Joining me, for this budget hearing this morning is, Senator Telo Taitague. Thank you for being here, Senator. And also Senator Shawn Gataotao, those testifying on Bill No. 266-38 (COR) relative to the Guam Community College. please take a seat here at the hearing table and you have, so thank you and welcome, we'll be introducing you soon. Before we begin, I'd like to remind everyone in attendance of I Liheslaturan Guahan's, general Rules of Conduct. Individuals testifying shall first be recognized by the chairperson before speaking, and shall state their full name for the record keeping purposes, questions and testimony shall be confined to the substance and the nature of the bill that's on the agenda. Personal inferences to the character or motive of any senator or individual testifying are not permitted. The chairperson of the committee may order the removal from the hearing of any member of I Liheslaturan Guahan, the public audience who fails to observe property decor 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.

And we're now going to have our Sergeant in Arms to come forward and, we will swear in the panel as is customary for hearings that involve, financial matters and we'll have Mr. Pacoigue to do that, before I do that, I want to recognize our Vice Speaker and also the Vice Chairman of this committee.

Good morning, Mr. Speaker, Senator, Vice Speaker, Senator Ada, please proceed Sergeant at Arms.

Ed Pacoigue, Sergeant-at-Arms, Guam Legislature: Please stand and raise your right hand.

Under penalty of perjury. Do you affirm that any and all information you provide today, whether it be verbally, electronically, and in writing, be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? Mr. Chair, they are under oath you may proceed. Thank you.

Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance: Si yu'ous ma'ase Sarge. And now we will take testimony from members, joining us from the, Guam Community College.

Ms. Virginia Tudela, Clarissa Padua, Carlo Leon Guerrero, and I know that we also have the, former president in our presence today. And, if need be, she can join us at some point, if requested. Ms. Mary Okada, thank you for being here today as well. So now we will proceed and whatever order, GCC team that you want to go in, I'll defer to how you want to present your budget this morning. The floor is yours.

Carlo Leon Guerrero, Chairman, GCC Board of Trustees: Buenas yan Hafa Adai, Chairman Duenas, and Honorable Senators of the 38th Guam legislature. My name is Carlo Leon Guerrero, and I serve as the chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Guam Community College. I respectfully submit this testimony and strong support of the college's fiscal year 2027 budget request and thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. **[PLEASE SEE ATTACHED TESTIMONY]**

Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance: Si yu'ous ma'ase Mr. Carlo Leon Guerrero and Ms. Tudela would, are you wish to be next, please proceed.

Dr. Virgina Tudela, Interim President, Guam Community College: Thank you, Buenas yan Hafa Adai, Senator Duenas, Senator Anthony Ada, Senator Shawn Gataotao and Senator Telo Taitague. I'm pleased to submit this testimony in support of the Guam Community College's fiscal year 2027 budget request. **[PLEASE SEE ATTACHED TESTIMONY]**

Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance: Si yu'ous ma'ase Ms. Virginia Tudela, and acting President. Thank you. Ms. Clarissa Padua, are you providing testimony or are you here to support? Technically. Okay. Thank you.

So we'll go forward first of all. It's always a treat to start with GCC. It's a tradition now, when it's, budget time, primarily given the fact that, you always represent a budget that is, steady and not only reflective of your fiscal stewardship as you mentioned, and, usually nominal increases living within your budget and so we really deeply appreciate that. I just have a few questions as this is a very well presented budget and also I want to thank you and others who joined us for the pre-

budget meeting, as is customary for office and finance and budget. It was a very good meeting and it really sets us up to be able to receive your testimony today.

First of all, I just wanted to go to Carlo and maybe just the entire group. It actually maybe with, you first, Ms. Tudela just because to get this out of the way, it's in your testimony and just to kind of, once again, be reflective of your budget increase is, as you state in your testimony is primarily due to the fact that the Manpower Development Fund is performing at that level as well as, anticipated savings with regard to retirement contributions. And that is basically the extent of your request in addition to your current budget, correct?

Dr. Virgina Tudela, Interim President, Guam Community College: Yes.

Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance: Okay. So that's excellent. That definitely helps our managing the overall budget and what we need to, prepare for. Going to the next, Carlo or, and maybe every anybody else really on the panel. Going to the testimony on the work keys assessment, I remember it very clearly when I was director of youth affairs and other positions I held in the government as a director and understanding the effectiveness of this program, I guess primarily at GCC, but I saw also in the past where it was really, utilized also in the high schools, as a success measurement or readiness measurement, not only to go on to GCC, but just basically in terms of workforce readiness. Are you continuing to extend that out beyond GCC into the high schools?

Dr. Virgina Tudela, Interim President, Guam Community College: We are currently providing it in the high schools.

Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance: Great. When I was following this program, like I said before, the perform highest performing school, that, at that time was John F. Kennedy, does that still hold?

Dr. Virgina Tudela, Interim President, Guam Community College: I actually haven't received any data on that. I can't say if it's just JFK at the moment.

Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance: Okay. Carlo, you might have some observations there.

Carlo Leon Guerrero, Chairman, GCC Board of Trustees: No, I just like you, I'm a firm believer or believer in work keys. It really is a gauge for students to find

out where they're at. But also in this day and age, as they go from high school directly into the workforce, it's also a really gauge for employers like myself, that level of certification, whether it's silver, gold, platin it really gives a tell-tale sign. Are these students coming out of high school coached? Trainable, right? Do they have the wherewithal, the basic knowledge to be able to absorb the intricacies of your work that you're going to require from them as they enter the workforce? And it really tells you what the capacity of them as a student transitioning to the workforce. It really is.

Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance: Right.

Carlo Leon Guerrero, Chairman, GCC Board of Trustees: So it gives kind of a report card for the employer as well as the school or wherever they may transition to of who they're getting within their ranks, right.

Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance: And it also prepares them, if in case they're not going directly into the workforce, it prepares and has actual documentation that these, young people can provide and also direct their interest into the workforce. Correct. Based on their assessment.

Carlo Leon Guerrero, Chairman, GCC Board of Trustees: Exactly. But it also gives them a chance to reevaluate themselves. Right. How can I improve, how can I make myself better? Right. And more ready. For what's coming ahead of me in the future, whether it be through the workforce, through the military, or whatever their future holds for them. Right? So Work Keys is an excellent program that I think every high school student should actually take.

Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance: So moving on in your testimony, particularly from the board of directors. In alignment with Guam's critical workforce, the GFD, partnership that you have going on with the Allied health offerings and the paramedic training program. That's amazing. Is that program already built and underway, or this is inaugural?

Dr. Virgina Tudela, Interim President, Guam Community College: As our board chair, stated, we just got Xenia Pina to come on board as our nursing and allied health administrator. So she's already met with members of GFD to start the discussions, in terms of designing the program, and as he had mentioned, there's also a training that needs to be held off island to, talk about the different requirements for accreditation. But we do hope to, or we do plan on offering a cycle.

Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance: This is great. you know, just, really a short year and a half maybe ago when, we learned that GFD was, you know, on the cusp of, of this program coming to be, and that really added, level of training and that they called it at the time basically the emergency room on wheels.

And so knowing that GCC is really moving towards ensuring that this program is implemented and with Zia at the helm, that is really going to bring an added higher level of treatment in the field, to those of our people, experiencing, some sort of medical event. So that's amazing, thank you for that. Moving along, you know, one thing I know we recently heard, and we'll be hearing the budget on charter schools, tomorrow afternoon, and I wanted to kind of put this out at the first hearing in terms of what the Office and Finance Budget and I as a chair looking at, with the growth of charter schools.

And that is that at some point we're going to have to have this conversation of what does it really mean? Integrating as GCC now, is going to take part in terms of high schoolers and that trajectory, in terms to the public schools and just through charter school initiative as a whole.

And then what it means now between, and I know, UOG's working on some stuff as well, but it seems like. I think it's time for us to come together and kind of have a conversation on all fronts with all educational institutions because with the separate budgets that are being requested and the need for funding on the charter school site wherein the Guam Department of Education requests continue to accelerate as well.

I think at some point, although their enrollment continues to go down, we're going to have to have a conversation in terms of how we're going to, bring this all together with limited resources. Does GCC see that as something you want to participate in and, and understand kind of the dynamics of that?

Dr. Virgina Tudela, Interim President, Guam Community College: Yes. That would be a great opportunity for us to participate in those discussions.

Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance: Yeah I think it's going to be paramount I think, because even as we look at, the discussion on adding charter schools, there's a lot of appetite for that. And I think that's great. I feel the same way. I think what's happening though is that's one of the corresponding reasons why we're seeing, you know, the decrease of enrollment into the Guam public school system is because parents are eager to get their children into charter schools for a

number of different reasons. One is the success rate, the other is the fact that these are, a lot of them are specialty schools. kind of duplicating what you're doing at Guam Community College with all of your different program offerings. But having that pipeline coming from the charter schools that are more specialized.

And so in this situation, and I mentioned this to Guam public schools and the Guam Public school system as well as other charter schools, is that if you start combining the budgets. For the charter schools with what the actual budgets end up being for public school, you are, we are achieving in terms of what is the educational request. Right now, charter schools are educating and I think you guys are even much less, in terms of tuition, young people at the rate of $7,800 per child.

With the current budget request of Guam Public School System, and this is why I'm mentioning this, that I hope you join us in this effort and round tables is, somewhere around $13,600 for going to the, and that is not including the federal funds, that they get. And so this is just based on the general fund appropriation request.

So the actual, in terms of what they're operating right now, in terms of Guam public schools and they're allotted level of general fund, there are about $11,800 in terms of per student, if they were to get their full request, and this is what I'm mentioning. It would be then the $13,006, $13,008 based on their current population.

That's something that we need to sit down and talk about and find out how we can bring, some synergies to bring in these systems together. So I wanted you to hear it first because we'll be scheduling, round tables with, all education partners soon to discuss, the evolution of charter schools and how they interface with higher ed and other, school systems. Just a couple more questions. So when we talk about, this grant that you've received, was that competitive or was that formula based? The $1.6 million.

Dr. Virgina Tudela, Interim President, Guam Community College: We actually submitted an application to DOE for that grant.

Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance: Great. Great. That's an excellent, presentation on your behalf outside of just what you get also on your annual budget and what that means to what you're going to be able to do for additional programs, going forward.

Overall, I can say that, you know, my view of your success and your continued success is completely on track with your track record. And I for one, have, no issues with your budget requests and just want to congratulate you on your continued success. And like I said, my only ask today is that you join us, at the table for a whole of education discussion, budget-wise as we go forward in these discussions and I thank you for your willingness to do so. With that, Senator Taitague, you were here first, it's your turn at this point. You have the mic.

Senator Telo Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Si yu'ous ma'ase, Mr. Chair. Good Morning to my colleagues and I think the chairman's correct to bringing, GCC's. I tend to be a little superstitious, so this is like our, you guys are our lucky charm, you know, for our budget so far. Every time we have you first, you know it's been good. So hopefully it'll stay that way, you know? So anyways…Wow. I think, you had some assistance, right? Dr. Tudela with the formulation of this budget with the former president?

Dr. Virgina Tudela, Interim President, Guam Community College: Yes, definitely.

Senator Telo Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay, because I could see that, you know, staying transparent, accountable and fiscally responsible is one of her fortes and I'm glad you're following through with that, greatly appreciated. I really don't have very much to say about your budget because you're under the amount that you're requesting for, but I do have some questions regarding the Manpower Development Fund. You know, I see that it has grown. We all know that because of the military buildup, you know, and, we're now at the peak of it and we're going to start seeing a decline. So we know how the funding sources for the manpower development that helps, GCC.

And a lot of times when you put programs together, you know, you base it on thinking that that funding is always going to be there. So as that declines, how are you going to adjust that change of funding source when we don't see this military buildup bringing in as much?

Dr. Virgina Tudela, Interim President, Guam Community College: So currently the manpower development funding is used for the Peace Officer training, and that's done in communication with the post commission and with the different law enforcement agencies. So what we do is we look at what cycles have been offered in the past, looking at the needs of the community and terms of how many officers,

how many fire department personnel are needed, so it's all based on a needs assessment.

Clarissa Padua, Guam Community College: In addition to that, when the Manpower Development Fund decreases, we see a corresponding change in the General Fund. So typically, that's where we would see the change in the source of the funding.

Senator Telo Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: So most likely you end up wanting to subsidize?

Clarissa Padua, Guam Community College: Or we will increase our request on the general fund, understanding that the MDF has decreased.

Senator Telo Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah, so just keep an eye on that, you know, as it starts, to decline a little bit and so the sustainability of your programs with Manpower Development, I hope you look in being proactive and just prepare. That was clear, but the…your congratulations on the nurses, you know, graduating. So excited about that. It's very helpful. We just recently passed a bill that, would 206 or the governor signed into law, the foreign medical doctors coming to Guam. It's very helpful and during the public hearing, there was one doctor said that we also need to look at nurses, you know, what we can do to bring nurses to Guam.

But I think we have the opportunity because we educate our students to become nurses here, so the question is, we're creating the opportunities for our community to become nurses, but how are we going to keep them here on Guam? Because as soon as they graduate and take advantage of any kind of, you know, free tuition or any kind of assistance, any idea what GCC can do to keep them on this island instead of leaving?

Dr. Virgina Tudela, Interim President, Guam Community College: That would be for GCC, that would be a little bit difficult because a lot of times what people are looking for is their pay, their compensation so you know, there's got to be other incentives that Guam offers to the nurses to keep them on island, but a lot of the decision is based on pay.

Senator Telo Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: So you suggest we increase their pay?

Dr. Virgina Tudela, Interim President, Guam Community College: No, I'm not saying that. I'm just saying that, typically people make a decision based on their livelihood and for GCC too, when we try to get nurses to teach for GCC, one of the things that we realize is that before, when considering, the teaching position, they have to look at, okay, where do I get the most money?

Do I get more money, staying where I'm at, working at the hospitals, taking the overtime, or do I take the teaching position at GCC. So you got to really have that heart to really want to, to give back to the community and to your profession.

Senator Telo Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Mr. Chair? Any comments on that?

Carlo Leon Guerrero**, Chairman, GCC Board of Trustees:** Yeah. Like Dr. Tudela mentioned, GCC can only control instruction, training, providing them with the resources they need to be successful in that field. But once they leave GCC's four walls, it's a difficult proposition for them because quality of life is critical in each of our lives, right? And so that's dependent on a number of external factors that GCC does not control, right?

But we will give them the best experience, the best instructional, provide them with all the resources they need to be successful. And then external factors dictate whether they stay here or transition stateside or somewhere else, right, to fulfill their profession.

Senator Telo Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: You're aware of some of the programs that, for teachers that they've had where tuition is paid for these individuals and then they, they have to stay back on Guam for a couple years to pay it back. Does GCC have any programs like that to try and keep them here?

Dr. Virgina Tudela, Interim President, Guam Community College: We don't have any programs like that, where we actually have a payback provision for the first cohort of our ADN RN program our foundation board was very generous enough to provide the scholarships to our students and these are students that graduated from our LPN program that have affinity with our college. So hopefully now that they have their ADN RNs, they may want to consider teaching adjunct for our college because they're vested.

Senator Telo Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Well, I hope, GCC can look into that, you know, to find ways to keep, retain our graduates to stay on Guam, to work here for at least a few years before they take off, you know, all the energy we put into them.

And maybe that's something you can look at, you know? So I appreciate if you can see that through. Retirees I know the chairman asked something about retirees. Are you looking at how many retiring this year? Do you have any?

Clarissa Padua, Guam Community College: I currently don't have that number, but we will. I, and again, it's based on, I mean, we can look at the dates and see roughly if they're eligible, but it'll all be dependent if the employee actually puts it in. As much as possible, if they're able to give us, heads up that would, that's great. We can plan, otherwise…

Senator Telo Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: They usually don't. Right?

Clarissa Padua, Guam Community College: They usually don't. So basically we're just prepared.

Dr. Virgina Tudela, Interim President, Guam Community College: So we do have one faculty who has indicated that he is going to retire at the end of this, year.

Senator Telo Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Just one. Okay. Because we are starting to see a lot of that. You know, of them retiring. Dr. Tudela, I greatly appreciate the response you gave to me, you know, as we were going through the situation with the gas prices and, you know, even though thank God there's been ceasefire, hopefully that lasts, you know, throughout, not just two weeks, but forever, this whole thing stops. You know, we are all hoping for that, but we know that this is very taxing on our students. In fact, I think, the UOG even gave us a number, figure number of $75 a week for a student who lives down south, traveling to school in one week.

You know, you're looking at students who have jobs where they go to work and then they leave in the afternoon to come to GCC and then they drive right back to work. I mean, that's a lot of gas and I appreciate you responding that GCC is looking into that to try and relieve some of this, hardship on our students when it comes to, you know, driving back and forth and utilizing the system that was used during COVID.

Some states actually are doing that right now. I mean, in fact, some countries are going into a four day work week because of the gas issue and situation. I'm hoping that GCC looks at maybe this summer, you know, and you're having your program that, you can look at having more classes online so students don't have to drive in.

Utilize their gas, give them hardship. I know University of Guam has responded as well to my letter and, the request, and they are definitely looking into that too because they're seeing how students are struggling, you know, trying to get to class, you know, with those gas prices going up. So thank you again for that letter response and hopefully, you guys can come up with something that will very, very helpful. Last question is you know the chair touched on charter schools and, so the way I'm seeing it is that GCC is going to open its own charter school, within GCC?

Dr. Virgina Tudela, Interim President, Guam Community College: Yes, that's correct.

Senator Telo Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay, so like other charter schools, you know, they receive funding from the Government of Guam per student, you know, and it's capped, right?

But the remaining funding. to cover that charter school comes from either private donations or within that charter school. So where is the funding going to come from that's going to offset? Just the students. Of course, the students will receive per student a, a certain amount, $7,000 I think it is, $7,200. So how are you going to augment the rest?

Dr. Virgina Tudela, Interim President, Guam Community College: Our charter school, like you said our charter school is a GCC charter School that will be located in our campus. So the startup costs for that would not be a lot because we have existing resources, we also have programs that support our secondary students. So it's sharing some of those resources, having some collateral responsibilities to provide the services to this group of students that are outside the monies received from the DOE.

Carlo Leon Guerrero, Chairman, GCC Board of Trustees: Yeah. And just to add to that, part of the reason why GCC entered into a charter school proposition was because we're in a unique position where we already have the existing infrastructure.

Most of our students are attending classes later afternoons. So there's, the campus itself is pretty quiet during the mornings. So we have the, like I said, unique position to be able to utilize those resources during their early mornings and early afternoons to really take advantage. To offer new infrastructure, a great campus facilities that warrant students wanting to attend, right? In that morning process, right? So the existing resources lend itself to shared costs, and so we're going to be able to maximize those dollars.

Senator Telo Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Some people have said that, you know, giving like, Guam. Charter school, the high school was given a facility, you know, to be able to, house their students, you know, almost for free and the other charter schools thought it was very unfair because it was government subsidized through its infrastructure and some people I've talked to said, well, it's unfair because, you know, government of Guam has sustained, GCC and provided all the facilities there, or was there to assist, you know, any matching grants, et cetera, that was given.

So this charter school has a, you know, better stance than those who are really starting off brand new as a charter school. So that being said is something that you may have to come to a hurdle on that. I mean, I totally, I'm the biggest advocate for charter schools, you know. No doubt. I think it's doing well.

Just giving you a heads up on that, you know, and the sustainability of that. How are you going to sustain, like, really truing of being a charter school on its own without the government of Guam, other than the per student ratio, how much you're giving per student, how are you truly going to be a separate and apart you know, charter school? So that's something you might want to look into as well, but other than that, you know, our lucky charm is in front of us. Hopefully it stays, stays the course, you know, throughout this year and our budget next year is going to be well balanced and fiscally responsible, just like GCC. Thank you so much.

Carlo Leon Guerrero, Chairman, GCC Board of Trustees: Thank you.

Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance: Si yu'ous ma'ase Senator Taitague and yeah and so even in some of the conversations we're having with UOG the discussion really comes down to they have the, like yourself, the classroom capacity. They're under-enrolled in a lot of different, courses so really if there's, when, if there's a shift and when there's a shift in that situation, their infrastructure's there, but the tuition, of course, and whatever, contributions are given

for that education. If they're going to do, high school, in college with credits, it really it's not much, it's not an impact really, because they're already there. The classrooms are there. The instructors are there and, and, as we've, as they've gone out and done, you know I'm sure much like yourselves recruiting, I guess, in a sense, and trying to get, students to come to our centers of excellence yourself as well as the university.

The idea really is that the revenue transfers but actually in terms of the impact is nominal or minimal or none based on the fact that the classes are already being conducted but they are under enrolled so that increases their enrollment and increases their capacity to sustain themselves through that tuition. Senator Gumataotao you are recognized at this time.

Senator Shawn Gataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah. Thank you so much Mr. Chair and thank you GCC for being with us this morning. Let me just jp right in recognizing that GCC's FY2026 budget request was based on a retirement contribution rate of 34.8% which is less than the adopted rate of 33.85% where did your organization apply savings realized if any, through the rate reduction in the current fiscal year?

If you want to come up and answer Dr. Okada I'm probably okay with it. Its kind of strange where it came from the beginning of last year's budget if anyone can answer, that would be awesome.

Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance: Dr. Okada, I'm going to have to find our guy here.

Senator Shawn Gataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah hang on one second

Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance: And welcome to the panel

Senator Shawn Gataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah welcome to the panel

Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance: We just want to make sure that its consistent with the…

Senator Shawn Gataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: You can whisper in her ear if you want. That would work to doc, she doesn't have to swear in.

Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance: So we'll get a relay on this for the, for our good friend whose sworn in.

Senator Shawn Gataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Yes please, yes please

Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance: It is our rules, but thank you Dr. Okada for providing some additional information, please proceed.

Clarissa Padua, Guam Community College: So basically what we did was, so there was an increase on the slightly for the medical fortunately of the retirement it did decrease based on what we were originally given for the budget call but ultimately what we did was when we took a look at the expenses for utilities, power, water as well as all the apprenticeships, so we look at what we did for the all the cycles for last fiscal year. We basically had to offset the increase in the cycles and the internship programs. So we basically put it back into those programs.

Senator Shawn Gataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. Thank you. So it sounds like we spread it you spread it across different parts of the operation is not a problem.

Clarissa Padua, Guam Community College: Correct.

Senator Shawn Gataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: And which kind of gets me back to the medical insurance so with the estimated $2.8 million from GCC's $28.8 Million budget request to set aside to cover GCC's share of medical premiums in the new fiscal year and this is more probably more for Carlo and the trustees, but has GCC considered the feasibility of procuring employee health insurance as a standalone entity or together with one or more other government of Guam entities such as the judiciary of Guam outside of the traditional group plan which understandably would need some help from us here in this particular branch of government with some authorization, but any thought of that?

Carlo Leon Guerrero, Chairman, GCC Board of Trustees: We haven't looked into that prospect as of yet, but it's a possibility. I mean,
in these days of mitigating resources and expenses, if there's an opportunity where we can share resources and volume of personnel to establish better savings and hopefully even better coverage through those actions, then it's worth looking into.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah. You know, in 2026, I think we spend most of our time trying to figure out how to move forward, but we

seem to be stuck in the time warp of the years previous and so things like medical insurance for our employees, especially the Guam Community College, you know, why not consider that and then can provide more resources when times are tough. Any how I…

Carlo Leon Guerrero, Chairman, GCC Board of Trustees: Absolutely, thank you for that idea.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah, thank you so much for that, Carlo. Now I have a just a I want to talk a little bit about the building 100 or the UOG's or sorry not UOG's the GPD crime lab. Now during a January 20, January 15, 2026 public hearing regarding proposed amendments to the law governing the GCC board of trustees. I discussed briefly with Dr. Okada GCC's ongoing efforts to pay off long-term loans in a much shorter period. As a follow up to that discussion a few months ago, I'm interested in establishing on the record if you could the financial and operational requirements for the crime lab which was built based on a partnership between the Guam Community College GPD and let me just go ahead and throw in the judiciary of Guam. Now, for the benefit of those that are following today's discussions, what are the respective responsibilities if you can of GCC and GPD, maybe throw in the judiciary of Guam relative to loan obligations and facility maintenance? And to what extent is GPD's recent application for $1 million in federal funding through Guam Congressman James Moylan, which I endorsed, tied to the immediate and long-term management plan of the DNA crime lab.

Dr. Virgina Tudela, Interim President, Guam Community College: So currently we are actually in communication with GPD. We have a draft MOA in terms of what you mentioned in responsibilities the maintenance piece
are it's there. So we provided feedback to GPD and we're just waiting for feedback from them. One of the things we talked about was their responsibility in terms of maintaining the facility, the cleaning of the facility and how are they going to cover that. So as yet we have not received the feedback from GPD on the MOA.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah, I would strongly encourage you to ask. I know that yes, Dr. Okada, I think they swore you in now, so you can effectively answer at least on the record.

Dr. Mary Okada, Guam Community College, Former President: Thank you very much.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Thank you for being with us this morning, by the way. Dr. Kata in the house is sworn in.

Dr. Mary Okada, Guam Community College, Former President: Thank you very much, my name is Mario Okada, a retired president from the Guam Community College.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: It's the worst retirement ever.

Dr. Mary Okada, Guam Community College, Former President: It's the best retirement ever. Thank you. Happy to support. So there's two components to GPD crime lab. One is the extension that GCC built and then there's the original crime lab. So over the years the original crime lab has had several issues including their HVAC system. So if their request for funding is for the old facility, there's no collaboration between the two of us on that facility because that was specifically built for them, funded by them, maintained operated by them. The new facility that GCC coexists in there's a partnership.

So, the funding they're requesting is probably for the old facility because the new facility, the only thing outstanding on that is the long-term debt that we acquired through US Department of Agriculture.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: All right. Thank you for that and for the record, Mr. Chair, I did send a note to your office regarding the crime lab or the HVAC upgrades. It's kind of been an ongoing issue and hoping to get that support just wanted to put that on the record today. Thank you, Dr. Okada.

Dr. Mary Okada, Guam Community College, Former President: Thank you.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Recognizing that GCC indicated in its FY2027 budget request that the organization does not have prior year obligations. Legislative records for this 38th Guam Legislature tell us that other government agencies continue to settle their prior year debts with the Guam Community College. I can, you know, there's everything from GRTA's drivers training from 2025, procurement training for parks and rec, the post commission obviously that does work with you closely for the benefit of policy makers and those that are following the discussion on the budget hearing. What is the cumulative value of prior year debts owed to GCC for FY2025 and earlier fiscal years? And if any

information is available for the current fiscal year, how much in GCC rental fees, training, other service charges remain unpaid now that we're halfway through this current fiscal year.

Clarissa Padua, Guam Community College: I don't currently have the statements with me today, but we'll definitely get that number to you.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah, thank you so much for that. and I might come back on a question on that just a bit, but let me just move on. I have only two more questions, Mr. Chair. 17 GCA section 51102 designates GCC as the state agency for the post commission with the responsibility of providing the administrative and professional services to our peace officer standards and training commission. Now, Guam Law provides that if necessary, GCC shall provide a budget request annually to the speaker for consideration. Now, building on my discussion with the post commission during a legislative oversight hearing back in February on February 20th, 2026, particularly regarding the commission's intention of developing a peace officer force structure plan to improve classification and compensation across public safety and law enforcement departments and agencies. To what extent can GCC support the post commission either through maybe a study conducted by relevant in-house HR staff or assisting the post commission with the procurement of a consulting expert if and when funds become available for this specific purpose to finally get through the peace officer force structure.

Clarissa Padua, Guam Community College: So basically through the procurement process we can assist through the putting out the bid and so and then basically that would be reviewing the contracts and their compensation as well for through that contract.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: That is absolute music to my ears right now considering the amount of effort we're trying to help them with it and it would help in this particular budget process not just with you guys but with the law enforcement agency budgets moving forward. So that is good news. I only have one more question and it has to do with your EY audit 2024 and 2023, and it's not a very complicated question, but the audit showed $1.46 million dollars flagged as potentially uncollectible and $448,62 on other receivables. Unless I'm reading it wrong, it this is it is real money that might be walking out the door. But I have a really straightforward question. What is GCC's formal policy for collecting inter agency debts and is there a threshold where unpaid invoices get escalated to DOA

or maybe to the AG's office for that matter? I know we're going to need a fix, but can you help me understand or did I read the EY audit wrong?

Clarissa Padua, Guam Community College: Let me just pull up the report.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Sure.

Clarissa Padua, Guam Community College: Well, what we'll do is I'll pull up the numbers and the details and then I'll include that with the AR statement for the agencies as well.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Sure. I mean, it's probably more for the trustees, but if when you think about collecting that inter agency debt, if it's I mean, I'm not saying that folks are not wanting to pay, but as we talked a bit earlier about the savings that you picked up from the retirement contributions, it would make sense that as things come in, if there is such a policy or if there is something that can help, any dollar that can be repaid back to the community college would be helpful. I know it may or may not affect maybe tuition rates. , but there's a lot of other things that you guys do. Your campus is beautiful. There's a lot of great things there, but that comes at a cost. It ain't free. So, looking at those opportunities to take maybe some of those debts and put it back in makes just a lot of sense.

Carlo Leon Guerrero, Chairman, GCC Board of Trustees: Absolutely. I don't believe there's a board policy in place right now specific to Guam in terms of collections, but we can take a look at it for sure.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah and Carlo, it goes back to the idea that in 2026, we keep looking at our entities. We have to look at it a little bit differently and when we talk about debt, this is that's real money. That's not something that we just can write off unless you're choosing to write off that kind of debt. But yeah, I think wholeheartedly that we should consider any effort to put more money right back into the Mangilao campus and if this is one way this might be a good idea maybe.

Carlo Leon Guerrero, Chairman, GCC Board of Trustees: 100% agree.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: All right. Thank you, Carlo. Mr. Chair, that's all my questions and I thank the Guam Community College for your

help and at least answering my questions today and thank you for all the good work that you guys are doing in Mangilao. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance: Senator Gumataotao and thank you once again for being with us. Vice Speaker Ada and vice chair of the committee.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to GCC for being here this morning for the oversight on your FY27 budget. As always, Madam President, it's always a pleasure having you guys before us as year after year you have proven the strength of GCC and the direction that has been going throughout the years. I think perhaps the only question I do have is on ARP funding that GCC received Are there any that were utilized to employ individuals? And then has those contracts already been expired? And did you carry any of those individuals from ARP onto your current budget?

Clarissa Padua, Guam Community College: No. No. None.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance: None?

Clarissa Padua, Guam Community College: None.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance: That's great to hear.

Clarissa Padua, Guam Community College: Yeah, we had one, but it was transitioned years ago. So, but other than that, no, we did not have

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance: Yeah, that's great to hear because some agencies have what they done is they had personnel that were funded through ARP and then they turn around and place them onto their budget with no anticipation of us knowing that was happening. And now we're trying to find out how many were placed on and where's that funding now going to come from to support those individuals that were on that were carried on ARP and now onto the agency budget. So I'm glad to hear that and that's the only question I had madam president again you know year after year you guys have come forward and now with the interim president there and the current board I believe that GCC has a very strong future and it looks good for the college and I'm glad that everything is just transitioning well and you folks are just moving along. So Mr. Chair, that's the only question I had and I'm pleased to have again GCC before us, once again.

Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance: Thank you, Mr. Vice Speaker Ada and also vice chair of the committee. I don't want to get in trouble with my wife. So I want to reiterate once again one of the really highlighted successes tha the board has presented in terms of your December 11, 2025 milestone pending ceremony for 20 students who completed inaugural associated degree in nursing RN. like I said u my wife as being a nurse now with 40 years of service. I want at the GMH oversight a few days ago, I wanted to also let you guys know not only the work that you're doing, but the success it's having. They reported respectively in a couple of different divisions and presentations that they have an 87% to 93% retention rate right now for our graduating and our nurses who are choosing now to stick with GMH and and in all the various services and nursing services they provide. So as you continue in this program you know it's going to continue to provide also of course that additional capacity we need and I tell you I think if we benchmark nationwide I bet you we're doing very well in that area as we know the need is great. So thank you for that program and and providing for that add additional need in our community and regionally. ,

Dr. Virgina Tudela, Interim President, Guam Community College: Senator Duenas, you mentioned that your wife is a nurse, so if she ever wants to teach for GCC, just let us know.

Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance: I actually think that might be something , you know, I kid you not but this is important information. You know, it really is, and I've been I've been, you know, made aware of this. It really is the tenure nurses and those who have you know between the 30 and 40 years of service in the field. the younger ones are really leaning on them and first of all with the great education they're getting at GCC and you know we have a premier program of course at UOG it's really touted in terms of we also have communications with nurses that go off and serve when they decide to move states side and we hear that those institutions always say if it's a Guam nurse they hire him on the spot because they've worked in the war zone in terms of difficulty and acuity and everything else.

So, we just wanted to highlight the fact that we can't have too many programs in terms of what you're venturing into. And also, once again, a standout here that I believe that's worth reiterating is your renewable energy you know, savings of, you know, reducing costs of up to $193,000 year-over-year with fiscal stewardship and with that program. That also is something we need to continue to duplicate as our energy needs offsetting you know these potential increases and I like you've managed that program really well too. So once again excellent job we're kicking off

the budget season with GCC, go GCC and you can expect swift passage of your budget and not a problem on the floor. So, si yu'ous ma'ase for all you're doing. Please relay that to the family and the team back at GCC that we're in strong support and we appreciate you. And so, with that, this will conclude this morning's budget hearing on Bill 266-38 (COR) relative to the Guam Community College.

The committee will continue to accept written testimony on the bill within seven calendar days from today, which may be addressed to myself, Senator Christopher M. Duenas as chairman of the committee and mailed to 163 West Chalan Santo Papa, Hagatna Guam 96910. You may also send your testimonies to my email at senatorduenas@guam.legislature.gov

This budget hearing is now adjourned and the time is 10:04 and thank you very much. We are currently adjourned and have a great day everybody and God bless.

The Budget Hearing was adjourned at 10:04 AM.

COMMITTEE REPORT

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) -

INTRODUCED BY

Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam

AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

Friday, April 10, 2026, at 2:00 P.M.

Charter Schools of Guam

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 10, 2026

1 message

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Fri, Apr 3, 2026 at 9:00 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Christopher Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com, vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 3, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 10, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Friday, April 10, 2026,** beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

2:00 pm

- Charter Schools of Guam

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

FIRST NOTICE - Charter Schools.pdf
691K

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 3, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 10, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Friday, April 10, 2026,** beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

2:00 pm
- Charter Schools of Guam

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 3, 2026

PRINT

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 3, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 04/03/2026 08:57 AM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 3, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 10, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Friday, April 10, 2026,** beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** **(https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

2:00 pm
Charter Schools of Guam

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 budget hearing, 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.

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Notice of Budget Hearing

Friday, April 10, 2026, 2:00 P.M.

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Friday, April 10, 2026,** beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

2:00 pm

- Charter Schools of Guam

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

GUAM LEGISLATURE
AUDIO VISUAL DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Office Submitting Request: Senator Chris Dueñas

Date of Request: 4/01/26

POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Ashley Shinohara Contact #: 671-989-9554

Email: senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS

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

☐ Oversight Hearing ☐ Committee Meeting ☒ Other: Budget Hearing

Notice Title / Bill(s) / Resolution(s) / Appointment:
Bill 266-38 (COR) - Guam Charter Schools

Date of Event: 4/10/2026 Start Time: 2:00 PM AM/PM

End Time: 5:00 PM AM/PM

Location: Public Hearing Room

MEDIA HANDLING

Recording Format: ☒ MP4 ☐ MP3 ☐ Other: _____

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

CERTIFIED BY AV:

Name: Rae Pomer Signature: _____

Posted on/Air Date: 4/3/24 – 4/10/24

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 8, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 10, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Friday, April 10, 2026,** beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

2:00 pm
- Charter Schools of Guam

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 10, 2026

1 message

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Wed, Apr 8, 2026 at 9:00 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Christopher Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com, stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 8, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 10, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Friday, April 10, 2026,** beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

2:00 pm

- Charter Schools of Guam

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

SECOND NOTICE- Charter Schools.pdf
698K

SECOND NOTICE - FY26 Budget Hearing on April 10, 2026

PRINT

SECOND NOTICE - FY26 Budget Hearing on April 10, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 04/08/2026 03:15 PM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 8, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 10, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Friday, April 10, 2026,** beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** (https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

2:00 pm
Charter Schools of Guam

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 budget hearing, 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.

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

BUDGET HEARING AGENDA

Friday, April 10, 2026 – Guam Congress Building

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam – AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

2:00 pm:

- Relative to Guam Charter Schools

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

Date: April 10, 2026 Time: 2:00 p.m.

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam. – "AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS." - (Guam Charter Schools)

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	ANN SANTIAGO	GACS	[redacted]	asantiago@agnahanaacademy.org	✓		✓	
2	MARIE MANIBUSAN	GACS		mamanibusan@agnhaeademy.org		✓	✓	
3	DR ANTHONY SUNGA	SIFA		ceo@sifaguam.org				
4	Helen Nishihira	iLearn		hnishihira@ilearnguam.org	✓	✓	✓	
5	Vangie Cepeda	GACSC			✓	✓	✓	
6	Rachel Stake	iLEARN		RStake@iLearnguam.org		✓	✓	
7	Thomas Paulino	DOA		thomas.paulino@doaguam.gu				
8	Michael Phillips	PNB	671-477-2223	advice@phillipsbordallo.law	✓		✓	
9	Maga'lahen Hurao Angeline Aveo	HURAO	[redacted]		✓		✓	
10	Angelina Iriarte	Hurao		mimic.magalahenhurao.org			✓	
11	Donna Cruz	Hurao		dtischer@magalahenhurao.org			✓	
12	Franklin Custino	BTEFC	[redacted]				✓	
	William Carle	CTECH		principal@careitech.org	✓		✓	

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

Date: April 10, 2026 Time: 2:00 p.m.

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam. – "AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS." - (Guam Charter Schools)

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Jamie Indalecio	BTEFC	[redacted]	[redacted]	✓		✓	
2	Patrick Lagman	BTEFC					✓	
3	Odette Cruz	BTEFC					✓	
4	Sonya Concepcion	CTHACS		sonya@careertechguam.org			✓	
5	Brandon Respicio	CTHACS		brandonrespicio@careertechguam.org			✓	
6	Marcia Barnes	GACS		[redacted]			✓	
7	Cinnamon Flores	GACS		cflores@guahanacademy.org	✓			
8	Resa Salido	GACS			✓			
9	[illegible]	BTACS			✓			
10	Tammy Batac	DOA		tammy.batac@doa.guam.gov				
11	Raymond Guevara	DOA		raymond.guevara@doa.guam.gov				
12	Dylan Sablan	BTACS		dylan.sablan@btacsguam.com	✓	–	✓	

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

Date: April 10, 2026 **Time: 2:00 p.m.**

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam. – "AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS." - (Guam Charter Schools)

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Kelly Hernandez	BTACS						
2	RICHARD GUERRERO	BTACS						
3		CBCC						
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								

TESTIMONY FOR THE GUAM LEGISLATURE BUDGET HEARING
Guahan Academy Charter School (GACS) – April 10, 2026 | 2:00 pm

GACS Chief Executive Officer
Ann Santiago, Upper Tumon Resident

Buenas yan Håfa Adai Honorable Senators,

My name is Ann Margarett Santiago, and I humbly appear before you today on behalf of Guahan Academy Charter School, one and first of the seven public charter schools serving the students and families of Guam.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our story—not just through numbers, but through the lives of the students we serve.

At GACS, our mission is simple yet profound: to empower all students through proven instructional practices and comprehensive social supports so they may succeed in college, career, and life. We serve a culturally diverse student population (51% Chamorro, 21% Chuukese, 8% Filipino), with approximately 70% of our students identified as low-income, and a growing number requiring specialized academic and social-emotional support.

Yet, with the resources currently provided ($7800 per pupil), we do not lower expectations—we rise to meet them.

Please allow me to share what that looks like in real terms.

- We had a student entering at the 5th grade level by age, without any formal educational background. Through Direct Instruction (a structured teaching approach), along with targeted intervention and consistent monitoring, that same student is now performing at a middle school level within two years.

  This is not an isolated case—it is the result of intentional, data-driven instruction and an unwavering belief in every child's potential. At GACS, we do not turn students away. We meet and embrace them where they are and commit to their growth.

- We also have an identified special-needs student who struggled for years to socialize and became easily agitated in classroom settings. Through structured support, patience, and individualized care, last February, that student became one of the Top 10 MathCounts competitors, standing shoulder to shoulder with students from private schools across Guam. At the state-wide competition, this student contributed to GACS placing 6th overall as a team.

- Through the Workforce Enabler: College and Career Readiness Education, our (WE:CCaRE) program, we are also seeing measurable outcomes while in school:

  - 37% of seniors alongside 47% of juniors are earning the National Career Readiness Certificate, validating their workplace readiness

- 25% of the Seniors have qualified as AmeriCorps members, engaging in civic service and earning stipends
- Students are excelling in real-world environments with one being recognized "Employee of the Month" and one who landed a job here at the Legislature.

These are not just programs. They are pathways that are changing the trajectory of our students' lives.

- And then there are our student-athletes.

  They practice relentlessly in the parking lot, diving on concrete to catch the ball because we do not have a gymnasium. They are transported at approximately $500 per game and we incur additional expenses to rent facilities for "home" games. These costs add up.

  Yet despite these challenges, our students return not with excuses, but with trophies, medals, and pride - a recognition they have rightfully earned even without the resources they deserve.

These stories are not exceptions. They are evidence.

They also highlight a critical reality—**our students are succeeding despite facility limitations**.

Today, we respectfully bring to your attention the urgent need for a **facility that includes a compliant cafeteria and a gymnasium**. We are deeply and will be forever grateful for the current provision at the 50+ year old facility in Tiyan. However, due to limited space, we **stagger lunch times**, which extends instructional disruption and requires additional staffing for supervision. A compliant cafeteria would not only maintain compliance to federal Child Nutrition Program requirements, but also allow us to serve students more efficiently, safely, and with dignity.

Equally important is the need for a **gym that will also serve as covered multi-purpose space**. At present, school-wide activities —including major events such as promotional ceremonies —are held in the **parking lot**. For each event, we incur additional costs to bring in vendors to build a covered stage. Our staff dedicate extensive time and effort to set up and break down tents, carry chairs, and prepare the space.

More importantly, our students, parents, and guests endure the heat sitting through these milestones under temporary coverings - sweating and/or getting wet due to rainfall during ceremonies that should be safe, comfortable, and celebratory. We are not complaining. As a matter of fact, we are thankful as these sacrifices produce endurance, and build character within the Starfish family.

The gym request would not only support athletics. It would serve as a **central space for school assemblies and community engagement**, improving both operational efficiency and the overall student and family experience.

These needs are directly tied to our request today.

They reflect what all seven charter schools on Guam are doing every day—maximizing limited resources to deliver meaningful, measurable outcomes for students. They reflect a system that is

accountable, efficient, and deeply committed to student success, as evidenced by our clean and timely audits, accreditation, and consistent program performance.

Today, we respectfully request your support to approve the **$500 increase per pupil**, from $7,800 to $8,300, as outlined in our FY2027 budget request.

This request reflects real and pressing needs such as the:

- Rising costs due to inflation, averaging 2.9% annually since FY24, resulting in an estimated cumulative increase of nearly 9% by FY2027.
- Another is the urgent need for a stable, compliant facility to sustain all our growing programs. Current lease costs are approximately $220k per month, a conservative budget considering ongoing market analysis. This lease costs exclude maintenance fees, which is an additional 3%.
- Lastly, the request is for continued investment in the WE:CCaRE program, which directly impacts workforce outcomes and graduation rates year over year (58% in SY23, 74% in SY24, and 79% in SY25).

But more importantly, this request represents an investment in **what is already working**.

We are not asking you to fund potential. **We are asking you to sustain and expand proven results.**

The additional $500 per pupil is not just for Guahan Academy Charter School—it is a voice for all seven charter schools. It is a unified statement that the work being done, often under constrained conditions, is worthy of continued support and strategic investment.

Honorable Senators, when asked why this increase is necessary, on behalf of my dedicated colleagues and the passionate and feisty Charter School Council Chairwoman, our answer is simple:

Because we have shown what **can be done** with what **we have been given**.

And we remain guided by the principle found in Scripture: **Luke 16:10**

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much."

We have been faithful with little.

We now humbly ask for your trust as stewards of more—so that we may continue transforming lives, strengthening families, and building a better future for Guam.

Si Yu'os ma'åse' for your time, your consideration, and your continued support of our students.

TESTIMONY FOR THE GUAM LEGISLATURE BUDGET HEARING
Guahan Academy Charter School (GACS) – April 10, 2026 | 2:00 pm

GACS Parent and Former Employee
Luerse (Resa) Saddo, Yigo Resident

Hafa Adai, my name is Resa Saddo. Thank you for the opportunity to speak - not only for my family, but for the many families who share the same hope for our children.

As both a former employee and parent, my story with GACS began the very first day the school opened its doors in 2013. My oldest daughter walked in as one of the very first Kindergarteners. She was tiny, nervous, and holding onto my hand so tightly. Today, she is a senior—confident, driven, and preparing for her future. And she is still here, still choosing GACS, because this school has been more than a place of learning. It has been a second home.

My younger daughter, now a junior, has grown up in this same environment—one built on family, faith, and community. And now my son, a first grader, is following in their footsteps. Three children, three different stages of life, all shaped by the same school that has poured so much into them.

GACS has given my children opportunities that have changed the direction of their futures. Our high school students have access to dual enrollment, allowing them to earn college credits early—something that lifts a tremendous financial burden off families. They receive free driver's education, which is not only a cost savings but a safety investment for our community. They are welcomed into the National English Honor Society without fees, giving them recognition and leadership opportunities that many schools charge for. These are just a few of many great opportunities the school has provided for the students.

These programs matter. They open doors. They level the playing field. They give our kids a chance to dream bigger. But despite all of this—despite the dedication of the teachers, the commitment of the staff, and the incredible outcomes we see in our students—GACS is still missing the most basic facilities that every school should have. A gym. A cafeteria. A space where students can gather, grow, and build memories. These are not luxuries. They are necessities.

Our children deserve a place to eat without makeshift arrangements. They deserve a gym where they can develop healthy habits, build teamwork, and take pride in their school. They deserve a facility that reflects the quality of education they are already receiving. As a parent, it is emotional to stand here and say this. Because I have watched this school give everything it can to our children, even without the resources it truly needs. I have watched teachers stretch themselves thin, staff members work miracles, and students adapt to limitations they should not have to face. My daughters have spent more than a decade in this school. They stayed because they felt safe. They stayed because they felt loved. They stayed because GACS has always been a family. And now, as my son begins his journey, I want him—and every child who walks through those doors—to have the facilities they deserve.

I am asking you—our leaders, our decision-makers—to see what we see. To recognize the potential in these students. To understand the impact this school has already made, even with limited resources. And to imagine what it could do with the proper support. A gym and a cafeteria are not just buildings. They are investments in our children's future. They are symbols of belief—belief in their potential, belief in their education, and belief in the community that stands behind them.

Thank you for listening, and thank you for considering what this means for our families, our students, and the future of GACS.

April 10, 2026

Buenas. Thank you for this opportunity to express my thoughts as a school counselor of Guahan Academy Charter School (GACS) in Tiyan.

I was hired a year ago, having retired from the Guam public school system after 30+ years as teacher, assistant principal, and principal. Subsequent to my retirement, I continued teaching: English and writing at NMC (Northern Marianas College, Tinian campus, 3 years) and English at Rota High School- 7 years, Academy of Our Lady of Guam- 6 years. As you can surmise, I have been in the company of teachers, administrators, other school personnel, many of whom multi-talented, resourceful, and diligent, all in the service of the students. I bring this background to GACS. Call it a template, if you will.

GACS is a K-12 school—my first experience meeting and getting to know kindergarten and elementary students. How enriching, enlightening can that be. They make my day (my morning rounds I call it). I get to see the rich tapestry of student behaviors, experiences and accomplishments—in and outside of the classroom. I consider myself lucky. And I am getting a paycheck, to boot!

I have always believed that the most important person in the classroom is the teacher. Must be, has to be: students deserve nothing but the best. Schools must empower and support teachers so that the diversity of learning needs of ALL their students can be met.

At GACS, I see teachers going above and beyond: --engaging with their students so that they can test up to the standards set for them and keeping abreast of technology: staying back after school, lunchtime, providing extra/make-up work, communicating with parents, counselors. Other more structured accommodations (engaged time, modified curricula, peer tutoring, practice, consulting with professionals, etc. that teachers provide, prove to me their dedication to their students and their profession. Whenever I walk into a classroom (unannounced), I never fail to see the drive, patience, empathy, compassion, diligence, and commitment that GACS teachers so naturally show.

Our teachers need your support. Any legislative support for them is an investment in continued student achievement and quality education.

Marie Elizabeth Manibusan, Counselor
Toto

April 9, 2026

Hāfa Adai

I am writing to share my experience at Guahan Academy Charter School and to highlight students' accomplishments. I began my teaching career in August 2004 and joined GACS in August 2014, transitioning from kindergarten at a private school to third grade. From day one, students and staff welcomed me with open arms and helped create a compassionate, dedicated, and safe place for learning.

During my 12 years as a teacher at GACS, I have been proud to watch my third graders make measurable academic and personal gains. Highlights of student accomplishments include:

- Improved reading fluency and comprehension across the class by the end of each year.
- Increased confidence speaking and collaborating during group projects and presentations.
- Clear growth in problem-solving skills during math lessons and hands-on activities.
- Engaged participation in science explorations that built curiosity and foundational inquiry skills.
- Positive social-emotional development, shown through respectful classroom behavior and peer support.

To sustain and expand these gains in our increasingly digital and inquiry-driven world, I respectfully request consideration for facility and resource upgrades: a computer lab, a dedicated science lab, a child-friendly playground, a gymnasium for sports, and a cafeteria. These additions would directly support student learning, hands-on science investigations, physical development, and a healthy, focused school day—amplifying the accomplishments already visible in our classrooms.

It has been a great joy to see my students grow academically and socially to accomplish their dreams, graduate and move on to college. I hope that one day I am able to see my students thrive in a facility that can provide growth, opportunity and a collaborative environment.

Thank you for your time and considering what a positive impact this could be for our young students of the future.

Sincerely,

Julie L. Willter

Mrs. Julie L. Willter

TESTIMONY FOR THE GUAM LEGISLATURE BUDGET HEARING
Guahan Academy Charter School (GACS) – April 10, 2026 | 2:00 pm

GACS Faculty
Mr. Hambley, Merizo Resident

Håfa Adai, my name is Charles Aguigui Hambley. I have been an instructor at Guahan Academy Charter School since its inception in August 2013, and I have been dedicated to the field of education since 1985. I currently serve as the high school physical education teacher for grades 9 through 12, and I also hold the role of Athletic Director, supporting our student-athletes across all grade levels, kindergarten through 12th grade.

Sports and physical activity play a critical role in our students' success - not only academically, but emotionally as well. Participation in interscholastic athletics requires students to maintain strong grades while demonstrating discipline, citizenship, and sportsmanship.

Over the years, I have witnessed many at-risk students transform their lives - becoming confident, focused, and productive members of our community - because of their involvement in sports.

We know the impact and see the results, and we know we can do more. However, we need your support. Since 2013, our physical education facilities have been limited to two outdoor volleyball and basketball courts located in our parking lot. Despite these constraints, we have continued to serve our students to the best of our ability - but our students deserve more.

We have been an active participant in the interscholastic athletics, as a member in good standing with the IIAAG at both the middle and high school levels. We fielded our first team prior to the 2020 pandemic, and since then, our program has continued to grow.

However, our progress is significantly limited by the conditions we face. Because we rely entirely on outdoor spaces, our ability to practice and compete depends on the weather. When conditions are unfavorable, our students have no dedicated indoor space - at times, they are forced to practice in school hallways. These limitations impact not only our athletic programs, and our physical education classes as well. With proper facilities, we could do so much more.

I respectfully and humbly ask for your support in approving the budget request that may fund a gymnasium - a space where our physical education classes and interscholastic teams can train, compete, and thrive. A space where we can host school events, promotions, and graduation ceremonies without the burden of fundraising to rent external venues, and where our students can proudly showcase and be recognized for their athletic achievements. A space where students can safely gather, perform, and celebrate their successes.

We are not asking more than what our students deserve. We are simply asking for the opportunity to provide them with the resources they need to succeed - because when we invest in our students, we are investing in a stronger, better Guam for all of us.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



TESTIMONY FOR THE GUAM LEGISLATURE BUDGET HEARING
Guahan Academy Charter School (GACS) – April 10, 2026 | 2:00 pm

GACS Parent-Teacher Organization Officers

Marcia Barnes, President, Barrigada Resident, 6 children, 3 of 6 graduated
Colette Cruz, Vice President, Maina Resident, 5 children, 1 of 5 graduated
Kayla Barnes, Treasurer, GACS Alumni, Barrigada Resident, 1 child
Kathryn Anderson, Secretary, Ordot Resident, 2 children

As the officers of the Parent Teacher Organization of GACS, we have an understanding of both the merits and the shortcomings of the school facility at GACS. We understand that the proposed additional funding would be very helpful in acquiring a functional facility for GACS complete with a gym, library, and a cafeteria. Currently GACS has a small multifunction room that is used as a space for students to eat their free breakfast and lunch meals. This room is also used as a flexible space to host our monthly Parent Teacher Organization meetings. The cafeteria is undersized for the student body so lunch is served in 3 different schedules, making it very early for the first batch of students. The lack of space can interfere with the educational experience. Many of the students ride the bus, which can take until 5pm in some cases to get students home. The parents must prepare extra snacks so the students won't wait in empty stomachs to reach home. Having a permanent home with adequate cafeteria space would help ease the time crunch and allow students to eat at a more reasonable time. Currently the middle and high school students wait for their turn to eat inside the cafeteria. Some just eat their lunch outside in hallways under the heat without tables.

At certain events, such as the Science Fair, Career Day, or Picture day, lunches are delivered to the elementary classrooms, which is additional time and labor for limited staff. In addition to being small for meal service, the cafeteria space is restricted and uncomfortable for the purpose of community engagement such as annual orientation and meetings because many parents stand for the duration, which discourages attendance and active participation.

When there are school performances the staff must spend hours of labor to put up canopies and chairs in the teacher parking lot to accommodate all the attendees. The school also lacks a gym. There is a new playground set but we believe they deserve better. While there are a few spaces where kids can play in small groups, the grounds are either made of concrete or can get muddy quickly. These are not ideal spaces for active play and may lead to injuries. This makes it more challenging for students to get sufficient physical activity during the day. It is important for children to move their bodies so they can focus. When kids have too much pent up energy it is difficult for them to sit still and learn. A school gym would allow students to take gym class and to exercise indoors in rainy and hot weather.

A school gym would also help the school participate fully in sports programs. Currently sports teams must practice outside, which can be disrupted by weather. The school is unable to host sports matches. Having a gym would allow GACS to host sporting practices and games like other schools on the island. In addition, a gym can be used to host events. Often the student body hosts fundraisers, dances, a science fair, career expo, or college fair but they are limited by administration due to safety precautions . A gym would provide adequate space for such activities.

Third, the school does not have a library or a resource room. A library would greatly improve education at GACS as it would give students a quiet place to study, read, and research during school hours. Borrowing books gives them opportunities to practice reading in their free time and to learn responsibility in a low-stakes way. Educational resources for research and learning are provided by the school that may be used inside the classroom but a space outside classrooms is unavailable. Libraries are often a refuge where students can seek peace in a busy school environment, and can host thoughtful and appropriate activities, such as chess club, computer instruction, quiet reading, tutoring, or space for students to complete homework. The current learning center at GACS is very undersized, does not have a sufficient supply of books for students, and lacks space to bring out all the electronic devices the school has. It is largely used for textbook storage and does not provide a sufficient refuge to students who wish to learn.

While the current facility is clean and well kept, the buildings are old and bathrooms may be improved. The student body and our families would also benefit from having a courtyard or field where students can spread out to play and socialize during non-instructional times.

Currently, because there is insufficient space for students to be picked up and dropped off, parent vehicles wait longer in line for school buses to leave. It is difficult to maneuver in very limited space and may cause hazards and delay.

GACS is a good school. The administration runs it well with limited resources. We believe that they would be excellent stewards of additional funding, and would use it wisely to improve the educational experience for all students by pursuing their goal of acquiring suited facilities, especially a gym, cafeteria, library, sufficient open space, and safer transportation facilities.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

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

In accordance with Section 6.04(c)(1) of the Standing Rules of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* this committee digest provides a *summary* of the public hearing detailed below. To assist the general public in navigating this report please note that all blue-highlighted text contains hyperlinks. Clicking on these links will direct you to the corresponding referenced sections/documents. For any questions or assistance regarding this digest please contact our office at (671) 989-9554 or email us at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov.

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) – COMMITTEE ON RULES BY REQUEST OF I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30 2027 MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

I. OVERVIEW

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) was introduced on **February 2 2026** by **Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* the Governor of Guam in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam** and was subsequently referred by the Committee on Rules to the **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** on **February 3 2026.**

The **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** convened a Public Hearing on Bill No. 266-38 (COR) on **Thursday May 14 2026** at **9:00 AM** in the Guam Congress Building's Public Hearing Room.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Public Hearing Notices were posted to the Government Public Notices Portal and disseminated via electronic mail to all senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on **Friday April 3 2026** (5-Day Notice) and again on **Wednesday April 8 2026** (48-Hour Notice).

SENATORS PRESENT
Honorable Senator Christopher M. Dueñas, Chairman
Honorable Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada
Honorable Senator Telo T. Taitague
Honorable Senator Vincent Anthony V. Borja
Honorable Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

ORAL TESTIMONY:
Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council
Helen Nishihara, COO, iLearn Academy Charter School
Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School
William M. Castro, Principal, Career Tech High Academy Charter School
Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, Science is Fun and Awesome (SIFA)
AnnMarie Arceo, Founder, *Maga'låhen Hurão*
Michael Philips, Chairperson of Board of Trustees, Mount Carmel Charter School
Dylan Sablan, Principal, Business and Technology Academy Charter School (BTACS)

WRITTEN TESTIMONY:
Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council
Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School
William M. Castro, Principal, Career Tech High Academy Charter School
Dylan Sablan, Principal, Business and Technology Academy Charter School (BTACS)

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The public hearing for **Bill Number 266-38 (COR)** was called to order at **2:00 PM.**

[Questions and Discussion] [*Begins at 01:27:30 and ends at 03:13:41*]

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: B*uenas Tåtdes yan håfa adai. Para hamyu todus* Welcome to your Guam 38th Guam Legislature your Guam Congress building. We're happy to have you here this afternoon to hear the budget for the charter schools. And so the Committee on Finance and Government Operations is now called to order and the time is 2:00 on the button April 10 2026.
First notice of this public hearing was disseminated to all senators and media outlets on April 3rd 2026 with its second notice disseminated on April 8th 2026. The 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 now hear BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) – COMMITTEE ON RULES BY REQUEST OF I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30 2027 MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS relative to charter schools of Guam.
Joining me for this public hearing is the vice chair of the committee and our vice Speaker Vice Speaker Ada. Thank you, Vice Speaker Ada for joining. As well as Senator Shawn Gumataotao, Senator Vince Borja and Senator Telo Taitague.
Those testifying on the bill and I see that you are already seated to come forward and so that's been taken care of. And what we'll do right now is we'll have you sworn in as is customary at the Congress building for any of our matters before us dealing with finance. So our sergeant at arms will now swear the panel in. Please rise.

Edward Pocaigue, Sergeant-at-arms: Please stand and raise your right hand.
Under penalty of perjury do you affirm that any and all information you provide today whether it be verbally electronically and in writing be the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth? Mr. Chair under oath you may proceed.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* Sergeant at Arms. 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 and nature of the bill or in this case the funding for Guam charter schools on the agenda.
Personal inferences to the character or motive of any senator or individual testifying are 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's standing rules.
Any violation of its general conduct will result in immediate removal from this public hearing room. We don't expect that today. We got a lot of nice friendly people here with us. At this time I ask panel members who have already been sworn in and of course you're already seated. So what I'd like to do I think is basically just start with the lead of the charter schools in terms of the overall Ms.
Vangie if you can, do you have a presentation for us? Okay. I think what might be appropriate before we do that too is just to make sure we introduce everyone on the panel. So Vangie if you could be kindly do that and then what we'll do is we'll take

your presentation and if there are any other schools to present we'll do that and then we'll have questions from the panel.
So Vangie you have the floor.

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: Okay. Thank you. Thank you Mr. Chair. My name is Evangeline Cepeda. I'm the council chair. Then we have from this far end we have Dylan Sablan from BTech. Then we have Dr. Jay from SIFA. We have Anne Marie from- Ms. Anne Marie from Chief Hurao. And then we have Mr. Michael Phillips from Mount Carmel Charter.
And then we have Helen Ms. Helen from iLearn. And then we have Ms. Anne from GAC Guåhan Academy Charter School. And then not last but not least Senator Will from Career Tech Yes. What a nice panel. Thank you for being here. go ahead and continue with your presentation on your budget request.
Okay Thank you. Thank you senators. Appreciate for your all of our presence being here today. We come as one united as one. As the charters we've always said we work better when we come united with the same mission. And so with that being said I'd like to acknowledge Vice Speaker Tony Ada our Chair in Education Mr. Vince Borja and Ms. Telo Taitague. Thank you for being present.

[PLEASE SEE TESTIMONY FROM Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council]

My name is Evangeline Cepeda. I'm the chair of the Guam Academy Charter School Council. I'm here with this amazing and hardworking team here representing each and every charter school. We have seven on the island. It has grown and there is a demand of growth.
I come here today to defend and provide just cause of our mission in raising the per pupil cap from 7,800 which we've been doing for four straight fiscal years to 8,300. This is a strategic investment which are our children. This is aligned with the funding with actual operational needs documented performance gains statutory compliance requirements and the realities of teacher retention Our seven charter schools have demonstrated measurable improvement.
2025, 2025-2026 fiscal year has been the best year for all seven of our charter schools. As far as our audit findings as far as everything un- under the board required under this under the law of Guam Charter Schools this is the best year ever. It's full compliance. This is something to be proud of and to be applauded to each and every one of these seven charter schools.
Everyone is in full compliance in every way. And of our audit findings improvement has been made and I say that just the fact that improvements has been made is that we're working to the mission of perfection which in a perfect world there would be

but we're not in a perfect world. With that said and I will continue that we want to make sure that we continue this great cause of charter schools.

The proposed $500 increase per student ensures schools will sustain these results positive results and we see it from our student achievement and our students themself. Be rising costs within the last two years alone we can still continue to deliver in each of these seven charter schools high quality educational options for families and children of Guam.

The council did not ask an increase in the last four fiscal years. We maintained at 7,800 per student pupil for straight fiscal years four fiscal years and worked within the parameters given to us with less money With that said we have learned these seven charter schools have learned to be innovative in every possible way.

Working as a team and keeping communication open between the council and each of the charter schools and their leaders have worked. Transparency is there. We have nothing to hide and all to show. It's all about accountability and fiscal responsibilities with the monies allotted to us. With that said our performancebased rationale charter schools have shown consistent progress in student outcomes.

The funding increase is tied directly to maintaining and expanding in these gains. Our academic growth with our seven charter schools each of their mission is different but their mission is being done daily and it shows. Sustaining these gains requires competitive instructional materials and data-driven support which we have for any of the senators that may want or need to show you this.

We have program expansions in each of the different charter schools with our STEM our literacy acceleration CTE pathways individual learning supports that requires updates with through technology and business our curriculum and it goes on and on with regards to specialized instructors like in Chief Hurao.

It's a very unique. You can't just get this and anyone can come to Chief Hurao and teach this. This requires a specialized field. Another example of that is our martial artists. You can't just take anybody and say "Okay you're gonna be instructor and martial artist." They require a specific skill. And with that these are the things that are very unique in each of these charter schools.

What you say with regards to student achievement the cap increases is to ensure all students in each charter school receives the highest literacy and academically that they deserve. We have MEERA program which stands for the Manufacturing and Engineering Education Regimen of All which is like martial artists martial arts.

This martial arts you ask this builds discipline confidence social mental and competitive skills which applies to that child or that student's day-to-day life. That's the importance. Music learning music and how to play an instrument brings joy to a student. Student wants to learn and if that's their motivation to come to school then that's a great motivation.

These are just prime examples of the very little things that we do. I can sit here for three or four days and share with you every emphasis on the great things that each of these seven charter schools are doing on a day-to-day. In a day-to-day operation. These are just a few but just know this our students in these seven charter schools are happy.

There's nothing greater than If you want student achievement ask our students. They love to come to school They're happy when they're at school and they learn and they leave happy. That's amazing in itself. Okay? And then the next is our audit findings and financial accountability. Our charter schools have consistently demonstrated every year that if we had a problem with the audit findings we looked at ways to improve that audit finding and that's the thing.

All of our audit findings under the law is provided prior to the due deadline which is remarkable in the government of Guam but we do it. We I demand that it's done so it's done. And you know they probably get tired of hearing me. "Feli call them. I need this. I wanna see it." So we we have results okay?

All the requirements mandated on compliance of with Guam public law with regards to the charter schools we are in full compliance and more. Okay? We have learned that through this internal mechanism we stretch each and every dollar. We do. Every one of them are very unique in that way. The cap increase is not about inefficiency. It's about keeping up with the rising costs while maintaining high standards of accountability in each and every one of these charter schools. Let me re- remind you if you don't already know senators our agency is one of the is the only agency in the entire government of Guam whether it be line agency or whether it be autonomy agency that when we are allotted I'll give you an example $25 million we don't

It's with every one of the other government of Guam entities the $25 million is given to them and they do as they please. It's not done that way with the charter schools. What they do is if we're allotted $25 million and the legislature gives us and approves our budget for example today it goes to DOA.

They're not We don't get it directly. It what is done is if BTech Business and Technology has to pay their contractors their teachers whatever it may be it's based on s- per student pupil which is 7,000 as of today 8- 7,800. They will give us a receipt. They send it in. I am CC'd on everything. It goes through through DOA.

DOA reviews that particular receipt or payment invoice. When that is reviewed and approved then payment is made out. They don't do that anywhere in the government of Guam. They only do that with us. So this is where it's very unique so we don't overspend. You're not gonna see abuse with our with the money that belongs to the people of Guam.

There's a lot of accountability because we have a paper trail There is a sufficient paper trail with regards to our funding okay? So I just wanted to make that very clear

that it's not given to us and the 25 million we okay I'm gonna give it and it's they're just gonna do with what they do. No it's not it's not that way with the charter schools. And that's where it gets pretty stressful for the seven charter schools. But we've learned to work with within that. I just wanted to make that very clear that we're workable and we're doable with what we're given but we're making it firm that we'd like to get the 8,300 per student pupil today and with this with this body.

With that said I'd like to also mention that compliance I mentioned it over and over again. Compliance re- requirements as for example public health. We're up to We're all current. Our public health doesn't require a new public health certificate until August of 2026. So we're all for compliance. As far as our audit we're our audits are turned in all in time as required by law and I think three or four are excellent audits clear and the others are improve have improved from last year.

So please when I say this we're not going to You know for those that did better than last year that's an improvement that needs to be recognized in itself. Okay? And then teacher retention. We're competing with everybody. We're competing with DOE and not in a bad way because I never say that we compete.

We work hand-in-hand with GDOE. But the teachers they get paid far more. Not everybody at the charter schools are not certified. There are a lot of certified teachers. They just choose to work for the charter. But in order for us to keep retention we have to have a little better pay because paying a teacher $10 is peanuts people.

It's a joke. Okay? That's the first thing. The second thing is I am working right now with insurance because each of them pay high insurance costs. So I'm working on where we can go in as a bundle where all the charter schools maybe what 400 I'm giving this an e- example 4- 250 employees. It'll be our insurance will go down.

Their insurance will go down because it's in a larger group as opposed to 15 per charter. So this is something that we are looking for improvement so we can work with the charters so they can continue to do what they need to do. With that said with the rising operational costs we're this is a big factor of why it needs to we need to increase.

Everything has increased. They are they are requesting me to fight for them. And I said "Today you come today you need to justify your fight " because I can only say so much. But if we come in and we fight today saying eight three is a reasonable amount senators I ask you to consider this. And with my closing I will say that $500 increase per student people is a fairly fair and modest adjustment.

I think so. For our children that are doing extremely well I know so. This adjustment request compared to the inflation pressures the essential operational situation with our charter schools I humbly come to you today Mr. Chair on Budget Mr. Duenas Senator Duenas that you please kindly consider our request and support for our increase in cap from 7,800 to 8,300 per student people.

We stand together in this continued mission of student first. Thank you.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* Miss Evangeline are there just gonna be questions for the panel or how do you wanna handle this? Are there comments?

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: I say Senator I'll leave it to you. I'd say if you have any questions then whatever we are here to answer whatever questions you may have.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Okay. So do the charter schools do you want to read your testimony into the record?
It's I'm just trying to figure out how you wanna handle it. To me it can go either way but okay so we'll start to my left then. Go ahead.

Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School: *Buenas yan Håfa Adai* honorable senators. My name is Anne Margaret Santiago and I humbly appear before you today on behalf of the Guahan Academy Charter School one and first of the seven public charter schools serving the students and families of Guam.
[PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FOR Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School TESTIMONY]
Si Yu'os ma'åse pot i tiempo miyu i konsiderasion miyu yan i supporte miyu nu estudyante-Mami. Thank you. I have to study that.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase.*

Helen Nishihara, COO, iLearn Academy Charter School:

[PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FOR Helen Nishihara, COO, iLearn Academy Charter School TESTIMONY]

Michael Philips, Chairperson of Board of Trustees, Mount Carmel Charter School: *Buenas.* Good afternoon Mr. Chair and senators and the committee We started a couple years ago and recently completed our second clean audit at Mount Carmel School. I'm Mike Phillips. I'm the chair of the board of trustees. I was the chair and remain the chair of the foundation that that supports the school.
But as a result of that because we have a learning curve while we had two clean audits it also means we're probably moving the slowest at procurement because you just don't have a whole procurement department when we weren't spending any government funds. And so while we're very proud of the clean audits the

consequence of course are what goes along with that at the beginning at least until you get caught up is you're gonna have lapsed funds.

And and that's kind of where we are. None of our expenses have gone down and none of the things that we need have reduced. It's just that our ability to get it now has to go through a lot of government regulations and things like that that are designed to protect the tax dollar and to benefit the local businesses and so we're complying with that.

Uh there's been some mention made I just wanna make sure the record's very very clear. My interpretation of the law and anybody that's sat down with me to discuss it with me has agreed that the law since we became a charter school has remained that we're entitled to the money for the amount of students that the charter school council decides you're entitled to.

So like for example at Mount Carmel I think this year it's 550. Before that it was like 500. But that's not what DOA pays. When we started with DOA different from maybe not all the schools but the ones I've spoken to in fact I think the chair was shocked when she found out they said "You know Mr. Phillips we just don't think it's fair that you get all the money and we calculate daily how much we've given DOE. And so if they only get like fifty percent today you're only gonna get fifty percent." And I asked "Is that anywhere in the law?" They said "No but it's what we think is fair." And so when I talked to the chair and others they were treated very differently just to get a bus we beg and beg and beg and not gonna mention the name but one of our our brother schools who's very very very supportive of us would say "Mike we get an express we get an express bus from Yigo." And so we're all dealing with different challenges that in the DOE system because it's unified we they don't have that.

And so when I was listening to one of the schools talk about not having a gym that's us. Our our gym is right across the street. We're barely allowed to use it. So we're not allowed to have home games there so we rent from Father Duenas. Ocean View's been exceptional. Sometimes our whole season is spent at Ocean View and we're not allowed to use the other Gym.

And so recently we we gained some use of it but our students have to leave school 30 minutes early in order to be able to use the gym. Just things like that go on and and and go on. And so it makes it very very challenging. But whenever we have something going like for example we've never ever missed summer school.

That's not budgeted for. When we rent the buses those things are not budgeted for. When we rent the gyms those are not budgeted for. I mean those are We just pay them out of out of our appropriation. But then we don't even get the entire appropriation. Although I think the chair agrees and and like I said others that have read the law believe that whatever was carried over should have been carried over at the full budget.

But we'll see depending which administration it is and who's deciding how they want to interpret the law. The uniqueness and and none of our schools are completely unique but but they are fairly unique. We're the first school to be chosen although we're not the only school that's gonna be doing this we were the first chosen by the Department of Defense now now the Department of War to implement their industrial arts program.

It's a middle school program. It's three years. They're going to build out the room. it's a hundred and fifty thousand dollar approximately a hundred and fifty thousand dollar investment by DoD. But of course it's like me coming to your house and saying "Hey I've got all the musical instruments you know.

If you just have the room I'll cover the rest." Well it it does create expense but the benefit to the students is amazing because now I'm I'm not gonna exaggerate and say that they're ready to work for SRF but they're gonna have three years of forty-one hours each year that's absorbed into either one class or two classes that that MEERA which is the educational institution that's that's running this is monitoring and going to guarantee that that those students participating.

At our school it'll be all the students in middle school it's not elective are gonna participate in that program. It's all but guaranteeing those students will have that career if they want. Now they'll be given a choice but it's nice to know that if they want it if they continued on they would have that career.

Something that we also do that's extra is we have a business program that we started with the late Al Israel when he made a sizable donation. We included business as a fundamental part of our our curriculum. We have business activities and and and things like that. The the mission that we have there's three parts: music and health and spoken Chamoru.

And in music we've piloted a program for the last year where students between the ages of three and six instead of growing up like I did and listening to pop music they listen to classical music and complex jazz. And without exaggeration on the second day of the program On the playground the little kids were singing Fly Me to the Moon and so as opposed to I'm a Little Teacup.

And the studies demonstrate that after you do this and and I believe they'll bear them out the studies will bear this out that you could introduce math in the same way. There's no reason why a two-year-old can't memorize two four six eight. There's just there's no explanation. It's just we've always taught that way and so that's where where it'll move next.

But it is expensive not just because you need exceptional faculty. We're we're fortunate to have Patrick Palomo and and others that assist him. But we have pianos in the homes of the students that are taking piano between second and generally fourth or fifth grade. But others also have the electronic pianos.

We begin guitar at fourth grade and again that's all part of our budget. We cover all of that. And you know the guitars that we got we've had to replace the standard ones because they do make a difference. We we now have all Taylor guitars and the amount of hours that the students are spending on those guitars and and the joy that they have with this new equipment shows that it's very much well worth it.
The doesn't include any of the electric equipment the bands and stuff like that. We do have at least three concerts a year and again that costs a lot of money but it's worth it. We don't get any extra money for that. Now that we're a public school we don't charge and so everything everything is free right?
Except for us right? It's it's not free. our secondSo that's a real summary of our music program. Our our health program The sports we have primarily remain basketball and volleyball and and we enter other times. One of the biggest problems we have is we asked to be in the public school league they said they have too many.
The problem with the league we're in is you know I can't even say I know what the problem is. I'll just tell you the situation. They will have girls sports first and second quarter and boys sports third and fourth quarter. And they have the rule of course that you're not allowed if you're for example a senator playing football and basketball season's starting you're not allowed to practice basketball at all until your last day of football.
God forbid you make the playoffs and if you're in the championship it goes on. And so with our school with this league our team's literally supposed to start with three days practice. Three days practice and no gym. And that's the situation we're in so it requires a lot of cooperation. SIFA was our first game.
They agreed to to put it over and I think St. Paul's did the same thing. And so we're able to work it out but it's it's part of the problem. But definitely whether it's our league or or the regular public school league both of those leagues need help because they just can't function like that and take care of the number of students and teams.
I don't remember what the numbers were when we went to school. I just remember we didn't have this problem and there's there's no reason in the world why students can't play all the different sports and and be restricted like this. Well at lunch we have mandatory usually basketball intramurals but our chosen sport which is part of our full-time curriculum is martial arts.
And so it's just as much a part of our curriculum as math is and it's worked out very very very well for us. Hasn't taken anything away from the other subjects but the entire climate and environment and and quality of life at the school has really gone up. It's visible it's measurable and it's made all the difference in the world.
But it's not cheap. We have probably two of the best instructors in the world but definitely in the in the Pacific area. And the dojos are not cheap to build out and we've had to do that. Again we don't get any extra money for that. We just take it

from our budget and we've built them out. If you come down you see we don't have little mats.

We have we have two dojos The Spoken Chamorro program which for us we're still really on the front end is different from either the mandate from the Department of Education or or what Hurao is doing. And there's probably three or four other ways to do it. But the way we're we're doing it is and and it's a continuing work in progress and that is it's it's not focusing so much on the teaching it's focusing a lot more on the speaking.

And so in some areas they spend a lot of time teaching you about the language. And over and over and over you take tests. We spend so little time speaking as opposed to speaking over and over and over which is what differentiates us from everybody else. Not saying we have the best program just saying it it is unique.

It's different. That will work for some people. Others they wanna know the whole you know the whole thing. They wanna be educated in in Chamorro or it may work better for them. Ours is different. But again that's an extra class. And so we have four teachers that that we employ just for the Chamorro language.

We also ensure that all our other mandates are met. We're very very proud of our science program and we have this amazing table we were able to get with the assistance of federal funds. And our science fair we're very very proud of. How our students do at the UOG Island-Wide Science Fair we're we're very proud of.

Also they do very very well. We're project-based and that's expensive because of the fact that you're always doing something. And you know the hands-on learning is is easy to talk about but it's expensive to implement because every day something's different. And it always you know cost it always costs something We have the advantage of not having to run through a large bureaucracy.

And so I'm not gonna come here and say that there isn't also an advantage because that that is a business advantage being able to make decisions at the ground level. Now we're held accountable because we're audited every single year. I'm not gonna speak for the other schools I just know at our school the accountants work with our people between three and four months out of one year.

And sometimes they just hang out at my office working with with accountants there. And so I know how often we're complying with that. But while the schools are unique there's a lot of things that we're doing that are the same because-- not just because of the mandates but because of the fact any school would want to make sure they have math and science and social studies and language arts and we and we do all that.

There's no deficiency there. The pilot part of our program is we've believed from the beginning that I don't need fifty-five or sixty minutes with you of language arts. We can cut that down if we do it in a different way. And instead of you going home we

can do other things. And so by the time you finish you're gonna learn and actually with all of you it's probably a bad example.
With younger people they would learn things that that all of us learned while we were at home or outside of the house. But now if you don't have sports and activity at school you don't have it. It's not like before where you you would you would have it outside I learned how to play guitar and drums and keyboards and stuff like that outside of school.
But these days if you don't have it in school the students are not gonna learn it. They can't afford to go to private lessons and things like that. In sports, sports on Guam right now is very expensive. I mean you just can't you just can't join basketball and think it's like during our time. During our time you walk to the court.
No. Now you need a parent usually that's able to transport you somewhere and I'm sure you've noticed there's no busing. And so it's still strange to me I show up for a game and cars are coming. It's like "Wow a lot of fans." There's no fans. Those are just parents. They're just driving their kids and they drive their kids home.
Before we had buses. I know at Mount Carmel we had two buses one for the spectators and the and the cheerleaders and one for the teams and we don't get any bus anymore. And so all of that is all incorporated in the budget. While we all spend our money on different things I know I do speak for everybody when I say all that money is going to the students and I think we're all real proud of it.
Understand the constraints that you're in but I hope that you will see that this is definitely an investment you you wanna make. I'll-- I promise I'll end with this. The students that we're producing we have a much much higher chance of keeping them here on Guam. And so we're not educating someone to leave because they'll have careers on Guam.
They're involved in the community. Why would they wanna leave? I should say the chances of them leaving are are much much lower than if you don't do all these programs. Thanks so much.

AnnMarie Arceo, Founder, *Maga'låhen Hurão*:
Buenas mañe'lu-hu Senadot Borja Senadot Gumataotao Senadot Ada yan Senadot Dueñas Senadot Taitague lokkue' sa' tuñgo na gaige.
Mañotsu yu' na bai hu na'I hamyu yu' nu este na testimonio gi fino' Englis gof puti kurason-hu na para bai Chogue este. Lao pa'go na diha hu tuñgo' na impotånte na in komprende håfa i nesisidåt para i charters todu eskuelan i charters pues.
But one day even with the regret that I'm delivering this in English I'm very confident and very hopeful that someday because of what we're doing at Hurao that when our children take our place after we're all gone one day they will be able to sit in this legislative hall and use our language of the land to speak with one another to be able to navigate the future of our people.

So here we go.
[PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FOR AnnMarie Arceo, Founder, *Maga'låhen Hurão* TESTIMONY]

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): *Håfa Adai* honorable senators Senator Dueñas, Borja, Gumataotao, Vice Speaker Ada, and Senator Taitague. As I sit here before you today my name is Anthony Sunga. I'm the CEO for SIFA Learning Academy. And as I sit here before you today I'm not just presenting a budget request I am presenting you a roadmap of Guam's educational future.
SIFA Learning Academy Charter School is at a critical juncture and we are requesting your approval to increase our student enrollment cap and a per pupil cost from seventy seventy-eight hundred to eighty-three hundred for 2026 2027 school year. This request is not arbitrary. It is backed by hard data an organic surge in community demand and a proven track record of academic excellence.
Our growth is not forced. It is a natural response to the needs of our families in central Guam. As you see our our history we started at ninety-nine students grew to two hundred three hundred five hundred and our growth was not limited by our our curriculum but it was limited by the facility capacity.
Currently we have a hundred and twenty active students on our wait list with another one hundred and thirty-five pending our move to a new location. In our outreach to a public school in in Tamuning they suggested or offered a hundred and five current fifth graders are eager to continue their STEAM trajectory to at SIFA.
We currently have two hundred and five current sixth seventh eighth graders ready to move into the next grade level. Again our operations currently at GCC limits us as only to approximately three hundred students but in our move into our new facility it is mechanically necessary nec- necessity to meet this community of innovators to increase our cap requests.
SIFA Learning Academy Charter School seeks this increase in enrollment cap and for per pupil cost of eight three hundred. the budget justification is based on demonstrated institutional success rising community demand and a comprehensive strategy to enhance Guam's STEAM education ecosystem and workforce pipeline.
SIFA has consistently delivered high impact academic and co-curricular outcomes validating the effectiveness of its STEAM-driven phenomenon-based learning model. SIFA students have received awards in numerous competitions. First and second first and third place in World Architectural Day Math Counts advancements of our SIFA participants into the state competition.
We continually have participation in our in the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee. three teams competed in the in a annual SIFA Lego FIRST LEGO League Pacific Regional Robotics Competition where the team Master Builder team earning an

Engineering Excellence Award which highlights the development of applied engineering competencies.

12 participants in the Guam History Day first place junior division individual exhibit was a student from SIFA. our students continuing to advance in the Isalndfair Science Fair at University of Guam which demonstrates the science program's effectiveness in promoting science inquiry and successful project-based learning.

Athletics middle school boys rugby were champions and we also have a K-pop dance contest. These outcomes indicate that SIFA is surpassing expectations in academics STEAM arts and athletics establishing the school as a high-performing institution prepared for broader impact. As a as the regional partner for FIRST LEGO League Robotics in the Pacific this program has quickly become a regional flagship initiative with participations and demanding surpassing current capacity.

This year we had a competition where we invited or and supported 24 teams coming from the Guam Department of Education totaling about 500 students in participation. Incoming interest from DoDEA private schools and other charter schools and actually regional interest from Korea and Taiwan have been have seeked interest into our robotics program as well.

This level of demand presents a strategic opportunity to achieve the following: to position Guam as a regional hub for robotics and STEAM excellence expand the educational tourism by attracting international teams and fostering intercultural exchange build a sustainable STEM pipeline aligned with Guam's workforce development and priorities.

Increasing our capacity will enable SIFA to standardize robotics as a core academic pathway. SIFA is prepared also to launch the Mirror program which will be transformative addition to its STEAM ecosystem. The Mirror program provides industry-grade tools applied learning laboratories and real-world curriculum.

It bridges skill gaps in the manufacturing and engineering sectors. The program also aligns directly with Guam's economic priorities including defense infrastructure and technical workforce development. It prepares middle school students at an early stage for high-demand high-wage career pathways. As a comprehensive STEM solution MEERA strengthens the following areas: career readiness pipeline from middle school to post-secondary and industry teacher capacity through embedded training and support Guam's long-term goal of developing a locally skilled work-workforce.

But beyond MEERA SIFA continues to pursue high-impact partnerships and programs reinforcing its identity as a community of innovators. There is a sustained demand for middle schools access in central Guam and SIFA is well-positioned to address this need

Approval of our increase our student enrollment cap and corresponding budget represents a strategic investment that will scale a proven high performing STEAM

model expand access to innovative industry aligned education position Guam as a regional leader in robotics and STEM programs strengthen the local workforce pipeline through programs like Mirror address critical education access gap in central Guam.
SIFA Learn Academy Charter School is prepared and positioned for expansion. With your request to support SIFA elevate will elevate educational standards across Guam. I always like to believe when people ask me what does what does SIFA stand for? I tell them "Well SIFA is a STEAM school and it stands for Science is Fun and Awesome."
But I always tell my students and our teachers that it's not just the science is fun and awesome S also stands for social studies social well being sports is fun and awesome. I truly believe that charter schools and SIFA alone as well that school is fun and awesome. And if you visit all our seven charter schools and ask our students th- they will definitely tell you that they love coming to our campus.
Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak.

Dylan Sablan, Principal, (BTACS):
[PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FOR Dylan Sablan, Principal, (BTACS) TESTIMONY]
Si Yu'os Ma'ase for your time and consideration. I prepared packets for all of you which include testimonies from our parents our students and our teachers and I hope you can review them. And thank you for your time
William M. Castro, Principal, Career Tech: Dispensa buenas tåtdes para todus hamyu Sinadot Sinadora. Guåhu si William Castro prinsipåy yu' yan maestro gi eskuela i takhilo' Career Tech High Academy Charter School in Hagåt. Nigapña or The day before yesterday our chair had us meet with her and we went over the approach in which to represent our collective ask.
Put guåhu I translated that as she would offer testimony and I would sit tight and we take it from there. Lao siha nu alakñgos todu nu testimonio. They broke out all their testimonies and say And so I decided here we go. Let's just share a little bit of our successes. I was saving that for question and answer.
Lao let me go ahead and begin. This is testimony in support of funding increase. Oh by the way one more. Dispensa sa nai hu huñgok na steam steam hamyo right? Pi nalok-ku na figan si magåhet na fifigan-yu'. Kådda biåhe ya pun diskute este na na asuntu right? Every time I talk to this issue we become immensely passionate.
And so it's important that we take a step back and a deep breath and not confuse my passion with a sense of hot-bloodedness in in terms of any kind of adversarial way. You're gonna see from the teachers as you ask them many of these educators we know our students and it is personal. It's very personal.

But this is testimony in support of fund a funding increase a per capita increase from 7,800 to 8,300 which is less than 6% given the latest figure of 13 000 compared to 7,800. And our request and thank you to my colleagues who stated their request for an increase in the enrollment cap Career Tech's enrollment cap from 200 to 300.

On behalf of Career Tech High I respectfully submit this testimony in support of the aforementioned Career Tech is delivering measurable results for Guam. We have two hundred students grades nine through twelve. I checked back with my team back there at the campus. I asked them for the graduation rate and we've been doing really well but I had ninety-three percent here until they said we started with Let's say let's say we started with fifty kids but we're graduating fifty-two and I said "Man that, How do you have a hundred and ten percent graduation rate?" And so the point would be people are staying and they're graduating right?

And graduation rate as opposed to persistence rates and we can discuss that when you wanna when you wanna ask me those questions. but we also have expanded our care- career pathways in construction information technology maritime indigenous studies and specialized academies. Our students too are earning micro certificates and are on their way to earning industry-recognized credentials participating in internships and entering the workforce with real skills.

But I wanna focus my sharing on a lot of historic firsts in student achievement because to me the ultimate measure of success is impact at the student at the institution and the community level. We're the first high school on Guam to pilot the Merchant Mariner Credential Program with an inaugural seven students passing during last year's Easter break.

We launched the traditional seafaring voyage in Hagåt Bay. According to many in the region first in the in at least five hundred years and we're building our second handcrafted traditional seafaring vessel. We had our first mock trial team our first bowling team our second-year basketball team which went from last to ten out of thirteen in just a year.

Paddling team we went from last to tied for third. And slinging teams who placed top three in at least the last three island-wide competitions. Not to mention my bowling team top sixteen female at the end of the season tournament and my male top twenty

We were also first place in the Guam Visitors Bureau Art Mural Project. But I do wanna draw acknowledgement to home not just to the home sports but to affiliate programs. You see 'cause I would contest I would submit that our kids per capita are probably the largest participants per capita in our school compared to most other schools.

We have three hundred certificates to give away on April seventeenth because many of them have participated in multiple sports Students compete in football because

we don't have a football team in schools like Father Duenas JFK and Southern. Our female who wrestled with Southern High was a gold medalist.

I understand I'm waiting to confirm this that the National Forensics League team that we entered this affiliate not us affiliating with another school but a St. John's student affiliating with Career Tech imagine that is going to nationals. That's amazing. by the way thank you Mike for coming by and giving the team a pep talk for mock trial. That was awesome. Many of my kids earning island-wide recognition and the opportunity to compete for championships. In terms of faculty and that's an important note thank you to my colleague from Btech from BTAC. Career Tech also maintains low faculty turnover high student persistence rates and this ensures continuity and strong outcomes.

But I wanna tell you about my faculty. We have two FESPAC delegates an artist and a navigator. We have two masters a master navigator who's a son of world-recognized grandmaster defuntun Mao Piailug who many will attest is credited with helping the Hawaiian indigenous peoples rediscover or reaffirm and to perpetuate wayfinding for traditional seafaring and navigation.

We have another master navigator. His name is Jerry Joseph. The only reason why we don't refer to him as master is because that's his uncle. That's his mom's brother and so they if they have two masters you know in their culture you defer to the senior as the master. And so Jerry But make no mistake Jerry Joseph his nephew is a master navigator.

We have two former principals. We have a faculty member with a doctorate a PhD. We have another teacher administrator who's about to complete his doctorate. We have a member of the faculty who has a law degree from Tulane. We have someone on deck with a Harvard master's degree and someone else with a Stanford undergraduate degree.

I have two graduates one just came on as a consultant who graduated from Gallaudet University which is important for our deaf and hard of hearing academy. We have two veterans a retired E8 with Special Forces recognition and a Marine. All this and so much more that's in alignment for our strategic growth.

For example the Maritime Academy includes traditional seafaring navigation outrigger paddling dive certification. Believe it or not I'm dive certified. I know it's hard to believe. All my seniors my paddlers should be lifeguard certified before the end of May. And this fall you're gonna see a marine small engine repair.

As a matter of fact I'm gonna be looking at this fixer-upper of a boat. Mr. Boat Captain you maybe could come down and help us out. The true test is if it's seaworthy and if the engine would start. So I don't know. Just cross your fingers. We also have a sports and leadership academy to include baseball coming up for school year, the next school year.

I'd love to continue the conversation with GDOE Superintendent Dr. WonPat the former speaker who's extended the opportunity to share maintenance and partial use of Marshall Sablan's baseball field and Southern High's swimming pool. We'd love to do that because of our dive certification and merchant mariner program.

That's a partnership we look forward to. All of this before the end of next school year. In conversations with some of you thank you Senator Calvo and Senator Telo and others Vice Speaker Ada for thinking about extending the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Academy to include the blind and persons of all ages.

We want to extend the Indigenous Studies Academy not just with Chamorros but also other indigenous peoples from throughout the Pacific. In closing the use of increased funding will help us to expand and improve the facilities for three hundred students. Facility and classroom improvements include things like a media lab simulators, a slinging cage.

We want to improve student support services with our innovative Campus Safety Officer program modeled after the SRO program. We also want to grow our Comp TIA and AI and project management programs. And thanks to Dr. Cabrera gonna put in some time and effort from the University of Guam we'll be piloting our first ever advanced place- advanced placement psychology program.

And if our students are able to persist with some success we're gonna open up a major pathway in AP. You see there are two barriers that my kids experience. One is distance and that's why we're gonna open up our Tumon Annex and the other one is rigor and that's why we're opening up advanced placement and dual enrollment.

For the record as the good chair has alluded Career Tech has submitted documentation relative to continued audit and compliance improvements.

Oh by the way back to community impact. We're not just we're not just part of the conversation we're leading the conversation and we're leading the advocacy with Senator Telo and others who co-sponsored the bill. For example to allow paddling to occur and be evident in the southern coastal cities *of Hagatna Humåtak Malesso and Inalåhan.*

And soon and soon after that after we complete that we want to work with you on ensuring that traditional sports such as paddling and sailing and fishing and slinging and all forms of games of strength with funding is given due consideration right up there with American football and soccer. I believe that slinging is just as important if not more important.

In closing I hope this should suffice for now that Career Tech is a proven high-impact model that delivers workforce-ready graduates and most certainly adds to strengthening Guam's economy. *Si Yu'os ma'åse. Put i attento i misu.*

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: *Si Yu'os ma'åse* Senator Will and to the entire team and Madam Chair. I think this exercise was exactly what we needed maybe to

either limit questions or not to limit but to have answered questions already that might have been in in some of our panel thought process and minds. And so before I go into just sharing some of my thoughts I think history is a good context just so that we understand also we've had a shared commitment at particularly I'm just gonna go from 2024 coming forward.

So in 2024 authorized level of eighteen million that was at seventy-five hundred during that time per pupil. Guahan had six-- seven hundred and sixty-five authorized level. iLearn seven hundred and eighty authorized level. SIFA four hundred and thirty authorized level. Career Tech High a hundred and forty authorized level.

Mount Carmel four hundred authorized level. And Chamorro Academy as well as BTACS was yet to come online. and in that year it was a eighteen million dollar budget. And there was we've gone over our records. There was a tracking of two hundred million in lapse or two million in lapses.

So if you see the twenty-four going forward basically only iLearn didn't have an increase. They were at seven eighty. Everyone else had an increase in enrollment. Going forward to fiscal year twenty twenty-five authorized level and I'll just go with the because of the it's easy to see the pupil increase and of course we went to seventy-eight hundred.

And so that budget came out and actually it was the encumbrances were about nineteen million seven hundred and ninety-three and I believe we were over that at about twenty-two million and there was another two million dollars in lapses for that fiscal year. Currently we are also tracking a lapse of about two million dollars.

I guess I know that particularly with Attorney Phillips you mentioned that some of that is due to procurement issues and others that's kind of perennial throughout government. You know the reason why I say I just wanna share some observations is it is clear and I think it's clear and evident in your presentation.

That's why I wanted it to be done that way. And I think that my interaction with all of the parents and recently at an event up in the hangar United Hangar and just every one of you sends out invites to all of the stuff that you're doing. we can make it sometimes others we can't. But that just demonstrates how much you wanna demonstrate the success of all of the programs and extracurricular programs that you put on.

I'm saying this to say this: There's no doubt about the success of charter schools. There's no doubt about the effectiveness in terms of the learning and everything else that's taking place Attorney Phillips mentions that he understands and I think all of you realize and this is a discussion about constraints.

But with education I see it a little different. I don't think it's constraints necessarily. I think the issue is and this is gonna be a perennial discussion that I'm gonna have with all of the education budgets coming before us is we've hit a crossroads in education whereby you have a exponential decrease in the Department of Education

enrollment once at a very proud high 36,000 students now down to right around 23,000.

You've seen cross-leveling taking place. You've seen campuses that are being mothballed. You see all kinds of changes in our Department of Education system. But what's not changing is the constant increase in the budgeted requests and then budgeted amounts. we have been proud in the 38th and the 37th to actually have hit the highest level of funding for Department of Education at 265 million general fund. That used to hover somewhere around 210-220. Once again I say that to say this: I think at some point what's probably happening at the national level is gonna have to happen here in some iteration and that is there's a move to the funding follows the child follows the student. Because right now as you probably may have seen in some media representations today even with your request, you're quite a bit lower than and I know there's other factors for that.

You know I have public school system family members that that that are in all levels of the Guam Public School System and they've explained to me all of the requirements and the needs and the things that take place in order to be able to provide education with the mandates that maybe some of your constraints don't exist. Nonetheless this is where I think our challenge is at this point. so going forward now you the request having been increased prior and then the overall variance right now is across all of the schools to increase by 525 along with the five hundred dollar tuition increase in terms of the per pupil.

So the committee's gonna take in to consideration the request balance it across what the entire system and what the ceiling will hold. And as I also will enumerate here the request from the governor's office is basically identical to the legislature's or at least what's identified in terms of what we see in the possible legislation going forward as well and that's relatively status quo.

So, No question you've made the case. I don't have an an issue with that. I think where it's gonna come down to is is really what are we gonna where are we gonna be when we sit down and hopefully in in a month or so here and bring everybody together for a conversation after we hear all of the education presentations on budget and see really where we are.

One of the things that of note to me in your presentation was facilities. And once again you would note that you have mothballing of facilities across Department of Education a need for those facilities in the charter schools. And so I wanna see what we can do there 'cause I understand there's a discussion about how to outfit you know the extracurriculars and others along with with charter schools.

I, my personal opinion is we shouldn't reinvent the wheel. We should find out what the inventory looks like see what the investment might be in terms of co-locations of areas where you're at to be able to do that and under some sort of agreement. But that's to be determined down the line.

But that's what I'm gonna try to get from every educational institution that comes before us with this representation is the willingness to sit down and kinda go over this. 'Cause I think that you know without question I think if every one of you and I'm gonna ask you to do this as a matter kind of as homework I think I'm not I'm gonna go out on a limb here to say that I bet you close to ninety percent if not more of the student population that you have would otherwise be in the Guam Public School system.

I think that folks who want to send their children to private school particularly for faith-based reasons or other reasons and because they have means are already doing that And so I think that your population by and large like I said I don't know how we do this but maybe you have a way internally of doing this and ask.

I don't know if that's a HIPPA-type question. I mean that's But you know but I think you could probably determine that based on your transfers and and also those who are knocking on your door. I think I-- if those parents that are knocking on your door I would imagine they're saying "I want to enroll my child in a charter school. While I love the Guam public school system I feel as though my child has a better shot a better opportunity for more focused education." I don't think it's about the delivery itself. We know that those teachers and those faculty work really hard to do what they do and they're up against immense challenges as well.

But I think that what it is there's a- also a realization that this is where our world is right now is that is that basic education that's articulating to livelihoods to jobs to to their futures really is starting right there you know at the forefront with you know I would say first all the way up.

You know whereas before it was the three Rs and you know the basics and then you start thinking about it when you meet with your counselor in high school and whatever else. I think the world we live in right now is totally different. It's now it's you know you're trying to be career ready and culturally ready and everything else ready basically from the get-go.

And so I you have my commitment to endeavor to get it as close as we can. but we w-we also have to dig down and find out you know what some of those lapses are. And I only have one question for you Angie whether this is at the level of you know you as the chair and where the decisions are made.

But I have received some information or questions that sometimes there are limitations with regard to schools and their caps placed on them even possibly below their caps. Is there a reason for that?

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: Okay for Yes I'll give an example SIFA. Okay. Their reason is because they had to go into GCC campus which was far smaller.

So a lot of their students that they usually had at their old campus couldn't be taken. They had to utilize to the full capacity. They are right now going through the

procurement process so I can't say much about that. But I do know that they are hoping to move into their own selected campus of their choice through the procurement process come this fiscal the new school year.
And so that was a big factor. that's why you see a lower enrollment with them right now as to opposed last year. That was one reason

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: But there's no disapprovals for any other schools as to if they're you know below their cap. It's like they can they can accept students up to their cap.

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: Absolutely Senator. And it you know there's n- I don't think anyone has turned anyone away. They've been put on the waiting list and then they remain there. I do have parents calling me saying "You know Ms. Cepeda my we've been on the waiting list for four months." I'm like "Unfortunately they're full to capacity." I think the only one that's great is Mount Carmel because their school is big right?
And so they don't have a waiting list. They take them all in. And so their facility was meant for a larger scale you know? And so that they don't have a waiting list. It's not there Nobody wants to go there. That's just they take everyone in. But unfortunately all the other school campuses are built for X amount of students and so that's a factor.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Yeah and I mean that so once again we go back to our Guam public school system. And one of the reasons although albeit you know it's a board decision and it may be controversial but in trying to make up for even the situation where we gotta have campuses coming online and aren't online yet because of the reduction of the student population in some of our bigger schools you actually can absorb you know?
And like I said that's a tough- Right issue. But if you just do it based on numbers the capacity is there. Right. Even the discussion that we had the other day with GCC yesterday with GCC on the they anticipate with their charter school essentially they're absorbing that as we discuss that legislation.
going forward right now and how that's gonna look in terms of funding because the classroom already has capacity.

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: Right.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Just like the University of Guam one of their greatest ways to actually boast and this is what we're hoping that you're gonna be doing fundamentally in the coming years is you know they're they're they have classrooms that they can easily populate you know a third even double.

Mm-hmm. But the students aren't there.

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: Yeah.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: And if that tuition is there that funding is there. Yeah. So this is this is where we're at in terms of the the whole discussion on on how do we maneuver outside of just direct appropriations from the general fund.

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: Right.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: And how do we work within the system to find those opportunities to see where we can build in those efficiencies.
And then of course government-wide where our priorities are and that would be the big thing when we hit the floor. But aside from that I think that you know you guys are all sharp folks. You're all doing the same thing kind of. And What I noticed more than anything else I was kidding with the vice speaker I said "I think from the first school that talked about their successes it became competitive on the panel."
It's and I said "That's a good thing."

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: Really it is. You know even when you know Mr. Chair I wanna say that even when we meet. Yeah right? we call for a meeting it's like a nice. You could sense it yeah like a nice competitive right amongst them.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Yeah.

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: Yeah. But it really it really is nice to see 'cause it brings out the best in them right?

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Yes.

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: But you know as they would say they're being *banidoso* about their school when they when they try to one-up. It's almost you know it's flattering right?

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Yeah.

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: Because they're proud of it. And I'm gonna say this and I'm gonna reiterate this. This fiscal year twenty twenty-six twenty twenty-five twenty twenty-six has been the best of all

the charter schools since I've been on the council. As far as everything from audits to everything they are doing they're excelling each and every one of them. So it's something to be-- it's a proud moment you know.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Yeah.

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: That I need to that I that needs to be recognized.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: No no question about it. And like I said I could see it from up here and I was like "Wow this is " It And you know normally you'd think about "Oh no we're number one in football and you're not gonna beat us." It's like "No we're number one in science." You know what I mean? We're Our kids are going to this university and that's good stuff. So with that I'm gonna defer to the chair Senator Borja for any questions or comments.

Senator Vince Borja: Thank you Mr. Chair. I don't necessarily have any comments. You know I have a good close relationship with the chair and I meet with a lot of the schools you know over the last year. you know and I and I share the same commitment with the budget chair. Like I tell you guys all the time I support whatever it is you want. Obviously we just have to work through the finances or through the budget and you know and balancing it to get to where we would like to go. you know there is no doubt in regards to the great things that you guys are doing. I get all the invitations. I try to make to as many as I can but you know we you know there-- Even just talking to some of the parents I you know I have some friends and family members who have kids who go to the charter schools or have gone to the charter schools.
So we're s- we're you know we're definitely in strong support of the work that you guys are doing. Obviously working with GDOE as well they have a lot of you know issues that we're working through as well. I mean you know who doesn't? But if only you know if it or I guess if it's one thing that we can say is that despite not getting the amount of money that you guys would like I I wish GDOE could be like that where they could just still Continue to-- I mean they're doing the great things but a lot of times it's they-- things get stopped or stalled.
Um they get lawsuits right? you guys are not there yet in regards to Buybut I say that in you know it-- when we look at e-especially you know as the oversight chair in education don't have to worry about that. You guys come and ask and if we can give you d-- you know you make do with what you have and even with like you know a lot of the highlights you guys have shared in regards to growth I have no doubt that you know maybe we won't get you the full extra you know get you to eight three.

But even if we gave you a little more not exact- you'll still continue to to do with what you have and and continue to grow and add more value to the work that you guys do as charter schools.
And there has always been a shared commitment from at least the Republican majority that we we definitely are big big fans of the charter schools. You know my wife says to me "I'm still a big I'm still a big fan of the public schools." 'Cause I understand the work there is a little different like the chair shared right?
There's just a lot of other things that they're responsible for because of laws especially or federal mandates. And so those are the things that we'll continue to work through. But again you know just to keep it short 'cause of the time and the typhoon's coming is really you know you have our commitment.
You have my commitment as a chair and continue to work with my colleagues to find a way to make it work. And so thank you guys for the great work that you guys do you know for our students especially and our families. Thank you Mr. Chair.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* Senator Borja Chair of Education. Senator Gumataotao you're recognized.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Thank you Mr. Chair and thank you to everyone in this room. I if I can start Mr. Chair by just thanking the support staff that are behind the leadership of these charter schools. Just so you guys know I am a big fan of school choice. Oh I didn't think I was gonna get a round of applause out of that.
But I do have questions and it goes to And I'm just gonna spend most of this time is where Vangie started this entire hearing relative to the audits. And if I can I'm just gonna jump right in. According to the FY 2025 financial highlights for *Maga'lahen-Hurao Chamoru* Academy Charter School auditors wrote that as of September 30, 2025 *Hurao* had receivables of approximately $530,000 from the government of Guam representing appropriations earned but not yet received.
So recognizing that as of September 30, 2025 charter schools collectively based on the audits had 4,263,203 in available funds from their FY 2025 appropriation of $22.7 million dollars. Have all the charter schools received their full FY 2025 appropriations?
And if not what is the estimated value of all the outstanding vendor payables utilities and other accounts payable that have been recorded by all of our charter schools due to the absence of this funding source for the last fiscal year?

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: Okay I'll answer that then I'll have Anne Marie follow suit. So with this just remember Senator

that whenever they turn in their payment invoices it takes about they're behind by three months give or take.
So that's why there's always seems to be a lapse because when I spoke to each and every one of them the process is they turn in and I and I see it 'cause I'm CC'd in it all the time a payment invoice. The payment invoice is for me and DOA Department of Administration. They review it and then they basically say approved.
Already that process is already a month and a half behind.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: So the answer Vangie just to be short 'cause it So you guys have not received or the charter schools have not received all their appropriations?

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: Right. So so even if you allot us a certain amount two million dollars it really doesn't come to us.
It goes to DOA and then it's based on the payment invoices provided that then we are paid out. So you can give us two million dollars for example but we're really getting whatever we're only receiving. We're the only one in the entire government of Guam that is is done this way.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: All right thank you Vangie.
Uh thank you. I don't need any further. I just want I'm I'm looking at all the charter schools at this point. So I the answer is no they have not received all of their appropriations. And Mr. Chair that's important for me as I go to my next question especially toward Guhan Academy Charter School and this has a lot to do with the OPA's report from 2025 relative to the leasing of the buildings Building C D and E in Tiedemann which is valued at seventy-nine thousand per month or nine hundred fifty-three thousand annually.
Acknowledging the school's responsibility to pay for restoration work to its temporary campus in Tiyan which is estimated at eighty-nine thousand dollars obviously this had a lot, Timing is kind of strange 'cause we're talking about Mawar. We have a storm bearing on us. But talking about the restoration work from Typhoon Mawar can you tell us I if any of that work is related to that and any portion of the two hundred and ten thousand that you received through a FEMA award was that applied?
And for the record was GACS responsible for matching any FEMA monies for any portion of that award?

Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School: We are very grateful as we always say that we occupy the Tiyan campus for free. Unfortunately since some

July twenty twenty-three we have not received a guaranteed signed MOA from the office of the governor. so we are not secured. Our families are not secured whether we In the event that we get evicted where do we bring our families and students?
So we always appropriate or allocate that budget that at least the dollar value of nine hundred twenty thousand a year and that's the main reason why we have lapsed funds. It is irresponsible for us not to allocate for that because should the governor office of the governor decide to collect the exact amount then we are able to house or provide a secure place for our students.
Now for the two hundred and one thousand from Typhoon Mawar we were approved by FEMA for about four hundred twenty-five thousand. Unfortunately it has not been disbursed since twenty twenty-three. So because the property owner of Tiyan cannot provide for the repairs caused by the damages of Typhoon Mawar.
We had to absorb those costs and they are not structural up to the up to this to date. We still have to replace the ceiling tiles because when it rains it has to be there. Although we were approved we have to recognize that receivables. And until we get that receivables it's like we fronted all the costs of the repairs of our buildings.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: And just for the record I don't think you're not the only one. The I mean I wouldn't stress out so much. I mean there's other public facilities on Guam that remain in this kind of place as your school is in trying to get reimbursables from what happened over Mawar. I and I'm not picking on Guahan Academy Charter School for this one but in your audit it also found that the school recorded expenses that were related to costs that had not been incurred which auditors noted to be a practice of recording expenses at full contract price without consideration of when the exchange occurred.
So for the record do we have any information at this point to confirm whether other charter schools are reporting their expenditures similarly to GACS which according to auditors is not based on delivery receipts service completion reports or other supporting documentation? I'm just wanted to just take a I guess a temperature of the rest of the charter schools on this matter as when it comes to expenditure reporting.

Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School: I can respond on that sir Senator. So we have expenses for example the thirty-one thousand that we that was incurred when we when the vendor renovated or painted painted the some of the classrooms which is not again under the property owner which is CoreTech. So those are invoices that already have been submitted It was paid for.
It was completed. It just so happened that we have to front it. So again just like what Ms. Vangie was saying by September 30 the invoices have to be in. So we've It was

an expense that was incurred it's just a timing of submitting the invoice I got it for that.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: And as a follow-up to my question in the last year's budget hearing regarding the receipt of by charter schools of any grants or gifts which are allowed by law subject to financial reporting requirements did any of the seven charter schools receive gifts including in-kind contributions during this last fiscal year?
And were these donations part of the school's spending plan for the fiscal year? And were these contributions reported accordingly?
Yeah go ahead Mike.

Michael Philips, Chairperson of Board of Trustees, Mount Carmel Charter School: Thank you Senator.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Did you get a gift?

Michael Philips, Chairperson of Board of Trustees, Mount Carmel Charter School: Not not really. I mean we raised the money.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Okay.

Michael Philips, Chairperson of Board of Trustees, Mount Carmel Charter School: But it goes to expenses that that are not allowed by the government like rewards and certain events you can host.
But for example you can't buy food for people things like that. I learned a little bit about that when I was counsel to the port and it's just real strict. Lots of it really comes down from attorney general opinions. I do wanna clarify something and I may not be clarifying it for the other schools.
I've never taken an accounting class in my life but the accountant was explaining this to me where she was having some difficulty because she was saying "Mike I do this by the principles of accounting." When you agree to purchase something it goes down but not with DOA. If we were to buy for example a textbook the moment we incur that expense it goes down but not with DOA.
It'll still be there. So you'll see our budget will still be like that. If that textbook doesn't come till the following year then it's registered for the following year. So there there could be a little bit of a of a disconnect cause we don't get our money upfront from DOA. We get it only through invoice.
In fact there's a lot of things we're not able to buy because not everybody is based on credit.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Yeah maybe I should've started that all your audits were clean.

Michael Philips, Chairperson of Board of Trustees, Mount Carmel Charter School: Yeah.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: That might have been an easier to start with. But yes.

Michael Philips, Chairperson of Board of Trustees, Mount Carmel Charter School: Yeah.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: You're absolutely right. It's dealt with a lot differently in terms of when we look at the expenditure.
I only have one last question or at least a series of questions Mr. Chair and this has to do with student enrollment. 'Cause I know that the members of the Committee on Education which I'm a member of I know we're gonna we have a couple of bills that are ahead of us. But there is that push to lift the cap and I and you were here all asking today very eloquently for the lifting of the cap. now I guess for me when I think about this idea of the cap I mean there's a lot of things like data duplication and we have a lot of just getting there. But in the current climate we're in I know that the chair mentioned that you know we're not trying to compete or here in the charter schools there is absolutely no competition between you all and our big public schools 'cause this is school choice.
Parents and students should have that opportunity and the law says they do. And we appreciate former speaker WonPat for her efforts visionary-wise to do that. But just looking at the st- student enrollment I mean you're asking us to lift the caps. I mean is this something sustainable?
And can this idea of adding three more I mean is this gonna be make it where everyone's gonna be rushing to our charter schools?

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: Okay Senator. So like I said at the last public hearing when we had this if I had to You know because it's goes back to funding right? And you're all going to stretch that mighty dollar.
I'm gonna say is it feasible? We do need more charter schools. That's a reality. It's gonna grow whether we like to accept it or not. It's the way it's going full circle. Parents want and they prefer to choose school of choice their choice. That's the that's inevitable. But we do need to increase the cap today.

I'm not talking about the three that what if they don't become a bill or a law then I'm okay with that. Okay I supported that. I sat before this body and I supported that. But my first job is to take care of the seven. So when if I'm going to s- say Senator Gumataotao increase the cap eight-three increase the cap meaning for each that are that have a waiting list that need to grow that there is a demand for these parents to put them on the waiting list stay and remain on the waiting list and want their child to go to that specific charter.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Okay Vangie is it sustainable?

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: Yes it is.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Okay. Thank you.

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: It is very much without a doubt.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Thank you Mr. Chair for the time and again thank you to the charter schools for all being with us this afternoon.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase,* Senator Taitague you're recognized.

Senator Telo Taitague: Well thank you Mr. Chair of course and good afternoon to my colleagues. But you know I'm here to protect you right? In case anybody here gets out of hand you know? To stand and fight for you as I've always done for the charter schools. I greatly appreciate you guys all passing that audit. That's very important.
It makes it a little bit easier. But there are questions and it is very important that we ask these questions to you because there are people who are listening. There are parents out there who are actually listening wondering whether I should put my school in a my child in a charter school or in public school.
So it's really important we do that. But there's some questions I do have because I'm seeing a huge ratio. I'm kind of a ratio kind of person to see the increase in some of the schools that I was able to look through. So one in particular is Well I'm gonna have to hit on you right now former Senator Castro on career tech.
I'm seeing a total of about in personnel cost an increase of 114.6% increase in personnel. I'm also seeing a operation of about 20.9% increase in operations and then a utilities at 50-56.7%. That's a total of 59.6% increase into your budget. Can you

explain why these things especially personnel at a hundred and fourteen point six percent increase?

William M. Castro, Principal, Career Tech: Sure. Let me begin by saying the appropriation amount never shifted. So ten dollars is ten dollars is ten dollars. Let me follow up by saying the reason is this: It's expensive to deliver a quality product. If you look at the books depending on who you're talking to you'll see that there are personnel costs identified in for example the P&L.

Let me reach over Historically Career Tech had outsourced some of these subject matter experts and you'll find them in contractuals. But regardless whether you take the personal cost and and/or the contractuals it should reflect close to thirty-three percent just like our lease is thirty-three percent.Its' no one no one comes along to Career Tech and offers instruction for a free ride. we have people who come in for example who are subject matter experts for Chamorro song and dance right? But he's not a full-time member of the faculty so he would be found in contractuals. the FESPAC delegate that I'm so proud of she was not reflected in the personnel cost.

You wouldn't see her as faculty full-time faculty with benefits. now you would find her on the full-time role with medical and dental benefits. And so you can see that we start to shift over these contractual because in my mind and that speaks to the strength of charters is we have that flexibility to move people around right?

We have that flexibility to not continue people. and I've done it because we're looking for a specific type of teacher with that type of a heart condition. and if you're not able to perform the three or four or five duties that we do getting back to the question of sustainability then probably Career Tech's not the place for you.

And the short answer Senator is you're seeing the shift. I just want to make sure. The short answer is we're seeing the shift from contractual to personnel. in terms of operational costs I'm not sure what you're looking at but it could there be more power? Maybe. maybe. I don't know. I think our utility costs are pretty within a pretty acceptable variance.

Our leases stood firm at least in the percentage if you wanna look at ratio or percentages over time. but what you should find great comfort in is we have not exceeded the budget. And I will tell you also that it's very expensive to come into full compliance or to improve your audit standing. It's no secret that Career Tech had some challenges with our audit findings.

But let it be known publicly now and in the next audits of '23 '24 '24 '25 '26 that the corrective action strategies are being implemented with a dollar amount. It's expensive to hire a CPA and it's expensive to get my math teacher to put in additional time right here behind me. You see he doesn't do this for free so I cut a leadership stipend.

You know why? Because I can and that costs money. Because when he's here he's not at home with his son. That costs money. When you hire the best coach in paddling who's not faculty he's personnel or contractual I'm sorry he's contractual to take us from last to third it costs money $2,500 for my head coach.
And I peg it at 2 500 and I'm not gonna go through procurement for that. I'll use that discretion. I'll take the audit hit because I need that flexibility to take my kids from zero to third. You gotta keep in mind many of my kids have never donned a uniform. They've never even sat in a paddling outrigger canoe and now they're crushing everybody in front of them.
Well almost. There's two more left. So the short answer ma'am is it's a shift if you had to look at the ledger. I'm not an accountant. I don't pretend to be but I do know my dollars and cents and I'm telling you many on the contractual side of the house have shifted to personnel. Katie McManus is one of them and some other folks.
Also we hire additional personnel on the contractual side. This year we did. our campus safety officer the retired E-8 he's also there and we have a project manager also we brought on board because we're really racing to meet to do better this time on the audit which is which is gonna commence not too long from now.
I hope I hope that satisfies your answer ma'am.

Senator Telo Taitague: Are you kidding me? You gave me way too much to.

William M. Castro, Principal, Career Tech: I didn't mean to.

Senator Telo Taitague: But no you're right. The capital outlay was a negative 100% you know there was a shift. And in your utilities but that that was an 56.7% increase in utilities and we're all experiencing that same scenario and it's not gonna get any better you know.
So thank you for that information. the next one was I noticed the the increase high increase of 41.2% was at SIFA Learning Academy. You had a 40% increase in personnel as well as operation was 44% in operations. capital outlay was you know an increase Well no actually it just stayed the same at $380,000.
But you did in utilities. How did that happen? You know it's a negative 55.1% in utilities in in your request.
Was there a huge shift in why the utilities are less that you're requesting less in? Last year in other words FY '26.

William M. Castro, Principal, Career Tech: Right.

Senator Telo Taitague: Utilities at 436 934 and then FY '27 it's 192. That you request 192-200.

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): If it's okay Senator I'd I I'd ask my facilities to come up and.

Senator Telo Taitague: Yeah.
Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): 'Cause it's- Real quick. I wanna make sure.

Senator Telo Taitague: We all wanna know your secret.

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): I wanna make sure I provide the the correct the correct information.

Senator Telo Taitague: We we definitely all wanna know your secret.

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): Okay.

Senator Telo Taitague: Okay. Are you using more solar panels?

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): So for for the power is because we moved to GCC.

Senator Telo Taitague: Ah okay. That's the reason why. Sorry. Okay.

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): Sorry.

Senator Telo Taitague: That explains it. Okay. Now this moving to GCC you talked about numbers. Yes. Can you kind of explain that again on your numbers on moving? Because I'm looking at your student ratio and right now SIFA okay was brought in in '25, 556. Then 2026 you're at 565.

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): Yes.

Senator Telo Taitague: Right? Yes. And then now you're going 750. Is that because of the facility in at at GCC is able to accommodate more? Is that what?

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): No. So actually Senator we are actually. It's lessin procurement with and the AG's reviewing that procurement process and- For another-to a new facility. That facility is expected to be able to hold 900 students.

Okay. And so we're expecting this increase in population.

Senator Telo Taitague: Okay So kinda explain GCC 'cause you know they were in front of us and mentioning how you know the Is it GCC that's opening their own charter school now?

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): Yeah. It is. Well that's the application under the bill yes .

Senator Telo Taitague: But in the meantime you're being housed there right.

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): Yes now.

Senator Telo Taitague: Is there an increase in in contract amount like your rental you know compared to what you were paying last time at the other facilities?

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): Actually it was a a very big decrease.

Senator Telo Taitague: Decline right?

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): Yes decline. Yes.

Senator Telo Taitague: Okay. A big decline on that. Okay so I you know I'm just pulling out those who are obvious you know in in increase and to justify it.
Well of course Mount Carmel looks like you got an A for maintaining. That's that's good. and then TAC BTACS they,yea you're showing a thirty-three point three percent increase or thirty-three percent increase and a lot of that is in operations seventy-one point zero percent in operations.
Can you explain that increase? Why you're increasing? Operations?

Dylan Sablan, Principal, (BTACS): Yes.

Senator Telo Taitague: Yeah. Oh sorry there you go. Oh sorry.

Dylan Sablan, Principal, (BTACS): Okay. combination of contractual services as well as if you come to the campus a lot of maintenance work has also been done to support and as well as us- utilizing more space that exists on the complex to support some of the programs that we have.

Senator Telo Taitague: On contractual?

Dylan Sablan, Principal, (BTACS): Yeah.

Senator Telo Taitague: That's a huge increase right? That's almost $439 000 increase for these contractuals. Is it something anticipated for FY '27?

Dylan Sablan, Principal, (BTACS): Yes.

Senator Telo Taitague: Okay. And it's is those contractual you know those programs it doesn't need to go to the board for approval or anything like that does it? Or-

Dylan Sablan, Principal, (BTACS): No our board is looped in on all of these things.

Senator Telo Taitague: I'm sorry?

Dylan Sablan, Principal, (BTACS): Our board is aware of these things.

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: No I'm talking with the Vangie.

Dylan Sablan, Principal, (BTACS): Oh yeah.

Senator Telo Taitague: You bring it by them right?

Dylan Sablan, Principal, (BTACS): Yes.

Senator Telo Taitague: Okay. So on these contracts and Vang do you have the opportunity to to look at them maybe even scrutinize them and see if it applies to the I guess the bylaws or the covenants of Charter Schools?

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: I scrutinize everybody Senator.

Senator Telo Taitague: Okay.

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: I do.

Senator Telo Taitague: Okay.

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: So that is why I said this where this is the best we've ever been.

Senator Telo Taitague: Okay. Yeah. Okay. So and then before I get into the really hard questions
This is for everyone actually if you can and if you make your questions I mean your answers short. It's just a very simple Well, maybe not because the questions I have here has to do with the standard testing. so, you know what standard of testing system does your school use to measure the students' performance and does it align with DOE's assessment system?
And do you usually, and do you use any nationally norm assessment or do you- your students rank compared to national average? So let's start with Yes. Yeah. Yeah that there.

Dylan Sablan, Principal, (BTACS): So in our first two years we've used the ACCUPLACER assessment by College Board and this assessment is given through a lot of colleges and universities in the state to determine the placement for these individuals whether they have to take a lower level math or if they're at the math that they need to be as a freshman in college.
Now granted we're only two years in. The data is - Right understandably not as comprehensive as we'd like it to be. but what the current numbers are reflecting are basically similar to that of DOE given a lot of our students have come from DOE as well. so to see whether there's gonna be a dramatic increase in in their assessment scores using this assessment it's gonna probably take another couple of years to determine the whether it's because of our programs.

Senator Telo Taitague: But you're measuring this on a yearly basis correctly?

Dylan Sablan, Principal, (BTACS): Yes Yes.

Senator Telo Taitague: Okay. And those measurements and performance of the students based on from what where they were at this grade level and then how they progressed in the that grade level those things are being measured right?

Dylan Sablan, Principal, (BTACS): We're tracking all of those.

Senator Telo Taitague: Okay.

Dylan Sablan, Principal, (BTACS): Again we're only two years but we're hoping to continue on that track as well.

Senator Telo Taitague: Yeah And those numbers are looking?

Dylan Sablan, Principal, (BTACS): So there's a slight increase in the reading writing and math from students who have been with us from the very beginning. again though that this ACCUPLACER and this was part of the petition that was created before I became the principal but we are looking at the possibility of seeing different assessments that might more align and reflect with the project-based learning model that we give.
Um but that's not an excuse for any scores or whatever but again it's just we need more data to see and measure the effectiveness.

Senator Telo Taitague: Vangie before we go to SIFA do you take these numbers and put them on a website to for other people to see these performance levels?

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: I have repeated that student achievement and performance levels these are very important and it should be on their website.
So I'm making a point to ask Feli to review it go on a do a site visits and we make sure that everything is current.

Senator Telo Taitague: Yeah. And posted right?

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: Yes.

Senator Telo Taitague: Okay.

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: Absolutely.

Senator Telo Taitague: Appreciate that SIFA?

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): So every year we actually take we do the DWA. This is the assessment that Department of Education actually provides to measure against with our students and them. So we do that. But because we are a STEAM science project-based school the reflection of the science in terms of the grading for a DWA doesn't reflect what we do in our school. So we actually use some software AI software. We use Navi as well Amplify programs. These are

specific for STEM programs to track the students' progress. We have seen a growth from student coming or population of students coming from sixth grade into our school going all the way to eighth grade. We're seeing a 15% understanding of science to a 32 percent increase in by the time they get to eighth grade. And so we use this tracking based on DWA as well as Amplify and Navi.
Our proficiency in terms of ELA is is 41% which is above national standards and above the local standards as well. So we do have some gaps in and we're using this software Amplify and the Navi to actually look at the bubble students to make sure that we specialize their their training to specialize their education to make sure that they move forward not just with the the group itself or the cohort itself but to-- as an individual itself.
So we specialize each educational pathway plan for every student to make sure that they're not falling behind but they're also in line with the general population.

Senator Telo Taitague: Thank you so much. I'm glad to see that you're taking advantage of the AI system on algorithms basically so that you can determine it a lot faster you know. Of course you're a tech holler you know. You're a techie so I I appreciate what you're doing. Maybe you know I saw the collaboration between Senator Will Parkinson and Mike Phillips on the mock trial and how they're collaborating.

William M. Castro, Principal, Career Tech: Excuse me. It's Will Castro.

Senator Telo Taitague: Did I what I say?
What did I say? I I think you mistook me with Will Parkinson.

Senator Telo Taitague: Oh Parkinson. Senator Will Parkinson. You know I keep saying that. You know you left us too soon you know. Senator Castro you left us way too soon. If you'd have stayed here I would have got your last name correct. Had more years to practice.
But no I really appreciate the collaboration that the schools are making with each other. I mean you should be very proud of that. And with SIFA and it they can also you know assist in the other schools with AI technology to simplify you know any kind of you know assessment performance definitely with your students.
So I ask you to please you know take advantage of him. He's here since you guys are all kumbaya-ing and that's a a really good thing. So AnnMarie you're up.

AnnMarie Arceo, Founder, *Maga'låhen Hurão*: So with our testing we use the next generation common not Common Core aligned with Common Core curriculum and they have an in it's nationally I'm sorry.

Can I just say it in Chamorro?
My Chamorro's getting in the way of my English.

Senator Telo Taitague: Oh no. Never make an excuse for that my friend.

AnnMarie Arceo, Founder, *Maga'låhen Huråo*: Next Generation is a national standard curriculum is acknowledged and what we have to do is build it in so we're using that curriculum and those standardized testing. However we're indigenizing so we're building it as we go but we're still testing.
Last year is what we did and then this year we should have a completed test to that's indigenized. So in other words for example in math if it's teaching to the standard of measurements the measurement tool that we would use in testing is measuring agriculture. You know plants or and really indigenizing it instead of just taking it straight from the test instrument.
We indigenize. We're indigenizing.

Senator Telo Taitague: I mean have you had an opportunity to look at New Zealand and their schools on Indigenous to provide this type of program that's very simple to measure you know the progress of a child learning especially it's not just on language but the culture itself.

AnnMarie Arceo, Founder, *Maga'låhen Huråo*: We have.

Senator Telo Taitague: Okay great. That's good to hear.

AnnMarie Arceo, Founder, *Maga'låhen Huråo*: We're in partnership with Hawaii also. Hawaii and New Zealand and Hong Hongkong and New Zealand. –

Senator Telo Taitague: Maolek maolek.

AnnMarie Arceo, Founder, *Maga'låhen Huråo*: I've actually gone there to visit them.

Senator Telo Taitague: Okay. Yeah.

AnnMarie Arceo, Founder, *Maga'låhen Huråo*: And we're working with both New Zealand and Hawaii on these instruments to be able to share. It's just it's still a challenge because their's all written in Maori or it's all written in Hawaiian.

Senator Telo Taitague: Good good good.

AnnMarie Arceo, Founder, *Maga'låhen Huråo*: And so the request to bring it back to us in in English so we can then again translate it to Chamorro and make it ours is the building that we have to do.

Senator Telo Taitague: Maolek maolek.

AnnMarie Arceo, Founder, *Maga'låhen Huråo*: But we're on our way. Thank you so much.

Senator Telo Taitague: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'.*

AnnMarie Arceo, Founder, *Maga'låhen Huråo*: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'.*

Senator Telo Taitague: Mr. Phillips?

Michael Philips, Chairperson of Board of Trustees, Mount Carmel Charter School: In our two years of being a charter school we're not used a standardized test mostly because we haven't found one that even comes close to our curriculum. And no one else here said I'm not saying for anybody other than me but whether I was with the archdiocese or a student at UOG or even a student at Mount Carmel back then I learned that standardized tests can be extremely dangerous to students because we all walk away with our grade.

And the difference is at your school you were teaching the tests. At my school they we're lucky if you're touching the topic maybe but maybe you're touching something else. And so former Senator Lina Machin in fact is one of those that that really warned me about two things. One is you need to get it but it needs to be customized to your to your curriculum that you're actually so you're not you're not chasing the tests but number two don't administer a test that doesn't fit your curriculum. When we were with the archdiocese we were told we weren't gonna get federal funding anymore if we didn't. We did and the results were very similar to to what you hear here. If the student is with our school they're doing better sometimes substantially better than the rest.

But when someone comes in they don't do as well. Now someone could jump to the conclusion that that means the other schools are not as good. That's not my conclusion. My conclusion is they're not in the system and that's the danger of administering those tests. I think that we had Two three maybe as many as four different DOE tests because they kept changing what they wanted.

And each time they did it they assured me it would be the last time but we reluctantly went along with it at times. when I discussed it and we've been WASC accredited

since probably 1950s if WASC was around that long. But we've never had anything short of full accreditation and we've always explained that to the accreditors.
We'll do it but we don't That's not our curriculum. We don't chase that test. And Joe Sanchez from DOE has been very helpful. We haven't had to use him in a long time. He's very very helpful in explaining the test to us and why it's these questions and all that. So if you wanna do better on that test you can go ahead and teach those those portions for example of math and science and all that.
But but then the test is dictating your curriculum and so that's the give and take. We are gonna do it but it's going to be customized to our our curriculum which isn't going to change much. Okay we're we're absolutely gonna do it.

Senator Telo Taitague: Well thank you so much because it's an opportunity for you to also obtain grants and a lot of times grants a- grants asks for the performance of of your students in order to obtain some grants.
Okay. Next.

Helen Nishihara, COO, iLearn Academy Charter School: We use Smarter Balanced with GDOE which is a district-wide assessment but we we pepper that with IXL and i-Ready some third-party assessments to determine whether or not that that n- data is true. And so we've been able to find that we do very well but we use the data internally as opposed to comparing.
'Cause we we do well so But what does that mean for iLearn on a longevity type? So we use that data to determine is there a group that needs help. So we do a lot of our decision-making based on the data but it's not something that we like to tout in terms of we do better than this you know, but we do are a we're able to identify that we come close to grade-level readiness and so to us that's the most important thing in terms of these data. We I submitted the the report from our chief administrative officer but every year when we complete our end of the year report we post that on our our website.

Senator Telo Taitague: Thank you so much. Next.

Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School: Yes. For Guhan Academy we also use and adapt to the district-wide assessment test mandated by the Guam Department of Education. Mr. Michael Phillips is correct that it has been the third time that the assessment has been changed but we continuously adapt to whatever they give us. We use that just like I learn every year. We use those and report it in our citizen-centric report which is actually a mandate and we post it in our website. But we we closely monitor our students' progress. That's why we have

an internal assessment aligned not only with our curriculum which is Common Core but it's also aligned to the standard district-wide assessment of Smarter Balance.
And we see that because our the levels academic levels of our students vary we use the district-wide assessment only to not to compare but to see how it i- how we stand with the public schools especially here on Guam. But we monitor closely our students' progress individual students' progress through the Renaissance program.

Senator Telo Taitague: Thank you so much. Senator Castro?

William M. Castro, Principal, Career Tech: Wow we almost we've almost come full circle. I mean a similar question was asked about Who gets to approve the salary of a master navigator? Do you remember this conversation? And so we've come full circle because now we're gonna ask ourselves again what standardized tool do we use to assess our students?
And I just couldn't help myself after Senator Phillips here in a very nice and collegial way challenged the underlying question. I do wanna I do wanna support that and then I'll give you my formal answer. we gotta be careful because standardized tests measure something but they don't measure everything especially not depth of knowledge certainly not culture resilience or even one's identity or indigeneity within communities such as this in this great Samoan nation and to my colleague to my left I know that the test that we use the DWA I don't think it measures if we're smarter. Though because we wanna get along with the state education system we're certainly gonna be balanced. And so with that said Career Tech Academy does use both the DWA district-wide assessment as well as IXL.
They've mentioned that. Behind me are my two teachers. they use the IXL learning platform as complementary tools to strengthen student achievement and accountability. The DWA for the record measures student performance against GDOE standards and benchmarks at the same time IXL provides Senator this is really cool.
This is kind of You should come on down and take a look at it or go to any of these schools who have it. The IXL provides real-time diagnostics and continuous progress monitoring. I will be the first to submit that it's not with full adoption and it's certainly not with great proficiency. we can do better in getting our faculty to adopt this.
I'd like to see Antonio Piolo use IXL and determine his *Kolåksig guiya gi fino* English. I mean tongue in cheek. the short answer is DWA IXL. And also for the record come this academic year beginning August pre-SAT a as well as SAT for those who are looking to go to a competitive college.
And again the jury's out on whether those still apply to even the top-tier schools like like Harvard and/or Stanford. And so I hope that satisfies your question Senator.

Senator Telo Taitague: Yep. It does. Thank you so much. Just a couple more questions Mr. Chair. And this goes to Vangie. Vangie are- do the schools determine when when they bring in a student do they ask the parents the questions what school did your child go to prior?
And do you have those numbers to reflect how many of those students are from private schools that are coming in how many from the public schools and even some from DoDEA? How many are are they measured?

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: Senator we do have those we have those data.

Senator Telo Taitague: Okay.

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: We I don't have it with me now but I'll be more than happy to provide it to you or to this body. We do provide that because last year we needed to get compact impact and part of that was to provide all that information and data so we do have that in file.

Senator Telo Taitague: Yeah. That's good to have because like we say you know we we don't wanna hurt DOE- Yeah you know the situation they're in. We wanna ensure that whatever we're subtracting from DOE it's reflected at that these students are actually going to charter schools in which we can so we we'll follow them.
So that information's in real important.

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: Yes.

Senator Telo Taitague: And I'd like to see those numbers too as well Okay if you don't mind if you can

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: Yeah we will provide it to you.

Senator Telo Taitague: Yeah the chairman of course and then- Okay of course myself if you can put me in that one. Okay. how many days are all are all school charter schools on the same 180 days?

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: Under the law yes they are.

Senator Telo Taitague: Okay.

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: We they are all in full compliance.

Senator Telo Taitague: Yeah. So- They have the minimum. They have the minimum. Okay. So I kinda did some more math and and I've I've noticed that this increase- Yes two of 525 additional amount that you're requesting is basically just you know $2.77 a day for a student.

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: Yeah.

Senator Telo Taitague: I don't know how I mean that's that's very low. $2.77 is all you're asking a day for a student.

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: Yes.

Senator Telo Taitague: So it's it's very very minimal you know. I've always been a great And the reason why I asked all those performance-based you know evaluations of the students and how they're you know- Exceeding being at a charter school is important because it's the numbers.
I love numbers you know and it's all the numbers speak for itself. It justifies any increase that you're requesting for. it's a little bit harder to determine on the increase of population to your schools you know by the caps being im- but we can actually you know look at their performance when it comes to funding more.
That's helpful. So I really appreciate the time and everybody who's here in the audience. You know every once in a while I hope the camera can take a full picture of everyone. There there you go. Say hey. You know. Thank you so much for sitting through this and finding out what your school does and how well these individuals sitting in front of us are fighting for your school and fighting for most especially most especially for our children of Guam because that would makes a difference.
Oh you know what I did want to ask? Are you asking for any increase on the administrative side on the board?

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: Gosh Senator thank you so much. No we're not.

Senator Telo Taitague: Okay.

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: We're you know I'm asking I the way I look at it is okay I'm coming here and I'm pushing for this 8-3 and to increase the cap enroll student enrollment.

Senator Telo Taitague: Yeah

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: Okay. we will bite the bullet.

Senator Telo Taitague: Okay.

Senator Telo Taitague: We got our CAR. Yeah. We got everything that was important. We got her her title.

Senator Telo Taitague: Okay.

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: So those were the things that we needed. We got it and we're happy.

Senator Telo Taitague: Okay.

Evangeline M. Cepeda, Chairperson, Guam Charter School Council: Thank you. We appreciate it.

Senator Telo Taitague: No no worries and appreciate you s- keeping that course to to look after your charter schools to have them come first you know?
So thank you so much Mr. Chair.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* Senator Taitague. Vice Speaker Ada you're recognized. Thank you.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: Thank you Mr. Chair and thank you everyone for being here this afternoon. perhaps I just have a few questions and Let me let me go ahead and start off with with Guahan Academy. With your testimony this afternoon you were mentioning about the looking for a facility that includes a compliant cafeteria and things of that nature. Is the current facility that you're at the cafeteria is non-compliant?

Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School: It is compliant .As a matter of fact we are approved for the second year under the Child Nutrition

Program. It's just the operational efficiency and disruption for instructional because we have to stagger our lunch our meals understood our lunch servings.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: Yeah. I was just asking because you said a compliant cafeteria would not only maintain compliance with federal nutrition.
So that's why I was asking if the current facility that you're at is compliant or non-compliant.

Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School: Yes. It is.
Vice Speaker Tony Ada: And what is the current capacity of the school of the facilities that you're in?
Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School: For the cafeteria where we serve the lunch and the free breakfast and lunch for our students nutritional breakfast and lunch for our new that's is 300 students 350 students. So because we are a K to 12 school we have two lunch periods that starts a little bit early 10:30 for our primary.
Vice Speaker Tony Ada: Sure. And then but that that's usually the case even with public the GDOE schools that they have staggered lunches right?
Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School: Yeah. So It's the only common space that we have so we use also our cafeteria for assemblies and smaller programs or group of programs.
But if it's a this if it's a school-wide event it has to be at the parking lot.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: And then also you were mentioning about the looking Are are you guys currently looking for another facility to go into?

Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School: We definitely are in looking for a facility where we could rent or lease as long as we provide that safe environment and maintain the compliance of all our programs.
'Cause I noticed in the for 27 FY twenty-seven request you were looking for one point ninety-two million for office space rental. Is that for a new facility?

Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School: That's the facilities sir. Yes. And it's a conservative amount that we allocated.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: Is is that for a new facility or is that for the current facility?

Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School: It's for a new facility.
Vice Speaker Tony Ada: Okay. So do you have any agreements or do you have any.

Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School: We don't have any Current agreements right now but we are looking into an IFB or an RFP request for proposal for those.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: So nothing has gone through yet for RFP or?

Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School: No nothing .Yes.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: All right.

Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School: But just through going through market analysis that's the conservative amount that we have to spend. And at least it would still be under the current agreement with the property owner because we governor the office of the governor is paying about less than a million for that property.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: And then on your contractual services you in FY twenty-six it was one point six million and then for twenty-seven you're only requesting for nine hundred and seventy-one thousand.
What is the difference there?

Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School: Yeah. So the contractual from for FY twenty-six is for the architectural and engineering firm that provided us estimates ROM or the estimates for this facility. We have three options i- back in FY twenty-five is we if we were going to construct our own facility in our existing property. Another one is a lease just like other charter schools. So that was already performed those rough estimates and we have to.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: Was that a contract, How much was that? How much was the architect and engineering contract?

Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School:
It it went up to about five hundred and fifty thousand.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: So you guys paid five hundred and fifty thousand for it?

Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School: For the design and the.
Vice Speaker Tony Ada: And then 971 000 that is for Do you have a 971 000 for the F '20- FY27 request?

Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School: It's just like it's a movement of different allocation because before everything goes under contractual but for fiscal 2027 we identified and really categorized it even for our subscriptions for our instructional.
Before it's like under contractual but we put it under specific categories.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: And do you pay water power and utilities at your current facility?

Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School: Yes we do.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: Does the school pay for it?

Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School: Yes.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: And you're looking at an increase of 25,000 for power?

Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School:
Yes we we do and that's based on Because the meter or the bill is directed is paid by shouldered by Guahan.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: And then you're going from 120,000 down to 50,000 for telephones.

Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School:
Yes because we did put under contractual or internet the provision from a different vendor so we don't use the landline. Is that what you were referring to?

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: All right. So you guys are looking for an increase in your in your s- you you weren't looking for an increase in your school population-

Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School: No.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: Just an increase just to main-in the per pupil cost right?

Ann Santiago, CEO, Guahan Academy Charter School: Yes. Yes Senator. All right. Just to maintain the cap that we have right now.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: Okay. Thank you. for SIFA you're looking for a 185 student population increase?

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): Yes.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: And what is your current what is your current situation with your facilities right now?
Can you handle that 185 increase. The current facility

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): So at the current facility? So e are cap the facility can We're capping it at 300 only so Okay because that's the space that we have. So for next year that's what we're requesting for.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: And you said you're currently in a working a lease agreement through for a new facility?

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): The lease agree the lease agreement or procurement review is actually with the AG right now.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: I see. So what is the plan B if plan A doesn't go through?

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): The plan B? So we also have Again we've we've looked at other the other options second and third options that are there but because this first time we
This is the furthest we actually been through in terms of procurement it's already at the AG's office for moving forward. And so we do have the plan B plan C on there but we're focused on this right now.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: Yeah. I like to focus too on plan A but- Yes.

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): Yes.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: We need to focus on plan B and plan C because we've been down this road previously haven't we?

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): But we do we do have a plan B and plan C. Yes. But again this is the.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: And that's why I'm asking right? Yes. And this is very important because what we don't wanna find is the students in a situation where school is opening and we're scrambling to find out where they're gonna go.
I agree. So I'm asking is there a plan B and a plan C? Yes. And if plan A doesn't go through what is plan B?

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): What is what is plan B?

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: Yes.

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): So we actually are are speaking with a another landlord or a potential landlord for leases and they have a facility for us.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: So is that facility gonna be able to accommodate 100- 485 students?

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): 600 I think.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: Or 600- Yeah. No. Well you're asking for-

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): For the for the plan B

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: yes for 750.

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): That is for the plan A yes.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: So what plan B is gonna be what?

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): It it can hold up to 650. So plan B is 650. Yes.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: And plan C is?

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): Plan C is around 650 as well. Yes

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: So for '27 school year 20 FY 20 '27 school year you're not planning to be at the current facility in GCC.

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): No
is what you're saying? We we are we are we're hoping to open next school year in our new facilities that can hold up to 900 students.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: And that's gonna be a plan B right? Is if A B and C don't go through.

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): Yes.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: then it's gonna be staying in plan D at GCC. Am I correct?

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): No. Not staying at GCC. I am I'm adamant in not staying again GCC is looking at opening up their own charter school and we had great discussions with them as well. And so we intend to move out and and so we have our plan A our plan B and- And plan Cour plan C. Yes.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: Okay. All right
Have you been paying utilities at the current facility right now?

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): No. We actually pay a fixed rate monthly 16 16,500 per month.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: Did you have any lapses in utilities from la- from this FY?

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): No.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: No lapses in utilities?
So in your 27 requests you were looking at power to be 102,000.

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): That's expected.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: At the new facility?

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): Yes.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: And your water and sewer 22,000 correct?

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): Yes correct.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: And capital outlay what's this $380,000 capital outlay?

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): That is to for operational costs of this new facilities in anticipation of our expansion of or the increase of our population.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: All right. On your contractual service you have an increase here of 171,000.

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): Yes.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: What does that consist of?

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): Excuse me?

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: What is it?

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): So a again because we are like all other charter schools we are specialized in in in our curriculum. And so contractual services would be a specialized curriculum as well as specialized experts in the fields.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: I see. And you're looking at your new lease to be around 780,000?

Anthony J. Sunga, Ph.D, CEO and Chairman, (SIFA): That is correct. 780,000.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: I guess that's the only questions I have and I think the concerns are right it's just we just wanna make sure that all the charter schools that are currently in existence are gonna be able to go into their current spaces and we don't run into that issue again Yes what happened this past year and that you know we don't find students scrambling at the last minute.
Uh other than that you know everything else seems to be okay. I think that charter schools have done a a fabulous job over this past several years. other than Mr. Chair we can just go ahead and we can conclude this.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: *Si Yu'os ma'åse* Vice Speaker and okay. Well thank you very much once again. We appreciate you being here and as we depart here on this Friday almost evening now going afternoon to evening I ask each and every one of you to please extend some prayers over the weekend as we know that

there's impending weather coming our way and you know so we ask the Lord to spare us.

And so I just wanted to ask you to do that outside of us also praying that we're gonna be able to reach these goals of the budget. But what's at hand right now also is some possibility of inclement weather. So God bless you and be safe with your families. this will conclude this afternoon's budget hearing on Bill 266-38 relative to the charter schools of Guam.

The committee will continue to accept written testimony on this particular proposal throughout the time that we're hearing the all of the budgets and then we'll have a seven-day closure prior to addressing the bill which may be addressed to myself Senator Christopher M. Duenas as chairman of the committee mailed to 163 West Chalan Santo Papa Hagåtña Guam 96910.

You may also send your testimonies to my email at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov . This budget hearing is now adjourned and the time is 4:43. *Si Yu'os ma'åse*. God bless you and we are adjourned.

The Budget Hearing was adjourned at [4:43 PM]..

COMMITTEE REPORT

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) -

INTRODUCED BY

Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam

AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

Wednesday, May 06, 2026, at 9:00 A.M.

Guam Department of Education (GDOE)

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 06, 2026

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Wed, Apr 29, 2026 at 8:30 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Christopher Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com" <stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com>, "vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com" <vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com>, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 29, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 06, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Wednesday, May 06, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Guam Department of Education (GDOE)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,

Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

---

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

FIRST NOTICE-GDOE.pdf
694K

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 29, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 06, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Wednesday, May 06, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
- Guam Department of Education (GDOE)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 06, 2026

PRINT

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 06, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 04/29/2026 09:33 AM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 29, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 06, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Wednesday, May 06, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** (http://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%2044-38%20(COR).pdf) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
· Guam Department of Education (GDOE)

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 budget hearing, 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.*

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Notice of Budget Hearing

Wednesday, May 6, 2026, 9:00 A.M.

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Wednesday, May 6, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Guam Department of Education (GDOE)

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

GUAM LEGISLATURE
AUDIO VISUAL DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Office Submitting Request: Senator Chris Dueñas

Date of Request: 4/28/26

POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Ashley Shinohara Contact #: 671-989-9554

Email: senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS

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

☐ Oversight Hearing ☐ Committee Meeting ☒ Other: Budget Hearing

Notice Title / Bill(s) / Resolution(s) / Appointment:
Bill 266-38 (COR) - Guam Dept. of Education

Date of Event: 05/06/2026 Start Time: 9:00 AM AM/PM

End Time: 12:00 PM AM/PM

Location: Public Hearing Room

MEDIA HANDLING

Recording Format: ☒ MP4 ☐ MP3 ☐ Other: _____

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

CERTIFIED BY AV:

Name: Rory Perez Signature: _____

Posted on Air Date: 4/29/26 – 5/6/26

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 06, 2026

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Mon, May 4, 2026 at 8:30 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Christopher Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com" <stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com>, "vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com" <vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com>, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 04, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 06, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Wednesday, May 06, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Guam Department of Education (GDOE)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

SECOND NOTICE-GDOE.pdf
698K

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 04, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 06, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Wednesday, May 06, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Guam Department of Education (GDOE)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 06, 2026

PRINT

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 06, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 05/04/2026 09:31 AM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 04, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 06, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Wednesday, May 06, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** (https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
· Guam Department of Education (GDOE)

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 budget hearing, please contact the Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas for further assistance via email at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov***

at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov (mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov) *or by phone at (671) 989-9554.*

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

BUDGET HEARING AGENDA

Wednesday, May 6, 2026 – Guam Congress Building

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam – AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

9:00 am:

- Guam Department of Education (GDOE)

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahån

Date: May 6, 2026 — Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas — Time: 9:00 a.m.

Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS. Relative to Guam Department of Education (GDOE)

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Dr Judith Won Pat	GDOE / Superintendent			✓			
2	Franklin Leon Guerrero	GDOE / dfas		FPLeonGuerrero@gdoe.net	✓			
3	Mary Okada	GDOE - BEB						
4	Judith P. Guthertz	GDOE / Chair		[redacted]	✓			
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								

Guam Department of Education
Budget Hearing Narrative Report
May 2026

This report is respectfully submitted to provide an overview and justification of the Guam Department of Education's (GDOE) proposed Fiscal Year 2026–2027 budget. Our presentation outlines the department's current operational scope, mandated obligations, funding priorities, and fiscal challenges impacting the delivery of educational services across the island.

GDOE currently operates **39 schools** serving a student population of **23,121**. The department employs a total of **3,245 personnel**. These personnel are essential to maintaining instructional delivery, student support services, and operational continuity across all campuses.

Central to the budget framework are the **non-negotiable requirements outlined under the 14 Points Law**, which mandate operational standards for public education. These include the provision of certified teachers, counselors, nurses, allied health professionals, and administrators; safe and adequately maintained facilities; reliable utilities such as electricity and water; proper sanitation; instructional materials; and compliance with the requirement of 180 instructional days, including transportation services. These statutory obligations form the foundation upon which all budgetary decisions are made.

For Fiscal Year 2026–2027, GDOE is requesting a total budget of **$307 million**, an increase from the FY 2025–2026 appropriated budget of **$265.8 million**. The proposed allocation prioritizes personnel costs, which represent the largest expenditure at approximately **$259,266,157.57 million**, reflecting the department's commitment to meeting staffing requirements aligned with the 14 Points Law and Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA)

Utilities funding is proposed at **$18.01 million**, addressing the critical need for consistent electricity, air conditioning, and water supply across all schools. Contractual services are projected at **$18.33 million**, supporting essential operations such as custodial services, grounds maintenance, food services, network system, maintenance for HVAC and elevators, sanitation permits, solid waste disposal, and compliance-related services. Supplies, equipment, and textbooks are also funded to ensure that classrooms are adequately resourced, though some reductions are reflected due to fiscal constraints.

In addition to the general fund, GDOE continues to utilize **special funds**, including the Healthy Futures Fund, Passport Fund, and Limited Gaming revenues, which collectively support student health, library resources, and athletic programs. However, these funds are dependent on revenue collections and are not guaranteed.

Significantly, the department faces **unfunded costs totaling $23.5 million**, which are not included in the adopted budget. These include **$12 million for ADA compliance**, **$10 million for deferred maintenance and capital improvements**, and **$1.5 million for security enhancements for all schools**, such as solar lighting and CCTV systems. These unmet needs present ongoing risks to safety, accessibility, and infrastructure integrity.

In conclusion, the GDOE budget reflects a continued effort to align financial resources with statutory mandates and operational priorities while addressing longstanding infrastructure and service delivery challenges. The department remains committed to ensuring that all students receive a safe, equitable, and high-quality education. However, sustained investment and strategic fiscal support are necessary to fully meet legal requirements and improve overall system performance.

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

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

In accordance with Section 6.04(c)(1) of the Standing Rules of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, this committee digest provides a *summary* of the public hearing detailed below. To assist the general public in navigating this report, please note that all blue-highlighted text contains hyperlinks. Clicking on these links will direct you to the corresponding referenced sections/documents. For any questions or assistance regarding this digest, please contact our office at (671) 989-9554 or email us at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov.

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) – COMMITTEE ON RULES BY REQUEST OF I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN, THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

I. OVERVIEW

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) was introduced on **February 2, 2026** by **Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam** and was subsequently referred by the Committee on Rules to the **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** on **February 3, 2026.**

The **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** convened a Public Hearing on Bill No. 266-38 (COR) on **May 06, 2026** at **9AM** in the Guam Congress Building's Public Hearing Room.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Public Hearing Notices were posted to the Government Public Notices Portal and disseminated via electronic mail to all senators and all main media

broadcasting outlets on **April 29, 2026** (5-Day Notice), and again on **May 04, 2026** (48-Hour Notice).

SENATORS PRESENT

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations
Senator Chris Barnett, 38th Guam Legislature
Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature
Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature
Senator Sabrina Matanane, 38th Guam Legislature
Senator Vince Borja, 38th Guam Legislature
Senator Joe S. San Agustin, 38th Guam Legislature

ORAL TESTIMONY:

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education
Franklin Leon Guerrero, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Administrative Services, GDOE
Dr. Mary Okada, Vice Chairwoman, Guam Education Board
Dr. Judith P. Guthertz, Chairwoman, Guam Education Board

WRITTEN TESTIMONY:

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The public hearing for **Bill Number 266-38 (COR)** was called to order at **9:00AM**

[Questions and Discussion] **[***Begins at 00:21:00 and ends at 02:34:00*]

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Manana si yu'os and good morning to everyone. Welcome to the 38th Guam Legislature the People's House and the Guam Congress Building. We appreciate you being here this morning as we continue to hold public hearings on the fiscal 2027 budget. Today we will be entertaining the Department of Education.

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST – BILL NO. 266-38 (COR)
https://youtu.be/HZs-vrPQBbk?si=u0lt8n1cv2OULZLt

This morning's hearing will be conducted by Committee on Finance and Government Operations and is called to order at 09:07. We apologize. We had a couple technical difficulties but we're on now and this going to be done of course this morning May 6, 2026. First notice of this public hearing was disseminated to all senators and media outlets on April 29, 2026 with the second notice disseminated on May 4, 2026.

These hearing notices were also made available on the Guam Legislature's website our legislative calendar and the governor of Guam's public notice portal. The committee will hear testimony on the following on the agenda: Bill No. 266-38 – Introduced by Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* the Governor of Guam in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam -AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027 MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The focus of this session and once again will be the fiscal budget request for the Guam Department of Education. At this time I would like to welcome my colleagues that have joined us this morning. The chairman on education Senator Vince Borja. Thank you Mr. Chairman and also Senator Shawn Gumataotao Senator Sabrina Salas Mantanane, Senator Chris Barnett and Senator Telo Taitague.

Thank you colleagues for joining us this morning. Before we begin I'd like to remind everyone in attendance of I Liheslaturan Guahan'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 of the bill that is on the agenda. Personal inferences to the character or motive of any senator individual testifying is not permitted. The chairperson of the committee may order the removal from this hearing of any member of Liheslaturan Guahan or the public audience who fails to observe proper decor 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'll now proceed to hear testimony on Bill 266-38 and Department of Education's fiscal year '27 request. Madam Speaker and now acting superintendent of course of the Department of Education welcome as well as

others that have joined you. If you can go ahead and introduce those who have joined you and proceed with your presentation of your fiscal year '27 request.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Buenas yan Håfadai. Yes, I would like to introduce Dr. Okada who is the vice chair of the Guam Education Board and also with me is our DFAS Mr. Franklin Leon Guerrero. But if I may I would ask defer to our chairwoman first our vice chairwoman to speak.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Thank you very much. Ms. Okada you're recognized at this time Oh I'm sorry. I'm a little bit absent-minded this morning. Before we begin we'll have you sworn in please rise to be sworn in by Sergeant at Arms. He's keeping track of me.

Ed Pocaigue, Sergeant at Arms, 38th Guam Legislature: Today whether it be verbally, electronically and in writing be the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education/ Franklin Leon Guerrero, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Administrative Services, GDOE / Dr. Mary Okada, Vice Chairwoman, Guam Education Board: Yes.

Ed Pocaigue, Sergeant at Arms, 38th Guam Legislature: Mr. Chair they are under oath.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: You may proceed. Thank you. Now you may proceed Ms. Mary Okada.

Dr. Mary Okada, Vice Chairwoman, Guam Education Board: Hafadai and good morning to everyone. Senator Chris Duenas the chair of the budget committee, our education committee chairperson Senator Vince Borja, Senator Gumataotao, Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane good morning.

Senator Barnett thank you for being here. Senator Telo Taitague thank you also for being here. My name is Mary Okada the vice chair of the Guam Education Board and this morning I am here to not necessarily prevent-- present specific testimony but to support the superintendent in her request.

And just as a general information the Guam Education Board adopted the fiscal year 2027 budget for the Guam Department of Education in the amount of $307,027,565. This was vetted through the Budget and Finance Committee which is headed by myself and members of the education board as well.

And so through that participation that the board had we identified that the three hundred and seven million dollars is what was necessary for the operational component of the Guam Department of Education. Taking into consideration that we also have other capital improvement projects and other prior year obligations that now have surfaced that need to be paid as well the board supports this budget as requested and look forward to any questions that you may have regarding the submission of the budget to the-- from the superintendent and her deputies and on behalf of her department and will answer any questions as necessary at a later time. Thank you very much

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: You may proceed Madam Speaker-

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Senator may I also introduce Dr. Judith Gutherz who is the chairwoman of the Board of Education and I would defer to her as well to speak before I do.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Welcome Senator. Have you been sworn in already? Good morning. Senator I understand you've been sworn in so Senator Gutherz you may proceed with your opening comments.

Dr. Judith P. Guthertz, Chairwoman, Guam Education Board: Thank you very much good morning honorable senators. It's good to be with you this morning. I look forward to a positive interaction and helping to pursue improvements and solutions that will be good for our children, our students, our school system. Thank you very much.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Thank you Senator you may now proceed Superintendent Won Pat.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Si yu'os ma'ase. Buenas and Hafadai to Senator Duenas the Ways and Means Chair, Senator Borja our Education Oversight Chair, Senator Salas S- oh sorry Senator Barnett and

Senator Taitague. Good morning [PLEASE SEE ATTACHED TESTIMONY] Si Yu'os ma'åse' senators.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Si Yu'os ma'åse'. Madam Superintendent Madam Speaker. First of all, I want to thank the oversight chair for the number of hearings that we've had with you to include pending legislation to exhaust a lot of your capital improvements with authorization for your ability to use funds beyond what was prescribed in the fiscal year 2026 budget.

And that will be heard on the floor in the May session. And so we look forward to that being able to really make a big dent in a lot of the CIPs that you have been discussing and moving forward as well. With that the reason why I have you know been delighted with your participation particularly in a lot of the improvements on the fiscal side mainly due to your team led by Mr. Leon Guerrero is because we're here today for the budget and I've cautioned my colleagues that they really should use their time wisely. It's up to them how they use their time. But what we're focusing on is the budget and we want to thank you for coming to the pre-budget meetings as well in order to be able to vet some of these issues.

We will ask some of those questions pertaining to that as we had a very frank discussion which we'll have today here as well. Frank no spin on your name. But we thought it was very fruitful and something that prepares us. I also want to mention that every senator receives the full budget you know many many weeks and months before we come here.

It's a binder about this thick couple hundred pages. And so there's a lot of time to be able to work on questions that you may have for the way the governor has presented the presentation of the budget request. And so this should be the refined time where you get to the details of what's here having had the opportunity to review the budget request for months now at least on a global scale as presented by the governor.

We also at Office in Finance and Budget are very open. You can inquire any time whether you're a senator anyone really of what you want to ask in terms of how we're proceeding with this process going forward. The budget digests are always available that you can take a look at and see. And I just have one question before I go to the chairman because I want this on the record before the rest of the senators start asking their questions and I'll go to the chairman first as well.

And that is in the footnotes it indicates "GDOE did not provide breakdown by program and/or appropriation amount in the budget digest." Is there a reason for that?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: What I'm sorry. Can you repeat that again?

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: So in the footnote of the budget digest as prepared by Office of Finance and Budget there is a footnote that says "GDOE did not provide breakdown by program and/or appropriation amount in the budget digest." Is there a reason for that?

Franklin Leon Guerrero, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Administrative Services, GDOE: There's not a reason for that. It my understanding is we complied with the requirements the formatting requirements that wasked for. If it's not there we'll get it there because there's no reason we wouldn't have conformed.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Okay. So what we would do just so that we have that on the record...Go ahead Madam Superintendent.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: I'm just trying to... Of course, my understanding is that the format is a lot different from what I'm accustomed to and what you're accustomed to as well because we brought that up. But we do have you know with us like under each object category how we came up with that dollar amount. Would that be helpful? Because then I have those. I don't have descriptions about programs itself but specific requests under each object category we do have that.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Okay. Yeah. It will be. Because it will help in the formulation and we'll communicate with you on that-

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Okay

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: and here's why. as you know this one of the things we came up with

and I'll ask during my questions a little bit deeper dive on this. We had a real back and forth on your FTE calls as well as your traditional FTE representations and particularly because the real dearth we seem to consistently find in budget requests versus where we finally land is the 14 points as well as contractual agreements with the board.

However we continuously note that the request is far from the ability to fill Those budgeted vacancies and so a lot of times we get accused of not funding to a certain level yet we find that there are so many budgeted vacancies that are- and that'll come up again that aren't able to be filled thereby saying you're going to allocate you know tens of millions of dollars towards sometimes what least from traditional and we'll bring up that information too of traditional fiscal years not being able to fill those positions which really means you're locking up appropriations in that amount of money even for your own operation other than the operations of the government of Guam.

So that's why we want to make sure that when we're drilling down on this you know we need to communicate as well with the union. We need to communicate with your collective bargaining. We need to communicate with the issue of the points because I know it's been very contentious Madam Speaker when you brought this up before in terms of what the points mean.

But when you say sometimes adjustments on the points you're not saying get away from the quality of education that's being delivered. What you're saying is "We haven't been able to find or validate the positions required to do what we need going forward. and it's not for lack of an attempt it's for lack of the ability to fill those positions" yet you put these positions in the budget.

and we'll like I said we'll get to that during a further line of questioning. But that's where we want to also make sure that we're really having a real discussion what are we doing versus what do we have to do what we need to do. You know and that way it's clearer when we get on the floor and the back and forth.

I want to say also I appreciate the administration this year made it very clear in the beginning were not going to go through that craziness on the floor of the legislature again asking where is the reserve fund that included Department of Education meaning that the governor's request- can be you know all over the place in terms of who did what where and why and what was requested.

That's in this budget digest because we made sure it was. Weren't going to wait until the time we hit the floor and say "Well who requested? What did you request?" You know whether you did or not it's up to you how you communicated with the governor's office. But we know what the governor has pegged for the Department of Education so we'll be talking about that as well.

With that we want to thank you once again and we'll work with you on getting some more detail you know description in terms of program and object categories so that so that we can really vet the veracity of your ability to bring people on board and to get those programs moving forward. Or you know is will you need some flexibility internally maybe to use funds for other purposes when you know already that you've hit mid-fiscal year and you're just unable to recruit? So those are dynamic discussions that we'll be having going forward. With that Chairman Vince Bora we are using the clock. You have five minutes sir.

Senator Vince Borja, 38th Guam Legislature: Thank you Mr. Chair. Thank you to the GDOE team and the board for coming down today. What we'll you know some of the or the questions I'll be asking will be from the execution plan that you guys submitted for Q1 the EFC report the February one which is the latest one that OFB has and then of course the budget schedule that was submitted and approved by the board. But before we get into those specific questions some housekeeping stuff. The DOI approval has there been any update on approval to or feedback on whether or not you can use that reimbursement?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Well we've made three requests. I personally made a request when I was in DC with Dr. Forster only to learn that- The Department of Education, US Department of Education have-- the employees or the experts those most knowledgeable about the different programs in the department have either one released and only one or two individuals are being transferred to the different department.

Dr. Forester is the only person who we have been working with on all our federal grants that she's the only person being moved to USDOE no one else. She does not and she's not familiar with our request to get a letter of determination. We've also contacted our council in the US the Bruman Company and they too have been trying to track down who it is that they need to get this letter of determination. And to date we just haven't heard anything.

Senator Vince Borja, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay and then in ARP I know the last hearing we talked about the construction or the refurbishment project. How much again money was sent back for ARP we didn't spend by the March thirty deadline?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: About three million dollars.

Senator Vince Borja, 38th Guam Legislature: Three million. Okay. And that's going to be again to be covered by... And is that still outstanding or did we pay that off already with local funds?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: No. It-- that ends basically. So any other invoices that we've received related to that would have to come through local funds.

Senator Vince Borja, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay that hearing is why I asked you in regards to like any outstanding invoices what are the amounts and to whom do we owe right now the department?

Franklin Leon Guerrero, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Administrative Services, GDOE: The prime money still owed is to the construction company that did refurbishment of the twelve schools because there's different guidance being shared with us. The procurement processes were not followed at the time. So now it throws up a legal a legal considerations and questions that have come our way.

And so we're looking at between $20 and $30 million in that refurbishment contract. But because the procurement process weren't done dot the I's and cross the T's and the legality of it all we've been told to hold. And so that's what we're doing. The invoices are out there. The requests to be paid are out there.

The implications that if you don't pay us tomorrow we will start charging interest and late fees. All of that is out there but we are on hold right now.

Senator Vince Borja, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay thank you for that. Madam Superintendent your budget submission that was approved by the board shows a total student enrollment at 23,121 and that was of September 30 down from its high of 31,000 which is a loss of 8,252 a 26% decline.

In that same period the budget request has gone from $266 which has pretty much just been what the legislature appropriate to $307 now which is a 15.5% increase which brings your per student cost to about $13,279 up from $11,000.

I guess my question is what is the... You know based on your vision what is your the your educational outcome and how do you plan? Like in your own words what are you trying to measure? What are you looking to measure based on your budget request?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Well first of all-

Senator Vince Borja, 38th Guam Legislature: Or are you just playing catch-up?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Well we're doing that. I mean like we stated in the last hearing that we're basically on a journey of discovery and we are discovering a lot of things and we're trying to fix you know those. But I also want the legislature to understand as well that even though when our budget has gone up and our population has gone down doesn't necessarily mean that instruction you know has gone down as well.

I'd like to explain however because many of you were not here maybe is that there are all these years in which there's been increases in salaries which is the largest 86.5%. In 2021 and '24 the nurses got a pay raise. On 2022 the educators' pay plan also was implemented. On 2023 the general pay plan for everyone in the department also was implemented.

And 2024 the attorneys' pay plan. All of these are all related to personnel and personnel is the largest like I said 86.5% and that's has been the increase. Now granted there are going to be other increases as well in the other object categories but personnel is the largest of all. And the in the request that you notice is that what we have put in aside from trying to implement and follow all these mandates one of the biggest mandate that we have is our CBAs which is the collective bargaining agreement.

And the amount that you're seeing actually is attributed to most of it to CBA positions. And what that is and I have a breakdown of that is 334 all CBA positions required. 334 new positions and that's what we included in our budget.

Senator Vince Borja, 38th Guam Legislature: Thank you. For the FY you know part of the FY 2020-27 the budget request shows you're requesting funding for 442 additional FTEs. I know a lot of that is CBA correct?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: 334.

Senator Vince Borja, 38th Guam Legislature: And then you-

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Other new positions at Central will be 30 and a lot of those are like auditors and individual skilled laborers for facilities and maintenance. Those are the two primary positions that we're requesting for.

Senator Vince Borja, 38th Guam Legislature: I'm just curious about the Central one because there's always been a narrative that Central was very bloated. What are the additional 30 positions that you're asking for?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: So these so these are the positions new positions for Central. Auditor one and auditor four, three carpenter ones, four carpenter two, four maintenance, two workers, 11 maintenance worker, one payroll clerk, three one personnel specialist two, two plumbers, three plumber twos, two refrigeration mechanic two and one storekeeper.

Those are the Central positions. These are not like you know clerical positions that everybody always kind of talks you know about. And then the positions the new positions for our CBA I can just go through that. Administrative assistant 37, clerks two, Head Start aides one, Junior ROTC instructor for the Army, 16 library tech, one licensed practical nurse, 60 school aides these are paraeducators, 21 school aide, one for kinder, three school aide, one for one to five grades, one to five, 80 school aide, one for ESL and teacher assistants, 94 school aides one.

These are the CBA the one-to-one adult support, 16 teacher counselors and two teacher... I mean two librarians. Those are the positions that we're requesting for. So it's not padding or increasing the numbers at Central office. As a matter of fact we have been cross-leveling. We've been transferring to where some of these extra positions are needed.

We're also transferring those that are considered as certified teachers to the classrooms because that's our priority to fill our classrooms. So we are decreasing

yes Central and increasing and responding to the needs of our children in the classrooms in the s- at the school level.

Senator Vince Borja, 38th Guam Legislature: Thank you. Your February EFSC report which is done by the EFC commission rates GDOE A stable.

That's the highest rating which gives you a positive variance in every category and that was of February 28th. The general fund showed at that time 100 and 148.6 million left in the into the fiscal year. But then the Q1 fiscal execution report that your office submitted with the budget execution rate target at 95% with your Q1 actual at 20%.

In the footnotes of the execution plan that you submitted you only executed 78% meaning you lapsed roughly about $64 million. So my question is while we're you know in the last meeting the last hearing we talked about internal audit saying that you guys are running in a deficit but your EFC commission is saying you're A stable well within the budget on the appropriation you already have.

But then we're also asking $40 more million to operate which again if we cannot deploy the $266 right now just based on the reporting what is the operational basis to continue to request for the $307?

Franklin Leon Guerrero, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Administrative Services, GDOE: So we get lots of financial guidance as you know. And the latest guidance that we've gotten from our internal auditors is that if we continue at the pace we're going right now GDOE will go into deficit spending.

So are we going to spend the allotment that we have? Absolutely. and more so if we could. It's just that as the superintendent said earlier we've been on a journey of discovery so things are coming up.

Senator Vince Borja, 38th Guam Legislature: In that EFSC report it said that you're projected to lapse about $2 million. So where-- what's the variance or what's wrong here?

Franklin Leon Guerrero, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Administrative Services, GDOE: Oh well that's an interesting concept because we're-

Senator Vince Borja, 38th Guam Legislature: It's not a concept it's in the report that was just released or that we got from the EFC report last week Thursday.

Franklin Leon Guerrero, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Administrative Services, GDOE: Yeah I will have to talk to my staff on that to clarify it.

Senator Vince Borja, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. And then even right now how much money do you have in the bank?

Franklin Leon Guerrero, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Administrative Services, GDOE: We are anticipating on spending all the money so I'll I will get back to you on that.

Senator Vince Borja, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. Next question. The governor requested the $266.5 for FY27. You're requesting $307. Obviously that's a $40.4 difference. EFC rating A stable at the lower number your Q1 execution at twenty. Your enrollment is down twenty-six percent. I guess my-- one of my other questions is you know considering the you know and again we can talk about you know Dr. Won Pat the beginning we talked about…I guess what we're looking at is the maximization. I know that we talked-- you talked about going and going back to that. What is the latest in regards to trying to cross levels or any updates to the maximization?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Yes. When we came in we had requested for all of the master schedules from the school principals and we reviewed them and have spoken to the principals to maximize and do the cross-leveling. And of and of course I know research has always said that the lower the class the greater it is in terms of instructional growth.

But then at this time with our financial you know constraints is that we needed to look at maximizing as much as possible not just our classrooms but also of course our teachers. Some of our teachers based then on some of the vacancies that they have that with the cross-leveling they have reduced the numbers.

Like for example FB in the cross-leveling was able to free up 17 teachers. Simon Sanchez needed seven but because of cross-leveling they only need two. But those are some of the things that we're currently implementing this particular year and of course even in the next fiscal year. So they are all aware of that.

And even to the point of and then I'll just put it out in the air is that when Dr. Swanson and his previous team knew that they had vacancies they knew they didn't have money to continue with their current budget is that they proceeded with decommissioning looking at decommissioning some schools.

And as you know if LBJ and Brodie were decommissioned. So the concept of that is that when you take the teachers they would follow of course their children. But in addition when you cross level and do your master scheduling then you do the blending of two different schools and their schedules then you're really maximizing your class sizes.

The extra teachers then would go and fill other positions in other schools so that it would help the department in terms of one filling those position and two of course a cost savings. And so that is something that we're still actually considering talking about as well because we know I know where you guys are all coming from.

Been there done that so going through this whole process. So I'm coming forward not necessarily to pad our budget. We really when were doing this trust me when I was going through this with our people in accounting went through five six reiteration because I kept saying "Go back go back." Then I took in our federal people and they say "What can we transfer?

What can the federal grants cover that we don't have to request?" And we did all that. We scrubbed this budget to the point that the skin may be falling off already. I mean that's how much went through this. How much further could we scrub it? That is totally dependent again terms of one- And now I want you guys to know this because you tied my hands when I requested that you provide legislation to allow us to lease out our schools.

You made it difficult by requiring me to go out and get a certified appraiser money I don't have to do that for every building not just... I'm not just talking about these two schools but I'm talking about even individual classrooms right now where departments are asking me "Do you have five classrooms available because I need a division to go there?"

But I can't. I can't do it unless I do an appraisal. So I'm going to ask you and I'm going to take advantage of this while I have your attention is that change that amend it and make it instead the prevailing rate per square footage of that particular area.

You're going to help me or tell me "Go and use the valuation from Rev and Tax" because they did it.

They got a certified appraiser who did it for the entire island. So now granted that's you know several years old already but that would definitely help us. I'll stick to your 60% for nonprofit organizations and 90% for those private entities but you gotta help me here. Untie my hands. I can lease those properties out and that's extra money that I can bring in.

And of course yes that's not the only thing is it that's going to help us. I'm also considering because we have to maximize full utilization yes of our facilities because it's costly to maintain those facilities. You know that like for example I have two less schools now to worry about if I can lease it out and that would be a part of the agreement. But I need that language to be amended to help us. So help us help ourselves. Thank you.

Senator Vince Borja, 38th Guam Legislature: For the record we didn't tie your hands. I'm just kidding. the other the other question I had was the ... You know last budget there was like I think it was 3.04 was what they asked and Dr. Swanson at the time said that if we didn't give them the budget they were going to shut down five schools. We gave you $263 or $266. Where what will happen if we don't you don't get the $307? What is the worst-case scenario?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Well several things of course like I said to you. One is the decommissioning. The decommissioned schools to lease out to decommission additional schools not because I want to but it's financially sound to do so in terms of you know having I mean underutilizing a school classrooms wings that are available that I can lease out. That's one. The other and I hope you consider this that our contract is going to be up soon.

It's going to mature for GEFF and I hope that the money that we're currently paying out to that is that you use that money and appropriate that too to the department for us to use now for facilities because remember we're taking care now. We take over for those schools. So that definitely is you know one way to help us. I mean we're not a revenue-generating institution but now we're having to look and see how we can also help ourselves and that's the only way by giving us that vehicle to lease our buildings.

Franklin Leon Guerrero, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Administrative Services, GDOE: I'd like to add some information if I could. So there's been a commission that was established to look at the schools declining populations that kind of stuff and that commission has met with the superintendent and they had recommendations on different phases of adjustments to the school facilities decommissioning opportunities and stuff like that.

So that's being looked at very hard. But one of the things I want to share with you is that for example LBJ and Chief Brody have already closed. We all know that. So the average power bill at LBJ before the closure was $14,000 a month. The average power bill because we have to try to prevent mold and stuff so the average power bill at LBJ after the closure is $3,500 a month.

That's a 75% reduction in power. The water at LBJ went from $5,000 a month to $3,500 so 30% reduction in the water bill. Chief Brody power before closure was $18,000 a month. After closure it's $7,000 a month. 61% reduction in the power bill. So and the water was went from $11,000 a month to $3,000 a month and there could've been some leaks in there.

But that's a 72% reduction. So you know the commission has recommended that it makes sense to look at population swings and densities and opportunities to combine school populations and that's what's being looked at.

Senator Vince Borja, 38th Guam Legislature: Last question

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Oh and may I just because I didn't answer I know all of your questions what else can we do? But the largest cost of course is personnel. And so when we transfer when the when we decommission the school when the students go naturally the teachers go. But then when you do the cross-leveling and you create one master schedule and you maximize those classrooms there'll be extra teachers.

Now those teachers will go in and fill the vacancies in other schools. And so and therefore we're going to be getting certified teachers in there so that would address the you know that question as well. So definitely one and in looking in that and we just kind of did a minor kind of analysis in terms of what schools maybe should we be looking at.

You know and I brought in the team. I asked for the study that was done pr- prior to us coming in. and there was four phases of that plan. The first phase was LBJ and Brodie. Then there's a second phase for another group of schools and then there's the third and fourth. And just to kind of get an idea of what this would cost okay?

So if I was to let's say you know go in and look at six schools and try to decommission you know three of them what would the savings be? And that right now would only we're looking at just you know for utilities is about $516,000. For contractual how much would I be saving?

Like $281,000. For personnel you know services like I said that's the probably the lowest of all primarily because one they will go in and fill a vacant position. If I was to do two schools then it's $352 for utilities and if I for contractual it would be $188. But then when you take the two schools currently that are decommissioned we're looking at just those two schools alone for their facilities.

One we looked at the rev and tax property valuation for one school would be like $500,000 a year and the other maybe would be $300,000. Granted it's not in the millions but those are things that we're looking at that can help us with you know operations.

Senator Vince Borja, 38th Guam Legislature: Was closing J.P. Torres a cost-saving measure? And how much?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: No J.P... No. Okay. J.P. Torres is a program so the only the savings there really is not great because meaning that the teachers will go in again to fill vacancies in the schools. The only teacher positions that will not be filled are those that we currently have students at Sanctuary and DYA.

Those will remain we transfer those positions to a school closest to those facilities. The savings well I guess would be for us the greatest saving is the facility. It's a whole wing of 10 classrooms that will be used by Simon Sanchez High School when they move over to Tiyan.

Senator Vince Borja, 38th Guam Legislature: So what do you how do you plan to address what J.P. Torres was doing in regards to credit recovery?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: They will all return to their original school their school of origin. We only have right now only about three maybe students. We would graduate those this summer. Not the three. The three are the ones that will go back to the schools. The ones that we have that currently will graduate is about 15 students.

So we've just about basically phased out everyone with the exception of maybe three students and so they would continue. The other is that we do have an agreement with Asmuyao where they would get federal funds for any one of these our children who would want to go there and take courses and graduate you know from there. Otherwise they go back to their home school and they'll graduate with their class. And then of course we have summer school as well.

Senator Vince Borja, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. My final question I you know and I asked the previous team this because I know they're we're still playing patchwork with a lot of the schools. I know there's still areas amongst the different schools that are closed off for public health right in order for them to pass the inspection.

So my question is has there been an assessment because there was the one done by the previous team on how much it's going to cost to address all the outstanding maintenance issues? The reason I ask this because if we don't have that or we're not looking at that we're going to be talking about this in three to five 10 years because there are like you know I went to a cross-country or a meet a couple months ago a month or two ago and an area in Inarajan Middle School that has been closed off since last year is still closed off with no plan to address it. So my final question again because of all that is what is the plan?

Do you have an estimate of what all the all this going to cost you... I mean we're either going to demolish that part of the school repair it. What is the plan? because I'm that's one of many other one of many many patches of work across the department.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: So we do have an estimate cost of a deferred maintenance and capital improvement of $10 million that's not part of this $307.

We also have unfunded costs that we've put in for the ADA compliance. Remember you have a law already that was passed in '23 and that then is going to cost $12

million. Were able to contract this out to Simmons who did a study of all of our schools to address the areas and that's how were able to come up with this dollar amount. So $10 million for deferred maintenance and for ADA 12 million. That's not part of this budget.

Senator Vince Borja, 38th Guam Legislature: My time's up. Thank you Mr. Chair.

Franklin Leon Guerrero, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Administrative Services, GDOE: I'd also like to add if I could. The cordoned-off areas we saw them personally. We superintendent and I went out to the schools. These are more or less these are buildings that are slated for demolition old temporary buildings old temporary classrooms.

They're cordoned off for safety. So we had a bid. I just wanted to tell you an example of the progress that's being made in the maintenance because the new deputy under facilities maintenance she's all about accountability and data. She's data-driven. If you talk to the principals they the ones that I've talked to they will say that the facilities maintenance response and effectiveness has greatly improved so that's a plus. But I wanted to share with you that we had a bid the lowest bid to demolish one of the classrooms for $120,000. We tried the superintendent tried to be innovative by putting it out there did anybody want to volunteer to demolish it and get the tin or stuff like that. There was something in it for them.

We had zero takers on that because it in- involves sweat equity. But what we did do is facilities was had purchased a backhoe and a big large capacity dump truck within our facilities. So our facility said "We can do a demolition." So the bid was $120,000 and our F&M did it in two days at just normal personnel costs and stuff.

It's a huge saving. Can we demolish all of those buildings now and all of the schools? The answer is yes. We just have to get to it. But we've already proven the concept. We've proven the savings. We'll continue executing. Thank you.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Si yu'os ma'ase to the chairman on education and while we have the board members here I just want to take the superintendent's plea and ask you to please take up in your next regularly held board meeting to discuss amendments to the current law which many of us tried to give you more flexibility in on what you actually need to execute that law to be able to utilize your facilities to the highest and best use so we can move forward.

Because I like this discussion it's going to be catastrophic moving from that to we need this and we'll work to get where we can and here we got some ideas so that we can do this. Particularly savings when it comes to being able to use equipment purchases to outdo a contract for 100 and some thousand dollars and then calculating your manpower that was probably a few thousand dollars in terms of a couple of days and you already had the equipment.

So you're on it. So please if I can get the board to take that up in your next meeting to have that as an agenda item we'd really appreciate it ...

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Senator I'm if I-- Oh I'm sorry. I know you should defer to her. But I just want you to know is that we did that already, it's here. All of the mandates all the authorizations are all listed and we've checked marked what are some of the ones that we would really like to work with you to either amend or even repeal. Primarily when I'm talking about repeal I'm talking about you not mandating it where I can't use federal funds because now I'll be supplanting because you've mandated it for us to do this.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Got it.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: And if we repeal those I would put it back in federal funds again.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: And that doesn't skip the point it just gives you better internal flexibility correct? Thank you. Now we're cooking with gas like my uncle used to say. Go ahead Ms. Okada.

Dr. Mary Okada, Vice Chairwoman, Guam Education Board: Senator Dueñas one of the things that I think we should all consider as well are the regulations that are being used by public health to inspect the schools. As an example based on the high humidity that we now see in the restrooms there's a requirement for air conditioners in the restrooms.

So these are I mean you know and then measuring the size of the door for a bathroom. I mean so we really need to seriously take a look at that and how can we get those regulations expeditiously modified. Because if the areas are cordoned off and we

can't use them for instruction- Then you know then we're having to deal you know having to deal with other areas of the schools.

But I think we need to include that as well. Doing the modifications or amendments to law that already exist are okay that's great but we also need to consider the modifications for the rules and regulations for public health inspect- inspections.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: That sounds appropriate. I mean let's be honest most of us are coming from homes where we don't even have air condition in our own bathroom and I think we can handle using it.

But if of course if it means better ventilation and whatever that is I mean that makes sense. I mean we also do clean our restrooms and make sure that we don't have you know things that are growing that are going to cause us issues right? But the reality is most of us have restrooms that are using ambient air to be able to have their existence.

Dr. Judith P. Guthertz, Chairwoman, Guam Education Board: Senator?

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

Dr. Judith P. Guthertz, Chairwoman, Guam Education Board: If I could make one comment. Yes. Thank you. You know I've sort of looked at the regulations and - I think they were perhaps adopted for another jurisdiction to use on Guam and they don't all fit in. They as was just discussed they don't sort of fit our needs. And I think it would be interesting if you had a hearing with Public Health and really ask them about their regulations how they developed them where did they get them from the public hearings did they have the public hearings for proper input? Did DOE have a chance to give input? I don't recall that and I think that would've been very valuable. Thank you.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Yeah I think history will show that as went through the demerit process there was a refinement and there was a lot of issues that ... Now that's there certainly were issues no question about it and I'm sure there still probably are issues.

But what I'm saying is it get to the point to where even during hearings subsequent to that we had the demerit process was taken a little bit closer look at. Si yu'os ma'åse. Senator Gumataotao you're recognized at this time.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Thank you so much Mr. Chair and thank you to GDOE and the board for being with us this morning.

I'll just jump right into it. For the record does GDOE anticipate having only 13 teacher vacancies across our 39 public schools in FY 2027? And are any of these positions currently vacant but filled temporarily with the help of retired GDOE educators?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Thank you Senator for that question. Currently this what our principals have given us is that for the elementary school division there are 47 vacancies. For the middle school there are 39 vacancies and for the high school 30 vacancies. So as of today there's 116 vacancies. Now normally what we do- Is that we fill them first of all with certified teachers those who have applied. The second on the list would be retired certified teachers because they're the only ones by law that can go back in as contract.

The third would be what we call limited term teachers and many times these are teachers yes with degrees but because they do not have the secondary course requirements they are limited term teachers and are given about a year to try to take six credits within that year to be able or to be allowed to continue again for the following year.

Many of these teachers because of the fact that they're limited term and their salaries are lower the retention rate is very low. And so we're trying to and I've asked the board if we could have a tri-board meeting so that we can meet with the certification office to see what we can do because we're not retain- We can recruit but we can't retain them for the mere fact about being limited term.

We have other teachers also who have tried to come to Guam to teach. These are individuals from our neighbors. In particular I'm not talking about Taiwan Japan or Korea but these are our neighbors in the Mariana Islands and they're given a difficult time being certified but as soon as they land in the mainland US they're hired immediately.

And I can't even fathom as to why you know we're turning away qualified you know teachers. So we definitely need to look at that. We're addressing it. We're having conversations with the education not division college at the University of Guam. So that is a big issue that everyone honestly in the educational system is concerned about.

But yes that's how we want to be able to fill those vacancies. The other by when we decommission schools and then those teachers who follow their children the extra teachers we will fill the vacancies because if we're talking about the elementary then we can only then place those teachers in elementary divisions however in elementary schools.

But because middle school includes sixth graders which used to be K to six then they can have that certification to teach in the middle school like sixth grade classes so then they would go there. If we decommission let's say middle schools a different story then the extra teachers will go to middle school or high school and vice...And the same for high schools.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: And why I'm asking because in your fiscal year 2027 schedule D it's only showing 13 teachers. That's why I'm asking on the record. You just expanded from 13 to nearly almost over 40 vacancies. Am I reading this wrong?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: I'm sorry. Can you repeat that question again?

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah your-- It's the Government of Guam Fiscal Year 2027 Schedule D Summary by Position Title and it shows only 13 teacher vacancies-

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Okay ...Well you're right because-- Yeah you're right. These are the ones that you know right now we just can't recruit. And these are the ones that we need then with to fill. These are the positions that I gave you are the ones where they are filled by non-certified teachers.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: So but I'm saying that- Are we getting those educators in and actually filling some of these roles? I mean- Can I- You were very it was very broad but I didn't get a clarification.

Franklin Leon Guerrero, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Administrative Services, GDOE: I can-

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Go ahead.

Franklin Leon Guerrero, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Administrative Services, GDOE: `I can add a little to that because HR is they have successfully recruited fiscal year to date 41 teachers. 41. But however 41 teachers have retired moved to Dodea moved to the States or passed on or for whatever reason. So although the efforts are strong and aggressive to recruit and we have recruited successfully 41 but people are starting to retire they're getting promotions. So it looks like we're doing nothing it looks like it's status quo when in reality we hired 41 new teachers.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Oh no Franklin and I'm not saying you didn't do anything.

Franklin Leon Guerrero, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Administrative Services, GDOE: I know but I just wanted to I wanted to share with you that it's an ongoing situation.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. Regarding the coverage for classes where teachers are absent due to long-term medical illness or military orders can you help us understand how many school days have teachers been out for medical military service reasons and how many of the 60 substitute teachers requested for next year's budget are anticipated to be on a long-term appointment?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: You know that's a very good question and we've asked ourself that question as well. So I've instructed payroll and HR to get the data for us because yeah I have seen the numbers where we have individuals and this we can't control and there's nothing we can do are those that are deployed and they're gone for six months.

We've-- I found out recently we had a school administrator that was gone for five years you know? And that has been ongoing not just with us but with other departments and agencies. Then yes we have the long-term medical leave because we allow for the cost I mean the sharing of sick leave for those who don't so they continue.

I have somebody also who's on that. I have a couple as a matter of fact five years and I have one that's one year right now. But then there are other positions as well in terms of being away for administrative leave as well and that we're addressing. So all those are things that we are currently collecting data on those to see how we can help.

What I found out from previous budget and I heard this when I was watching the DOE budget Was that they were requesting for to allow rather the department to pay for AES a certified teacher which is great during the teacher's prep period to cover for an absent teacher. Now if I hire a substitute teacher it's what? $15 an hour. If I hire maybe a limited term teacher and that's something I we're also looking at to possibly hire what we call like a roving limited term teacher with a degree versus just a high school substitute teacher to cover classes is much cheaper than for me to pay another certified teacher at $35 an hour.

So I saw that when we came in and I had questioned that and I said "We don't have the money for it. It wasn't budgeted for." But because it was used previously they were under the impression to continue to do that and that's not happening now. So those are one of our discoveries as well that we are now trying to deal with and that's why we need to have this conversation about you know certified teachers.

Because I remember the day when I was in the system where we needed to recruit teachers and school administrators from the community. These are individuals with degrees bachelor's master's or doctorate that we could hire immediately bring them in. DOE used to do the emergency certification. Now it's since the certification office has taken over it's a limited term certification.

So you bring these individuals in with practical experience and knowledge then we do an expedited educational course at the university. We haven't done that now I mean for many years and that's something I want to try to revive again because there are individuals in our who-- in our community who have retired maybe and want to work.

There are professors who want to work at our schools but they can't because certification office again would not allow them because they need to take the course. Dr. Guthertz is an example of that herself as a professor in order for her to teach. Best for her to explain her experience.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Yes please Dr. Guthertz.

Dr. Judith P. Guthertz, Chairwoman, Guam Education Board: Thank you very much Senator. Yes I was going to suggest that currently we have a law and I think it goes back to the time when Dr. Won Pat was speaker that allows the school system to hire retired teachers along with retired nurses for GMH et ceteras. And I would really like to suggest that law be amended to authorize retired professors from the Guam Community College from University of Guam that have the appropriate degrees to be allowed to teach if they're interested in teaching for periods of need for the Department of Education.

We have retired math professors, chemistry professors, humanities professors, professors in all the fields with doctoral degrees. And I did that once when I left the legislature because I wanted to find out what it was like to teach in the classroom but I had to go through the requirements the teacher certification requirements even though I have a doctoral degree and 30 years of teaching experience.

Took me a year to take all of the school of education classes. The professors don't want to go through that. They already have their credentials. They don't mind participating in a workshop how to teach in high school or in middle school. But to force them to go through all the coursework again it doesn't serve a helpful purpose and it prolongs the lack of having qualified people.

So my suggestion is amend the law so that retired UOG GC professors that meet the teaching needs perhaps that DOE needs at certain times to be able to teach at the school system and not have to go through the certification process.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: So you might want to add to your list by the way-

Dr. Judith P. Guthertz, Chairwoman, Guam Education Board: Yeah my experience was that actually.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Oh. No no and I know.

Dr. Judith P. Guthertz, Chairwoman, Guam Education Board: But I did get certified. That's the difference. The other professors I talked to they're willing to

help. They want to do something to help the schools but they're not willing to go through the certification process. They've taught their whole life. Another suggestion and we're going to be taking this up-

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Your list is getting big so I mean go ahead and say it but yes go ahead.

Dr. Judith P. Guthertz, Chairwoman, Guam Education Board: Yes. We're going to consider something at the board in a future meeting - I believe we need to petition the University of Guam as a board to reinstate the undergraduate degree in education.

They no longer offer an undergraduate degree in education. We need young people to start early to be teachers. We want our high school students to have that goal that they want to be a teacher and they want to start the bachelor's degree in education right after high school so that they can be prepared to go into our school system.

It's it if you have to have a master's degree to teach in DOE and that's what the School of Ed is offering master's degrees not the bachelor degree anymore. I don't know why it's so exclusive but the board will consider. I will introduce a motion to the board to consider passing a resolution-

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: and again the list is becoming big.

I know I don't have a lot of time but let me go ahead and just jump right back in. Let's talk a little bit about the annual dropout rate if we could and it's important for this discussion. What information including school resource limitations is available based on a review by DOE of the reasons that might have led more students to drop out?

And this just goes back to the school year '23 '24. Recognizing that although fewer high school students are dropping out of GDOE in the school year 2022 and 2023 compared to the last decade prior the number of students who dropped out of high school tripled from 18 in school year 2022-23 to 60 in 2023 and 2024. And why I'm asking this is what specific schools or grade levels are accounting for the spike of dropouts and is this concentrated in particular communities across our island?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: This not just a problem here. It's also nationwide because- It's a trend ... were going through COVID and one of the requirements of the grant monies was to ask us to use hire individuals like social workers to go out and find these children who didn't return to school when we you know felt that it was safe for them to return.

The so we saw yes a lot of students drop out. We also saw some students as well and then I don't know if it's dropping out per se but may have moved off-island or transferred to another school and that's where you see our numbers have reduced and that's as a result of double session as well.

because parents there are some parents and students who felt that they didn't want their children getting out so late so because they're unable to participate in some of the sports maybe that you know they've invested in for so long. And then the other is that the lateness of returning home you know doing having dinner doing homework and then getting up again the next day.

So those are some of the things that have attributed to our children dropping out. And of course the other would be just those that you know are having transportation problems as well which is what we heard. We heard also that some of these children just feel that they don't belong. And so those are some of the issues that we are currently looking at and addressing we'll be addressing in the next three-year consolidated grant programs.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay which is a good segue because the last two are important in 2026. I can we can debate all day on the COVID side. Which gets me to my question is so what specific programs does the FY 2027 budget fund for dropout prevention early intervention and re-engagement of students who left in school year '23/'24?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: That is not included at all in the local budget. That is part of our consolidated grant programs. That's under federal and so we've hired social workers as a result of that to try to reach out to those students we've also worked-- I've been working very closely with our counselors.

We're looking also at a program a screeners program so that we can survey our students to find out if they're having any kind of problems at home that we need to

address and work with them. So yes that's one of the newest program that we would be implementing.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: All right. Thank you so much for that. Let me move on now in my committee oversight. I just wanted to ask you about the School Resource Officer program. So recognizing that GDOE students were confident that their schools were safe in twenty twenty-four than in twenty twenty-three and in twenty twenty-two how has the School Resource Officer program helped improve school safety?

And is GDOE aware of any reason of why one million forty-two thousand five hundred seventy-seven dollars from a total of one point five million dollars in SRO funding appropriated to GPD through Public Law 37-125 was unspent as of September 30?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Unspent. Oh well that I can't answer for. But I do know that we do we continue to have the SRO positions. They are basically divided into certain number of schools to service and if there is a definite need for them for any special event or maybe an event or that occurred in the school requiring their assistance for security or escorting they are definitely present.

I do know that there is this unique program. It's a pilot program with GPD to set up you know like a cadet or an academy with one of our high school students and our SROs are definitely very involved in that. The school principal wants to continue with that program. But how now the money's not being spay- spent I honestly don't have that answer for you and I will definitely look into it.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Yes. Thank you Superintendent. I just have another question Mr. Chair and this related to the Limited Gaming Fund and I know we can go on about the Sports Facility Fund and the like. But outside of the $150,000 set aside for Interscholastic Sports Association equipment primarily and 50,000 for ISA supplies do you guys have any idea or any other projects that might be covered by the Limited Gaming Fund in going into the balance of FY 2027?

Franklin Leon Guerrero, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Administrative Services, GDOE: We have plans on this. You know there are so many facilities projects. But the sporting fields we have requested for Okkodo

floodlights and bleachers. So there are requests for some of the school fields athletic fields to be addressed. We're looking at that right now.

The more money that we have I mean we need Southern High School athletic fields fixed period. But we don't have the money to do that right now. and w- the earlier example that we gave on the on the backhoe and the dump truck the reason I give you that is because it was a little bit of an expensive tool a backhoe medium-size and a big capacity dump truck.

But in that one demolition it paid for one of those big tools. We're going to demolish now six to 10 or 12. We'll save a million dollars or more. Given the right tools we can effectuate more. We have people skills you know our maintenance people. Just giving them the right tools will help a lot and they are principals are seeing that.

So as far as the sporting fields when you're when you're worrying about collapsing buildings you need to demolish them and you're... It's not that it's not important. It's everything's important. So it's on our radar. The Okkodo sport floodlights and the bleachers we do plan to get to that.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah and it goes back to our earlier discussions and I'll leave it at this that you were talking about the leak you know the schools and looking at opportunities to generate revenue. Nothing stops you from looking at those same sports facilities as potential revenue-generating types of ideas or if you cannot maintain them to give them to other folks like maybe municipalities nonprofit sports organizations.

Those in terms of it's 2026 some of the things that we probably would have done in 1976 just are not working today. Maybe we ought to consider modernizing and looking down the road of these types of opportunities to help especially on the sports facility side. If we're not good at maintaining fields let's maintain our classrooms first and we'll take care of the fields later. Thank you again for being with us and Mr. Chair that's all I have and thank you again for letting us.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: No if- So I won't take your time so this just separate. But you answer I mean relate to related to your question that other than using it of course for you know fields or equipment for sports and everything is that I will definitely look into it to see if there's an allowance for facility because the when I was pulling duty during the typhoon at Inalahan Middle School the principal had told me that he had recently

refurbished their floor but because there are leaks in his roof he really needs to get that repaired. And most definitely I with that the now that you mention this I'm going to make sure that funds that are still available in that gaming fund to be able to address some of these gyms at our schools.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Okay. Yes thank you Senator Gumataotao. Senator Taitague you're recognized.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Thank you Mr. Chair. Good morning to my colleagues and of course good morning to those representing DOE this morning. The question I have with regards to well the big question do you have enough funds right now to open all the schools for the FY '26 '27 year?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Well, we are currently yes using our budget and we will get all of our schools open this year. That's the focus. Our facilities and maintenance people right now although their priority would be Tiyan High School to make sure that you know the school is ready so ... But all the other principals are submitting their request already to the deputy.

And so she's been very vigilant in terms of collecting all the information and then having her people report to do the work. So we're not waiting until the summer to do this. Like I said already even at Tiyan to get it ready our guys have been there moving things out of the storage to get it ready.

They've met with Coretech people as well to see what they can do and what we need to do. So absolutely my deputy is on top of it to make sure that our schools will be ready. Lately we've been our schools have been several schools seven schools already have passed with a grade of A. The others are Bs.

The remaining schools to be inspected are sometimes this month next and May June and July. So and with like for example with FB what we're working with DEH is to make sure that we're not going to go in have them come in and do the whole school inspection but rather to cordon off the area that are still being currently worked on and only then inspect the schools that are ready because we have to go with what we call a zero citation to be able then to have it pass.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. With so let's say you don't receive this increase. I believe it's like $41 million increase for your budget for FY27 you will still be able to open?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Yes. Yeah. Absolutely.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. The next question I have is are any of the programs previously funded by federal sources now requiring any general fund appropriations?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: We have most just a couple of days ago we did receive something from SPED a docent from SPED because there is what we call they call a maintenance of effort meaning that for whatever dollar amount that they have provided for us that we must also show in good faith what we call maintenance of effort is to put in also much either monies in terms of either local hires so it's not all federal hires that we also have the same.

So we looked at it and we found that there's just a couple of I'm not sure whether what the exact dollar amount is that we're lacking and so we're going to address that by making sure that the end of the in hiring maybe school aides that are needed In SPED that they're not paid out of federal dollars that we've used the local funds or transferred the individual paid under local funds to move over to SPED to meet that maintenance of effort. But that's the only one that I know where there is that request for like a matching but we don't call it matching. It's a maintenance of effort.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: So are there any federal funds that you'll be losing that you know of right now?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Well it's not ... No we have we have a list that was given to us by our auditor of $81 million that we have between now and December to encumber you know and spend. So... And we are definitely pushing all of the division heads to-

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: What's the deadline on that one?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: December the end of the year.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: 2026?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Yes.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. 81 million right?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Yes.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. Any problems with getting that spent?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Well the only the problem that we anticipate always has been going to the attorney general's office.

And I don't mean to throw the office under the bus but when I have-- When we first came in January we found out that there were two proposals and RFPs that were there in the office. And we've actually requested the assistance of Senator Borja to follow up on it. We did get one released about I'm not sure a month ago I think for JCC and just this month for Guam Trades Academy.

So, we don't want to risk any of these you know programs especially for the schools if they're going to be tied up. So one of the things that we're also doing because we want to make sure that we're able to spend all of our budget this year and with the authorization from the legislature to allow us to spend the lapsed funds by expanding it is that we are looking at all the different divisions right now to send a staff to assist down at the procurement office.

You know as we would train them as buyers to you know prepare RFPs. So to give them the additional support that they will need to process all of those RFPs all the requests for all of these programs.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: How on the attorney general's side without his authority to sign on spending how much is that cap?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: $500,000

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: I'm sorry?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: $500,000.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: So you have up to 500,000 without his authority correct?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Yes.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. So given that there are $29 million in question costs identified in the OPA's report why should the legislature approve the current budget requested without a line item guarantee that these specific procurement failures have been addressed?

Franklin Leon Guerrero, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Administrative Services, GDOE: Now I can tell you as the new DFAS the second day I was in the office I was told by the public auditor that I was two months late on some of the financial reports the second day I was there. So there's lots of challenges and we're addressing them head-on. We're not shirking away from that responsibility.

There were procurement audits there was you know fiscal audits there's all kinds of audits. One of the things that they've said to us time and time again is "Make sure that you improve and increase your procurement staff the skills and training. Improve and increase the skills and training of your auditor staff and pay them enough to retain them." We have some people who in procurement they go to an autonomous agency. For the same job they can make significantly more money. So we lose talent that we have. We need to garner new talent. What the superintendent was just talking about is that we have three hundred and sixty-six changes every day but we have three hundred and sixty-six requisitions in our financial management system to execute three hundred and sixty-six.

That does not include the money that she's just talking about of some of the federal funding that we need to obligate before the end of the year. We have a limited staff. Then we have the procurement processes of going back and forth with our legal our audit team and then the in some cases the attorney general's office.

So it is a process it's a procedure it's a challenge. So we've put our thinking cap on we look outside the box and we're asking for some assistance in our procurement area but we're borrowing some resources that we can borrow temporarily within... We can't have the expectation they're be fully skilled in the purchasing process but they can help with some of the legwork that needs to be done to free up the time for those experts that can do it.

So what we're looking right now with the three hundred and sixty-six in our queue with a lot more to come is we need to take a serious look at that and figure out Process-wise dollar threshold values-wise everything that can alleviate that. There's no intent to bypass any of the rules and regulations or procurement processes but time is a big factor and your through put capability on your procurement journey that capacity allows you to spend more.

Some of the money we didn't get to because the procurements weren't executed. We lost some learning time when these contracts take so long. The students at GCC and Trades Academy came to class but some of the contracts that needed to be approved for learning materials and stuff like that didn't happen for months after the class started.

So it's just a lot of challenges. The procurement process takes time. and will we spend it all? The intent is to spend it all, but as you know for Simon Sanchez the best intentions get time delays because there's a protest. Once you have a protest things stop and so it's a process.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Thank you Mr. Leon Guerrero and I do understand there is shortage but there is also technology out there that actually can help and assist you with those 300 acquisitions and things like that to move forward when you know the excuse of not having enough staff is no longer the case nowadays. You've got technology that would assist you and I recommend highly recommend that you utilize it.

I'm not trying to nickel and dime the Department of Education. It's a very important agency. Our children this our future but my concern is you have over $63 million not federal funds we're talking about funds of from the general fund in questionable costs. The $29 million in textbooks questioned the $24.6 million in laptops questioned and now we've got air conditioners at $10 million that can't even fit into our schools that was purchased and sitting in a warehouse since 19 forgotten.

Things like that. It's about not just crossing your Ts or dotting your Is but it's being accountable for these funds that are missing. That's $63 million worth of questionable cost in these spendings and we're still trying to figure that. And most of it's all thrown away or not even being able to be used.

Okay you have the as many as 31 vacant positions. Have they already been filled 31? Is that correct? Have they been filled?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: No. not all of these positions are filled. What we do is that every basically on a daily basis that we have people resigning retiring and then yes we're recruiting all the time. And I'm signing off of all this. Just yesterday I have one. But then when we vetted this individual we couldn't very well hire them for you know-

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay so there's 31…it hasn't all been filled?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: No I don't know the exact number. I do I know when we prepared this that's it was at 31. But the numbers change every day.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. What about the 360 if I'm if those numbers are correct 360 new positions?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: You're right. Those are those are definitely none of those have been we've not hired any one of these for these are requests. And many of these are CBAs. These are to fulfill the collective bargaining agreement.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: I'm sorry say again they're more what? I'm sorry? say it again. I know it's this echo.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: But that these positions are new positions that we are requesting based on several you know of course mandates. Not just the 14 points but even the collective bargaining agreement.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Is most of these new positions teachers positions or maintenance?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: No. well I'll read to you the ones because everybody questions this for central office. In the central office it's two auditors seven carpenters 11 maintenance worker one payroll clerk one personnel specialist two... five plumbers two refrigeration mechanic- and one storekeeper

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: It's okay. You don't have to name them all because it's 300 and something positions

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: You're right but these but these in particular because I just- ... I don't want anyone-

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: So the majority of it is central?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: No no. Central's only 30.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay 30%?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: But these are like I said mostly for the auditor finance and facilities and maintenance. The 334 are basically for all the schools. These are school aides positions library clerks you know practical nurse licensed practical nurse positions. And those are all part of CBA.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Madam Superintendent of the master plan for 2022 for GDOE has it been updated and what are the top priorities of that master plan?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: when you say the- Facilities master plan-

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Oh ... the 2022 The facilities-

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Yeah sorry ... Well yes one of the top priority of you know would be the deferred maintenance that needs to be done at the schools because we've done an assessment. We also contracted out with Siemens to let us know what needs to be addressed for ADA and that's 12 million.

So deferred maintenance is 10 million. So these are definitely priorities but they're unfunded and it is not even part of this $307 million because otherwise it would take us up even more.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. Of the 643,564 is allocated specifically for facilities repairs maintenance and improvements. Is that is that all going to capital outlay?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Wait I'm looking you're looking at the digest or the breakdown for-

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah ... I'm trying to see I'm seeing that it's yeah of the FY20 capital outlay 643 Thousand Sep-

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: the one you're saying is oh 748 where it... No I'm yeah I'm trying to find that dollar amount that you're referring to. What is the dollar amount again?

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: 643,564 for capital outlay FY '27

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Oh total okay so total capital UN 643,000. Let me see it. I'm trying to find where.

Okay so we did find it. So what it is that part of the maintenance of effort is that SPED will order four buses SPED buses and we in turn to do our maintenance of effort we're going to order two buses and they are at $300,000for both hundred and fifty thousand each. And then for sports facilities we're looking at the $343,000 and that's where the total amount comes out to.

Franklin Leon Guerrero, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Administrative Services, GDOE: I just want yeah so the maintenance of effort for SPED there's 25 SPED buses. SPED is telling us they're more or less like you have a Guam bomb they're kind of in disrepair so to speak. The whole fleet is you know on any given day any bus could be down you might cannibalize from another bus.

So the decision the smart decision is to replace the fleet 25. So SPED said if Go- if Guam DOE buys two buses 150000 each so that's 300000 that's part of what were just talking about. We spend 300,000 they'll spend 600,000 the feds. They'll buy four

if we buy two. That's six new buses. We do that each year within a couple of years we'll replace the fleet

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: What is the status of this Siemens funded ADA Assessment?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: They well we received the report from them and it's been reviewed by the deputy and that is why she was able to determine that based on what all the things that need to be done it would take about $12 million.

Franklin Leon Guerrero, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Administrative Services, GDOE: I'll let you know that was a very comprehensive report that were given. It was done through Guam Power in an extension of an existing Guam Power contract. But I will tell you that it broke it down by every school. Every building and every school is identified as to what is required for ADA compliance. So that's how comprehensive it is. We just don't have the money for it right now.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: That's 12 million you said?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: $12 million

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Is it in your budget?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: No but what we my board can of course rule me out of order in this case because I've not actually they have not approved my spend plan. But one of the items that I was putting in there was to address the ADA You're going to get sued if you don't.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Last question. How are you measuring the students on their e-testing capabilities here the basically their evaluation how are you measuring to see if the students are testing well in the schools? What funds are you putting toward that to ensure that our students are being you know taught and-

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Not from local funds at all again. We've actually…We're not using local funds for those

tests. It's actually all through the consolidated grant. And we did say that is a primary focus for us is to look at our student achievement scores.

And in this new three-year consolidated grant we've actually revamped what the monies were being used for in the past 15 years the same thing just rolling it all over. It's very different now. The we will be addressing numeracy and literacy skills with our children. We do use two tests the Smarter Balanced and AIMSweb. and but what we're also... As a matter of fact this morning at 8:00 I was in a teleconference with one of the consultants that will be working with us on our test scores and setting up our strategic plan and bringing in our stakeholders before we start implementing this plan so to be able to raise our student scores.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: How many times do you test is it every year that we test our students on their achievements?

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Thank you Senator. That'll be your last question.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: There's one that's annual-

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Your time is up ...

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: and the other would be twice a year.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Twice a year. Okay. Thank you. Thank you Mr. Chair.]

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Thank you Senator Taitague. Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane you recognized.

Senator Sabrina Matanane, 38th Guam Legislature: Thank you Mr. Chair and thank you to the panel. I'm just kind of going over all of the documents that are in front of us and your testimony so the FY27 request is $307 million. That's a $41

million increase correct? in comparison to the last school year student population has decreased?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Yes. Yeah. Yes Last year I think it was like 24 something thousand I think now we're down to 23.

Senator Sabrina Matanane, 38th Guam Legislature: So student population has decreased and yet the number of personnel has increased.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Yes

Senator Sabrina Matanane, 38th Guam Legislature: And you need $23.5 million for unfunded costs and that includes the for ADA compliance the deferred maintenance capital improvements and security enhancement for all schools.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Yes.

Senator Sabrina Matanane, 38th Guam Legislature: Also looking at the docents you need... Is this correct that you're requesting $10 million more for utility costs?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Actually the utility cost is 18 million.

Senator Sabrina Matanane, 38th Guam Legislature: Right and the FY26 authorized level was 8.4 million.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: That's right.

Senator Sabrina Matanane, 38th Guam Legislature: So $10 million increase?

Franklin Leon Guerrero, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Administrative Services, GDOE: No no. Yeah. That's an interesting point. I can address that. The prior the prior management team before we got in Dr. Swanson and his team they made a decision that when they finally got their allocation of money their appropriation from the legislature they did some moving They didn't feel that they... I can't speak for them exactly but I can tell you what happened.

They moved some money around. If this a total appropriation they moved some of their money around. They moved money out of the utilities. They wanted to do other things. I don't know What they were betting on the They moved 10 million out of utilities to spend it in other areas that they felt was a priority with the hope and the prayer that money would become available and that they would make up for it before the power and the water got shut off.

Senator Sabrina Matanane, 38th Guam Legislature: Is GDOE current with their utilities?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Yes. we are because it was reversed. But I'll just let you know that with the first time which is two and about two and a half years ago when I was first appointed for six months as the acting superintendent what I learned was that because the department used monies from ARP to pay for utilities that's why you're seeing that lower number because I know two and a half years ago that's exactly what was done and but today of course we don't have the any more ARP monies to be able to pay for it because it all went through construction

Senator Sabrina Matanane, 38th Guam Legislature: Also in this budget it incorporates salary increments $14 million.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Absolutely. Every year that our everyone in faculty and staff are evaluated And from that evaluation yes there's always an increase. There's also and I basically gave you know the senators when you asked that question why is it that the s- our personnel costs have gone up?

And it's gone up just most recently just to share with you is in 2021 and 2024 the nurses got a pay increase. '22 the educator pay plan went into effect. In '23 the general pay plan was for everyone went into effect. And 2024 the attorneys pay plan also went into effect. So in essence yes every year there we always expect an increase in for increments.

There's also promotions. And then more importantly this legislatively are all these pay plans that we have to implement. I would also say at the same time that there is you know a bill I mean laws in the book also for bonuses to be paid for where the legislature has made an appropriation of a specific dollar amount to address that break which is bonuses retention incentive pay.

And so and of course I've always asked the senators to be really cautious sometimes when we're requesting for legislation that it's it places an impact in terms of you know our funding. And that's where a lot of the increases are coming from. And personnel is not something that we want to reduce.

Senator Sabrina Matanane, 38th Guam Legislature: And the reason why I was asking all that is because I just feel like we're not just funding operations at the Guam Department of Education we're funding accountability. And so I just need some sort of assurance that the question really is whether the budget fixes the problems that we know exist.

We've all seen the audit. We've heard about the question cost. So I just need to feel assured that whatever money we're going to give to the department or appropriate to the Department of Education it's going to go where it's supposed to go and it's going to help our students and it's going to fix the schools and they're going to meet the safety inspections by the Department of Public Health.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Well the focus with this new team coming forward we said initially that one we want to address our finances to make sure that our house is financial house is in order. The second one of our greatest biggest you know problems and litigations that we're faced with is special education so we're focusing on that.

The third is yes is that we're saying that the drive now the focus is on student performance. So then so in this new- Contract that we sent to USDOE for a consolidated grant is will be addressing numeracy and literacy programs in our schools. What we're also doing and we're yes we're also holding everybody accountable making sure that everyone in the department the central office that what they're doing actually impacts the child in the classroom the children in the classroom because that's our primary focus and we're holding everyone accountable.

It's not going to happen overnight. Changing attitudes changing climates are going to take time but we're starting to change all that by setting up what we call a portrait of what it-- we expect everyone to do and what we expect in particular to address our students and their achievement.

Senator Sabrina Matanane, 38th Guam Legislature: I did want to follow up also on this move to or the Simon Sanchez High School students that are currently double

sessioning. Is that move still going to happen where they're going to be going to Tiyan?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Yes. and our guys facilities and maintenance are there almost on a daily basis. They did a walkthrough with facilities and maintenance and with CoreTech. They had a meeting with them as well to look to see what CoreTech would address because they are the owner of the facility and then our people to see what needs to be done.

I know that they have already started to empty out some of the classrooms that have storage being used as storage and those you know equipment and supplies whatever are being removed. And we're also looking at an RFP to address you know other issues in particular plumbing. But that is moving forward.

The principals meet on a weekly basis with my deputy and sometimes two or three times a week to address whatever issues that they need. So they have a bullet list a checklist that they're going through. They listed everything that needs to be done and what we need to do to prepare the schools before the opening of the school year.

Senator Sabrina Matanane, 38th Guam Legislature: And this ten million dollar carve-out for the maintenance of schools in your budget request is that truly enough?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: That is..Yeah. Originally yes. What I found out when I attended the a board meeting was that some of them or half of it was actually used yes to pick up some new individuals for increase in s- salaries and then the rest of course have gone to supplies and materials and equipment.

Senator Sabrina Matanane, 38th Guam Legislature: And one of my last questions is we received a bill from the governor's office I think it was last night regarding what appears to be some workaround to get the construction of Simon Sanchez High School going despite the fact that there is an active procurement protest. Is that something that the Guam Department of Education is was advocating for supports?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: We are advocating for the school to be built. And two and a half years ago to give some of you history here is that my last term is that I wrote the legislation to build Simon Sanchez High School. When I left two other legislatures amended that law and when

I came in two and a half years ago I asked our legal counsel "Why have we not moved on it?"

And she said because the way the law was written with the way the law was amended made it difficult for anyone to move forward. So we got our legal counsel from DOE your counsel here at the legislature some of you would remember this Mr... Senator Barnett you were here and Senator Dueñas you were here and the governor's legal counsel and all three worked the bill to amend the bill to get us to where we're at right now to start the process.

Unfortunately right there's there this protest. Our main concern is that we want the school. You know we want the school to be built. And however way in which what was sent to you and what you will do with it basically is in your hands not mine. I can only advocate and lobby that please whatever it would take for you to proceed with having this school built.

Senator Sabrina Matanane, 38th Guam Legislature: Thank you Speaker Won Pat and I appreciate how you have been working together with the legislature and the oversight chair. And you did mention about... Or Ms. Okada you mentioned about the inspections from the Department of Public Health and Social Services and I completely understand what you're talking about because when I was in the construction industry our company actually volunteered to help repair some of the schools.

And we didn't get paid for anything. We provided the supplies and materials because we understood you know the urgency. And one of the things when went on the site visits to the schools a lot of the principals were telling us just how unfair it seemed when these inspectors would go and do the inspections and it-- one inspector would come one day and then the next week another inspector would come and they had different rules.

So I'm having an oversight hearing with the Department of Public Health so I plan on bringing this up. But has there been any communication in writing or anything like that expressing these sorts of concerns to Public Health? And if so what was their response?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Yes. If you recall 18 of our schools were shut down from DAH and naturally the governor's

office did enlist the help from every department and agency including the autonomous agency.

At that time I was her chief advisor in education. Doc-- I mean former attorney general and former DOE legal counsel and former senator Liz Barrett Anderson and I were working with certain individual school principals from the Department of Education to look at the rules and regulations for DAH for school inspections.

We made recommendations from all of them. We submitted our recommendations to Public Health. I've spoken personally tom Nadeau to see how soon he could have an a triple A hearing to be able to go through all the amendments that we would like to see and that has yet to happen. If you could if you still have it in your files if you could forward those recommendations to me- I'd truly appreciate it.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: I'll be more than happy.

Senator Sabrina Matanane, 38th Guam Legislature: Thank you. That's all I have.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Si yu'os ma'ase , I also want to make sure I recognize the vice chair of this committee and Vice Speaker Ada who's joined us earlier as well as Senator Joe San Agustin. Thank you for being with us this morning. At this time I recognize Senator Barnett for your questions.

Senator Chris Barnett, 38th Guam Legislature: Si yu'os ma'ase Mr. Chair and Superintendent Won Pat, Deputy Leon Guerrero, Vice Chair Okada, Chair Guthertz for your attendance this morning. I just want to first congratulate Superintendent Won Pat on the official signing of your contract. Not yet? The... Well the board has approved your-

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Not not yet. But you're right. We followed all of the four requirements from the AG. the meeting was last Tuesday. Wednesday morning we hand-carried it to their office but we've yet to hear.

Senator Chris Barnett, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay Well I hope that gets resolved but congratulations are in order anyway because the board did approve your salary of I think $210,000 per annum which if you do the math on that for four years

not including the benefits I think if we add in the benefits that's going to be almost a million dollars. So you're the highest paid superintendent in the history of the Guam Department of Education so congratulations.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: But definitely not compared to other school districts-

Senator Chris Barnett, 38th Guam Legislature: Sure ...

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: much smaller than Guam.

Senator Chris Barnett, 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah. And that's kind of where I'm going with this you know the board was very accommodating in approving your salary request and they approved it because they compared it to the national av- the national average with other superintendents and other similar districts but when that story came out I was in receipt of a lot of calls from teachers who would also appreciate it if they could see their pay get closer to the national average. And just some of the comments that I got were... And I'm sure you can understand they were just very upset about the appearance that the superintendent would get taken care of in that manner and the teachers are still waiting for any effort to increase their pay. So with that being said is there any effort with the Guam Department of Education to bring teacher salaries closer to the national average ma'am?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: That is something that we definitely do support but any kind of plan like that any k- that has a s- a study needs to be done. The last study of course that was done was the Hay study plan which actually addressed everyone in the government.

And I personally had at the time when I was the speaker I personally addressed that question to the group that when they look at the teachers' salary that it's totally unique from any other department and agency and they should not fall under a plan across the government because of their duties and responsibilities are different.

But that plan basically a study needs to be done and then of course it has to come to the legislature because you're going to have to appropriate the money for that. I would not be able I can't even do a reclassification or an audit on certain number of positions. Let's say I want to do this for a group of individuals not saying would take picking on them but let's say for you know sociologists or psychologists for example.

But to get my HR people to go and do an audit for just that group of people they wouldn't be able to do it in you know in a timely manner. We've actually you know have considered asking DOA because they're the ones who would do this for the government individually or maybe by group for that matter but that's a separate request.

But ultimately it's going to have to come from the legislature because you need to appropriate the monies to give the pay raise. And I would love yes for our teachers to be paid comparable to that in the US and maybe I would retain more of our teachers and that is something that we're trying to address right now even with the certification office about our Chamorro language teachers who are on the ABC plan you know as a limited term position and yet the load that they have really 130 students a day.

And norm- And that's not the rule for in the CBA because it's on-- it's either 12 students in a class for special needs 24 in the elementary 28 in the middle and 28 in the high school and then here you know we're talking about these Chamorro language teachers who have a whole Number of students some of them can go even up to as high as 200. So yes I support that and I would lobby for it.

Senator Chris Barnett, 38th Guam Legislature: Are you able to provide the numbers to the committee? I know you don't want to step on any toes but you know I met with the Guam Federation of Teachers. I have a draft bill ready to increase the teacher pay and bring it closer to the national average but what's lacking? And hopefully we can sit down where this just the numbers-

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Senator as much as I'd like to say that would be easy to do because I've actually pondered you know doing such a thing when I was in your shoes but like I said earlier it has to be... You going to get experts to do this. Yeah. We are not an expert. I can't take from any school district their plan their formula.

Senator Chris Barnett, 38th Guam Legislature: I just have to interrupt you Superintendent Won Pat because I understand the comparison but I think just for the teachers out there when they see how easy it was for your pay to get adjusted upward to the national average when they hear all this you know it's going to be pulling teeth it's going to be so difficult I think what we really need is just the political willpower to get it done and so I hope you can support that ma'am. I- And I hope the committee can support it too ...

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: I definitely will support any move to do that but for me to do that study I am not qualified to do that and therefore and the last thing is it's very unfair to try to pit me and my salary with those of our teachers-

Senator Chris Barnett, 38th Guam Legislature: I'm not doing that ma'am

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: because they are just as important- to not just to me as a former educator myself as a teacher. So I would take offense to that.

Senator Chris Barnett, 38th Guam Legislature: And I mean it respectfully but I'm again I'm just sharing the concerns that I've received from my constituents. So I hope they haven't offended you in their thought process.

You know I think the bottom line is that they just want to be taken care of in the same manner that the leadership is taken care of. And I you know I hope we can all agree on that and I don't mean any offense really and I want to support your budget request because I think what we've seen in this legislature is this hyper-focus on the bottom line.

And when we're so concerned about the bottom line I think we lose sight of all the challenges that not just the Guam Department of Education faces but agency after agency continues to come in here with pretty much status quo budgets you know inclusive of organic growth of salaries and benefits and those kind of things.

And what we're seeing is that basic necessities like staffing maintenance those kind of things are left either underfunded or un- funded. And so I don't want to be the senator who's in here trying to nickel-and-dime the Guam Department of Education. I'm taking you at your word. I understand that there are many challenges and I don't agree that- We continue to move forward with these status quo budgets which is why I request

I respect your request Madam Superintendent. And I- I'd also like to ask so there was a story about the claw back of federal funds and now we're saying that we're going to have to use local funds for things like special education. Is that included in your budget request or is that part of the unfunded-

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: SPED funds are federal funds so we don't pay anything with our local funds with the exception of our maintenance of effort. And we… Yeah. Okay sir. Thank you for reminding me that's true out of our... I mean normally the process is that with the budgeting process is that there's the federal funds which is covers SPED. Any local funds for SPED will be the maintenance of effort. What is different however this year when we came in is that we discovered again that tiny I the invoices were not paid.

And because they were not paid for previous years which federal funds should have been used for them we now have to use local funds. And we're finding that out really in several cases already where we really have to use local funds. There's the other case also that we discovered as well that in the refurbishments of our 12 schools all those contracts ended on December 31st and we all came in-- Well I came in December 31st at 5:01 PM but the rest of my staff came in on December 1st which was a holiday.

January. January 1st. So January 5th is the actually the day we came in. March ARP monies expired. What we found of course in that case that anything after that date December 31st any invoices after that which we could not put towards ARP all have to be paid now out of local funds to the tune of about $20 million.

Senator Chris Barnett, 38th Guam Legislature: And that's not included in the $307 million budget request?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: No.

Senator Chris Barnett, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. Can you also confirm I'm just hearing from different staff that there's been a shakeup in the leadership of the special education division. Are you able to confirm whether or not Mr. Tom Babauta and Mrs. Camacho are still on the job or the status of their employment?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Mr. Babauta basically has informed us that he's going on military duty from June to the end of the of the year and that he because of that time he felt that he did not want to leave the division without you know having someone be there for the whole time that he was going to be out and have chosen to retire.

Senator Chris Barnett, 38th Guam Legislature: So he retired?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Yes. It will be at the end of the month.

Senator Chris Barnett, 38th Guam Legislature: Thank you. Are you also able to confirm I know we had discussed the JP Torres closure but I attended the induction ceremony for Inarajan Elementary National Honors Elementary Honor Society and they asked me "Senator can you please make sure that Inarajan Elementary School is not shut down?" So I'm just hearing from different staff again that there's discussions to shut down seven other schools. Is this accurate?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Well the first question is JP Torres. JP Torres is a is the name of a school that has been closed. The program is Success For All Academy so it's a program. And the facility that they're currently using is a wing that will be part of the Simon Sanchez classroom.

The it's because it's a program and the children are coming from various high schools we will be graduating most of them with the exception of three who will go back to their home school. There won't be any loss at all because where those children come their program their courses that they would need will continue.

They have two other options that we're also providing federal funds for them. We have an agreement with Asmuyao where the children can go there and get their credits from them and graduate from them. The other is that GCC also offers as well for free for them the adult education program. And then the third option like I said is back at their own school.

So that definitely is going to happen. The talk rather about some schools being considered for to be decommissioned was actually a was in the original plan that was put together during Dr. Swanson's time and his team and there are four phases to that plan. The first phase you we saw happen with Brodie and LBJ.

The second phase yes is looking at approximately six schools to be considered to be decommissioned for this primarily for reasons of finances and for underutilization of a school facility and under-enrolled students in those schools. It'll be very difficult to continue to like to run those schools that are being underutilized.

When those teachers whose schools may be decommissioned and combined with other schools the when the children move the teachers will follow. But when you do

your master schedule and you cross level there will be extra teachers then that would go and fill other vacancies in the elementary school and other elementary schools.

And that's how it works. The decision to do this not- on a based on emotion or whatever it is. It's primarily a financial a decision and the savings could for the other two schools I did commission are probably about 800 some thousand dollars if I get authorization to lighten the law to for me to go out and lease them.

The other schools that we're looking at could potentially bring in about the same amount of money as well. The savings are not primarily in staffing because like I said they will go with their children and then they'll fill vacancies that we have.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Yeah and I and again I just think because you're leading with the finances is the reason and it just goes back to short-changing the people of Guam and the public school system because I mean we shouldn't have to close these schools.

Excess is excess right? But at the end of the day we all know that smaller class sizes are beneficial to the people of Guam and I just don't appreciate the anxiety that a lot of our stakeholders have in thinking about whether or not their school is going to be closed because the... My conversation with Superintendent Swanson his exit was that he liked for example the situation in Or- in Agana Elementary School.

A lot of elementary schools are really village centric and there's a lot of engagement and investment with the parent community and he didn't and you know it's your decision now but he didn't want to move forward with those closures because he felt like they were beneficial and a good model moving forward. I know my time's up Mr. Chair so thank you for the opportunity.

Thank you senator and I just wanted to reiterate there’s a lot of talk about the legislature, the legislature, the legislature, I want to open once again, that the governors request in the corpus of this $1.44 billion dollars is 266,587 and I have always invited senators on the floor of the legislature and the reason I made this pronouncement over and over again for status quo agencies is because they are lapsing in the hundreds of thousands and millions.

Now department of education with this fiscal team has corrected and has a spending plan coming forward for the $70 million dollars. That’s why were not talking about

your lapses or going after your lapses because you're prudent with your finances now.

I have always invited senators to go through the budget while were on the floor and deappropriate any area that you want to within the ceiling to provide for those priority areas on which you deem. Not much takers, but anyways were going to continue to endeavor and I will say that even with this number we will be the highest amount appropriated to the Department of Education in history.

And that has been tracking up ever since so I appreciate all the work that you're doing for accountability as we strive to get to the place that we need to be. not short-changing but allowing the use of funds that are available through realized revenues. Thank you very much. With that Senator Joe San Agustin you're recognized.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, 38th Guam Legislature: Thank you Mr. Chair. First I'd like to thank the panel for being here. I'm a very simple guy. I've dealt with the numbers before this nothing new to me. You identified a hundred and sixteen vacancies. Am I correct Madam Superintendent? Yes or no? Yes?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Yes but those-

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, 38th Guam Legislature: What is the value?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Because those are what we call uncertified positions.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, 38th Guam Legislature: I just want to be... I'm a very simple person Speaker. Okay? Hundred and sixteen vacancy what is that value that? What's the dollar value? Come on Frank you should be able to get that. Oh gosh. Very simple question okay? Hundred and sixteen what is the dollar value? A million dollars? Less?

Dr. Mary Okada, Vice Chairwoman, Guam Education Board: Senator San Agustin based on the budget submitted there are thirty-one vacancies at a cost of one point seven million. The hundred and sixteen vacancies that the superintendent alluded to earlier some of those positions are filled with uncertified or limited term teachers so those are already funded. But the vacancies here based on the budget submission is thirty-one at one point seven million.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. When you identified that some of the thirty-one out of the hundred and sixteen that the rest are filled by substitute and so forth right? What did it cost? See if you take a look at the whole hundred and sixteen right?

And you tell me it costs... If you filled it with every position that you individually you're supposed to fill it what is that value at? And then when you identify that you filled it by with substitute I already know the price is less. So what is the leftover money and where did that money go? Because when you want to do numbers be very careful okay?

I'm just saying you said a hundred and sixteen. Ms. Okada identified thirty-one one point seven you filled the rest of thirty-one of a hundred and sixteen comes up to what? Seventy eighty? And what did that cost the department? And you had the funding for it because you filled it. So what's the difference then of what that true value was if it was certified positions versus substitute?

How much money was left? Because when we look at the budget I don't look at how much it's going to cost you for a substitute. You're identifying certified people. So if you're asking for 307 position and you mentioned earlier maintenance of effort what does that number should be? The 307 should be what amount should that be? It should go a lot less. Maintenance of effort will identify that it's approximately about maybe 266 million.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: No When the last figure we saw was that they were at 14- that's SPED ... million and then we needed to ... And there's a difference of about two to three more which we're looking right now rather than putting the so to speak the cash. But positions to move them over to SPED to make up the difference.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, 38th Guam Legislature: I understand that. But I'm just saying when you look at the budget total 307 what would that number be if we if we identify the maintenance of effort required right? How far from 307 are we looking at? Dropping maybe another $10 $20 million?

I'm not trying to find a way to reduce your budget okay? But I'm being very realistic because in the past even though we're looking forward and it's very positive in the past every time we try to identify funds this not the first time the DOE's asked for $200 million. I was on the Board of Education when were asking for $200 million.

Nothing new. It's really 20 years ago now. Okay. Anyway. We're still asking for 200 million. You never got 200 million. You're asking for 307 million. I'm just going to I'm just going to keep rumbling along.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Senator you're right. So when we pay for these our certified teachers they're anywhere between 60 80 you know thousand dollars. Okay. And then when you hire limited term teachers we're looking about 40 some thousand dollars and then when you're looking at the substitute teachers those are like $15- 20 ... basically an hour.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, 38th Guam Legislature: And that's what I'm getting at Madam Superintendent is that when you look when we look at the budget we say certified teacher.

You know we just look at a number and we say "Okay five $6 million." I'm just throwing this out in the open okay? But when you drop to substitute you drop to... You keep going lower. That $5 million is really not 5 million no more. It's worth maybe two maybe three.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: If yeah you're right. If we hire more of the certified teachers.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, 38th Guam Legislature: Understood. But at the same token when the legislature gives you a budget at the end of the day it's a blank check. It says "Here's whatever amount is passed in law." The board and you would sit down and say "Okay where do we want to put the money so we get the biggest bang for our dollar?" Okay? The problem in the past I'm not going to use the past as a basis but problem in the past is that they didn't really know how to take a look at the check and say where they want to put it but they had all the excuses to claim that "Well you didn't give us money for instance that. You didn't give us money for this." Hold their hand break. Because then when I look at your budget you say you got $18 million for power right?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Yes.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, 38th Guam Legislature: No 19.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: 18.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, 38th Guam Legislature: 18 million right? How much is that JFK got solar power right? Solar panels. How many other schools? I know there's a pilot at Carbullido or is it Chalan Pago?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: No there-No only only one JFK. Only JFK.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, 38th Guam Legislature: Nothing at Chalan Pago?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: No.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, 38th Guam Legislature: And how much money did you save there? Or is it connected?

Franklin Leon Guerrero, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Administrative Services, GDOE: It's not connected.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah. Very good very good program. And that's not a last year's issue. That's several years ago already. Okay? And as we're moving forward I'm trying to be very positive okay? You have Frank here. He's going to go after it. Turn it on. Save some money. Don't make excuses.

Franklin Leon Guerrero, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Administrative Services, GDOE: Absolutely.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, 38th Guam Legislature: I'm just surprised that... I'm going to expect that in the very near future you're going to be promoting solar panel on all the schools.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Yes Senator we have three laws in the books right now to have solar panels in our schools and not a single one of them have been actually implemented.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah and you would save millions.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: One of them is mine.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: The first one was mine.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. And another one I got my... The clock is ticking fast. You have 81 million f- federal money you have to spend by December. How much does that impact is in the budget? None?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: None.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, 38th Guam Legislature: What does it cover? What does 81 million cover?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: These are federal dollars.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, 38th Guam Legislature: I know but when I say how does it impact the budget if you say you're going to fix a school or do something is it anywhere in the budget you're saying you're going to fix something? Or are you telling me no? Because at the end of the day as the months go by this all recorded okay? All I'm going to say is a fine like my 81 million you didn't need it. You needed to spend it. Come December let's hypothetically say you spend all 81 million. October November December. Before we even get to October you already have dropped 81 million to the DOE schools Go for it, Mary

Dr. Mary Okada, Vice Chairwoman, Guam Education Board: Let me clarify Senator in the federal programs they're based on the latest report that is dated April 23rd there is $83 million available in federal funds. However many of these federal funds are multi-year. So for example the consolidated grant for fiscal year '25 is not... The last day to draw funds would be February of '28 and that's about 34 million.

So there's an additional year because it's a 27-month grant. This just what's available now. So there is 83 million available. The ones that are and there's about 800,000 in another program. So if you take the 33, 34 million plus the 135 million so out of the 83 about 35 million still has an additional year before those funds expire. So they don't necessarily-

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, 38th Guam Legislature: Beyond December ...

Dr. Mary Okada, Vice Chairwoman, Guam Education Board: beyond December. That's correct.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, 38th Guam Legislature: So in other words- It's another year ... the 81 million is not a true number. It's more like if you can't spend 81 you still got a year to catch up if you don't spend it all.

Dr. Mary Okada, Vice Chairwoman, Guam Education Board: Only for these two pieces because they're multi-year. They're 27-month grants as opposed to a one-year grant.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, 38th Guam Legislature: Understood.

Dr. Mary Okada, Vice Chairwoman, Guam Education Board: But what happens is there's several grants that run at the same time that are like the consolidated grant. You were still spending '24. What we lost was '22 '23. We're spending '24 which covers a two 27-month period '25 is already awarded which covers a 27-month period and '26 has just been submitted.

So there's a possibility that would come right around July of 2026. Sometimes you will have three years running consecutively but you use the first one just so that you don't return the funding.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, 38th Guam Legislature: Yes I hope so and with that my time has run out. I have many other questions but I'm good. I can work with the chairman on finance.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: And I'd just like to say that and part of this of course is the salaries of the individuals in these programs. So it's not just all programs itself but salaries.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, 38th Guam Legislature: Just be careful when we talk about salaries and I understand my colleague asking about the national average. OAG only on Guam we follow what we can afford and we move from there National average just doesn't work everywhere.

Otherwise Government of Guam will be broke. National average across the across the Government of Guam the chairman here will be saying "Håfa yu'? What are we

going to do?" I'll be like "I don't know." How could a national average because even our pay is not national average. Anyway thank you Mr. Chair.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Yes Si yu'os ma'ase Senator San Agustin and absolutely and as I once again reiterated before you joined us is that we have Office of Finance and Budget's always been very open for any of our colleagues.

For him it's a little easier because he's right next door. But you know we are very open in terms of our colleagues with any additional questions. And of course as we formulate the budget and then debate it on the floor chapter by chapter any questions can be answered during that time as well.

My colleagues have asked a lot of good questions. I wanted to dive into one of the things we discussed during our pre-budget and that was your agreement with basically your collective bargaining agreement. You're currently in compliance right with your discussions with GFT and other requirements in terms of what-- Or you at least have the agreement in place correct?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Well what we've been doing is that and it's primarily filling of positions that the representative of the union have always asked us and I meet with him every month as well and he's also on the board. And his concern was actually filling the CBA positions. So based on what our current budget is and what positions we have is that we've made it a priority that you know we would we would hire these individuals when they do apply and fill those positions. But there are still many others that have not and that's the reason why we placed it we included it in this particular budget to meet the CBA agreement.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: So this why their fiscal year request in terms of FTEs Fiscal year 2025 2,585. Fiscal year 2026 authorized 2,520. Agency's request for fiscal year '27 2,962. That's a variance from the '25 authorized level of 377 and a variance from your request of 442 FTEs in terms of the increase. And this the reason why I wanted to drill down on this and that is first of all once again to recap what is your current tracking on budgeted vacancies within the Department of Education?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Well we have it changes every day because like I said we're-

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Yeah just the just the your average at this point ...

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: So, when we when I gave the figures instead of 116 these are the ones where they're not certified positions. And at the time when we submitted the budget we have listed for teacher vacancies variously 13 that we need to fill based on this request. But the but the latest that I've heard because we always ask is somewhere in the 50s of right now positions that we haven't filled from the beginning of the school year to this date.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: So you're saying 50 plus is what you're telling me right now?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Yes.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Okay. And that's at your authorized level of- 2,520 for fiscal year '26. So around in the 50s range is what you're saying.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Yes. And that number always it kind of vacillates because if they retire then the numbers go up. Then we hire so then it drops. It's unpredictable.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Yeah and Madam Superintendent I want to I want to accentuate that the success. Because in the past we've been talking about teachers in the hundreds. You know per classroom and the like. So I'm just saying that we've gotten there with the current number that we've been able to reconcile with regard to the entire funds available for appropriation. So I want to I want to continue to highlight that.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Yes.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: That's a big deal.

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: And I'd like to-

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: That's basically just about a teacher in every classroom correct?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Just about. And I you know and I like to give credit of course to you know previous legislatures where they decided to grow our own educators by offering of course an educators program and stipends for them.

I was actually one of those teachers that were hired off-island after I graduated to come back to Guam to teach. And we've gotten to the point where we no longer hire anymore. After DoDEA left weren't hiring from off-island unless they themselves personally just applied to us. So yes our numbers were like 800 500 300 and now we're in the lower about you know 100 something and then here we are as low as you know even 50.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: And that's a big deal and that's why I want to work with you on where we're going to finally land because I'd like to do this like we've done it. We've done it to where we've gotten here. We're really there and I want to thank your team once again. The effort is there and the board and everybody pulling together on these particular issues.

Let's be honest with ourselves with maintenance and repairs the improvements that are moving now with regard to the accountability on the on the staffing side. I mean this where we build this in that we're not. So I'm saying going forward at least when we come to debate your budget what I'm going to ask my colleagues to do is to sit down and see what is the reality of the hundreds of positions that are required given the fact that the tracking now is there to get us to within really really close range of where we've always wanted to be where you're not getting bashed anymore for substitutes sitting in a classroom with kids having nothing to do but how are they going to learn right?

You're getting there and that's what's important. Maintenance is getting there. Everything is moving. So that's what I'm going to work with when I when I sit down and try to figure out how to you know to work with this and work with the ceilings that are there present. Another thing is I know this has gotten me some feedback before where you know let the feds build their own schools and all this but- Given the fact that honestly we're decommissioning and given the fact that they have

announced several times and I asked the prior superintendent who said he had a DoDEA hat one point you know what I mean?

And that situation's going to continue to persist in terms of what they need. To the board and the madam superintendent I think it will be worth a sit down with those folks. Maybe this the first attempt at reintegrating. You know what I mean? And that is to say when we're going to help you with your commercial opportunities with your properties and whatever else but you may make more money by saying "Hey do you want to repurpose this school?"

because you keep talking about not wanting... You know the fed's got two issues right now and they've said this on the record to us and one of the reasons why they're trying to get housing built outside A typical family home on base $1.52 million by contracts having to build to certain specs and whatever else.

On the outside comparable house that they could have their OHA for and whatever else it is somewhere around 6 700,000 definitely below 1.5 and 2 million. I'm sure schools will be the same thing. If they go in for schools they'll probably look at a school like if were to build Simon Sanchez for the feds probably be 300 million you know?

But the fact is we have campuses that can possibly be repurposed. Would you at least commit to sitting down and having an you know a discussion and an engagement? Because I think you could get quite a bit more value out of using a school for a school in certain instances. And that's where also maintenance of effort and federal opportunities that we sit down and say "Hey you know we have this inventory of properties that are co-located not only just to the bases but to many people who are outside."

Contractors as well many contractors have these benefits. Contract teachers have these benefits. Others have these benefits with regard to what they get in terms of federal benefits even though they work on Guam. So I love the fact that you've come this morning with solutions in hand others than what your request is.

I don't deny that your request is certainly something that is when able to be fully implemented realistic. But with short of that I want to continue to deal with what are our realities. And once again I'm going to challenge my colleagues on the floor. The reason why I've continued to say status quo for certain entities is some of them fall out or even fall within some of the priority areas but they're not using their money

and that's either DOA's going to have to step up and say "Hey listen you know we've reconciled our issues with regard to you know their ability to go to procurement.

We've reconciled some of those issues. We've allowed them additional time to finish the fiscal year and we're processing their you know their actions for their employment." If they're not then they're a victim collectively of their executive direction and how they're able to do that. So we have to find another use for that money if it's there.

That's where I want to find the reality of what we do. Because if we came in here and I've asked OFB to do this and they said "Sir get ready for the number." If we actually honestly calculated every request that came before us when we do this fiscal year not even the 1.44 billion can touch that. That would be 100 million plus in excess is my estimate in terms of what those requests would be.

So our realities are to see where do we once again work within what's av- what we know is available and repurpose that and make sure that we're concentrating on the priorities. But you have made that presentation today so we're going to endeavor to do everything we can to get you there. And just in closing I can tell you-

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Oh before you close-

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

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: I just want to let you know is that I've actually broached that question about the DoDEA, DoWEA rather because I met with the newly appointed DoWEA superintendent of DoWEA schools throughout the world basically wherever they have them.

And he said that there's no discussion yet on that because he's so new he'll find out. I also met with the person in charge of the schools here in the Pacific. He's currently stationed in Korea and he came to Guam and I met with him and I met with this the DoDEA DoWEA superintendent here in Guam also.

And they basically all said that's not something yet that has that information has not gone down to them. But you know we are going to continue to keep the lines of communication you know open. So like I said Senators that I know we're not a

revenue-generating institution but we're looking at yet but we're looking at you know other ways to kind of help defray some of the costs like I said you know with leasing. So now we're going to generate revenues there.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: No I agree with you. And Madam Speaker let me tell you right now there's been active discussion because Senator Lujan and I went up to Rev and Tax- They can they going to get out of that building. That building does not suit-

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Yes and I was approached by them as a matter of fact.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Exactly. And so yes you're exactly right. That's why I said when you're talking in the two and 300, 000 no. I know agencies that are paying 1.5 1.6 million right now under budgets that we passed- Oh my goodness ... for some of those and if they ran the same operation there why wouldn't they why wouldn't they pay that kind of money to the government of Guam?

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education: Exactly.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: And that and so that's not in the hundreds of thousands of dollars sometimes Madam Speaker. That is in the million you know million plus- in terms of the cost per square foot that some of these agencies that are renting that are in substandard buildings. I mean- Yep ... I just we put some of the pictures on our social media.

Rev and Tax people are under pala pala inside of the building. You know? For some materials not just when it rains but for materials that were provided for insulation under the former use of that building that are not sustained and they're and they're breaking apart and they're falling down on and the employees are protecting themself.

So they asked us they said you know like "This not unsolicited." You know "This not something that I'm breaking the law on that we'll have to go through procurement. I'm just giving ideas." But the fact is they said "Man you know LBJ looks... Our what do you call that? Brodie looks good."

You know what I mean? And it's central. It's right there on Marine Corps Drive and everything else and the handsome rent that they're paying right now you know is... And then and then once again as we talk about charter schools again when we go to that if they're going to be paying the rent and that's appropriated here you know perhaps that that goes over to you.

Because why would we pay rent to an outside vendor when we can recirculate that within Department of Education because of the fact that's appropriated from here? But it's a it's a repurposing of that funding saying that goes to DOE because they're the ones who is the landlord of that particular property.

I'd rather pay you guys if you have the school that's ready to go that we can move forward. So I think all of these ideas We're going to give you a baseline that you can work with but we're also going to tell you we're going to continue throughout the fiscal year to help you moving forward to get to where you need to be.

But congratulations once again for the work that you've done. with that I want to thank our chair once again. He's very open-minded. He bothers me a lot which is good. It's the right thing to do and he gives me those proposals. But you know from the beginning when we sat down and I want to say this and w- and it's getting so much better even now.

From the beginning when we sat down every time there's this bubble up of "We need this" every time we call you and we say "Okay let's sit down and talk about it" we find avenues that that get us there. We did that when it came to your federal funds that we're going to make sure are allocated and giving you the flexibility on right now.

Before it was like "No we need 30 million to do this." And even your finance chair thank you Mary said "Mm." She didn't say no. She said "I will help you legislature look at a few things" and she did. And so she gave us some ideas. We did it in concert. She didn't she didn't you know usurp the authority of the education and tell the you know the people that do the work that they were wrong.

She said "Those ideas are appropriate." And that's what happened. And so before you know it we started to see the reactivation of the accounts going forward and not having the to have the total seed money but allowing DOE to least lose three use three four five million and it opened the spigot again of that federal reimbursement coming.

So we're always here to help. That's what we want to do. But thank you for your presentation. We'll work on it and then we'll have a final bill come out argued on the floor and find as many sources as we can to help you. So Madam Chair anything else you want to say before we close? Please press your button please.

Dr. Judith P. Guthertz, Chairwoman, Guam Education Board: All respect senators thank you very much for showing so much support for the Guam Department of Education. I think we're in the position now all of us where we see that we are working well together and we all want the same thing. We want the best for the children of Guam. And sometimes it's a little tough but we work out the issues and we get to the bottom line of what needs to be done to fix a problem.

I'm very impressed with our with our superintendent and we're working very closely the board with our superintendent. there's no communication issues 100% disclosure of what she's doing. She tells us what she's doing. She asks for our input. We give her our input. And her management team they are tremendous people.

They're fully dedicated to our school system and I think we're in the right direction And thank you for your support Senator Borja Senator Dueñas Senator San Agustin. Thank you very much.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Thank you very much. And you know I'm seeing the work and that's what matters and so we're both doing what we going to do. And with that have a great morning and appreciate it. And so with that the Department of Education Fiscal Year 2027 budget has been heard in the public hearing of the Guam Legislature and will continue to contemplate the budget going forward in the coming weeks and months. Si Yu'os ma'åse. Committee on Finance and Government Operations is hereby adjourned.

The Budget Hearing was adjourned at 11:34AM.

COMMITTEE REPORT

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) -

INTRODUCED BY

Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam

AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

Friday, May 15, 2026, at 9:00 A.M.

University of Guam (UOG)

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 15, 2026

1 message

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Fri, May 8, 2026 at 9:19 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Christopher Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com" <stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com>, "vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com" <vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com>, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 08, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 15, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Friday, May 15, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- University of Guam (UOG)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

FIRST NOTICE- UOG.pdf
694K

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 08, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 15, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Friday, May 15, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
- University of Guam (UOG)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 15, 2026

PRINT

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 15, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 05/08/2026 09:20 AM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

Public Hearing Date: 05/08/2026 09:00 AM

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 08, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 15, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Friday, May 15, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** (https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
· University of Guam (UOG)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 15, 2026

3 messages

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Tue, May 12, 2026 at 8:30 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Christopher Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com" <stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com>, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>, "vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com" <vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 12, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 15, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Friday, May 15, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- University of Guam (UOG)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--
Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

SECOND NOTICE- UOG.pdf
693K

Karl Pangelinan <karl.p@guamlegislature.gov> Tue, May 12, 2026 at 8:32 AM
To: Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

Isn't this supposed to go out tomorrow for the 48-hour notice of a PH on Friday morning?

KP
[Quoted text hidden]

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Tue, May 12, 2026 at 9:38 AM
To: Karl Pangelinan <karl.p@guamlegislature.gov>

Hi Karl,

The Office of Finance and Budget followed the committee's established schedule for notices to ensure consistency and avoid any discrepancies.

[Quoted text hidden]
--
--
Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Camarin L. Breton
Budget Analyst Assistant
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
Website: www.ofbguam.org (671) 646-4416

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 12, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 15, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Friday, May 15, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
- University of Guam (UOG)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Notice of Budget Hearing

Friday, May 15, 2026, 9:00 A.M.

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Friday, May 15, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- University of Guam (UOG)

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

GUAM LEGISLATURE
AUDIO VISUAL DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Office Submitting Request: Senator Chris Dueñas

Date of Request: 05/08/2026

POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Ashley Shinohara Contact #: 671-989-9554

Email: senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS

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

☐ Oversight Hearing ☐ Committee Meeting ☒ Other: Budget Hearing

Notice Title / Bill(s) / Resolution(s) / Appointment:
University of Guam (UOG)

Date of Event: 05/15/2026 Start Time: 9:00 AM AM/PM

End Time: 12:00 PM AM/PM

Location: Public Hearing Room

MEDIA HANDLING

Recording Format: ☒ MP4 ☐ MP3 ☐ Other: _____

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

CERTIFIED BY AV:

Name: Rudy Perez Signature: _____

Posted on/Air Date: 2026-05-08 to 2026-05-15

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 15, 2026

PRINT

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 15, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 05/12/2026 08:06 AM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 12, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 15, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Friday, May 15, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** **(https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
University of Guam (UOG)

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 budget hearing, 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.*

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

BUDGET HEARING AGENDA

Friday, May 15, 2026 – Guam Congress Building

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam – AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

9:00 am:

- University of Guam (UOG)

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahån

Date: May 15, 2026 — Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas — Time: 9:00 a.m.

Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS. Relative to University of Guam (UOG)

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Jonas Macapinlac	UOG	671 735 2944	jmac@triton.uog.edu			✓	
2	Keana Andrade	UOG	[redacted]		✓	✓	✓	
3	Mark Monmouth	UOG	[redacted]				✓	
4	Agapito Diaz	UOG	[redacted]	adiaz@triton.uog.edu	✓	✓	✓	
5	Chanika Mitchell	UOG		mitchellkc@triton.uog.edu				
6	Kalyne Roberto	UOG	671-735-2995	robertok@triton.uog.edu			X	
7	ANITA ENRIQUEZ	UOG	735 2990	abe@triton.uog.edu	✓	✓	✓	
8	Yvette Paulino	UOG	735-2653	paulinoy@triton.uog.edu			✓	
9	Zenon Belanger	UOG	[redacted]	belangerz@triton.uog.edu			✓	
10								
11								
12								

FY 2027 Budget Hearing

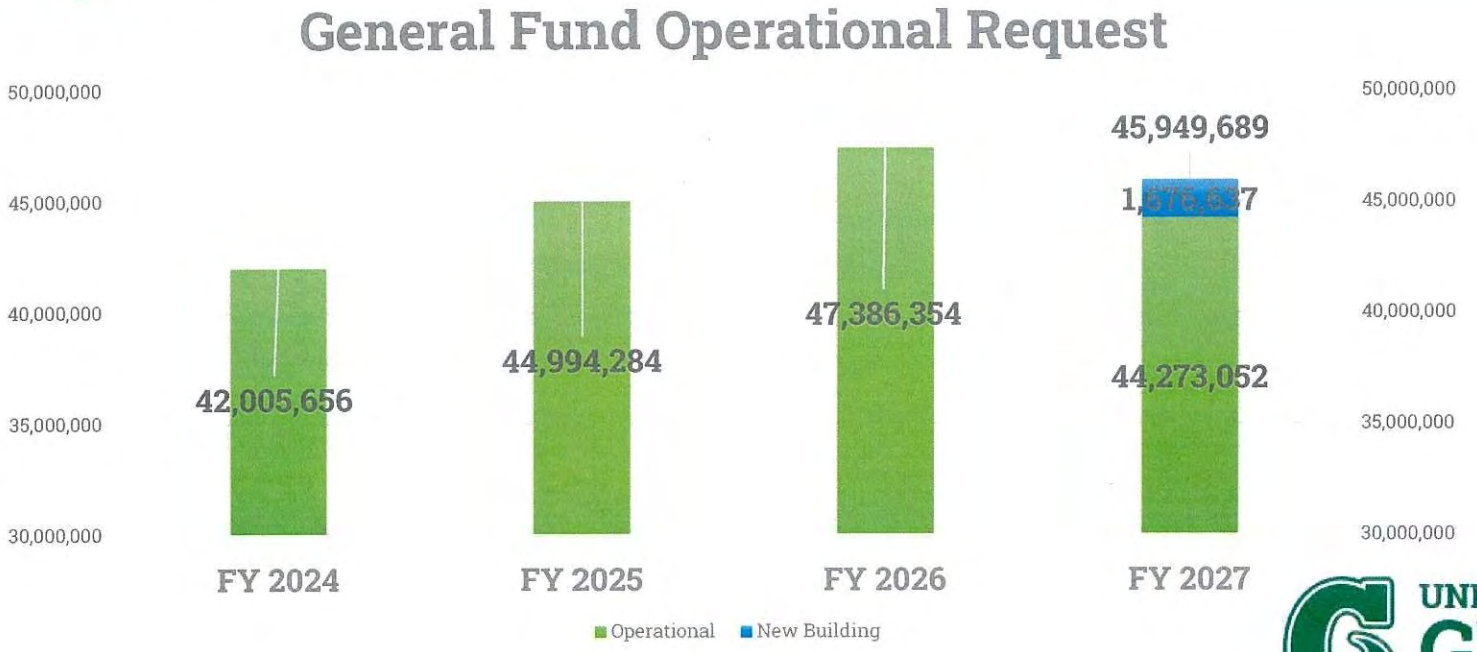
Committee on Finance and Government Operations

38th Guam Legislature

May 15, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
UNIBETSEDÅT GUÅHAN

Look Back at UOG Budget Requests



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
UNIBETSEDÅT GUÅHAN

FYs 2026 – 2027 General Operations Appropriations/Requests

	FY 2027		FY 2026
General Fund Appropriation	UOG Request	Governor's Request	Appropriation
General Operations + New Building	**45,949,689**	44,981,306	39,956,147

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
UNIBETSEDÅT GUÅHAN

FY 2027 General Operations Summary *continued*

Object Groups	General Operations	New Building	Total
Total Personnel Services	32,363,901	576,637	**32,940,538**
Total Operations	5,909,151	350,000	**6,259,151**
Total Utilities	5,000,000	750,000	**5,750,000**
Capital Outlay	1,000,000	0	**1,000,000**
Grand Total	**44,273,052**	**1,676,637**	**45,949,689**

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
UNIBETSEDÅT GUÅHAN

FY 2027 General Operations Summary *continued*

Object Categories	General Operations	New Building	Total
Regular Salaries/Increments	22,555,302	403,243	**22,958,545**
Benefits	9,808,599	173,394	**9,981,993**
Total Personnel Services	**32,363,901**	**576,637**	**32,940,538**
Contractual Services	4,602,405	100,000	**4,702,405**
Supplies and Materials	490,746	150,000	**640,746**
Equipment	816,000	100,000	**916,000**
Total Operations	**5,909,151**	**350,000**	**6,259,151**
Power	3,544,700	505,300	**4,050,000**
Water/Sewer	922,300	177,700	**1,100,000**
Telephone/Toll	533,000	67,000	**600,000**
Total Utilities	**5,000,000**	**750,000**	**5,750,000**
Capital Outlay	**1,000,000**	**0**	**1,000,000**
Total	**44,273,052**	**1,676,637**	**45,949,689**

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
UNIBETSEDÅT GUÅHAN

FY 2027 General Operations Summary *continued*

Object Groups	FY 2027 (less New Building Costs)	FY 2026	Variance
Total Personnel Services	32,363,901	31,341,345	**1,022,556**
Total Operations	5,909,151	3,614,802	**2,294,349**
Total Utilities	5,000,000	5,000,000	**0**
Capital Outlay	1,000,000	0	**1,000,000**
Grand Total	**44,273,052**	**39,956,147**	**4,316,905**

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
UNIBETSEDÅT GUÅHAN

FYs 2026 – 2027 Miscellaneous Appropriations

Miscellaneous Appropriations	FY 2027		FY 2026
Internally-Managed	UOG Request	Governor's Request	Appropriation
SFAP	4,500,000	3,565,285	3,565,285
WERI - GHS	306,252	499,946	499,946
WERI - GCWMP	671,186	292,232	292,232
GADTC Hatchery	114,000	114,000	114,000
Sea Grant Special Fund	500,000	500,000	500,000
UOG Press Publishing House*	100,000	100,000	100,000
Guam Green Growth (G3) Initiative*	500,000	500,000	500,000
Subtotal Internally-Managed	**6,691,438**	**5,571,463**	**5,571,463**

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
UNIBETSEDÅT GUÅHAN

*UOG-supported and included in Governor's Executive Budget Request

FYs 2026 – 2027 Miscellaneous Appropriations *continued*

Miscellaneous Appropriations	FY 2027		FY 2026
Pass-Through/Custodian	UOG Request	Governor's Request	Appropriation
Northern and Southern SWCD*	562,781	562,781	562,781
KPRG Public Radio*	200,000	200,000	200,000
Guampedia Foundation*	150,000	150,000	150,000
Guam Cancer Trust Fund*	4,000,000	4,000,000	3,000,000
Subtotal Pass-Through/Custodian	**4,912,781**	**4,912,781**	**3,912,781**

*UOG-supported and included in Governor's Executive Budget Request

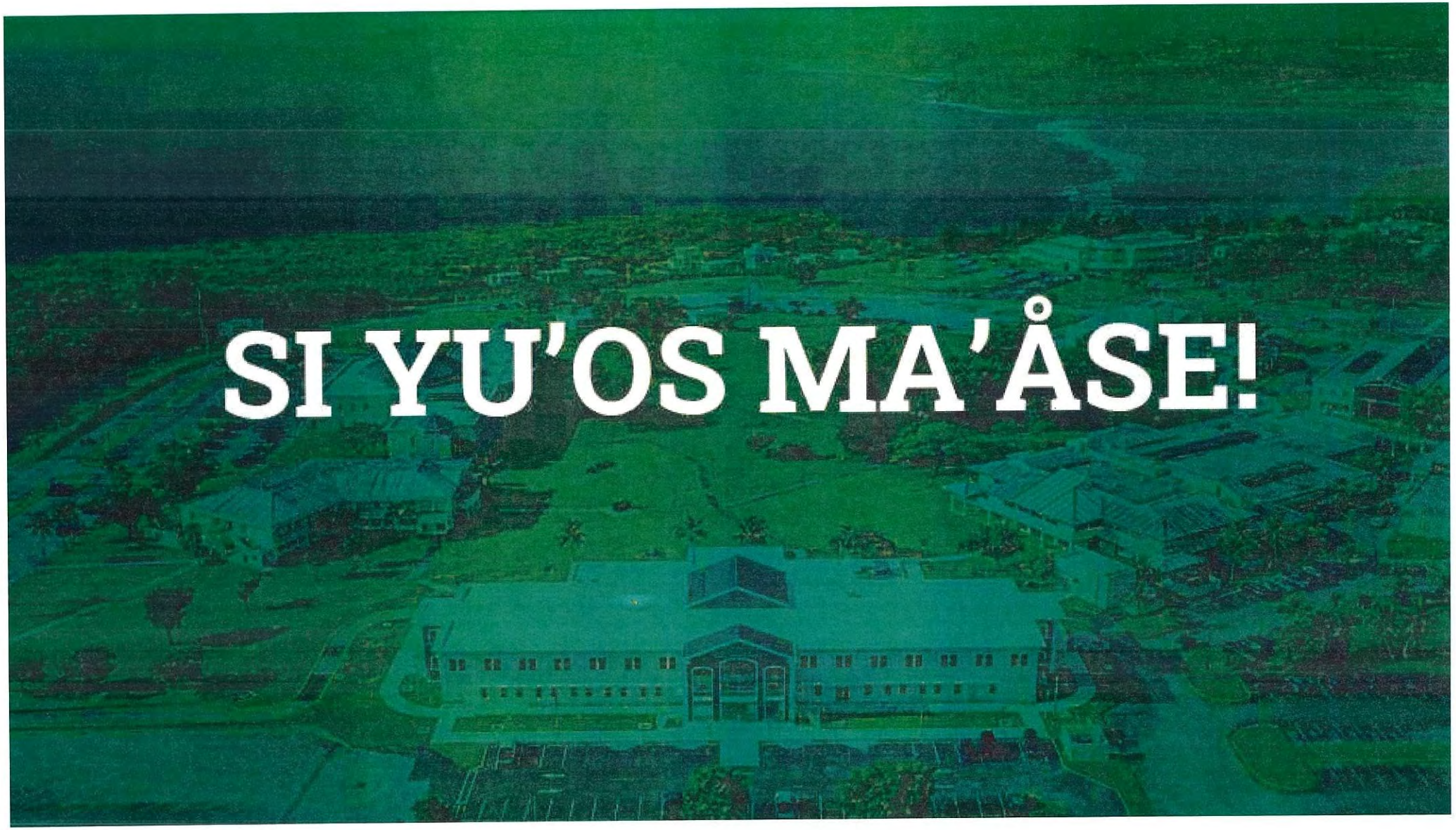
UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
UNIBETSEDÅT GUÅHAN

FY 2027 Capital Improvements Fund

	FY 2027		FY 2026
Capital Improvements Fund	UOG Request	Governor's Request	Appropriation
Student Success Center/School of Engineering*	1,158,283	1,158,283	0
SBPA LG Building	500,000	500,000	500,000
Total Capital Improvements Fund	**1,658,283**	**1,658,283**	**500,000**

*Full debt payments begin in FY 2027

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
UNIBETSEDÅT GUÅHAN


SI YU'OS MA'ÅSE!

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
UNIBETSEDÅT GUÅHAN

BOARD OF REGENTS

May 14, 2026

Honorable Senator Christopher M. Dueñas
Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations
Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas
259 Martyr St., Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Subject: Written Testimony in Support of the University of Guam's FY27 Budget Request

Håfa Adai Chairman Dueñas and honorable members of the Committee on Finance and Government Operations. Thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

The University of Guam continues to serve as one of the island's most important investments in our people, workforce, and future. As Guam's primary public institution of higher education – and as both a land-grant and sea-grant university - UOG impacts nearly every sector of our community through education, research, workforce development, public service, and regional engagement.

For FY 2027, UOG is requesting **$45.9 million** for general operations. Importantly, this request is lower than last year's request and reflects UOG's continued commitment to fiscal responsibility, operational efficiency, and strategic financial planning. Even amid tightening resources, UOG remains focused on meeting the growing needs of our students, community, and region.

Over the past several years, UOG has navigated significant financial and operational challenges with discipline and perseverance. Through careful planning, cost-saving initiatives, and responsible stewardship of resources, UOG has worked diligently to preserve academic quality, student services, and institutional stability while continuing to move forward.

That forward momentum is clearly reflected in the recent opening of two transformational campus facilities: the **Dr. Lucio C. Tan Student Success Center** and the new **School of Engineering** building.

These facilities represent more than physical expansion, they represent Guam's commitment to investing in its students, strengthening its workforce pipeline, and creating opportunities for future generations to succeed here at home.

The Student Success Center strengthens UOG's ability to support student achievement, advising, engagement, retention, and overall student success. The School of Engineering

positions Guam to better develop local talent in engineering, construction, infrastructure, technology, essential to Guam's future economic development and resilience.

These accomplishments are the result of years of planning, collaboration and partnership between the University, government leaders, private sector partners, and our community. As these facilities become fully operational, continued investment in UOG is essential to ensuring they are adequately supported through staffing, programming, maintenance, technology, and student support services.

UOG continues to create pathways toward upward social mobility for our students and families. For many, UOG serves as a gateway to professional advancement, financial stability, leadership opportunities, and meaningful service to Guam.

The Board of Regents recognizes the competing fiscal priorities facing our island government. However, investment in higher education remains one of the most meaningful long-term investments Guam can make in its future.

UOG continues to demonstrate accountability, resilience, innovation, and responsible stewardship while remaining committed to serving the people of Guam and Micronesia.

On behalf of the Board of Regents, I respectfully request your favorable consideration and support of the University of Guam's FY 2027 budget request.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse' for your continued partnership and support of the University of Guam and its mission to serve our island and region.

Agapito "Pete" A. Diaz
Chairperson
University of Guam Board of Regents

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 15, 2026

The Honorable Christopher M. Dueñas
Senator and Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations
38th Guam Legislature
Calvo Arriola Building Suite 101-B
259 Martyr Street
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

The Honorable Vincent A.V. Borja
Senator and Chairman, Committee on Education, Libraries and Public Broadcasting
38th Guam Legislature
DNA Building Suite 502
238 Archbishop Flores Street
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Re: University of Guam FY 2027 Budget Request Testimony

Buenas yan Håfa Adai, Honorable Senators of *I Mina-trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan,*

On behalf of the University of Guam (University; UOG) Board of Regents, administration, faculty, staff, and—most importantly—our students, *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* for this opportunity to present testimony in support of our FY 2027 General Operations, Student Financial Assistance Program, Capital Improvements Fund, and Miscellaneous appropriations budget request.

The University is respectfully requesting **$45.9 million** for its general operations in FY 2027, which is **inclusive** of **$1.7 million** specific to costs associated with the full operation of our four (4) new buildings on campus. **This represents a six and a half percent (6.5%) decrease—not including new buildings costs—as compared to our operational budget request in the previous fiscal year**. The University understands that in the previous fiscal year, it did not receive its full requested amount but continues to thank this body for its support for having provided nearly $40 million toward our operations in FY 2026.

We also would like to recognize Governor Leon Guerrero's inclusion of nearly **$45 million** for UOG's operations in her FY 2027 Executive Budget Request—which is just two percent (2%) less than the University's request—and reflects a broader commitment

to higher education in support of Guam's social, economic, and workforce development needs.

The University is also seeking **$4.5 million** for the **Student Financial Assistance Program** (SFAP) which remains a critical investment in student access and success and supports hundreds of students each year. This amount reflects our usual request each fiscal year and is approximately $934 thousand more and will be committed to student financial support in view of declining federal student financial assistance.

With the opening of the Dr. Lucio C. Tan Student Success Center and the School of Engineering Building this past February, the full debt payment of **$1.158 million** will need to be made in FY 2027 and we respectfully request this amount also be considered.

Additionally, we thank this body for the continued support for the number of miscellaneous appropriations included in the budget that the University internally manages, acts as custodian, or are pass-throughs to other external entities. These UOG-supported initiatives help strengthen community outreach, expand access to services, and improve health and community outcomes across our island and region.

As we reflect on our budget request, the University remains grounded in our three-fold mission of *Ina, Deskubre, Setbe*—to enlighten, to discover, to serve—which guides our commitment to high quality education, research, and community service. The University is not just classrooms and curriculum—we are a transformative community where knowledge creates opportunity, innovation, and lasting impact.

And as we approach our diamond jubilee next year, marking 75 years of relevant and meaningful service to the people of Guam, we reflect on the University's longstanding role as a pillar of professional and economic development for Guam and Micronesia. With more than 22,000 alumni, the University's impact can be seen throughout our schools, hospitals, government agencies, military operations, and private and nonprofit industries. Through strategic partnerships and workforce-focused initiatives, we continue to not only educate our students but prepare and guide them toward meaningful careers and service to our region.

As many may be aware, with the continued support of both the Guam Legislature and the Office of the Governor, the University has experienced significant growth—not only through the completion and ribbon cutting of the Dr. Lucio C. Tan Student Success Center and the School of Engineering (SENG), but also through the success of our students, the addition of critical academic programs, the development of new higher education partnerships, and outreach and service to our community.

This **growth** in service to our students and community continues into FY 2027:

- **Infrastructure**: with the anticipated ribbon cutting and opening of the **Margaret Perez Hattori-Uchima School of Health Nursing Annex**, as well as the new **Water and Environmental Research Institute (WERI) of the Western Pacific facility**, which will strengthen regional water research, testing, and resiliency efforts;

- **Student Success**: next week, we are proud to celebrate the Spring 2026 graduating class—the **second largest graduating class in University of Guam history**. A growth trajectory realized within a year. This milestone reflects the University's continued efforts to improve first-time, full-time freshman retention rates and sustain growth in four- and six-year graduation rates through enhanced student support services focused on helping students persist, progress, and succeed. One example is our Triton Summer Academy, a college preparation program for potential incoming freshmen, which has experienced steady growth over the past three years and now boasts a 99% matriculation rate.

  But bringing students to UOG and graduating them is only part of the mission—we also want them to succeed after graduation. That is why, through the Academic Master Plan implemented last year, the University has expanded its internship partnerships from 14 in FY 2023 to 90 today with several more in the works representing multiple industries and creating significantly more opportunities for students to gain relevant experiences and successfully transition into the workforce.

- **Academic Programs**: with the addition of the School of Engineering's Bachelor of Science in Construction Management beginning in Fall 2026 and the planned launch of Electrical Engineering in Fall 2027; the increase in Nursing Program admission capacity by 50%, from 40 to 60 students; as well as the recent approval of the Bachelor of Arts in Educational Studies—UOG continues to respond to the evolving educational and workforce needs of our community;

- **Higher Education Partnerships**: through continued expansion of opportunities for our students, including 2+2 partnerships with all two-year colleges across Micronesia, a partnership with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa for a Master of Social Work program, the New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine doctoral physician pathway program, and the Colorado School of Mines 2+2 partnership allowing students to earn a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering here at home;

- **Community Service and Outreach**: through both our Land Grant and Sea Grant programs, and many other externally funded programs, the University continues to leverage student success and faculty expertise to address community challenges and future regional needs through research, outreach, workforce development, and public service initiatives.

Honorable Senators, these are just some of the many growth initiatives taking place at the University of Guam as we continue to pursue excellence and respond to the evolving needs of our community and workforce each and every day. As we start our budget presentation, you can see just a glimpse of the positive impact the University has—as represented and reported in the media.

The University of Guam's impact is real. It is visible, it is felt, and it is far-reaching. And through the work of our students, faculty, staff, and community partners, the University continues to help shape and strengthen the social, economic, and cultural fabric of our island community.

As we continue to strive to increase public value, we recognize that your investment—the people of Guam's investment in this institution and in our students—is a responsibility we all share and a commitment we must continue to honor through meaningful outcomes, opportunity, and service to our island and region.

Once again, *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* for your continued support of and partnership with the University of Guam.

Mås rikuetdo,

Anita Borja Enriquez, DBA
President

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

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

In accordance with Section 6.04(c)(1) of the Standing Rules of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, this committee digest provides a *summary* of the public hearing detailed below. To assist the general public in navigating this report, please note that all blue-highlighted text contains hyperlinks. Clicking on these links will direct you to the corresponding referenced sections/documents. For any questions or assistance regarding this digest, please contact our office at (671) 989-9554 or email us at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov.

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) – COMMITTEE ON RULES BY REQUEST OF I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN, THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

I. OVERVIEW

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) was introduced on **February 2, 2026** by **Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam** and was subsequently referred by the Committee on Rules to the **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** on **February 3, 2026.**

The **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** convened a Public Hearing on Bill No. 266-38 (COR) on **May 15, 2026** at **9:01AM** in the Guam Congress Building's Public Hearing Room.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Public Hearing Notices were posted to the Government Public Notices Portal and disseminated via electronic mail to all senators and all main media

broadcasting outlets on **May 8, 2026** (5-Day Notice), and again on **May 13, 2026** (48-Hour Notice).

SENATORS PRESENT

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations
Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature
Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature
Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature
Senator Vince Borja, 38th Guam Legislature

ORAL TESTIMONY:

Agapito "Pete" A. Diaz, Chairperson, University of Guam
Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam
Keana Ardiente, SGA President, University of Guam
Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam
Dr. Charlene Santos-Bamba, Senior Vice President, University of Guam

WRITTEN TESTIMONY:

Agapito "Pete" A. Diaz, Chairperson, University of Guam
Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The public hearing for **Bill Number 266-38 (COR)** was called to order at **9:01AM.**

[Questions and Discussion] **[***Begins at 00:50:00 and ends at 02:03:00*]

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Okay. Buenas dias. Good morning and welcome to the 38th Guam Legislature The Guam Congress building the People's House. Si Yu'os ma'åse' for being here this morning. This morning budget hearing conducted by the Committee on Finance and Government Operations is called to order at this time now 09:01 on Friday May 15th, 2026.

First notice of this public hearing was disseminated to all senators and media outlets on May 8th, 2026 with its second notice disseminated on May 13th, 2026. 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 bill on the agenda. Bill No. 266-38 – Introduced by Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* the Governor of Guam in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam -AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027 MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The focus of this hearing this morning is the fiscal year 2027 budget request for University of Guam, UOG. At this time I would like to welcome my colleagues who are joining us this morning. Senator Shawn Gumataotao thank you for being with us and Senator Telo Taitague thank you colleagues for being here for this morning's budget hearing.

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 and nature of the bill that is on the agenda.

Personal inferences as to 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 public audience who fails to observe proper decor pursuant to the 38th Guam Legislature standing rules.

Any violation of this general rule of conduct will result in immediate removal from the public hearing room. With that now-- we will now proceed to testimony on Bill 266-38. Once again the budget fiscal year 2027 for the University of Guam. At this time I would like to ask any member of the University of Guam that would be following the president President Enriquez to be part of the panel to come forward please and be seated.

Actually why don't you go ahead and remain standing because we will be swearing you in. So it's not like church. Sit down stand up sit down. And we'll be efficient. So

because this is customary when we are discussing fiscal matters at the Guam Legislature to have you sworn in on the record. So Sergeant at Arms will conduct that right now.

Ed Pocaigue, Sergeant at Arms, 38th Guam Legislature: Please raise your right hand. Under penalty of perjury do you affirm that any and all information you provide today whether it be verbally electronically and in writing be the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth? Mr. Chair you're under oath. You may proceed.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Si Yu'os ma'åse' Sarge. Good morning UOG family led by of course once again our President Anita Enriquez. Please have a seat and proceed with any opening statements. If you'd like your guest with you to introduce themselves that's fine or you can introduce them and proceed with your presentation. Si Yu'os ma'åse'.

Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam Si Yu'os ma'åse' Mr. Chairman, Senator Chris Duenas, Senator Telo Taitague, Senator Shawn Gumataotao all guests. Thank you very much for allowing us to present before you and the budget submitted by the University of Guam for our fiscal year 2027. I would like to take this opportunity to allow our chairman of our university's board of regents to provide his opening remarks and I will follow after. And then we will also allow our president of the Student Government Association to follow as well prior to our slide presentation. Yes Mr. Chairman?

Agapito "Pete" A. Diaz, Chairperson, University of Guam: Håfa adai. Good morning. Is it okay I do my testimony now?

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Absolutely. Just identify yourself and proceed.

Agapito "Pete" A. Diaz, Chairperson, University of Guam: Håfa adai. My name is Agapito Diaz. I am the chairperson for the University of Guam Board of Regents.

[PLEASE SEE ATTACHED TESTIMONY]

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Si yu'os ma'ase, Mr. Diaz Okay.

Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam:

[PLEASE SEE ATTACHED TESTIMONY]

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Si Yu'os ma'åse' Dr. Enriquez as well as President of the University of Guam. And next on the agenda?

Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam: Yes. Next is our president of the Student Government Association Ms. Keana Ardiente.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Please proceed.

Keana Ardiente, SGA President, University of Guam: Mananas si yu'os. Buenas and Håfa adai Chairman Duenas and the 38th Guam Legislature. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak before you today and thank you for all this body continues to do for the island of Guam. I'm speaking before you today as the president of the 64th Student Government Association but also as someone whose life was fundamentally written by the University of Guam.

This will be my final testimony before this body for some time and I want to share why this institution is so important to the island to our island. I did not enter college as a scholar. I graduated high school with an extremely low GPA and walked onto our campus unsure of my future. However, at UOG I found a community of supportive staff faculty administrators and students who saw my potential before I saw it myself.

I truly grew up at the University of Guam. Because of that support I didn't just pass I actually graduated as the valedictorian of my class last semester. That is the type of impact the University of Guam has had not only on me but so many other students. But my own story is just one example of why this place matters.

My story is a testament to what happens when we invest in first-generation students, veterans, our brothers and sisters from our neighboring islands. While I was fortunate to have a path that supported my education through my military service I see many of my peers navigating significant economic hurdles to reach the same goal.

We all may agree that rising costs for essentials like gas housing and groceries have placed a heavy burden on our students. These are the real-world pressures that often force our brightest talents to sometimes look elsewhere for opportunity. The $4.5 million requested for student financial assistant programs is an important tool that allows us to keep that talent here on Guam ensuring our students can focus on their studies rather than yeah just focus rather...

Or focus on their studies I have seen the university accomplish incredible things with limited resources from the opening of the Dr. Lucio C. Tan Student Success Center earlier in the year and providing degrees that cost half of what they do in the States while maintaining full accreditation.

And you know I believe that UOG is a model of resourcefulness. While I am grateful and very very thankful for the collaborative spirit of this body it is important that our ability to be resourceful is seen as strength. I'm here to state my full support for Bill Number 266-38 and to ask for your continued commitment to the university's request of $45.9 million for general operations and $4.5 million for SFAP.

Your support truly has been so helpful to our progress. I respectfully ask that you continue to continue this moment by providing the full funding necessary for the university to, tulos mo'na, propel forward in unison. This investment supports students who like myself rely on the University of Guam to build a foundation for success.

I am grateful for your ongoing commitment the 38th Legislature's commitment in ensuring that the University of Guam remains a place of opportunity a place where every Triton, veteran, first-generation student, non-traditional student, parent and those who once believed higher education was beyond their grasp finally has the resources to realize their full potential.

And for that once more I want to thank this body for the relationship you have maintained with the University of Guam. Thank you for all your time your leadership and service to the island of Guam and for allowing me to speak today. Un dångkolo na si Yu'os ma'åse' and Biba UOG.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Si Yu'os ma'åse. And identify yourself one more time for the record.

Keana Ardiente, SGA President, University of Guam: Apologies Chairman Duenas. My name is Keana Ardiente president of the 64th Student Government Association.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Thank you very much.

Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam: Next. I would now turn it over to our Vice President for Finance and Administration Dr. Ricky Hernandez for the presentation.

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: Thank you Madam President and good morning Mr. Chair, Senators Gumataotao, Taitague, and Sabina Flores Perez. it's an honor to be here to represent the University of Guam in presenting the numbers portion of the fiscal year 2027 budget. I know that we do have a slide that just wanted to we wanted to reflect and represent just a lot of the positive news that has come out of the University of Guam.

And we do have a slide presentation just to kind of indicate that. It's a short video just to show some of the media attention the university has gotten. And so if they could go ahead and play that and as that's playing I just wanted to note that it's an honor to be before the committee and this side of the aisle.

[UOG VIDEO PRESENTATION - PLEASE SEE VIDEO; 0:25:30-0:26:05]

Shout out to our marketing and comms unit for putting that together. That was supposed to be playing as the president was speaking in our last couple paragraphs but we appreciate the creativity in putting that together and once again I just wanted to say it's an honor to be here sitting on the other side of this table and representing the University of Guam.

The president did mention of course a lot of the growth initiatives in fiscal year 2027. I do have to say that there's been a lot of growth in my life as well including in my closet with more green clothing as I joined the university this past year. So I just wanted to mention that growth aspect too.

And as we move on to the presentation we have a short presentation just to kind of focus and go over what the University of Guam is requesting from the general fund

for fiscal year 2027. So if I can get to the next slide and I know that this is also in front of you but I wanted to just note and reiterate some of the numbers that the president was mentioning in her opening testimony.

And in this slide what you'll see here is fiscal years 2024 through our fiscal year 2027 budget requests. And so we just wanted to note that of course in fiscal 2024 the request was forty-two million; fiscal twenty-five forty-four point nine million; fiscal year 2026 was forty-seven point three million.

And we understand that these are requests of course but as we look at fiscal year 2027 as the president mentioned we kind of curbed that trend of increase in requests and looked pretty closely at our budget and our request for fiscal year 2027 is not only less but it also includes one point six seven million for new building costs and operations.

And so she did mention that when comparing the non-new building costs forty-four point two million reflects a six point five percent decrease in in the request year over year. Next slide. And again just reiterating President Enriquez mentioning the governor's request we want to thank you Chairman Dueñas just with your Office of Finance and Budget having provided this information that was included in the governor's executive budget request.

We note that and thank the governor's team including BBMR for including nearly forty-five million in the governor's request and that represents just a two percent difference between what the University of Guam requested in its submission of its fiscal 27 budget request.

We do note that of course there are challenges understandably with each fiscal year budget but we wanted to note that and highlight that's likely the highest number that was submitted in any governor's executive budget request and we wanted to note that as well.

Next slide.

And so breaking down our fiscal year '27 request of forty-five point nine million this is just a breakdown of not only the general operations of forty-four point two million but also the new building costs of one point six seven million dollars. This is also further broken down into different object groups.

You'll notice the total personnel services total operations and operations as we go to the next slide after I explain this includes of course contractual services supplies and equipment. And then your total utilities includes power, water and telephone and then our capital outlay which are typically one-time requests.

And so if we go to the next slide I can break this down a little bit further. And so the request of forty-five point nine million I can start with the new building costs. we're looking at a request specifically for the operation of the new buildings for next fiscal year of five hundred and seventy-six thousand.

That reflects new positions, thirteen new positions, ten custodians, one safety officer and two faculty positions one each for the School of Health Nursing program as well as the School of Engineering both reflective of the operations of those new buildings. In addition we have three hundred and fifty thousand specifically for operations one hundred thousand related to contractual services.

Those are related to preventive maintenance of course and services for the equipment in all of these new buildings specifically the HVAC system in our Student Success Center of course which has a very sophisticated HVAC system. Were hoping we could have our facilities folks continue to maintain those but that one a little bit more sophisticated than the other HVAC systems we have on campus.

Supplies and materials specifically related to new buildings. These are for custodial supplies and other for four brand-new buildings. And then the equipment. This equipment is specifically related to security and the installation of CCTV cameras to ensure that we keep those buildings secure and safe and to protect the investment of the-- in those assets.

And then I think straightforward for the new buildings to increase power usage. Of course this is an estimate for next fiscal year. This is before the oil crisis that we've been experiencing internationally. but we did utilize some of the estimates of the first few months of the operation of the Student Success Center as well as the School of Engineering.

Those did not include full operations just yet because we still have the other two buildings that we may not have estimates for. But that's our best estimate for power, water as well as telephone. And going into general operations for the university total personnel services thirty-two point three million.

This reflects this reflects about a little over two hundred fifty full-time employees. These are specific to a lot of our academic units that is included in this general fund request. Just by way of background the university does have more than two hundred fifty employees but of course we fund other-- we we'll be able to fund other employees with other revenues we have including tuition revenues.

But this reflects a little over two hundred fifty full-time employees in our academic units. These academic units include School of Business and Public Administration, School of Engineering, School of Education ,School of Health, our Enrollment Management and Student Success and Financial Aid Office as well as our libraries and our Center for Online Learning.

So that's reflective in that thirty-two point three million dollar number. As we look at contracts include and I'll just mention some very large contracts that we usually have within this four point six million and that includes a lot of items under our audit our insurance and risk management as well as our cashiering services.

We also have contracts for our facilities division which includes electrical, plumbing, preventive maintenance for certain equipment that we have and so forth. And then we have a large chunk of this is really from our Office of Information Technology our ERP system our Ellucian Colleague system which touches every part and every aspect of the university from not only units under my office but also students student services.

It includes consultants subscriptions licenses as well as increase in cybersecurity training and cybersecurity protections for the university. And then rounding that out of course is our safety security services throughout the campus twenty-four/seven. We do have a contract with G4S that does twenty-four/seven campus-wide security.

We also do have our under safety office they do the elevator maintenance and fire alarm maintenance as well throughout the campus. And then you know rounding that out of course is our mass notification systems. If we go to-- and so that rounds out. And then of course our utilities would include our power, water, and telephone.

And then the capital outlay specifically this one million dollars we've been embarking on this project that may have been discussed in previous hearings but it's the Voice over Internet Protocol our, VoIP transition. And so a large portion of this one million dollars is a one-time investment in this system.

We are moving from the traditional telephone system into the Voice over Internet Protocol VoIP system and this will generate quite significant savings as it relates to the total amount we pay for telephone. We have approximately eight hundred units on the university and what we are doing we've already transitioned about a hundred over and the savings is about forty to sixty-five dollars per month per unit.

And so we've moved over one hundred units. We have two hundred that we had purchased previous-- two hundred more we had purchased previously so that leaves about five hundred we need to purchase. But in order to be able to shift over to VoIP the buildings have to be recabled to be able to hook those up to our internal system or the VoIP system.

And so a lot of the capital outlay included in that one million is related to recabling the rest of the campus and so that includes facilities such as our facilities management services, School of Education, as well as our Dean Circle offices. In addition to the one million dollars we do have data center redundant HVAC systems.

So we in the next few weeks we'll be commissioning our redundant Office of Information Technology generator. But of course we do need some redundancy for the HVAC system to protect our data center and our servers. And so included in that is that is that as well. And then rounding out the capital outlay are generator replacements.

We all know that post-typhoon especially post-typhoon Sinlaku the generators were essential in our continuity of our operations. And so replacing some of those very outdated generators is going to be helpful in terms of our ability to continue to operate.

And if you go to the next slide. We know it's important to show a year-over-year comparison and so we wanted to do that to compare our non-new building related request with the requests that we receive or the budget that we received in fiscal year twenty-six. And so for total personnel there's a variance of about one million dollars.

That's mostly related to organic growth increments for those faculty staff and administrator positions in the academic units identified earlier. We also have about a two point two nine million increase in our total operations. And as I mentioned total operations is contractual services equipment and supplies.

And so a lot of that increase is due to some equipment which we believe is one-time purchase of equipment. This equipment includes for our Office of Information Technology. These are your like for example network switches wireless access points the replacement of a lot of our UPS systems throughout the entire campus.

And so these are really important. We view these as one time you know because they don't need to be replaced every single year. But in many cases we may come back in future years as other equipment is end of life and we need to replace those. and so that's one large chunk of the increase.

In addition to that supplies. We have about four hundred and ninety thousand dollars of supplies in there. of course these are to replenish custodial supplies but it also is for supplies throughout campus. And understandably for fiscal year 2026 we did include supplies in our budget last year but we're requesting to shift some of those to the general fund side instead of the UOG local tuition fund side to be able to cover and increase some of those supplies needed especially for instructional needs in the new buildings.

So those weren't necessarily included in the new building costs that I had mentioned. Utilities we're looking at a request pretty flat for requests from the general fund. but understandably with the rising fuel prices we don't know how long that's going to be and so we didn't want to make any adjustments.

But we are always looking to see how we can save. and we are monitoring some of the investments that we made in the previous years in a huge investment in conversion of all of our lighting systems to LED installation of building automation system at least for one of our buildings the School of Business and Public Administration.

And so we may be able to weather a potential increase in the LIAC with some-- and offset that with some of the potential savings that we've been experiencing from the conversion of a lot of our systems that use a lot of power. And then I did mention the capital outlay.

In fiscal year twenty-six we did have a few items of capital outlay. It shows zero here but you know just organizing that and allocating that to tuition revenue We're asking for just some of these one-time capital outlay which I mentioned earlier which is recabling of buildings and so forth redundant HVAC system as well as replacement of some generators for some of the critical buildings that we have.

In addition increase in insurance premiums that we have just about sixty thousand I believe. and then with our IT modernization we included a little bit of a bp just because we are going through our IT modernization. We're trying to find funds internally in-house to be able to complete that program but we did include just under a hundred thousand more just for that effort.

It doesn't fund the whole thing but we continue to move forward with that in fiscal year 27 and into fiscal year 28. And lastly part a lot of the increases included is related to Office of Information Technology contracts subscriptions and licenses. Okay.

So if I move over to the next slide the next slide departs from our discussion of general operations and moves into we can call it a number of things but for the presentation purposes we'll call it miscellaneous appropriations. This does include our student financial assistance program.

You know I think every year the university comes in and requests for four point five million for that program to fund and support of course directly student financial assistance. And so as we've done in prior years four and a half million we've included in there to support hundreds of students at the university including a lot of the programs that we're all familiar with merit scholarship programs for nursing and teaching and so forth.

So that was mentioned by our president as about a nine hundred thirty-four thousand dollar increase. We do note the governor did have a flat request for that. but of course every dollar put into that is going to support a student financially

I will note before I continue with the others is that the miscellaneous appropriations in this in this presentation we've kind of organized it into internally managed. And so these are these are of course funds that are managed internally by the University of Guam and that's separate from the other categories that-- the other category we'll mention on the next slide.

As we talk about WERI the Guam Hydrological Study and the Guam Comprehensive Water Monitoring Program there is a slight increase being requested. As you all are aware WERI does have a new facility that's going up. and so what we do is we request from these research units you know "What's your request for next fiscal year?"

And so this is what they provided us something that I've learned at being-- while being at the university probably should have known this when I was director at the Office of Finance and Budget years ago but the critical nature of these programs are also they go they go hand in hand right?

As explained to me by our dean of the School of Engineering who oversees this and is also director of WERI mentions that the Guam Hydrological Study is the analysis portion and then the Comprehensive Water Monitoring Program of course is the contract with US Geological Service to do the data collection.

And so these two go hand in hand we will be submitting a request to see how we can marry those two funds together because they do support the same mission and a lot of the end the main end user for this data collection and analysis is not only our researchers but also Guam Waterworks Authority.

And so the university has had a long relationship in providing these services for both ... And supporting the administration of these services through USGS and for GWA. So there's a slight increase in that especially as we open the new WERI building with the increase in the sophistication and types of services that could be provided.

It's about a hundred and eighty-five thousand when you collectively look at both GHS and the CWMP programs. The other items here are flat requests for the Guam Aquaculture the hatchery down at Fadi'an a hundred and fourteen thousand for the operations there and of course Sea Grant Special Fund five hundred thousand UOG Press Publishing House a hundred thousand Guam Green Growth G3 Initiative half a million.

We do note that these are all UOG-supported endeavors but they also are internally managed by the university. And so if I move on to the next slide. We do have miscellaneous appropriations that are pass-through appropriations. And what does that mean? That means that when we get the money we give it over to that outside entity.

I do have a slash custodian there because we know that the Guam Cancer Trust Fund and of course a special thanks to Senator Taitague in terms of making that a minim for four million so that we can support the different nonprofits around the island. But we-- although we do administer the Guam Cancer Trust Fund I wanted to put it here because that passes straight through the university to sub-grantees that help support cancer services cancer-related services around the island.

And so there's a slight increase in this one but of course with the three to four million we know that the governor included that in her budget request. And so the university typically does not request for this amount because it's determined by the legislature. but of course these are supported by the university through administering and running that grant program.

And then with Guampedia, KPRG Public Radio, and the Northern and Southern Soil Water Conservation Districts, those are flat requests when compared to the governor's and what the OG typically supports. Okay. And lastly just to close out the request as the president mentioned the Student Success Center School of Engineering that was funded in partnership with the University of Guam Endowment Foundation and through them receiving a USDA loan to construct those buildings.

That loan and our commitment to the University of Guam Endowment Foundation begins next year. And so that full payment is going to be necessary. we understand that there may have been an allocation this year. Thankfully we had only made an interest-only payment this year, but we're hoping that the committee can consider a full appropriation of one point one five eight million because that is a commitment and a debt that has to be paid. And then similarly the School of Business and Public Administration LG Building five hundred thousand that as well is something that we understand previously the legislature has continued to fund and we're look requesting for that again.

Okay. And I said it would be brief. That's rounds out the university's request. And of course si yu'os ma'åse and subject to any questions that the panel may have. Thank you.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Si yu'os ma'åse, Dr. Ricky Hernandez and thank you for that presentation detailed presentation. So once again thank you to University of Guam for continuing to give us a presentation that we can understand. It's pretty straightforward.

I've been really focusing these budget hearings on the budget we want to thank of course our education chair who I understand is attending GCC graduation this morning and others who have continued to work with the university through visits and other events that we have taken advantage of to understand exactly what's going on at the university and why your presentation reflects what that activity and what the university's doing going forward.

So I do use the time clock of five minutes to focus on just the numbers. If we have any additional questions we can have you back for any discussion on furthering what you know additional requirements or you know maybe testing the accountability of the programs we can do that in a subsequent hearing.

So I'm going to ask my colleagues to focus on the budget on the numbers as presented so that we can deliberate as we go into our final put together of the budget as well as our final deliberations on the floor in July so with that I will recognize in order of arrival Senator Shawn Gumataotao to start the question period.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Thank you so much Mr. Chair and you're absolutely right. You and I both sit on the Committee on Education and right now because of where we're at in the academic year we're kind of spread pretty thin. So but thank you Mr. Chairman for recognizing that our education chair is at another event.

But we're here and we're here in absolute support of the University of Guam and what you're all doing. I'm going to just jump right in if I could regarding the University of Guam's proposal for the Guam legislature to provide a percentage of the Manpower Development Fund for certain programs identified to include civil engineering, construction management, nursing, agriculture has UOG also looked into the number of UOG criminal justice students who might be interested and potentially eligible for law enforcement careers but who require supplemental training through the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission?

And how would UOG utilize MDF resources if made available to help students prepare for and secure employment as law enforcement officers cybersecurity managers and forensics analysts across GPD, DOC, the Judiciary of Guam and the Office of the Attorney General?

Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam: Thank you for that question Senator Gumataotao. We always begin with having data to drive any kind of decision. How we would typically do this is to make... to survey not just students within the degree program but also survey employers those we deem as the destination for these programs. Having that particular assessment very similar to what we did before we actually designed finalized and implemented the new Doctor of Education program at the University School of Engineering.

we surveyed over one thousand stakeholders and it culminated into a program that made the best strategic fit based on the - express demand. In this particular case we followed a very similar model recognizing how important it is that there is a viable and relevant return on investment such as the Manpower Development Fund.

The whole idea behind that is to ensure that we are building upon the intentional relevant capacity for workforce. In this particular regard the enhancement of quality law enforcement officers recognizing that criminal justice is a very popular degree program at the University of Guam and you know recognizing as well our relationship with the Guam Community College and having a 2+2 articulation agreement where welcome those with associate's degree at the Guam Community College to segue to the University of Guam's bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Making an assessment of existing students those within that particular pipeline at the Guam Community College those within our University of Guam's degree program in criminal justice and also surveying employers getting a more accurate estimate of what is needed and ensuring that the type of investment that's going to go into that is not just guesswork but actually very intentional.

So the numbers how many people are actually needed at the destination of employers and also making that particular funding available. Because the program already exists. It's just a matter of ensuring that particular pathway is recognized and it's something that that the Manpower Development Funds is intended for.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah in fact that's what was the purpose of trying to get the temporary post-certification to allow our University of Guam CJ students or graduates to make that move and actually commit and I think right now so far it's been pretty successful so thank you again for all that effort.

Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam: Thank you.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Mr. Chair I was going to ask this of the University of Guam also. Recognizing that UOG reported through its 2024 annual campus security fire and safety report that campus security is coordinated by the Campus Security Office which has a fully trained security officer on duty at all times backed by a periodic roving car patrol.

How many trained security officers will be funded and available at all times through UOG's budget request? I know that you have just short of almost a half a million dollars just under that for campus-wide security guard services and Dean Circle security guard services nighttime patrol.

Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam: Okay. Well I'm going to defer this to Dr. Hernandez but I'm also proud of the fact that we make available as part of our intent on college affordability and making part-time employment opportunities available for our students that we do have student security officers to supplement recognizing that we just didn't have enough resources to fund additional externally contracted officers under our existing G4S contract. So I'm going to turn it over to Dr. Hernandez to expand.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Dr. Ricky and by the way they have nice shirts by the way. Go ahead.

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: Thank you.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Not as green as yours but they're nice.

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: Well thank thanks so much Senator for the question. Yeah you're right that the security program is fully contracted out.

This is 24/7 campus-wide security. We do have two different contracts. one of course we have a campus security office but that's staffed by G4S our contractor that we've had for several years. We do have one security officer or security guard per shift, but then we have two contracts.

One deals with the campus and then we have a separate one that kind of deals with the Dean Circle area bit a bit of a different need, but then you know President Enriquez mentioned the very creative way we've been able to not only support our students as student security guards they can - You know take shifts daytime shifts in between classes.

They just have to change their yellow shirt off and change in between classes. But we've helped-we've had about seven of those. And as they graduate you know we've

seen four graduate this year and so we're looking to recruit for that as well. Pay is pretty competitive.

I think it's about fourteen dollars an hour and they help to significantly augment our costs. It's actually one of the cost savings initiatives that the university has had to be able to augment services especially in the daytime. Our safety office is a office of two. we have a safety administrator and our safety officer.

And they together with our facilities management and services group try to keep the campus secure and safe. You know we do have twenty-four/seven CCTV monitoring. We want to add more cameras around campus. but the sophistication of our security system is something that I you know coming from the airport very impressed with the security system we have at the university.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: And actually that's what was going to be my next question was recognizing that you've invested in those cameras in 2023, 2024, 2025. Are there any specific UOG staff that are assigned to monitor those camera systems twenty-four/seven? And in your opinion have those security cameras helped serve as a force multiplier in support of campus security?

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: Yeah absolutely. The system is monitored during the day by obviously our daytime staff and the student security guards. But because it's CCTV it's recording all day - The days of someone sitting in front of the camera to be able to monitor I think we're moving away from that because what's unique about our system is that we have an artificial intelligence software laid overlaid on top of that.

And so we are able to upload a photo of an interested person and the system will ping us if any of our cameras you know if that individual is seen in any of the cameras. It's something I've not seen I've been telling the airport about it as well to see if we can get into that. But it significantly reduces the need for and the time it takes if there is a security event that happens.

And so you know the whole security and safety I guess apparatus at the university pretty robust especially when you compare it to other government agencies at least I've had experience with . But small staff of two augmented with seven student security guards with the contract with G4S to do the nighttime twenty-four/seven significant reporting if there are any events that go on during the evening. If a

generator goes off accidentally it's reported and documented so a pretty good and robust program.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: And you're trying to protect not just the students but also the assets-

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: Yes ...

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: That you're continuing to bring online at the University of Guam. Right. you know I was just going to build on my earlier inquiries in my term regarding Public Law 35-114 from December of 2020 which does allow the University of Guam and this is probably toward Pete and the and the regents but to...

That allows UOG to create public-private partnerships as well as to diversify the revenue streams. Where are we at if we can help me understand this six years later has UOG engaged in long-term lease agreements for any of its properties? And to what extent are UOG's training programs and facilities including the hatchery in Fadi'an assisting with UOG's research mission while supporting the institution's long-term financial sustainability? Anybody can answer. I was picking on Peter earlier but I-

Agapito "Pete" A. Diaz, Chairperson, University of Guam: Sure. No as a member of the board obviously you know we try and get the university to think strategically and come up with these different ideas. And you know one of the things that the board is definitely interested in is giving leverage to President Enriquez and her team to really reach out and come up with these different ideas and obviously present them to the board for their feedback.

I mean there's a lot of different opportunities that are out there we've definitely been focused obviously in getting the university to be physically stable. Make sure that as we bring these new facilities to bear that obviously they're fully supported both in the staffing but also in the maintenance and obviously workforce development.

But no I think that's an ... that's something that I think the board will continue to push the university towards. You know as for me this is my last actual public hearing-

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Oh come on ... as far as this board. You're not going anywhere.

Agapito "Pete" A. Diaz, Chairperson, University of Guam: But no I will challenge my other board other regents on the board to continue to press upon the university to seek these different investments.

And you know I... as I'm exiting I am definitely looking at opportunities to continue to support the University of Guam. and so yeah UOG definitely has a bright future and let's turn it back over to the president.

Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam: Okay. Thank you. Thank you Senator for that question and thank you to our senators for your overall support for allowing us that flexibility to engage. Aside from the hatchery the university has been very very receptive to meeting with prospect you know prospects in in terms of leveraging some of our real estate assets. with the partnership with Colorado School of Mines making available our campus for their satellite offering of the mechanical engineering degree speaking to prospective partners from Taiwan and South Korea and said I wouldn't mind having a Samsung sub-university on our footprint in order to expand in potentially other high-tech technology and certainly how we can feed into new industries.

We are in close conversations with the with the Guam Economic Development Authority in in terms of possibilities for leveraging what we have at the University of Guam not just in terms of our footprint but also leveraging our subject matter experts and how we can engage in both transfer technology and transfer knowledge.

The idea of possibly engaging in the semiconductor industry as an example. The idea of being able to stand up a regional center for cybersecurity and data science but leveraging partners from outside of our island borders who have the additional expertise recognizing as well with AI and the urgency for us to build that capacity for our people and entities in general.

And I want to just thank - Senator Taitague for allowing us to be you know participants in the multiple committees under the A- Guam AI Regulatory Task Force. I am excited about the possibility of seeking some assistance from those who are already exemplars in these areas.

So bringing new expertise technology by reaching out to high quality partners for the public-private partnership and other kinds of teaming arrangements is something that we've been actively participating in. So we've got those entities that are very closely aligned with the US Department of Energy.

The other opportunities to leverage those partners with the Guam Power Authority as an example. But we feel that we're just ripe for attracting even more partners.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: And I think that's an important distinction because I think it's known campus wide about the relationship that I believe it's Google that's had with the our computer guys for over 10 years in the development of AI and I believe that Elon Musk just asked recently where can they put some SpaceX or Starlink types of - facilities and the University of Guam would be a great fit for those types of things. And that's why I bring it up and going back to the diversification of UOG revenue streams. I want to just 'cause I know I'm running out of time but this is more for Keana. The you know the support of this legislature I don't think you're going to get we're going to continue that.

And I know that I've talked to you and all of your classmates and I'm excited that this two weeks or next sorry the graduation is going to be the second largest class ever. I can say 'cause Dr. Sellman's here and thank you for all the support over even when I was on campus teaching but I had we had a little part in all those graduations that are about to happen in just a couple of days.

But again just you know you have my support as a member of the Committee on Education. And just one last note for Jonas and the team at the University of Guam. I know we appreciate all the Facebook and the PDN notes on the video but most of the communication students at the University of Guam get all their news and information from Instagram and TikTok and I was very curious that you did not have any of those in the presentation but food for thought but if we survey University of Guam students next semester that might change. Thank you Mr. Chair for the time and thank you University of Guam for all that you do.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Si Yu'os ma'åse' Senator Gumataotao. Would you like to address his comments?

Keana Ardiente, SGA President, University of Guam: Thank you Senator Gumataotao. That's all.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Thank you. Just wanted to make sure you can get your words in as well. Senator Taitague you're recognized.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Si Yu'os ma'åse' Mr. Chair and of course good morning to my colleagues and especially to the University of Guam. That was very funny Ricky about your wardrobe now going all green. It's one of my favorite colors by the way so... But I really appreciate you guys being here and your testimony today of course having everybody at this table recognized from the student to the board of course and to UOG's operation.

I do have some questions and hopefully I can get to GCC right after this. But I felt it's important to be here for UOG especially all the things that you've been doing there. but one big question I have first I guess it would have to go back to Bill 58-38 which became Public Law 38-52 that was put into law in April of 2025. Now on your budget for FY '25 you received a budget of $46,346,554 is that correct? That was your budget for FY '25? Is that correct Ricky?

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: Sorry could you repeat that Senator?

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: You received from the total excuse me general fund was $46,346,554 for FY '25.

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: Oh yes. You're looking at the –

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: OFB provided-

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Yes

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: ... spreadsheet. Well these are for expenditures and encumbrances total. That's inclusive of all of the miscellaneous appropriations. The operational amount was 39 point-

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: On the book

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: ... 9 million.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Right. Okay. So of that amount when the public law passed $38.52 you received an additional $5.75 million to the University of Guam. Is that correct? That was last year in April?

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: That's correct.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: So you would assume that $5.75 was additional funding to the University of Guam so the true number actually would be more than when this amount of the third... Let's go to the top part $39,967,000. Would you assume that it would added to because you got additional appropriation?

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: Yeah. So the appropriation to the university before the $5 million was $34 million. So when you add the $5 million it went up to 39.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: With the five point?

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: Yes.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. So 39 is inclusive. So those numbers is reflecting-

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: Yes

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature:... public law. Okay. Now in that public law it also mentioned that you know as long as there was no tuition fee increase you know to the students we had to make sure that didn't happen. Now of course now that's a full year has gone by is University of Guam planning on increasing tuition fees?

Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam: Madam Senator the assumption is that with the with the appropriation as requested in this particular fiscal year there will not be... It would not be necessary to increase tuition.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. Yes. And that would mean as long as University of Guam received $5.9 million more. Is that correct?

Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam: Yes absolutely.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. Yes. But technically it's an increase of $8.2 million if you considered all the other like you said pass-throughs and ... Right?

Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam: Right.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. So in the event that you get a status quo budget from FY26 funding and it's a status quo budget will you be raising tuition?

Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam: Most likely. I have to say that the administration at the university has already been authorized by the board since at least three years ago to make the necessary adjustment in order to balance our specific budget needs. We have not availed of that although we had full authority to do so since three at least three fiscal years ago.

And the understanding is that the adjustment that was proposed is approximately 5%. A 5% increase in tuition for a full-time student represents less than $200 for the entire semester. But when you think of it from an individual student impact it is extremely marginal when you compare it to the makeup of the shortfall of approximately $1 million

For the university to sustain its general operations. And so that's how we calculate that 5% adjustment in tuition. So the impact to the student is extremely marginal extremely insignificant given the growth of funding availability in scholarships and grants to our students, but the benefit to support any shortfall is actually significant.

It's a $1 million net gain to balance our books. So we see it from a very responsible fiscal standpoint recognizing that we always want to ensure that we help students get to their destination of completing their degree.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. Yeah. I also tried to look up some information online on your you know enrollment whether it's been increased or declined and so far the audit in FY 2024 audit was showing a 6.5 decrease in student enrollment at the University of Guam.

Now that's an audit in 2024 that was brought out. So do you have any - Date or data to show whether there's been an increase or decline in student enrollment at the University of Guam to date?

Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam: Absolutely. I'm going to defer to our senior vice president and provost who oversees both academic and student affairs.

The 2024 audited report you have that figure has changed with increased wraparound support recognizing the emigration of families from Guam to the US mainland. The type of significant efforts towards strengthening retention of students and also our degree completion is very impressive. So I'm going to turn it over to Dr. Charlene Santos-Bamba to expand on that.

Dr. Charlene Santos-Bamba, Senior Vice President, University of Guam: Thank you for the question. Yes following COVID as we all know right the enrollment numbers started to shift. We are now holding steady anywhere between 2,800 to 3,000 students every year. Depending on of course when we capture those numbers right within the academic year they shift also because we have enrollments throughout the year.

It isn't just at the start or at the end of the academic year. So we are holding steady. We do have multiple initiatives in place of course to increase enrollment. In concert we recognize that graduation numbers from our feeder schools have also decreased. And so those are some of the kind of competing variables that we have and that we definitely have to contend with as an institution.

And so of course through the partnerships through the two plus twos and trying to recruit transfer students from the region and from our local community college that has helped to stabilize our numbers. Thank you.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Thank you so much doctor for that. the other question I have is regarding the endowment foundation the current balance from the last time I remember I think it was fourteen million. some of it is

restricted I realize that for specific on those who are donating to the University of Guam who want a specific amount whatever they donate to go to somewhere and of course any kind of bond that you have out there.

So but there then there's that other percentage of the endowment that can be used for operational costs. So what is the balance currently to date and how much of that can be used for operational at the University of Guam operational costs at the University of Guam?

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: Yeah. Thanks for the question Senator Taitague. As it relates to… I just wanted to maybe get some clarification. So the UOG Endowment Foundation obviously a separate - Nonprofit and they have and manage their own funding and then of course in support of the university for things such as capital projects for the Student Success Center as well as the School of Engineering.

Internally at the university separate from the UOG Endowment Foundation we do have a UOG endowment fund. It was named that in public law with the establishment of tobacco funds. And so different entities in the government when the tobacco settlement occurred a couple decades ago that was part of those settlement funds were provided to the university to the Guam Community College to GITA to Go Guam.

And so the University of Guam does have our own separate set of those. and so in that fund I believe we have about I'll check exactly. It's over a million dollars in that nowhere near fourteen and so there are restricted uses for those funds-where we're able to utilize ninety percent of the earnings, but there are two different things called endowments so it's the UOG Endowment Foundation separate from the University of Guam included in our audit right? They're- included in our audit but we do not manage those. Those are separately managed by the UOG Endowment Foundation.

They have their own executive director, they have their own board and they have their own staff, but we do have the UOG endowment fund that's specifically related tobacco settlement funds that the university received via public law.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay so from the endowment foundation is the one that I'm basically asking for and based on my research it's

showing there's like $1.4 million in that fund for University of Guam to use for operational costs in that endowment.

But that was you know a couple years ago on that information so I was just wondering if there's additional money in there. And are is your number showing the same?

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: Yeah I believe with the earnings there is additional on top of the $1.4. We have used a little less than half a million of that because we are restricted to use 90% of only the earnings. Right. So I think the corpus was about $900,000. I let me get the exact number to you. But we have been able to use that for the Office of Information Technology generator system that not only powers the Office of Information Technology server room data center but also powers the RFK Library and the Micronesia Area Research Center.

There are sensitive materials there as well in the archives and so that generator system will power those set of buildings. And so we utilized a large portion of the 90% of the earnings of that fund which is allowed by law for that project that generator project.

Senator Telo T. Taitague, 38th Guam Legislature: I see. Okay. Well thank you so much and thank you everyone who's here and those in the University of Guam who's not here today but watching online from a great institution that has been growing.

And I hope that we can assist you as much as we can. You know we these are trying times you know. the biggest concern I have is making sure that tuition doesn't go up for students. I'd love to see a bill to come out and help support it. In fact Jose San Agustin and I were talking about free tuition you know at the University of Guam for our people on Guam.

I think that's a great idea. I'm hoping we can someday get to that point you know so that we can justify all the costs that we give to the University of Guam to continue to grow. So thank you so much and take care. Thank you.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: I'd like to recognize the arrival of our education chair Senator Borja. Thank you for joining us. I can tell he was on the road 'cause his shirt's quite warm when I patted his shoulder to welcome him. Senator Perez you're recognized.

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: Thank you Mr. Chair. Good morning to everyone here. so I just have questions about the federal grants. So, I'm looking through the budget proposal and there's some that are not even that have already I guess expired and I'm just wondering if there's any intention to go after these fundings that we no longer have access to.

So like in for instance the Project Visita, the Health Resource Service Administration education centers, substance abuse mental health. So you did receive funding in the past and I think some of them just ended or are ending this fiscal year. And what is your intention to look for more funding for these particular programs?And maybe you can talk about what these programs did.

Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam: Oh gosh. I don't have the particular details with regard to the output and impacts of those respective programs Senator Perez. I do want to say that the university has been extremely actively just scanning and pursuing all the possible grant opportunities through our what used to be called the Office of Research Sponsored Programs now the Center for Research and Innovation working in concert with all of our research centers as well as our consultant in Washington DC for grants and as well as the Congressman Moylan's staff.

And so what does that mean? given the cons- given the constraints that we observed and experienced since the start of the current administration in Washington DC very mindful about which words which types of priorities have shifted and certainly ensuring that what you know... it's not business as usual.

DEI anything that has to do with underserved communities underserved minorities anything that is perceived to address what really represents our communities is no longer in vogue meaning it will not be prioritized for funding. And so if any of these programs address the targeted communities to be served as having fit any of these categories that are no longer prioritized then we you know we have already pivoted to take out anything that's considered woke anything that is considered non-priority.

As a result of that with the new priorities we try to address how can we how can we avail of these opportunities while still serving the communities who need these particular services. And so we have our respective units out of the Margaret Paras-Satori Uchima School of Health the College of Natural Applied Sciences our respective land grant extension college and others across the university's portfolio who are actively seeking based on the prior relationships and these previous grants

that have sunsetted recognizing that our role is to continue to be a strong partner in leveraging whatever federal funds we are able to leverage within our capacity and continue those particular services.

So I want to assure you Senator that this is not something that we're sleeping on. we recognize that certain grants are no longer available but also mindful of the other opportunities that are of course in front of us.

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: Thank you.

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: Can I also add Madam President too?

Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam: Yes.

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: If I may add Senator just a little bit of detail not specifically on the program because I know that the university we're managing upwards of twenty-plus million grants per year.

But I just wanted to add to the president's discussion on some of the federal government impacts the different policies from the federal administration that have impacted our grants. I mean we've seen in just discussions with our research corporation for UOG manages a lot of our grants. We've seen about nine point one million in terminated grants. And these are some things and then of course-

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: Sorry how much? How much?

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: Nine point one million. Yeah two large ones related to climate and so what we try to pursue climate justice climate change. What we and to do for example is to resubmit certain grants that may have been previously awarded with different wording and different focus that is aligned with what each federal agency may be doing.

So you know instead of maybe saying EV vehicles or solar power we can say resiliency and so forth, but we also kind of look at the... So you have new grants that we may have been awarded prior to the administration that may have been pulled

back scaled back or delayed, but you also have these five-year grants for example that we may have on our last year.

There may be some delays in terms of holding those up because there are questions because they're-- those five-year grants may have had some DEI language in it prior to it. So, but those are just kind of the things that the university has been dealing with. and in terms of being able to manage around that you know not being able to provide those services or provide those research projects of course we will have to shift elsewhere. So just wanted to add that to the conversation.

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah. So the reason why I mentioned those items 'cause they're really critical to our community. The Project Visita it's the prenatal care services and so even you know not only just looking for a replacement but looking for more funding perhaps because that's a great need.

You know one of my projects has been to increase early childhood literacy and the sooner that we can get to parents and children young children I think that's transformative very transformative initiative. Okay next question. So what is your total federal matching request for this budget? And so in the budget we usually have matching. So is there a match request from the UOG?

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: Yeah most of our matches is from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture NIFA funding that's cut out of our College of Natural and Applied Sciences. Those are things like the Smith-Lever Program.

Does a lot of the community outreach that the university does through the land grant. and so the match for that I believe we have in there spending of two point nine million from that grant to support all of those community outreach services.

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: So that's what the government has to foot right? The two point nine million or is that the total amount?

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: That's the total federal amount.

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay.

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: And so I believe it's a dollar for dollar match.

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: What percentage? What perc- Oh it's a hundred percent?

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: I believe it's a dollar for dollar match.

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: Oh fifty percent.

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: Yeah.

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. And that's the only matching that the UOG is requesting?

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: I believe there is maintenance of effort for several other grants. I don't have those off top but we can definitely provide that at a later time. But the significant one that you'll see in the budget is the $2.9 million-

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah that was my other question. maintenance of effort that... Does that still apply with the I guess the defunding of the Department of Education? Or does that have an effect on the maintenance of effort for UOG? The US Department of Education I believe they were trying to dismantle that altogether. Does a maintenance of effort apply?

Dr. Charlene Santos-Bamba, Senior Vice President, University of Guam: There's still a lot of conversation going on regarding USDOE and I have to tell you we are very concerned. I think in particular with the dismantling of USDOE is through the financial aid the Pell right? I think for us that's a major concern and a big part of that is because if the financial aid... those funds are going to move to the SBA Small Business Administration our concern is the move would mean that we would only have unsubsidized loans which will increase the cost as these loans initiate interest at the time of disbursement.

So I think it's the federal aid with regard... that direct to students that's a real concern for us. Because at present I have to say we have approximately as of this year 2,440 students who are receiving some kind of financial aid. So that in our wheelhouse that is the greatest concern.

Now with regard to your questions about the federal loans or grants we are also pursuing private foundation because we recognize that the federal landscape has really changed and there are so many more restrictions and additional criteria that makes it a far more challenging. And so going to foundations like the Mellon Foundation like the Sloan Foundation those are areas that we have pursued and have been successful at receiving some smaller grants to supplement our losses. Thank you.

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: Yeah. And Senator I'll just say I wanted to correct myself when I said maintenance of effort. I was thinking about the Sea Grant program which does have also a match in addition to the Smith-Lever NIFA funds and so that one I believe is a one to two match. so I wanted...

I was thinking of Sea Grant. I wasn't sure if they use the term MOE or if it was a match but it's a direct match.

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah. Perhaps the chair would have that answer. But if you guys have a total amount of matching for UOG that's the question that I asked. So yeah if you have that total figure that'd be great.

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: Sure.

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: The Pell Grants going back to Dean Santos-Bamba. so, what do you estimate the potential impact should the Pell Grant not be funded for from now?

Dr. Charlene Santos-Bamba, Senior Vice President, University of Guam: A lot. It would be detrimental. In simple terms to grossly oversimplify Madam Senator it would be detrimental to our student population really just-

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: Just for the budget ...

Dr. Charlene Santos-Bamba, Senior Vice President, University of Guam: real quick I can tell you right now-

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: So we're here at the budget hearing so I yeah it'd be nice to-

Dr. Charlene Santos-Bamba, Senior Vice President, University of Guam: Yeah ...

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: I mean it'd be good to hear that figure. Not nice but good to hear the figure. Today we've got –

Dr. Charlene Santos-Bamba, Senior Vice President, University of Guam: $7.5 million worth of Pell Grants right now that have been used by students. So if you think about that exorbitant number right that tells us that our student population really depends on this federal financial aid which is integral to completion so it would be detrimental. Thank you.

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: Then accreditation. You were granted I think the longest cycle. Was it eight years or six? Eight. Eight years okay. And that was how long ago?

Dr. Charlene Santos-Bamba, Senior Vice President, University of Guam: 2024.

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay so you're still good?

Dr. Charlene Santos-Bamba, Senior Vice President, University of Guam: Yeah we're still good. And we've also as you know received ABET accreditation. We are working on reaffirmation for the School of Education the ACUEP accreditation. We've got... we also just went through recently our nursing program. We had reviewers on the island also and so we are of course pursuing reaffirmation in those areas and maintaining compliance with our accreditors.

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay thank you. And going back to maintenance of effort is there a particular amount that's needed?

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: Yeah apologies. I did misspeak about the

maintenance of effort so that's obviously a DOE term not used for UOG. I was thinking we do match... We have match requirements or cost share requirements.

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: Oh just only the federal matchings-

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: Yeah ...

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: but not maintenance-

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: No match ... of effort.

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. Then going to your ... I'm really interested in the financial aid program and you know we've been through meetings and budget hearings regarding the needs for certain vacancies in our in in our community for instance attorneys and the amount that's needed for PROTEC awards.

I think I believe it was 10 if you correct if you can correct me Mr. Chair. I think it was 10 every year that was put out there. I believe they need about 90 attorneys at the AG's office alone. And so yeah they... But they were asking for additional 15 but that's something if we can maybe adjust the numbers in that PROTEC. Of course, it's not just attorneys but we need doctors as well. And so yeah if you could-

Dr. Charlene Santos-Bamba, Senior Vice President, University of Guam: I can respond. last year we updated our career priority listing and that of course included prioritizing lawyers prioritizing those pursuing medical degrees as well as other healthcare professionals for advanced study.

Now the PROTEC that you mentioned specifically today we have 26 recipients of the PROTEC award and that comes out to approximately $451,000 plus.

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah which is what you're requesting I believe. Oh no. okay so what I see is $450,000 but to add onto that I think that's what is also needed.

Dr. Charlene Santos-Bamba, Senior Vice President, University of Guam: Sure. Sure.

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. The other thing –

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: I can add. I mean just real quick. I think the anticipated for fiscal or for academic year '26 '27 we're looking at adding 10. But of course some fall off then you add new. and so there's a-- we have anticipation of adding 10 more in academic year '26 '27.

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah. And going back to the priority listing there was some discussion that I had that you know with the teachers right? That there is a need for science and math high school teachers.

But I think the need could be even broadened to literacy. Literacy you know for elementary and on up right? I think that's really critical because that is the gateway to achieving more academically at... especially at the younger ages. And so if we can if you can probably reassess the I guess the listing to expand that listing for teachers in literacy training at all levels of education.

I think that would be transformative. so that's just one of-- some of the things. I've noticed there's also a change. Let's see. STEM I think you got a hundred thousand. yeah. So that's just some of the things that I would like to bring to light. The other thing is the enterprise upgrade and training contract. What are the deliverables for that?

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: Is there a specific dollar amount? Just maybe it'll jog my memory.

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: It's $250,000.

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: Oh okay. Yeah so that is our IT modernization with Ellucian. We are moving to the cloud. That's a software as a system that we have embarked on to upgrade our entire campus-wide ERP. And so-

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay ... yeah. And does that include cybersecurity?

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: You know as we as we work with our consultant and our contractor that's always top of mind and so as we as we're moving into this modernization it's a it's a high priority in addition to generating efficiencies updating a lot of our training and the use of the system to be able to add value to all the services that we provide internally.

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah. I think it's really critical because of the advancement of technology can really undermine encryption right? We're talking about quant computing plus the AI generative AI combined. I think that's something you know that's really critical to look into and perhaps that could be one of the institutes within the university itself.

Dr. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of Guam: Certainly.

Senator Sabina Perez, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. I think- That's it for me. Yeah I think that's all. Thank you.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Si yu'os ma'ase Senator Perez. I just wanted to make mention that recognizing that one of the most used terms when we're talking about money especially in budgets is fungible. So I appreciate your creativeness and understanding that programs you know sometimes are eliminated but it opens up other opportunities.

As well we count on you to really understand the priorities of your program and use general funds to forego any catastrophic changes. I will mention that several of us worked very hard to get that five point seven million dollar appropriation which was a difficult slog in this body. So we consider ourselves having been very supportive of ensuring that you can continue to maintain your matching and also your requirements going forward and we'll endeavor to continue that.

But you know we don't-- We give you a lump sum budget. We do not give you an appropriation that says "You know here's your four hundred thousand to match this program." and... Or we don't go in and take that four hundred thousand away so that you would potentially lose that program. So just wanted to make sure we noted that in this process. Chairman of Education Senator Borja you're recognized.

Senator Vince Borja, 38th Guam Legislature: Thank you Mr. Chair and thank you to the University of Guam for coming down here. Sorry for being late. I'm not going to blame the chair but we had scheduled-- or GCC scheduled their graduation. We do the recognition for their top grads so there was just no way around that.

But I don't really have a lot of questions 'cause we met you know just yesterday to go over your budget and really I think you know my... I just have some comments about really just my... Obviously I've been at the university over the last year going to school or taking classes there. So I understand see the work that goes on there.

Your Dr. Enriquez your team has been very good at work. Our-- You know we have a good working relationship with Dr. Shar and Ricky in regards to just all the different things that come up over the last year since at least I've been in office. So I don't really have a lot of questions as to what's you know what your budget what you're going to do with it what you're not doing.

I think what's important and we'll use this opportunity to kind of just highlight the good things to come I think over the next year right? I know in the past year and what we worked on was funding the additional buildings. last year the big push was for the additional funding to finish the buildings and the Ethany?

Did I say that correctly? See I'm still learning, but there's a lot of great things that have been going on so if you just want to share with the my colleagues and the people of Guam just some of the things that are going to be coming over the next year so that when we come back next year again and we're going to give you five more million...

Just kidding. We're prepared for that. But Dr. Enriquez and your team if you'd like to just share with us and the community. Thank you. Just the good things to look to look forward to at the university aside from just what we've been doing and what has happened what are some good things to look forward to?

Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam: Sure. Well we have a of course I call them the team of scientists and scholars particularly in our data science program. They are very much intent on standing up a data science institute without requiring necessarily additional resources. They are very strong grant writers and partnership builders.

And so recognizing the increase of the number of math majors at the undergraduate level it opened the door for demand for a master's degree in data science. As a result of that we recognized the application of data analytics across all industries and how AI is you know an important and immersed part of that.

We recognize cybersecurity and the threats to every single sector to every entity to our infrastructure. We've heard about zero-day threats and how many of my colleagues sit on these various committees that are part of the Guam AI Regulatory Task Force. What I've been hoping to move forward is to finally get secure funding at the federal level for the A&E design of a regional training center in cybersecurity and data science which includes AI.

My hope is to leverage a very solid partner from the US mainland to loan us at least two of their experts to come to our island to see how we can ramp something like that up. The A&E design for this proposed regional center should lead to a what we call a twenty million dollar facility on campus.

But already with support coming from just our various partners as well as Department of Defense the Joint Task Force Micronesia our congressman's office and we're hoping that we can see something like that come to fruition without placing any burden on our local government appropriations.

because of this very present threat to our island to our region and to you know everything that's important to us and to mitigate we also are mindful of generative AI and other fast-moving threats such as deep fake technology and - Entertaining just partnerships with our neighbors from South Koreas an example from Taiwan who already have the advanced knowledge.

See how we can partner with them as well to bring that particular expertise to our students to our faculty to our stakeholders at large. So aside from the growth that we're seeing with the School of Engineering the responsiveness to those who want as brought up earlier early childhood literacy early childhood development recognizing as well that there are educators within different industries different organizations that are not necessarily the Guam Department of Education and launching a new bachelor's degree in educational studies to give them that alternative path so that those from federal agencies as well as our educational institutions our daycare centers our charter schools our private schools can avail of that particular pathway without restriction on licensure.

So that's just an example of many new opportunities we're seeking. The Aquaculture Innovation Park that Governor Leon Guerrero has been pushing and supporting we have potential for teaming up with private investors to form a hybrid model within our existing hatchery so we not only continue our work on the education and research component but we also provide an opportunity for the university to pull in outside resources to keep that viable asset in top operational form while providing an expanded industry that's going to benefit our people and our region at large.

So that's just a few of many other many other things taking place. our partnership with the national laboratories exploring what other opportunities are that we can avail of and certainly seeking new partners that can help us have the expanded capacity to pursue those opportunities.

Senator Vince Borja, 38th Guam Legislature: Thank you. And Thank you Mr. Chair. I have no further questions.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Si yu'os ma'ase Senator Borja Chair of Education. So just a few questions I have as we close out. You know I like to say that the buzzword now has come to be within certain appropriation requests what is the ROI right? So we think about right now we're heavily scrutinizing the $10 million appropriation for one of our key industries our second pillar of course our tourism industry.

We're vetting the numbers with regard to that. I think I have definitely always said that in my opinion from my seat is University of Guam has significant and probably the largest ROI you know for the island in terms of a single government of Guam entity. So I will continue you know to support in that way simply because...

And also I in my recent efforts so I'll start it always already been answered so I'm not going to dwell on it but I'm in the recruiting phase for UOG. So during our senator for the day I brought my perspective and definitely going to be an engineering student up at the University of Guam and he came and hails from SIFA.

So I wanted to start by saying we're talking about our recruitment efforts we're talking about you know those things. So you're right Madam President that it is not just particularly Department of Education but outwards of that which is the charter schools. So I guess my question is- Are we doubling down our efforts to make sure that we're reaching back particularly to you know the schools that are articulating to

the programs which really directly into the workforce and demand-driven professions, are we doubling down on those efforts?

Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam: Absolutely. We are proactively making our rounds and building awareness that of what the University of Guam's programs are. I always boast we have over 40 degree programs at the University of Guam making sure that we also bring our students who serve as recruitment ambassadors especially within their alma mater recognizing as well as middle school students they already have you know they have aspirations.

They have desires, when you speak to them during career day and you ask them the question "What do you what do you hope to become?" And you see the smiles on their face the excitement especially within our public school system that they already have an idea of what they want to do what they want to be.

So building those early pipelines having the relationship with the teachers and the counselors and as early as middle school because by that time they've already have a sense of "I want this." making sure that they are aware the teachers the counselors the parents of how they can afford. How their child how their student can afford to attend higher education.

We have the community college the Guam Community College that is a sister partner to the university. We never want to engage in mission conflict. We want to be complementary in what we have to offer but ensure that students number one know what's available and number two what the destination looks like.

Letting them know what the job opportunities are what the compensation opportunities are letting them know you can stay in Guam and still afford to live here. Running into our graduates who are still in their 20s and learning about their salaries at $75,000 a year at $85,000 a year we're building the economy through that local economic development strategy of workforce developments.

So in the healthcare industry we've seen an increase in compensation for our graduates. We see this in other sectors technology. IT, cyber. We see this in in the engineering program. We just had visitors from the SSFM International at the SSFM- FM International conference room of the School of Education.

They hired eight of our civil engineering graduates and they're excited about their future. So leveraging those particular young alumni and our current students

bringing them into these early pipeline spaces letting them the students know what the opportunities but also building opportunities for not just advanced high but perhaps an early pipeline an early pipeline developed by the university to allow pilot specific schools who are interested in in in starting for example the engineering program early on the accounting program the education program early on and so forth.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Yeah my student counterpart was an eighth-grader and you know how they have the "Are you smarter than a fifth-grader?" I was struggling to think that I was even smarter than this eighth-grader. I had him... I'm trying to get him excited about maybe going in to be a youth senator so I had him read the statute.

And he read it for about 15 minutes and repeated it back to me verbatim and I said "Are you going to run?" He said "I can't." I said "Why?" He said "I just came to Guam two years ago and I need to be here for five years." I was like "I didn't even know that- ... to run for Youth Congress." I was like sharp sharp kid.

So I'm sure he's going to be one of the great students. Now moving on to that and I wanted to see your efforts with the with... 'Cause I know SSFM I think they're recently going to have a you know a celebration with you 'cause they helped sponsor the School of Engineering as well. I think the conference room is under their donation. So the one thing I wanted to see are we speaking particularly to our federal counterparts that I made a note to myself I said from partnering instead of poaching. So are we are we working with our federal counterparts knowing that they're one of the biggest programs that really kind of uses our engineering program and takes them sometimes away from GPA and other places that are that they're employed in? and I'm talking now going back to leveraging opportunities for funding to see if they would participate maybe in additional - You know funding specific to the engineering program and maybe scholarships or the like.

Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam: Right. So we pride on being able to foster secure these paid internships for our students. So the Naval Facilities Marianas NAVFAC Marianas were one of the first to approach us for a signed agreement to feed our students as summer interns roughly about 20 at a time. I think they've hired almost 20 of our graduates thus far. And so they're staying on Guam. We've also have agreements with the Guam Power Authority other private firms local agencies where these students actually participate in these internships.

It gives them a glimpse of what it's like to work in that particular sector. It also gives our partner internship sponsors an opportunity to gauge the talent that we have and it's- they've all resulted in job offers and that's one of the biggest pride that we have. We see that with the nursing graduates as well our accounting graduates our social work graduates although that- that's going to need another conversation with regard to onboarding and specific government agencies where it's just a very very lengthy process for consideration and that's some- that's...Yeah. So it's been a very good partnership with ... We have now 90 signed internship agreements with employers.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Awesome. Yeah I think the biggest smiles right now are the engineering and the nursing programs. I think the last graduating class majority of the 30 are at GMH and they want to stay at GMH.

So retention is happening and the program is growing and it's amazing. One concern is and I think in the graduation which I hope to be in attendance of - I've been noticing every year that when we have the students rise under the teaching program that has diminished quite a bit. Can we discuss that and how do we change the tide on that?

Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam: Right. So we've had a conversation with our oversight chairman on the Committee on Education and thank you so much for sharing that concern. The new bachelor's degree in in educational studies was a response recognizing that not everyone wants to work for the Guam Department of Education from the various other schools and even other organizations that have education programs within them that are not necessarily schools.

So that's one response that we've managed to take through the vetting process. The other consideration is that and this is something that we perhaps go back and survey and collect data to find out among the school teachers among the students in high schools what is the interest?

Has the interest declined in pursuing education as a career path? what are the concerns if that... You know would you like to become a teacher? Would you like to... You know these are just basic questions that can be asked. And what would be your biggest concern about pursuing that? One of the assumptions is that the Praxis has been a deterrent.

As you know it's an examination at the Praxis 1 level. You take that. Praxis 2 is a condition of getting your diploma. but the Praxis is really a licensure requirement through for the Guam Department of Education for a specific level but it's managed through the Guam Teacher Certification office.

At the university we always explore what are some of these barriers to entry? we know with the NCLEX exam that is a licensure a that is a licensure element but we do not use it as a condition of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. So those students who achieve that degree have an opportunity to take the NCLEX exam but it's not a condition of graduation.

The Praxis II has been a condition of graduation because the assumption is that even though even though they do not intend to work at the Guam Department of Education it's still a quality measure that had been imposed. So we wanted to explore what other jurisdictions are requiring and have we assessed the success of the mandated Praxis II passing?

Have we evaluated among those who have passed Praxis II you know have we done a pre and post test ? so to my knowledge I don't think that has been done. So that's certainly something that could be explored as well

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Can the university can I ask you to do something today? Can the university conduct a for with relation to this? Because I think there's a misunderstanding in the public particularly when we talk about certification praxis and all the other you know issues.

Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam: Absolutely.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Our charter schools talking to the chair I think 90% of their staff in all of the schools are non-certified teachers. And we see the performance. So would you do that for me yo make a note of that?

Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam: Sure. We will be happy to convene that Senator and certainly invite members of this body as well as all of our stakeholders because it certainly begs for as a research problem or a research issue and having a broader a you know broader input from our stakeholders at large to finally give you the type of informed data you know information that would

actually make it a m- make it more effective for you as a policy body to just think through further and make an assessment on what could be the next steps. So we'll be happy to convene that. Thank you.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: We want to work with you on that 'cause like I said when we generate policy from here a lot of times you know it's misunderstood.

Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam: Sure.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: So when it comes from the you know the University of Guam and this program is hurting and it can't it can't continue like that. It's gotta have a change. We believe that Department of Education most of their teacher needs have been met is because of the downsizing of classrooms cross-leveling and the like. So I mean and we're glad that they're only at about 50 teachers light right now or even less but we know that's also a mechanism of contraction.

My final question we're going to be celebrating soon I know the GTA the opening of the their center bringing their of course their communications cable through and other opportunities. Talking about leveraging and opportunities to work with bigger corporations now that we're building this capacity have you approached that as well at the university level?

Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam: We always seek partnerships from the large like the telecom firms and other corporations. There are lessons to be learned from the models that already exist in Taiwan in particular where universities are very much aligned with industry leaders. In one particular case there was a particular university where a telecom organization was partnered with them.

They built a facility they transferred the facility to the university so it became a new asset for the university in addition to the programs that they helped develop. So I love that model. We're always seeking partners who are able to help us as a leverage partner to build the additional types of infrastructure and programs that are needed to respond to the certainly critical needs of our island our region.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Yeah. In in light of the proposal of free college which means somebody else pays-

Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam: Absolutely ...

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: I look forward to leveraging and getting opportunities for that somebody else to be our growing private sector.

Anita Borja Enriquez, President, University of Guam: Absolutely. I think I think we grow our you know we need to grow our revenues within our economy to have the type of surplus that could certainly feed back to investing through free college.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Si yu'os ma'åse. I know that all of our panel joins in really recognizing the excellent work of the University of Guam faculty staff and we look forward to the ribbon cuttings to come. We thank you for spending time with us. Yes Mr. Chairman you can blame me but I also went on the request of all those who have other competing schedules as we motor towards the July deadline for passing this budget.

Si yu'os ma'åse to the University of Guam family. We thank you for being here today. We will consider your budget having been heard and we are now adjourning at 11:02. Si yu'os ma'åse. God bless you.

The Budget Hearing was adjourned at 11:02AM.

COMMITTEE REPORT

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) -

INTRODUCED BY

Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam

AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 9:00 A.M.

Guam Memorial Hospital Authority

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 30, 2026

1 message

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Thu, Apr 23, 2026 at 2:41 PM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com" <stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com>, "vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com" <vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com>, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 23, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 30, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, April 30, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

FIRST NOTICE - GMHA.pdf
692K

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 23, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 30, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, April 30, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
- Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 30, 2026

PRINT

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 30, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 04/23/2026 02:41 PM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 23, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 30, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, April 30, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** **(https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA)

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 budget hearing, 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.

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Notice of Budget Hearing

Thursday, April 30, 2026, 9:00 A.M.

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, April 30, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA)

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

GUAM LEGISLATURE
AUDIO VISUAL DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Office Submitting Request: Senator Chris Dueñas

Date of Request: 4/21/26

POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Ashley Shinohara Contact #: 671-989-9554

Email: senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS

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

☐ Oversight Hearing ☐ Committee Meeting ☒ Other: Budget Hearing

Notice Title / Bill(s) / Resolution(s) / Appointment:
Bill 266-38 (COR) - Guam Memorial Hospital Authority

Date of Event: 4/30/2026 Start Time: 9:00 AM AM/PM

End Time: 12:00 PM AM/PM

Location: Public Hearing Room

MEDIA HANDLING

Recording Format: ☒ MP4 ☐ MP3 ☐ Other: _____

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

CERTIFIED BY AV:

Name: Luz Perez Signature: _____

Posted on/Air Date: 4/23/26 – 4/29/26

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 30, 2026

1 message

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Tue, Apr 28, 2026 at 11:03 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Christopher Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com" <stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com>, "vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com" <vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com>, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 28, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 30, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, April 30, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

SECOND NOTICE - GMHA.pdf
693K

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 28, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 30, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, April 30, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 30, 2026

PRINT

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 30, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 04/28/2026 11:02 AM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 28, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 30, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, April 30, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** **(https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
· Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA)

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 budget hearing, please contact the Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas for further assistance via email at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov***

at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov (mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov) or by phone at (671) 989-9554.

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

BUDGET HEARING AGENDA

Thursday, April 30, 2026 – Guam Congress Building

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam – AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

9:00 am:

- Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA)

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahån

Date: April 30, 2026 | **Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas** | **Time: 9:00 a.m.**

Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS. Relative to Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA)

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Joleen Aguon MD	GMHA	647-2502	joleen.aguon@gmha.org	✓			
2	Jesse Query	GMHA		Jesse.query@gmha.org	✓			
3	Rodalyn Gerardo			rodalyn.gerardo@gmha.org	✓			
4	Christine Taijeron		647-2105	C.taijeron@gmha.org	✓			
5	Belle Rada	GMHA		belle.rada@gmha.org	✓			
6	Brenda Sina			brenda.sina@gmha.org	✓		✓	
7	Liezl Concepcion	GMHA		liezl.concepcion@gmha.org	✓			
8	Yulia Pechanova	GMHA	[redacted]	yulia.pechanova@gmha.org	✓			
9	Ric Eusebio	GMHA	[redacted]	ricardo.eusebio@gmha.org	✓			
10	Christine Taijeron	GMHA	647-2105	christine.taijeron@gmha.guahan.gov	✓			
11	Danielle Manglona	GMHA	648-6209	danielle.manglona@gmha.org	✓			
12								

FY2027 BUDGET HEARING

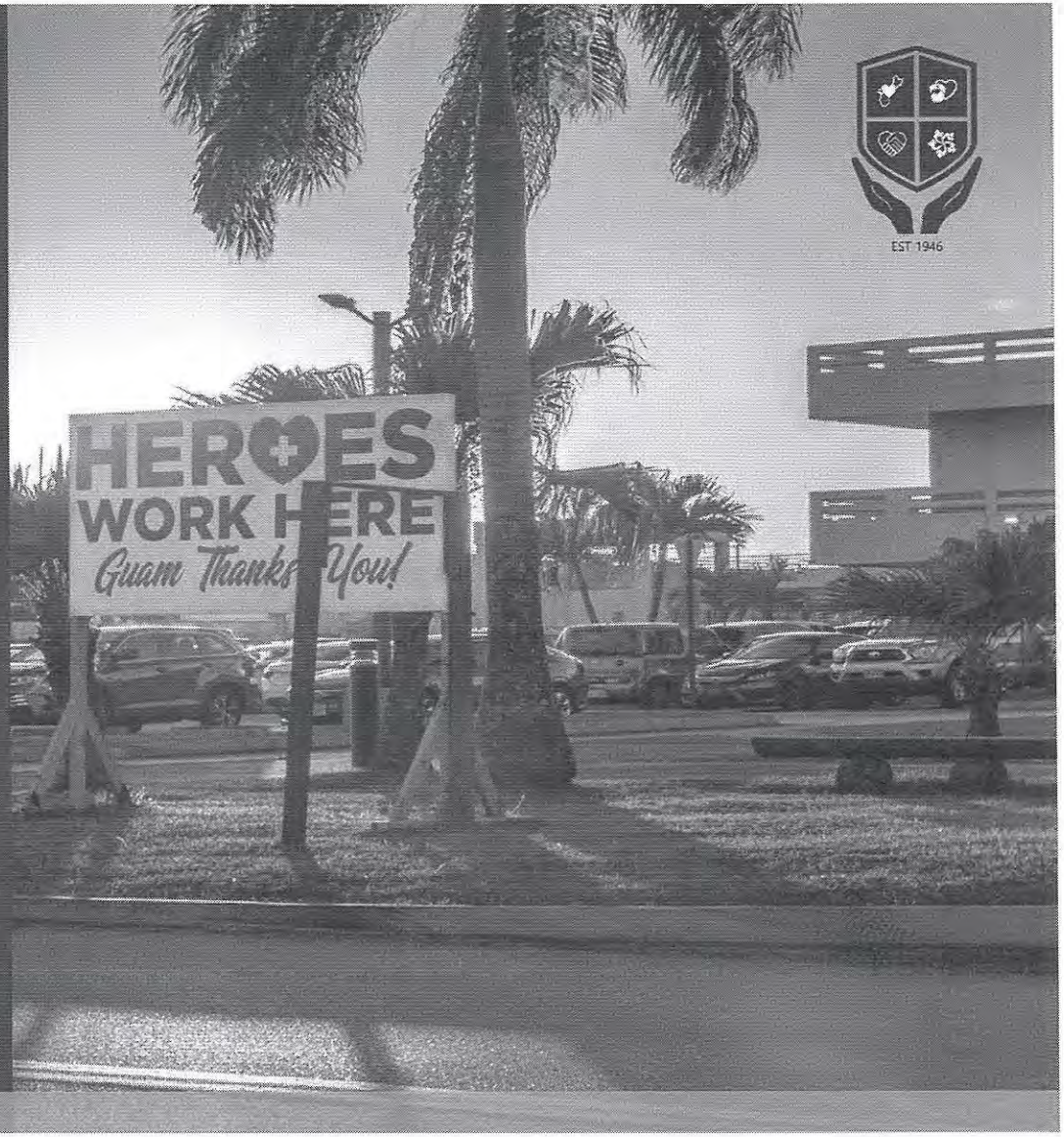
GUAM LEGISLATURE

From Crisis Response to Accountable Transformation

A briefing on where GMH is now, what your support has built, and how we will continue earning it together.

Joleen Maanao Aguon, MD

Interim Hospital Administrator/Chief Executive Officer

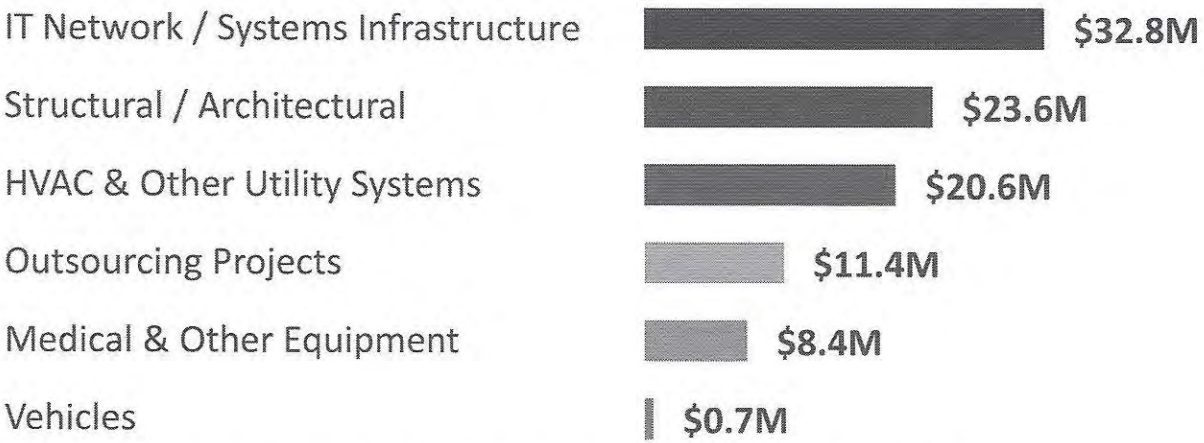


APPRECIATION · CIP IN MOTION

Your support is now visible in the CIP portfolio

46	41	8	$97.5M
Critical CIP projects completed	Critical CIP projects ongoing	Projects on the launching pad	Critical CIP portfolio tracked & governed

CIP PORTFOLIO BY CATEGORY · $97.5M TOTAL



Funded through: PL 38-80 · PL 38-59 · PL 36-107 · PL 37-135 · ARPA /DCIP/DOI

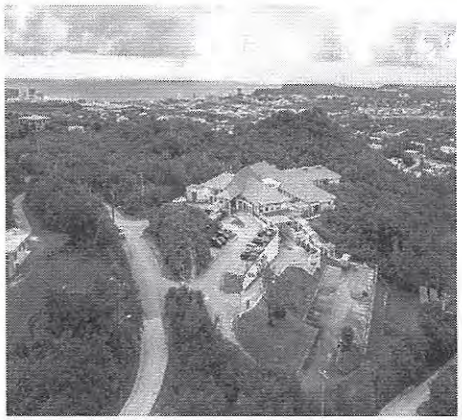
WHO WE ARE NOW

A safety-net hospital and an active transformation

GMH is the hospital that does not get to say *NO*

We are the island's safety net for emergencies, complex care, behavioral health, the corrections clinic, and the skilled nursing facility. Most of our patients are covered by public programs or have no insurance at all. That is a public mission, not a market.





~63%
Revenue from public programs

~11%
Revenue from self-pay patients

~34%
FY2027 budget is Nursing ($72.8M)

95
CIP items in active management

At the same time, GMH today is also an organization actively rebuilding how it operates: tighter spending controls, better collections, capital projects on a tracked schedule, and a real revenue-cycle plan.

THE STORY HAS CHANGED

Then vs. Now

THEN · Crisis-response posture

- Operating shortfalls and recurring AP / vendor pressure
- IT outages slowing care and slowing billing
- Revenue cycle backlog: claims stuck, denials piling up
- Deferred infrastructure: equipment, HVAC, electrical
- Hearings dominated by what was not working

NOW · Active accountable transformation

- FY2026: 6-month spend $5.4M (6%) under budget
- Overtime down year-to-date; on-call pay down ~10%
- Collections $60.5M vs $51.5M prior year (41% vs 34% of billings)
- 46 critical CIP projects completed, 41 ongoing on a tracked plan
- RCM bridge launched (MicroHealth) while RFP procurement continues

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

It is already showing up before the FY2027 ask

$212.1M

FY2027 total request
$1.5M LOWER than FY2026

6%

6-month FY2026 spend
under budget ($83.7M vs $89.0M)

41%

Collections as % of billings
(YTD 3/31/2026 vs 34% prior year)

Plain English: We are asking for less money than last year while doing more work to manage what we already have.

THE GAP IS REAL AND IT IS BOUNDED

A bridge, not a blank check

$212.1M	FY2027 Total Budget Request
$175.8M	Identified Funding Sources Today
$36.3M	Additional / Unmet FY2027 Need (bridge)

IDENTIFIED FUNDING SOURCES

GMHA Projected Collections	$128.0M
GMHA Pharmaceuticals Fund	$23.5M
General Fund	$20.0M
Dept. of Corrections Clinic	$4.3M
Total identified	**$175.8M**

PLAIN ENGLISH The $36.3M bridge keeps care running while collections, outsourcing, and modernization take hold. It is tied to a concrete plan; reviewed with you quarterly.

OUTSOURCING: A TOOL, NOT A SLOGAN

Performance contracts that let GMH focus on care

FIVE LEVERS UNDER ACTIVE WORK

1. **Revenue Cycle Management (RCM)**
   RFP 001-2026 issued · Negotiations are ongoing
2. **Dietary Services**
   Pending legislative action on Bill 290-38. RFP to follow.
3. **Housekeeping / Environmental**
   RFP 005-2026 issued. Submission due May 4, 2026
4. **Security Services**
   IFB to be issued
5. **Skilled Nursing Facility lease**
   Under structured evaluation. RFP pending

IF EXECUTED & MEASURED

Projected gap reduction

$36.3M → $17.5M

today with plan

≈ $18.8M improvement IF executed and measured. Not guaranteed. That is exactly why outsourcing must come with performance contracts and public accountability.

MICROHEALTH BRIDGE A short-term billing and coding support to stop cash leakage now while the long-term RCM RFP continues. It does not replace the RFP.

REVENUE CYCLE

RCM KPIs: where the money gets stuck

Care has been delivered. Cash has not come in yet. These four numbers tell you exactly where the money is sitting and how we plan to FREE IT.

DAYS IN A/R	DNFB	UNFILED CLAIMS	DAYS CASH ON HAND
~207	~18	~16	~12
Target: 45 days	Target: 4 days	Target: 5 days	Target: 14 days
How long bills sit unpaid after care is delivered.	Discharged, not final billed — patient went home but final bill isn't ready.	Bills not yet sent to the payer. No claim out = no payment starts.	How many days GMH can operate on available cash.

A/R SNAPSHOT · 4/23/2026

~$390.1M	~$122.3M	~$230.9M	~$66.4M
Total A/R	3Ms (Medicare / Medicaid / MIP)	Self-pay A/R	Social cases (3/12/2026)

RCM RISK · PATIENT-CARE IMPACT

If RCM does not work, patient care feels it.

RCM failure starts as a cash problem. Then it becomes a vendor, staffing, supply, repair, and bedside-care problem.

If the revenue system stays broken, any leadership team will get pulled back into the same crisis cycle. That is what we are changing.

1 CARE IS DELIVERED
GMH treats the patient and does the work.

2 CLAIM IS DELAYED
Bill is not final, not filed, denied, or waiting for follow-up.

3 CASH STAYS STUCK
Payment is delayed. A/R stays high. Cash stays thin.

4 OPERATIONS GET TIGHT
Vendors, supplies, repairs, and staffing become harder.

5 CARE SLOWS DOWN
Patients feel longer waits, delays, and less reliable service.

WHAT WE WOULD HAVE TO DEAL WITH

- Vendors may tighten credit or slow deliveries
- Patient flow slows: longer waits, delayed discharges, fewer staffed beds
- Supplies, equipment, repairs, and pharmacy become harder to stabilize
- IT and modernization projects slow down, keeping manual work in place
- Staffing pressure rises: overtime, burnout, vacancies, and retention risk

Plain English: if RCM fails, the hospital keeps doing the care but waits too long to get paid. That weakens the support system around the bedside.

That is why we need daily RCM management, the MicroHealth bridge, the full RCM RFP, payer follow-up, and quarterly public KPI reporting.

MANUAL TO MODERN · SYSTEMS = FINANCIAL CONTROLS

We are still on the AS/400. Modern systems are how we manage.

1

IT BACKBONE

ISS2 / IT

Network, systems, devices, and security. Patient information moves safely and quickly.

Maximizes connectivity to the bedside.

2

BEDSIDE

Connectivity

Clinicians get the right patient info where care is delivered; not after the fact.

Faster, safer, more accurate care.

3

CYBERSECURITY

Stronger

Protects patient info, reduces outage risk, and keeps billing and operations running.

Less downtime. Less revenue at risk.

4

ENTERPRISE

HCM + ERP

HCM: staffing, payroll, timekeeping. ERP: budget, purchasing, AP, contracts, financials.

Real-time financial controls.

5

WORKFLOW

Healthcare IT

Redesign workflows before systems go in. Fix the work, then support it with tech.

Less waste, not less care.

LEAN MANAGEMENT – LESS WASTE, NOT LESS CARE

Lean Management is not layoffs. It is a management system to reduce waiting, rework, duplicate documentation, supply hunting, discharge delays, avoidable denials, and unclear handoffs.

ACCOUNTABILITY CONTRACT

Approve the bridge.
Hold us accountable.

GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY
ATURIDÅT ESPETÅT MINUNÅT GUÅHÅN
EST 1946



QUARTERLY PUBLIC TRANSFORMATION REPORT

- Cash, AP aging, AR & collections
- RCM KPIs: days in A/R, DNFB, unfiled claims
- Workforce: vacancies, OT, on-call
- Quality & access: ED, throughput, safety events
- CIP milestones: 46 completed / 41 ongoing / $97.5M
- Outsourcing contract performance
- Lean Management + modernization (ISS2, HCM, ERP)

OUR ASKS

Approve FY2027 bridge plus transformation tools

Partner On payer and government receivables

Hold us Accountable Quarterly against this dashboard

Thank you for helping GMH move from survival to reliable.

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

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

In accordance with Section 6.04(c)(1) of the Standing Rules of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, this committee digest provides a *summary* of the public hearing detailed below. To assist the general public in navigating this report, please note that all blue-highlighted text contains hyperlinks. Clicking on these links will direct you to the corresponding referenced sections/documents. For any questions or assistance regarding this digest, please contact our office at (671) 989-9554 or email us at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov.

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) – COMMITTEE ON RULES BY REQUEST OF I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN, THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

I. OVERVIEW

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) was introduced on **February 2, 2026** by **Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam** and was subsequently referred by the Committee on Rules to the **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** on **February 3, 2026.**

The **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** convened a Public Hearing on Bill No. 266-38 (COR) on **Thursday, April 30, 2026** at **9:00 AM** in the Guam Congress Building's Public Hearing Room.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Public Hearing Notices were posted to the Government Public Notices Portal and disseminated via electronic mail to all senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on **Thursday, April 23, 2026** (5-Day Notice), and again on **Tuesday, April 28, 2026** (48-Hour Notice).

SENATORS PRESENT
Honorable Senator Christopher M. Dueñas, Chairman
Honorable Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane
Honorable Senator Telo T. Taitague
Honorable Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Honorable Therese M. Terlaje

ORAL TESTIMONY:
Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA
Yukari Hechanova, Chief Financial Officer, GMHA
Jesse Quenga, Personnel Services Administrator, GMHA
Rizaldy Tugade, P.E., Acting Associate Administrator of Operations, GMHA
Ricardo B. Eusebio, M.D., Operation Room Director, GMHA
Christine Tuquero, Nurse Administrator, GMHA
Belle Rada, Head of Professional Support, GMHA
Rizaldy Tugade, P.E., Chief Engineer, GMHA

WRITTEN TESTIMONY:

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The public hearing for **Bill Number 266-38 (COR)** was called to order at **9:01 AM.**

[Questions and Discussion] [*Begins at 00:36:34 and ends at 01:40:32*]

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: *Manana, Si Yu'os.* Good morning, to you, all, and welcome to the thirty-eighth Guam Legislature, the People's House. *Si Yu'os ma'åse* for being here this morning. This morning we are convening to hear the budget proposal and request by the Guam Memorial Hospital. So once again, thank you for being here.

This morning's budget hearing is conducted by the Committee on Finance and Government Operations, and it's called to order, at zero nine zero one this Thursday, April thirty, twenty twenty-six. First notice of this public hearing was disseminated to all senators and media outlets on April twenty-third, twenty twenty-six, with its second notice disseminated on April twenty-eight, twenty twenty-six.

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 in the following on the agenda: BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) – COMMITTEE ON RULES BY REQUEST OF I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN, THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE

ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

Once again, the focus of this session, this hearing this morning, is the fiscal year twenty twenty-seven budget request of the Guam Memorial Hospital.

I want to thank my colleagues, for joining me this morning. We have, the chair, of course, of health, Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane. We also have, Senator Shawn Gumataotao and Senator Therese Terlaje. Thank you, for joining this morning for this budget, hearing. And before we begin, I'd like to remind everyone in attendance of I Lihelaturan 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 and nature of the bill on the agenda. Personal inferences as to character or motive of any senator or individual testifying is not permitted.

The chairperson of the committee may order the removal from this hearing for any member of I Liheslaturan Guåhan or the public audience who fails to observe proper decor pursuant to the thirty-eighth Guam Legislature's standing rules. Any violation of this rule of conduct will result in immediate removal.

With that, we now hear testimony for Bill 266-38 Guam Memorial Hospital budget request. Dr. Aguon, good morning, and to the entire team. Doctor, if you can, introduce your team, or if you want them to introduce themselves, it's up to you. And after that, the show is yours.

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: *Buenas Yan håfa adai*. Mr. Chair, Senator Chris Duenas, Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane, our healthcare chair, Senator Vince, sorry, Shawn Gumataotao. Senator Shawn Gumataotao, Senator Therese Terlaje, and, and future members of the 30th Guamanian Legislature.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Sure. Sorry. If you introduce your, colleagues.

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: Yes.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: And then we'll have you sworn in, then we'll take your testimony.

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: Okay. Yeah. to the left of me is, is Dr. Ricardo Eusebio, the chief medical officer. To his

left is Christina, Christine Tuquero. She is our nurse administrator. To her left is Belle Rada, the head of our professional support, and to her left is Danielle Manglona.
This is our compliance officer. Okay. To my right is Jesse Quenga. Good morning, Senator. he is our acting chief of operations. To his right is Rhadelyn Gerardo. She is the assistant associate administrator of operations. Yuka Hechanova, our chief medical off- chief financial officer, and Zaldy Tugade, our chief engineer.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Thank you. So we will have you sworn in just prior to you, starting your testimony. Please rise.

Edward Pocaigue, Sergeant-at-arms: Under penalty of perjury, do you affirm that any and all information you provide today, whether it be verbally, electronically, and in writing, be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? Okay. Mr. Chair, under oath, you may proceed.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Thank you, Sarge. We also welcome Senator Telo Taitague. And now, Doc, your presentation.

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: *Buenas yan Håfa Adai*, Mr. Chair, Senator Chris Duenas. Si Yu'os ma'åse for this opportunity to be here today. I am Dr. Joelle Ma'åno' Aguon, interim CEO of Guam Memorial Hospital
Before I speak about the FY 2027, I wanna start with deep gratitude. Thank you. Thank you. The support this legislature has given GMH is real, and it is becoming visible. It is showing up in completed projects, in safer infrastructure, and in a hospital that is now managing its money more carefully than it has in years.
GMH has come before this body many times in crisis: cash crisis, staffing crisis, infrastructure crisis, technology crisis, and vendor crisis. And I understand why there is frustration. I understand why there are hard questions. I understand why the people want to know what is different this time. What is different is that we are no longer just describing the crisis.
We're managing through it. We're putting names, numbers, timelines, and accountability around the work. We are tracking capital projects. We are attacking the revenue cycle. We're moving toward outsourcing where it makes sense. We are working on IT infrastructure, human capital management, enterprise resource planning, cybersecurity, and bedside connectivity.
And we are bringing lean management into this organization, so we stop wasting time, money, and staff energy on broken processes. Today, I am not asking for you to ignore the past. I'm asking you to judge us by what we're doing now. This is not

a blank check. This is a bridge tied to a plan, tied to measurable results, and tied to quarterly public accountability.

Slide two

I want to begin with what your support has already made possible, because this matters. When the legislature supports GMH, the people of Guam deserve to see where that support goes. They deserve to see more than a timeline or a line item. They deserve to see progress, and we can show progress. 46 capital projects are completed.

41 more are ongoing. Eight are on the launchpad. That is 95 capital items being actively tracked and managed. The total CIP portfolio is about $97.5 million. That is not a wish list anymore. That is work in motion. It includes IT and network infrastructure, structural repairs, HVAC and utility systems, outsourcing work, medical equipment, vehicles, and logistics.

These are not cosmetic improvements. This is essential infrastructure and operating tools of a hospital. It is what gives life to our place of work. So we want to say it again, *Un dangkolo yan Si Yu'os Ma'ase* Public Laws 38-80, 38-59, 36-107, 37-135, along with the ARPA, DCIP, and DOI support are helping move real work at GMH. But appreciation has to come with accountability, so our commitment is simple.

We will show you what is completed, what is going on, what is delayed, what is not started yet, and why. That is the new standard. Next slide There are two truths about GMH. The first truth is that our mission has not changed. GMH is a hospital that does not get to say no. We take care of the island, Medicare, Medicaid, MIP, uninsured, under-insured, self-pay, complex patients, emergency patients, patients who have nowhere to go.

We do not choose only the easy cases. We not choose only the profitable cases. We do not close the door when the patient is complicated. That is the reality of a public safety net hospital The second truth is that the way we manage GMH has changed. Mission alone will not keep the lights on. Good intentions will not pay vendors.

Hardworking staff cannot overcome broken systems forever. So we are changing the systems underneath the care. We are tightening spending controls. We are tracking capital projects. We are working on the revenue cycle. We are using outsourcing where it makes sense. We are modernizing technology. We are building a management structure around the work This is not transformation instead of patient care.

This is transformation so that patient care can survive and improve. Next slide.

The legislature has heard about GMH's problems for years. Many of these concerns were and are legitimate. There were shortfalls, there were vendor pressures, there were IT outages, there were billing delays, there were deferred repairs, there were audit findings and serious questions about management accountability.

I am not here to defend what cannot be defended. But I am also not here to keep GMH stuck in the same story. The story is changing. We are requesting less than last year. We are running under budget at the six-month point. Collections are improving. Over time is trending down. On-call pay is down. CIP work is being tracked.

MicroHealth has started as a targeted revenue cycle management bridge while the long-term RCM, RFP continues. Are we where we need to be? Far from it. Are we moving in the right direction? Absolutely. And the difference now is that the movement is measurable Then was crisis response, now must be accountable transformation.

Next slide

Before I ask this body for support, I need to show that GMH is doing its part. The FY 2027 total budget request is two hundred and twelve point one million dollars. That is one point five million dollars lower than the FY 2026 appropriation. Six months into the current fiscal year, we are running about six percent under budget in actual spending.

Collections through March reached forty-one percent of billing compared to thirty-four percent the prior year. Overtime is trending down. On-call pay is down. These numbers do not solve everything, but they matter because they show discipline before the ask. Most of the GMH budget is people, nurses, physicians, respiratory therapists, pharmacists, lab, radiology, dietary, housekeeping, finance, IT, security, maintenance, the people who keep the hospital open twenty-four hours a day.

So when we talk about a budget, we are not talking about an abstract document. We are talking about whether Guam's only public hospital can staff at the bedside, pay vendors, keep systems running, and care for the community safely. That is what fiscal responsibility is, not just a finance issue. It's a patient care issue.

Next slide

Now I wanna talk about the gap. The total FY 2027 budget request, again, is two hundred and twelve point one million dollars. Identified funding sources today total about one hundred and seventy-five point eight million. That leaves a gap of thirty-six point three million. I understand that that is a big number.

I'm not here to minimize that. That is not a request to continue the same habits. This is a bridge while the fixes take hold. The fixes include revenue cycle improvement, outsourcing where appropriate, spending controls, IT modernization, human capital management, enterprise resource planning, cybersecurity, bedside connectivity, lean management, and a quarterly public reporting The gap is real.

It is bounded, and it has a plan around it. That is why I'm asking you to hold us accountable

Next slide. I wanna be clear about outsourcing. Outsourcing is not the mission. Outsourcing is a tool. It does not mean GMH is walking away from patient care. It

does not mean we are replacing our staff. It means we are asking where can a specialized partner help us perform better, faster, and with measurable standards?
The five active areas are revenue cycle management, dietary services, housekeeping and environmental services, security services, and skilled nursing facilities lease. If these are executed properly with clear performance terms, the thirty-six point three million bridge could be reduced to about seventeen point five million.
That is an estimated improvement of eighteen point eight million But I will not overpromise that number. That is an execution target, not a guarantee. It only becomes real if the contracts are written well, managed tightly, and measured honestly. On RCM, we have started the MicroHealth bridge. It is targeted, it is time limited, it is focused on billing and coding support while the long-term RCM-RFP continues.
MicroHealth is not replacing the RFP. It is helping us stop preventable cash leakage now. Because every month we wait, more money gets stuck. Next slide.
This is one of the most important slides of this presentation, and I'm hoping that you can spend some time looking at it, because never in the history of the Guam Memorial Hospital have we ever presented key performance indicators on how a hospital actually gets paid
This is where people ask, if GMH is providing care, why is cash not showing up? The answer is in the revenue cycle. RCM is the hospital's cash register. When RCM is slow, GMH can provide the care, they can do the work, they can send the patient home, and still not collect the money on time. That is exactly what we have to fix.
Let me explain the key performance indicators in plain English. Days in accounts receivable means how long bills sit unpaid after care is delivered. The target is about forty-five days. GMH is around two hundred and seven. That means that cash can sit for almost seven months. DNFB means discharge not final billed.
The patient has gone home, but the final bill has not gone out. The target is about four days. GMH is around eighteen days. If the final bill has not gone out, the payment clock hasn't even started. Unfiled claims means the claim is ready, but it has not been sent to the payer. The target is five days. GMH is around sixteen.
If the claim does not go out, payment cannot come in. Days cash on hand means how many days GMH can operate with the cash available. The target is fourteen. GMH is around twelve. Now, this key performance indicator is a little skewed because GMH received funding from CMS for four prior years Now here is the number that shows the size of the problem.
As of April twenty-third, twenty twenty-six, GMH had about three hundred and ninety million in accounts receivables. Not all of that is collectible. Self-pay aging is partly a public policy problem, not only a hospital billing problem. But the point is this: too much money is stuck. That is why the RCM RFP matters.

That is why MicroHealth matters. That is why documentation, coding, denial follow-up, payer accountability, and modern systems matter. And that is why these key performance indicators will be reported quarterly. Next slide

After we explain where the money gets stuck, this is what happens if we do not fix it. Revenue cycle management failure starts as a cash problem, but it does not stay in finance. It becomes a vendor problem, a staffing problem, then it becomes a supply problem, a repair problem, and eventually it becomes a patient care problem. GMH can deliver the care, the nurse can do the work, the physician can document, the patient can go home. But if the claim is delayed, denied, not final billed, or not followed up, the cash stays stuck. And when cash stays stuck, operations get tight, vendors may tighten credit or deny credit, slow delivery, supplies, equipment, pharmacy, and repairs become harder to stabilize.

Staffing pressure rises through overtime burnout, vacancies, and retention risk. Patient flow slows through longer waits, delayed discharges, fewer staffed beds, and less reliable service. The patients may never hear the words revenue cycle management, but the patients will feel the impact. That is why RCM is not just a billing project.

It is a patient care fix, it is an operating fix, and it is a leadership fix

If the revenue cycle remains broken, any leadership team will be pulled back into the same crisis cycle. That is where GMH has been, and that is what we are changing. That is why the MicroHealth bridge matters. That is why the full RCM RFP matters. That is why payer follow-up matters. That is why daily RCM management and quarterly public key performance indicators reporting matters.

We're not asking for support to keep the old cycle alive, senators. We're asking for support to break the cycle. Next slide

We are still on a system from at least the 1980s, the AS400. That should concern everybody. We are trying to run a modern hospital with legacy systems, delayed reports, spreadsheets, manual reconciliation, paper processes, and workarounds. That is not just inconvenient, it is risky. It affects patient care, it affects billing, it affects payroll, it affects purchasing, it affects inventory, it affects reporting, it affects whether leadership can see the problems early enough to fix it.

When IT goes down, the impa- the impact of that is not theoretical. We estimate about eight hundred thousand dollars, eight hundred thousand dollars per day in billing exposure and about three hundred thousand per day in cash at risk or delay. A three-day outage can create a multi-million dollar billing backlog.

Not all of that is permanently lost, but it's delayed, it's disrupted, and it's harder to recover. That is why modernization for Guam Memorial Hospital is not a luxury. It is a financial control, it is a patient safety control, it is an accountability control Where we are working is across five areas.

Number one, IT infrastructure, strengthening the digital backbone of the hospital. Bedside connectivity, getting the right information to clinicians where care is delivered. Cybersecurity, protecting patient data and reducing outage risk. Human capital management and enterprise resource planning. This is modernizing people, payroll, purchasing, inventory, payables, contracts, and financial reporting.

Healthcare IT workflow redesign and lean management, fixing the work before we automate it. Let me explain these systems briefly just a little further. Human capital management is our people system. It helps us manage staff, scheduling, timekeeping, payroll, onboarding, vacancies, overtime, and workforce reporting in one place.

Right now, too much of that work depends on manual steps, separate files, delayed information, and people chasing answers. With human capital management, leadership can see where staffing pressures are happening, where vacancies are hurting operations, where overtime is rising, and where recruitment or retention support is needed.

That helps us manage the workforce before the problem becomes a crisis. Enterprise resource planning is our business and finance system. It connects budget, purchasing, contracts, inventory, accounts payable, vendor payments, and financial reporting. In plain language, it helps us know what we ordered, what we received, what we owe, what was approved, what is sitting in accounts payable, what supplies are running low, and where spending is going.

That means better control, faster reporting, fewer surprises, and less dependency on spreadsheets. Together, they help GMH move from reacting late to seeing problems early Lean management is a management system. It is not layoffs. It is how hospitals remove waste from the work. Waiting is waste. Rework is waste.

Duplicate documentation is waste. Supply hunting, which let me tell you we do a lot of on a daily basis, is waste. Discharge delays are waste. Unfair handoffs are waste. Those problems hurt patients, they burn out our staff, they burn us out, and delayed revenue. Lean management targets the waste, not the people.

For GMH, that is critical because we're a safety net hospital with thin cash, high demand, aging infrastructure, old systems, and limited staffing flexibility. We cannot afford to waste steps. We cannot afford to waste time, and we definitely cannot afford to waste the energy of the people taking care of this island.

Last slide

In closing, GMH is asking for the FY twenty twenty-seven bridge needed to execute the plan. In return, GMH will provide quarterly public transformation reports every quarter on the record. Those reports will show cash position, accounts payable aging, accounts receivable, collection performance, other revenue cycle management key performance indicators, self-pay performance, and I want to say that again, self-pay performance, workforce metrics, overtime and on-call usage, quality and access

measures, CIP milestones, outsourcing performance, modernization progress, and lean management progress.
This is the accountability contract. You approve the bridge, we execute the plan, we report the results, and you hold us accountable We're not managing by personalities. We're not managing by headlines. Where reports identify real gaps, we act. Where numbers need validation, we validate. Where management needs to change, we change Senators, I'm not asking for you to forget the past.
I am asking you to let us prove that GMH can move forward differently. Guam needs GMH, but Guam does not just need GMH to survive. Guam needs GMH to become reliable. Help us finish that work from survival to reliability.
Mr. Chair and members of the committee, I welcome your questions.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: *Si Yu'os ma'åse* to you as well, and, thank you, Dr. Joleen, and to the entire, team here from GMH for a very nice presentation. I gotta say, this is one of the best I've seen. to our colleagues, the, printout was provided, during the presentation because we received it just this morning from GMH.
There are also going to be some number differentials within the current, spreadsheet that you have in front of you based on revised submissions from GMH, on the, downward request in some revenue categories. But of course, the CIPs that they've presented, are going to be contemplated, so therefore your handout shows you the actual, request, that is been adjusted.
And we will do that, of course, and contemplate that, as the bill comes out and final, bill that hits the floor as well as submitted to senators prior to convening session. So, we can discuss this, based on, what the presentation came out in terms of their current actual numbers as presented.
But you do the budget the budget digest that's here gives you, of course, the authorized levels of '25. It gives you '26, request, but like I said, there are some adjustments, and, they, they put that into their presentation. I also wanna thank the chair for having a number of oversights on GMH whereby we have gone in, including the latest one up at GMH, and took a tour as well as.
Thank you once again, Dr. Aguon, for the updates, to where the projects are currently at in terms of all of your CIPs. So, as I've been letting the senators know, we are here today to discuss your budget And I've asked them to if, you know, if they can confine their questions. It's up to them how they wanna use their time.
But, we're gonna be using the clock of five minutes so that I encourage our senators to ask about the budget. We have had several oversights, and we will have more gatherings. And Dr. Aguon, I gotta say, thank you for, giving us at least a portion of your budget in performance-based budgeting format with your KPIs, because that is what is going to drive, your argument for your revenue cycle management as well

as your, health records upgrades, by showing, and as we discussed in your pre-budget meeting.
Thank you once again to the team for coming to the pre-budget meeting. And show how really, this, you, you, you admit your level currently, but you also recognize that by the investment, you can easily get to your 100% level and beyond because you also show where it will pay for itself, even in the first, months to a year, and, and perhaps outwards, and as you mentioned, and with other things that you've done to reduce the reliance on the general fund with this business plan.
So thank you for that. With that, I will recognize the chair of or excuse me, education. That was yesterday. the chair of health, and that is, Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane. Senator, you're recognized.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and, and thank you, Dr. Aguon, and, your entire management team, for all of the hard work, that you guys have been doing.
Um, this is something tangible that you can see. and even just walking through the hospital, you can kind of, I hate to say, you, you don't really smell, a lot of the mold from before, from, from the tours that I had taken from over a, a, a year ago. And so you really can see a difference, and you can see this change, this transformation happening at GMH.
So thank I know, you know, before we had kind of a rough going when I first came in, but I think things, like you mentioned, have changed, and you really can see it, and you can, you can feel it. So some of the questions that I have, regarding this thirty-six, million dollar bridge, and in your presentation, it mentions that, you could possibly cut that by seventeen point five million.
Is that, is that correct? If these, five different, items, the revenue cycle management, dietary services, housekeeping, environmental security services, skilled nursing facility lease are implemented

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: It, it'll actually cut it by 18.8 million, with the difference being the 17.5- 17.5 from the 36, and that is correct if all five are implement- implemented.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: So for the RCM, first, if you can just explain, and I always ask this, the difference between the previous RCM and what you are, are, negotiating right now because there were problems, with the previous contract for the RCM.

Yukari Hechanova, Chief Financial Officer, GMHA: Good morning, Senator. I'll answer that question for you. The previous RCM contract started off very well.

Actually, they brought in four of their team members to really lead the different GMH's revenue cycle. the beginning was very well. Our collections went up. the staff were being trained and assessed.
And then along the way, there had been some internal issues with the company wherein they had to replace some people that they sent to Guam, and it really caused a disruption not only for our own revenue cycle staff, but it demonstrated like a plateau. We weren't improving anymore at some point, and that is when we decided to just terminate the contract.
We had also asked for a plan of action. I'd been asking for that for, almost a year. And when we finally started getting it going with another person that they had replaced, that person was also terminated. So we weren't, we're starting back at square one again. And so that is when we decided to terminate the contract.
So with this, this outsourcing. The first contract was actually not outsourcing. It was just bringing in consultants. In this one, we want to outsource it where they really will take ownership of the revenue cycle, where GMH will hold them accountable to the performance, standards that we set in the RFP.
So that is really the big difference between the contract before and the proposed, RFP right now.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Okay. I'll move on to dietary services because we did have the public hearing on this bill. if we're not able to get it onto the, May session agenda, I mean, how soon do you need to get this, in place?

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: Well, we have a 36.3 million gap for '27, so Senator, I'm asking that it be in place as soon as possible.
The cafeteria, and the, and the you know, the preparation for the meals for patients, if we're able to take that cost down, then that would drive that gap to become smaller. So, you know, we are looking at ways that we can be responsible for our own operations and see how we can cut costs or increase revenue, and these are the five biggest ways that we know we can do that in addition to, modernizing our technology.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: The skilled nursing facility lease How much, I guess, in, in, money are we looking at, in revenue?
Or savings?

Yukari Hechanova, Chief Financial Officer, GMHA: We're actually projecting, about a $2 million a year possibly in the estimated rentals. This is a really rough

estimate because we're really not sure what, the proposers will bring in. But we will save on the costs for upkeeping the facility, the contractual services for the elevators and the HVAC, all the supplies that we would have purchased.
Also the utilities with the electricity and the water, even the fuel to power the generators. Those are the things that we would save money on.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Just to go back to dietary and then incorporating housekeeping, environmental, and security services, are we looking at gettting rid of employees? How is that going to work?
If you outsource these services, what happens to the employees in those departments?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: Hi, Senator. I can respond to that. So how we're building our RFP is that we're allowing, successful offerers to give first right of refusal to existing employees. So that is part of the agreement. The, engaged vendor, if they so choose to contract with the agency, would have to give our employees the opportunity to work in that capacity with this particular vendor.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: That's good to hear that there is that, first right of refusal. Where are you with that RIF, the RIF resolution?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: To continue in that conversation, it is still an active resolution. In fact, the board of trustees met last night and, asked that we provide an update at the next meeting. they keep that as an available tool for management to execute if we're unable to meet our bottom line or we start to experience some cash shortfalls.
But as reported in the presentation, we're doing enough reducing overtime and on-call pay that we're seeing 6% reduction in budget approved versus budget actual.

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: I, I also wanna include, Senator, that our 2027 ask does not include decreasing those staff in a RIF.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Okay.

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: The reason why it's 1.1 million less is because of the active work we're doing to be fiscally responsible with our overtime and our on-call pay.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Yeah. Senator, I just wanted to verify that 'cause the, the presentation today is equal to what their spreadsheet is. However, that was represented in the pre-budget meeting, so just to cover that, their anticipated savings. So at their actual presentation today matches this budget request. However, they, they have assured us of savings going forward.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: How many, employees do you have at GMH currently?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: Thank you, Senator. We just ran the numbers, and our employee count FT equivalence is, one thousand and sixty-five employees. And I can break that further to say that of that count, eighty percent are clinical staff, so that's everyone to the left of Dr. Again on this table and their leadership team, and, everyone to your right represent about twenty percent of the workforce.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Okay, good. I was just looking at the, the spreadsheet here, and it says total full-time employees, one thousand two hundred, eighty-six.

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: There have been a lot of measures that have been implemented.
Particularly, there's been, a stop on hiring of non-clinical, non-essential positions. So as teams have left or downsized, we've not filled them up, quickly. We've prioritized our clinical areas. We haven't stopped hiring nurses and other clinicians, but that would, achieve the results. So we can update the committee, so you have the actual numbers of our classified staff.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: And you have three hundred and ninety million in accounts receivable. how much of that, is realistically collectible versus, likely uncollectible?

Yukari Hechanova, Chief Financial Officer, GMHA: Right now, our collections are trending at about thirty-five to forty percent of the receivables. The self-pay receivables is the most highest, and to be honest, it's the most troubling.
Those are the most difficult to collect. And, that, collection rate is about fifteen to twenty percent. Normally, during this time, we see an, uptick in the self-pay recollections because of the tax garnishments, but we're not seeing that right now because the tax filing has been pushed about a month, so that's why we're not seeing anything right now.

But after the tax season, is over, we really don't see much movement in the self-pay.

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: I wanna add, though, that in the self-pay, what we've discovered is that forty percent of our self-pay are COFA-eligible, patients. And we have been challenged along with, our, you know, sister health agencies in getting these citizens, their Medicaid.
So we have taken it, taken it a step further and have made initiatives to work with the FSM. we've just recently met with the Chuuk board. We are trying to improve the, to, to improve the process by getting vital statistic information, 'cause that's really the challenge for us, is getting that vital statistic information so that they can complete their applications.
So our team is actually going to be flying to all of the other islands and making the same kinds of connections. And we realize that it's a, it, you know, this really falls on public health, but honestly it falls on all of us, because we serve the community.
So forty percent of fifty million annually is what is COFA-eligible.
So we are we have put that in our KPIs to report to you. We are also implementing self-pay as a quality assessment performance improvement in the organization so that it's also evaluated by, our other regulating bodies such as CMS.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Moving to the social cases, I'm, I'm reading this at 66.4 million. We talked about, social cases in, in the last budget hearing, in last year. And, even the previous administrator, they had mentioned, or she had mentioned this facility in Tamuning and moving, some of the social cases, to, to that facility to help kinda reduce the cost for GMH.
Can you give us an update on whatever happened to that plan?
And how many social cases you have at GMH currently?

Christine Tuquero, Nurse Administrator, GMHA: Hi, Senator. so, our count, we're tracking, a total of 18 social cases at our skilled nursing facility and 12 social cases at the at GMH. And, we have been working with public health for, the community home-based, facility, and they have been working with, consultants, to apply for a Medicaid waiver so that reimbursements from Medicaid, can cover the cost of these residents.
So we when we met with the consultant, it looks like, when we evaluated the patients at that time, I think we had about 13 or 14 patients that qualified for that type of home or community-based home

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: For the remaining, I guess, six, then would they just stay at GMH? I mean, is that the plan? We're just going to.

Christine Tuquero, Nurse Administrator, GMHA: Well, it depends on their limitations and barriers for getting discharged to the community. So if it's caregivers or transitioning to a home, those are some of the factors that we are dealing with.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: I feel like we've been talking about this Medicaid waiver now for, for a while. Has, public health given any sort of timeline on when we can actually move some of these social cases to this, community health-based, facility?

Christine Tuquero, Nurse Administrator, GMHA: Not a timeline that I'm aware of yet.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Okay. And when, when this actually happens, how much in savings are you looking at, are you estimating?

Yukari Hechanova, Chief Financial Officer, GMHA: Right now on our receivables, it's sixty-six million dollars. So some of these social cases, actually most of them are covered by Medicare or Medicaid. So they've been staying in the hospital long enough that we are able to get them covered by something. The problem is when those benefits run out which is usually in about, six months, then it switches to, to self-pay. And so the amounts we're able to collect on the Medicare and the Medicaid side are okay. It's that remaining part of it that we can't collect. And we have some, some patients, that are social cases that have receivables up to four million dollars.
And so this number, as I'm monitoring it, it does grow every, every month. It does grow, because there's just no way for us to collect it. so on average, per day, our room and board rates range at about twelve hundred dollars a day to two thousand dollars a day. So that's what we're charging. If it's a Medicare or Medicaid patient, we'll get reimbursed about thirteen, fourteen hundred dollars a day the other part of that is, is a contractual allowance. But when it switches to self-pay, it stays at about two thousand dollars a day, the charge.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: During the oversight hearing, that we had at GMH a few weeks ago, there was discussions about the, about IT, the system infrastructure, and, working with the administration on hopefully securing the funds, for procurement and implementation.
Where are you with those discussions?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: Hi, Senator. we will share that there are, a couple things actually that you've identified. IT itself, we've already contracted

with a group called IS Squared, and, they've, actively started work on bolstering our IT infrastructure and our cybersecurity. They will be on ground. Actually, they're already here.
But they'll be meeting with GMH starting next week and meeting with our teams. They've connected with a group called Nordic, and they'll also be on-site at the hospital starting next week. We'll probably invite you and, the body to come and meet with them, and you get to hear about the type of work they're supporting the hospital with the second, I think, that you were speaking directly to was our, desire to seek an, electronic health record. That does require, certification of funds, and we believe that that can be supported through the 21st Century Healthcare Act that was previously passed by this body. That is what we're exploring right now with the governor's office.

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: In addition to the governor's office, I'm gonna say. In addition to the governor's office. So GMH, met with the USDA, and we had discussed different, funding opportunities for the hospital, and that 21st Century bill came up. And so we would also like to explore that option, if that is available we're, we are going to be meeting with the governor's office, to discuss the certification of funds for the EHR but we also are exploring other avenues to see how we can get it funded ourself.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Okay. that kind of wraps up my question, but I wanted to end it with asking, is there anything, that you any amendments that you would like to see in the FY twenty-seven budget?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: Yes, Senator. So Dr. Aguon was even asking this question of us, on the car ride here. So we do have a number of amendments that we can furnish to the committee. one that comes top of mind, of course, is, the opportunities that we have during times of emergency to execute procurements. we're seeing, particularly we're challenged with, our generator infrastructure.
And post-Typhoon Sinlaku, we had three generators. One we, called Old Faithful that was already down for repairs. Those repairs could not be achieved in time before Typhoon Sinlaku made landfall. We were dependent on two remaining generators. one we called Megatron, which is a 1.6 megawatt, and the other Bumblebee, 'cause it's smaller, a 650 kilowatt generator through the course of the typhoon, they held steady, and we gained, a newfound sense of appreciation because when island power went down, and, and we weren't expecting this to happen. we're in a unique situation at the hospital where the hospital sits in the middle of two feeders, and GPA supports an above ground feeder and a below ground feeder.

So if one fails, the other should kick in. There was a time, I think, at the peak of this typhoon, where both feeders failed, so we had to turn on the generator power. We ran those generators, and typically those generators, because of their age, we try to give them rest breaks, and we alternate between machines.

But with Old Faithful already being down, we had to burn both generators continuously for more than 48 hours. Eventually, Saturday came around, and there was a power glitch. GPA was still trying to get power to be sustained, and that power glitch caused our automatic transfer switch to turn on Megatron the power eventually stabilized. We put Megatron on standby mode, but what we started to observe was a grinding noise followed by smoke emitting, emitting from the machine. If we did not get Megatron up and running, there is a part of our hospital that could not be supported, which includes areas like our ICU, and this, I think, it presents a grave danger to us.

We would like, in times of such emergencies, that we have the opportunity to fully explore with vendors. we know of a few that have the size capacity that is needed for the hospital, but we're challenged by government procurement regulations to achieve that. And we're really thankful, this body at the last budget had adopted a change to our small purchase threshold that brought us from 25,000 to 250,000 what we're seeing, though, is the cost to run those generators beyond 30 days far exceed that amount, and what we don't want is to engage the vendor to say we can cover the cost up to Connecting the lines and bringing the generator to GMH, but please don't turn it on yet, because we need to go to bid, to pay for the continuing cost of running that generator all else equal, we will furnish the language to the committee and to our oversight chair so that you can digest our ask, and then we'll, we'll go from there. We're happy to take further questions.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Thank you. I have no further questions.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* chair of health. Yeah, I definitely know that with the chair and myself, we will get that in for sure.

You need that capability, and it's just nice to know, Jesse, that there actually is a, you know a generator supplier that can, that'll hook you up to the capacity that you need. So that's good news, and that so from that experience, I'm sure that's in your, in your notation now to have them on standby whenever inclement weather is, is in the area.

Thank you. before I go on just wanna note, that is one heck of a presentation on your current staffing pattern at 1,099. That's 187, positions less than, what was their budget request for 2026. So, you've made some great inroads with regard to, that consideration. Senator Gumataotao, you're recognized.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to GMH for being with us, this morning. I was very happy to see, in the paperwork today the addressing of the DOC clinic, in the budget, so thank you, Mr. Chair, and the OFB for in advance of the budget hearing to have that. But with that said, with 16 nurses, including 12 staff nurses, four licensed practical nurses assigned to the DOC clinic, in addition to a full-time physician, pharmacist, and administrative staff, is there an alternative model that GMHA is perhaps considering to help redirect critical healthcare personnel to other areas of the hospital while ensuring that inmates continue to receive, adequate medical care?

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: Thank you, Senator, for that question. In short, yes. actually, we met with the tri-agency, and we have plans to do something very different, between GBHWC, Guam Memorial Hospital, Public Health, and DOC. because the, because the, inmates are eligible for Medicaid and then automatically eligible for the government insurance, we can now explore different options the director of Public Health had brought up doing primary care at the CHC, so that they can avail of Medicare and then even when discharged from the prison, have Medicare, or I'm sorry, Medicaid for their healthcare needs with the private, government insurance, the government SelectCare already offers Teladoc and it is a service that I don't think the island has explored to its capacity. So we're doing a lot of research on whether or not we're able to bring Teladoc into the infirmary. DOC is looking into that option but we're also going to perform as one government at DOC and not two different healthcare agencies.
Mm. And what I mean is that the psy-psychiatric support that GBHWC offers and the, you know, clinical support, the primary care and infirmary, pill line that we offer, we want to join the services so that we're working, collaboratively. And then we can look at the staffing pattern.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: And, and I was gonna ask if you were formally evaluating any staffing models, but it sounds like with them together, this whole of Gov Guam approach it, so to speak is an alternative.

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: Right
So we've been meeting with the GBWHC leadership, Karissa, and the director of public health, and coming up with, better ways for us to work together and maximizing the government's resources.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Right. And considering the public health is probably down the road, they're a little closer to the adult correctional facility, especially when they need help there.

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: Right.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: but, you know, but what we have at GMH is support. We were talking about it with, in the pre-budget meetings, that looks like they're, they're trying to also, They're challenged too, to be able to, man, at the, at the hospital when they're there if I can, there was a recent report, this about the $70 million in uncollectible debts that were recently written off by your board and GMHA I was hoping to see them today, but that's okay. what information is available regarding the extent to which uninsured patients who owe the hospital, okay, for services in the past have since come back for maybe additional treatment, have they been assessed for Medicaid and/or MIP eligibility?

Yukari Hechanova, Chief Financial Officer, GMHA: Yes. in the past, I'm gonna say about five years or so, and more so in the last couple of years, we've really ramped up that, section of our, registration department. We have two eligibility specialists that, their, their primary role is to help our self-pay patients get enrolled into Medicaid.
And so that has been every patient that comes in that is self-pay is assessed for Medicaid. Or if they, if they're underinsured, we also have a sliding, scale schedule that they can apply for to help pay for their bills as well. But it's we do, yes, we do, have those people come in for Medicaid.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: And, and I just wanna follow up on my inquiry last month regarding the new hospital fees.
What information is available or if, if there's any information available on the status of the draft provider agreement with GMHA that was submitted to the FSM's MyCare Insurance in an effort to include the hospital as an in-network provider? Network.

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: So I can take that question. for the, for the Chuuk Board, so they want. It's actually for So let me, let me take a step back.
The MyCare is an insurance for all of FSM we are still pending our approval to be a in-network provider for MyCare. but Chuuk also has Chuuk State Insurance. And so if they, accept GMH as a provider, then we could also be a network. And they are we are actually pending an on-site inspection, for the, for the board to come back to GMH and then decide on whether or not we could be, providers in-network.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Which will probably add to your list of things to do when you visit the FSM, 'cause one of the things maybe your health educators can get involved, they, they absolutely need to know it's twenty twenty-six. The compacts have been around for such a long time that the GMH should not be used as their primary health facility.
We do have public health clinics that they are that they can avail themselves to. I'm hoping in the education process, you can remind them, "Hey, we have these other alternatives to support the healthcare needs of your FSM, residents." I know I only have a few more minutes, Mr. Chair. I wanted to just touch, if I can, recognizing that the governor of Guam included a set-aside of one million dollars in tax credits from BPT revenue that is applied for GMHA medical supplies in FY twenty twenty-seven. What follow-up information is available since the GMHA oversight hearing that was held earlier, confirming that this particular financing approach will be used in the current fiscal year, and what's its necessity moving forward into the next fiscal year?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: Senator, I can confirm we've already obligated five hundred thousand.
A vendor has stepped forward and committed that much, and then we're gonna be bringing online, a number of beds to replace our med surge unit. There is a slight change in the law that we would like the body to entertain, and it includes a limitation that might have been inadvertently left in the language.
A million was appropriated, but the language reads that a million is appropriated, however, only five hundred thousand can be used each year. So if we could remove the five hundred thousand restriction, the vendor is more than happy to meet us at the full million-dollar ask.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: All right. Thank you so much.
And I'm sure the health chair and the rest of the health committee will probably look at that closely. has, public law thirty-five one thirty-eight that was signed back in twenty twenty-one been formally activated for FY twenty-six? Again, the temporary tax credit. Again, are you saying that you've drawn down on the credit mechanism in the current year and for supplies and the like?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: Right now it's already obligated-Correct. And we're working with the Guam Economic Development Authority, so they're gonna be the party that executes this agreement. They've already given initial approvals and informed us that we're ready to proceed.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Okay. And then just one last question, Mr. Chair. What is the projected FY twenty twenty-seven medical supply gap if this particular mechanism we're talking about is not renewed or expanded?
You guys obviously need every tool in your, in your belt to be able to address the needs at GMH. Could it help?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: It helps a great deal. And if we don't sustain that level of help, you're gonna see that unmet need only grow in the, wrong direction.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: All right. Thank you so much. And Mr. Chair, I stand with you this particular budget hearing, fascinating in terms of what, what you presented today. It is a stark difference. It's blue sky out there right now, and considering that every time, that in my short career, it seems like it's constantly gray sky with GMH and so, you know, I think we're giving you the ability to do the best you can.
That's all you can do, is give it your, you know, give it your all. And I appreciate the candor, I appreciate the leadership, and thank you all for stepping up in support of not just, the leadership, but your people that work for you. For crying out loud, they've-they've been, they've been telling you, and now you're starting to see the some fruits of this labor, and I just wanna give you kudos, and I know they're listening.
And continue to push GMH employees, push your bosses hard, and then we'll do the same. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: *Si Yu'os ma'åse.* Senator Terlaje, you're recognized.

Senator Therese Terlaje: *Si Yu'os ma'åse. Buenas.* Good morning, everyone, and, thank you for your presentation it sure certainly paints a very rosy picture. But, I'd like to talk about what my colleague talked about, the, your employees and your support for them.
So on your page where you list the five areas where you want to outsource, including the skilled nursing facility lease, can you please tell the people of Guam what that our GMH will no longer be running the skilled nursing facility? They're going to let that be run by someone else, and there's an RFP, it says pending.

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: Correct, Senator. We're still developing the scope of work that we intend to release. That includes whether it is a

lease of the facility or a full turnover of our current operations to this private vendor. I think.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Why did you, why did you decide to do that? How does that benefit the people of Guam?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: Well, a number of ways. for the employees specifically, since that's the population you're hoping to address, we could potentially see that their salaries are easily adjusted to make up the difference that the government currently prohibits us. We follow a merit system that affords a pay grade and step, and unfortunately, we have very little tools in our arsenal to do pay adjustments outside of a general government effort.
If a private, company comes in and offers to employ those individuals, they can offer those employees fair market value for what exists outside, yes.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Or less than the government rates, which is also what we see. Is there anything to tell you that that's what's going to happen?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: There isn't. But I think if the employee finds that the offer is not a valid one or one they wish to entertain, the government still has them there's no force on the employee to leave the government. It's just another opportunity for them to explore.

Senator Therese Terlaje: All right.

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: But Senator, sorry.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Yes.

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: The clinical staff will be brought back to the Guam Memorial Hospital.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Is that right?

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: That's right.

Senator Therese Terlaje: So what staff is not going to be brought back?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: We listed in there the top five that are explored, and those are other divisions that currently support SMF as well dietary, housekeeping, environmental, and security services are at least top of mind that we can identify.

Senator Therese Terlaje: All right, I guess, so there were always proposals that the, that the entire GMH be treated like this, that we outsource the entire GMH, that, we allow its employees to be hired by a private company, but particularly the management be run by, someone else. And, they outlined benefits of that in getting professional hospital management people to do that, while keeping the government's mandates intact, right?
re there any in- mandates that are going to be left intact in the skilled nursing facility lease?

Danielle Manglona, Compliance Officer, GMHA: CMS mandates would still apply. It would depend on the business model that would assume the care or the lease of, SNF. Whether they still run the model as strictly an SNF or SNF/nursing home/another type of, healthcare entity.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Is your RFP going to require that they take the non-paying patients or those with those that you're currently are serving, that the government's currently serving?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: Certainly, Senator, as you see that the RFP is still pending, that is part of the considerations when we're building the scope of work.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Well, that was one of the arguments why we're not going to totally outsource GMH, right? Because the government of Guam is-- we are taking on the responsibility to cover patients that are not going to be covered by a private company necessarily unless we mandate that they do that, right?
That we put that in part of the contract. and for example, that we mandate that they're gonna take care of maternal child health because that's not provided in the other hospitals, and, and things like this. So just wanted to know what happens on the skilled nursing and what, what's really the analysis.
Is there a analysis? I asked at the last oversight hearing for analysis on these, on these outsourcing, piecemeal outsourcing. So but I haven't seen it. Do you currently outsource security services?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: No, Senator.

Senator Therese Terlaje: All right. and you have, estimated savings for each of these. How many employees at security services are you expecting to let go of if it, if this is outsourced?IFB.

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: Senator, none of the employees are eyed to be removed or let go. Again, how the scope of work is intended to work is that employees have first right of refusal to work under the new, provider, whether that is the vendor. If the employee chooses not to, maybe the offer is not as good to them, they remain government employees, especially if they were recruited under the merit system.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Right. So how would that give you a savings if they, if they're kept on and you outsource?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: So there are other opportunities for retraining and to upskill our employees to work in other areas that are rather shor-staffed

Senator Therese Terlaje: We, we talked about this, about the housekeeping, the environmental. How many employees there?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: We can get confirmed numbers for that, but our estimates suggest there are fifty employees approximately today at Environmental Services.

Senator Therese Terlaje: One five or five zero?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: Five zero. Five zero.

Senator Therese Terlaje: And security?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: About thirty.

Senator Therese Terlaje: And dietary?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: Forty-two was the last number reported when we were here to present before the committee on the Bill 290.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Okay, so the revenue cycle management is the one that concerns me the most. Can you tell us what is MicroHealth? You mentioned it several times in your presentation.

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: Sure. MicroHealth was recently awarded a small purchase agreement. they are a vendor that is coming in to augment our billing and coding team, so there'll be boots on the ground to support and augment that function.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Okay, what do you mean by augment?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: We still have employees that support those functions at the hospital, so we anticipate that they're bringing in additional resources, namely manpower, so we can get additional bills coded and sent out.

Senator Therese Terlaje: So they're gonna perform the same functions as your Merit system employees?

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: Yes and no. So the, you know, the reason why we have to outsource is because we absolutely lack capacity. We also lack certifications, specific skills, that are particular to inpatient and outpatient services of a hospital. These are This is the team that's actually going to be boots, boots on the ground.
We, we are bringing in, a ha- it's going to be coders, billers, a denials specialist, an auditor, and an RCM oversight leadership

Senator Therese Terlaje: So would that person be leadership of your current merit system employees?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: No, it would be observing the performance of their own employees that are coming in to support those functions.

Senator Therese Terlaje: All right. So how much are you paying for this contract?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: Senator, since we don't have that information prepared or in front of us, we can go ahead and get that firm number and share that with the committee.

Senator Therese Terlaje: What are the performance standards of that contract?

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: The standard key performance indicators that we just mentioned in this presentation, in addition to other key performance indicators.
But what we had presented today are national standard key performance indicators.
Senator Therese Terlaje: Okay. I don't know what you mean. Where, I mean, where, where is that in this presentation? You said that they were-

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: If you go back to the presenta-

Senator Therese Terlaje: The revenue, so the RCM.

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: Yeah. So days in accounts receivables the DNFB, the unfiled claims, the days in cash, those are all key performance indicators.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Right. So your contract says that they're going to bring you in, they're going to.

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: Absolutely.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Make you meet these dates?

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: Yeah. They, they absolutely.

Senator Therese Terlaje: This temporary contract.

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: That's right. They also have to complete a certain amount of records in a certain amount of time.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Where can we see those performance standards that are in the, in the contract?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: So first in the presentation.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Or the RFP.

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: Sure. First in the presentation to outline for you to review alongside us is on slide eight out of 11. That's where you see RCM KPIs. We also have included in this request when the solicitation went out that this vendor provide us with daily reports to, suggest what type of progress or accomplishments they've been able to achieve.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Say that last part again.

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: Their accomplishment level. So we're expected to receive daily reports from the vendor to determine how much work has been achieved.

Senator Therese Terlaje: So you're just splitting up some of the work, and then they're gonna theirs will be measured and your own in-staff is going to be measured another way?
Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: I'll tell you everyone's measured the same way. The work is, quite a lot. There you can envision stacks, that are in queue waited to be acted on, and so you're gonna see both teams address that.

Senator Therese Terlaje: How many people are in your, merit system revenue cycle management team?

Yukari Hechanova, Chief Financial Officer, GMHA: We have about 70 people right now.

Senator Therese Terlaje: All right. Well, it's hard. the, the, oh, public auditor told us the last contract for something like this consulting was $5 million, and he said the question costs out of that 5 million were 4.9 million. And so I'm trying to hear here how this is going to be different rather than just a different contractor or a different name or who knows what.
But, it, he said that. The performance standards needed to be very, very... made much clearer. And so yeah, this, these are just very general. So for example, it doesn't dis-differentiate between MIP bills and the non-pay. You're still gonna have the same things, the non-payers, right, or the, uninsured, the under-insured.
And, so not collecting on those is really not, the fault of your current RCM staff, right? Those, those should be distinguished.

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: Senator, they're all related. And these are the report cards of that. So all the the insurance companies that you're talking about, or under-insured or uninsured or self-pay.

Senator Therese Terlaje: I'm talking about the patients and the.

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: All of that is actually related to these key performance indicators, and that can actually be broken down by section. But it is surprising that in a budget hearing for a hospital, these performance indicators were not presented to you.

Senator Therese Terlaje: I don't know what you mean.
Because this is how hospitals measure their revenue. It's not by the numbers that are just blindly being presented like everybody else's budget. We have other standards that hospitals follow that allow you to hold us accountable.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Billing standards we all want. We've in fact been talking about this for years, and so no need to get defensive.
I'm just asking what, what is actually in this contract, what how much are we paying this new vendor all of a sudden before we go out for an, an RFP that's already in negotiations?

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Thank you, Senator. this is a budget proposal.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Yes. Yes. RCM is a huge part.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: They haven't paid any, they haven't paid any vendor yet, so we can do that in further oversight..

Senator Therese Terlaje: No I think they are under contract.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: No, this is for procurement. You're requesting it to go to procurement, correct, Doc? Yes. There's no contract in place, Senator.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Okay. I thought you said.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Yeah.

Senator Therese Terlaje: You're under a temporary contract with Micro Health while your negotiations with your new RCM is, is in negotiation. Is that not correct?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: Senator Duenas is correct that the RFP for the full RCM is still in negotiations. We haven't executed a contract yet.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Right. So who is Micro Health?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: Micro Health is a small purchase we've engaged in to perform the following metrics related to our RCM KPIs.

Senator Therese Terlaje: So it's a in I think Dr. Jolene said that.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Thank you, Senator. That's your time. This is your last question.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Yeah it's a temporary until the full RCM is brought in, right?

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: The budget request is for-

Senator Therese Terlaje: Who are you negotiating with? Is it Micro Health?

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Senator your time is up. This is your final question.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Yes. Thank you.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Yeah. Are you negotiating with MicroHealth, the same company that you hired temporarily?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: Senator, unfortunately, we're unable to disclose while we're in active negotiations which vendor we are negotiating with.
Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Thank you, Senator. Senator Taitague, you're recognized

Senator Telo Taitague: Thank you, Mr. Chair. good morning to my colleagues, and of course, good morning to Guam Memorial Hospital. Thank you so much for all these hearings that we've been having. A lot of it is redundant, you know, but, this, this one here, this is the final one. You know, I hope that we can, all come to a consensus of the exact amount of money that you need for the hospital to keep moving, at least, to survive until the next fiscal year.
And that's right, Yuka? But other than that, you know, I just have some questions with regards to, timeline and completion based on your, report that you provided us with the IT system infrastructure, the structural, architectural, HVAC, and utility

systems, outsourcing projects. The projects that you had that's like ninety-seven point five that you submitted, is there a timeline on all these projects?
Its completion timeline?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: We, we will share this with you. This is our critical capital improvement project dashboard. afterwards, we can have a conversation. So it varies by project, and I think to, outline for the body those 96 projects and its expected completion dates will take a bit of time, but we're happy to work with you on the specific projects.
Yes. IT specifically, since you brought that on, they're already with us, and they've started work around March of this year. this is expected to be a five-year project, so they've just begun their first year, and they're started to do the most critical aspects, which is our, cybersecurity infrastructure and the hardening of our IT network, and then bolstering our connectivity.
So we're hoping to get, more access to internet as we do more telemedicine work and as the units, bring around their equipment.

Senator Telo Taitague: As Dr. Aguon will tell you, when it comes to anything that does with technology, it, it happens today, and then it, it's obsolete tomorrow. And then you're gonna have to exchange out new software and things like that.
That's why I noticed in your, FY27 budget that you provided us, there was only 300,000 in, your, infrastructure. What you submitted, like the boiler replacement at 450, you got sprinkler heads replacement, 100, all the way down. So you go from utility systems to medical equipment replacements, hospital information and communication technology infrastructure, and you only have 300,000 in that category.

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: Senator, thank you for raising that. If you have our budget booklet with you.

Senator Telo Taitague: Great.

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: We have itemized our capital listing under our Appendix J. And the total amount reflected there is 11 million, and that spans utility system projects at about one million, medical equipment replacement purchases at 9.7 million, and hospital information and communication technology at 300,000.

Senator Telo Taitague: Yeah, I noticed 88% of that is basically, on those capital improvements, are really medical equipment replacements more than anything.

That's 88%. so how much of that 11 million, 63,000 is for CIP project I mean, for, cybersecurity and, and technology inf- infrastructure for technology?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: Yes, Senator. So we'll bring you back to, Appendix C under operations. And then you will look at our. Object category is gonna be contractual services, and then you can find that on C5. And it lists for you an amount of five point one million for IT.

Senator Telo Taitague: Five point. Okay.

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: Yes.

Senator Telo Taitague: Yeah, 'cause I'm only seeing that other chart that you showed me. Okay. That's good to know. regarding the I didn't see anything under, the HAVOC, replacement funding in FY27 either.
Is there any money that's set aside for your, HVAS, system? For FY27
HVAC, yeah.

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: Yes, it could be I said havoc, but HVAC ... Senator, that we're, it's already included in the 19.7 million CIP funding that was previously approved by this body. I believe that's public law 38-60 or- 38-80, 38-80, correction.

Senator Telo Taitague: You know, when you have a house, right, you always put money aside for those maintenance stuff and things that, needed later on down the road, and painting in 10 years you're gonna have, 'cause it costs so much.
So can you explain what are you doing as far as setting money aside for things like that? I mean, everything is becoming brand-new almost, you know, at Guam Memorial, but it's maintenance, maintenance, maintenance that avoids. So what are you doing on that?.

Rizaldy Tugade, P.E., Chief Engineer, GMHA Yes. if I may, part of the $19.7 million, when we procured, these bigger projects, they do include the maintenance already, for a few years.
But in addition to that, part of the HVAC component, there's some money set aside from that 19 million, to take care of some of the parts that, you know, 'cause we do anticipate it's not going to replace every single thing in the hospital, so there's gonna be a chance that something may break so there is some money set aside in this, for the parts.

Senator Telo Taitague: Okay. Yeah. Well, I hope you. You know, we have a rainy day fund. You know, the government of Guam holds it, and thank goodness it came in handy on this last one, but, you know, future issues might come about. So, you know, as Mr. Maintenance Man, it's important to set aside some funding because not just maintenance, but replacement cost is something that I don't, I never see in these reports, the replacement costs.
So if you guys can maybe, you can put something aside. Or you can go after the, pharmaceutical fund that, you feel that's old. Now, what's the progress on that, regarding the pharmaceutical fund? Because we know that you're not getting... Whenever there's increase in BPT, you, you guys are not getting it, and you're by law supposed to get 6.8.
18, I think? We- 6.19%? Yeah, 6.19.

Joleen Aguon, MD, Interim Hospital Administrator and CEO, GMHA: Senator, we do, we actually do wanna share something with you that we did rather early because of all the help that we've received from this body and the front office, and Yuka will share that.

Yukari Hechanova, Chief Financial Officer, GMHA: So when we received the, $13 million from Medicare in November, we set aside about $2.3 million into what we call a supply medical supplies reserve fund.
So that has been set aside to alleviate any cash shortfalls, because we don't wanna be in a position where we can't pay vendors, especially for supplies and pharmaceuticals, because that's the area we've had the most problem with because we use so much, we, supplies and medicine and stuff. And when we can't pay the vendor for whatever reason, they will put us on credit hold, and we can't order those things anymore.
So we've put about $2.3 million aside for the time when we cannot pay these vendors. We can at least draw down on that to pay those vendors.

Senator Telo Taitague: But the funding that you guys should be getting, like I said, your pharmaceutical fund is funded by the BPT, and whenever there's an excess, you guys don't see that additional excess, do you?

Yukari Hechanova, Chief Financial Officer, GMHA: No.

Senator Telo Taitague: Because you're appropriated a certain amount in your budget bill, like you did in this pharmaceutical section of your budget, and it's like twenty-two, in FY twenty-six, twenty-two point eight two eight. But what happens when it goes above that? Do you guys get that excess?

Yukari Hechanova, Chief Financial Officer, GMHA: Currently, no. but I have been tracking the CRER against the, uh, the pharmaceutical funds we have been getting, and it's, pretty spot on, and they do come in timely.
We are expecting, of course, next year the, the rate is gonna go down to four percent, so of course, we're already expecting that our allocation will also go down as well. So that may be the time we're gonna need to tap into the two point three that we've been setting aside for the rainy day fund for our supplies and pharmaceuticals.

Senator Telo Taitague: How about going after prior, years in obligations? Have you gone after that? You know, in every year before, like since twenty twenty-two, when there's been an excess.

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: Yeah. for the business privilege tax, and what's owed to the pharmaceutical fund.

Senator Telo Taitague: Right.

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: Senator, there was a bill that was passed by this body.
Unfortunately, that bill did not, garner the governor's signature, and it hasn't been overridden by the body so I will leave that up to the legislature and, and Adelub to handle over.

Senator Telo Taitague: All righty then. Just thought I'd bring that up, you know. and how much was in that, that bill?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: About eight million was our estimate at the time.

Senator Telo Taitague: Okay. By the way, going back to, technology, are you using the cloud to store your data, or is everything under OTech?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: So it is hybrid, and I think we're also actively exploring the use of data centers. And so in the event, any of our data gets corrupted with the physical hardware, that we'd have a backup to restore those devices.

Senator Telo Taitague: So you do have, iCloud is very expensive, you know, to put things in the cloud and... But you are at OTech right now with some of your data?

Jesse Quenga, Chief of Operations, GMHA: No, but OTech has served as a consultant with us. so they continue to support us as we endeavor to bolster our s-infrastructure for cybersecurity.

Senator Telo Taitague: Okay. It is much more expensive though, going into the cloud versus having our own government of Guam data center to hold of it. I know that they take care of, GPD, so it, it's getting so costly, so costly to store in the cloud, versus having our own.
So, hopefully we can fix our OTech department and give them a better facility and, the attention that they desperately need at this point. Oh, my time is up. Are we having a second round, Mr. Chair?

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: No, Senator. Thank you very much.

Senator Therese Terlaje: I have additional questions, Mr. Chair. This is one of our largest budgets.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Yeah, I understand, but, we have the five-minute clock, and, Senator, we're done with that. So I have-

Senator Therese Terlaje: But there's no other hearing after this and they're all here.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Senator I have made my decision, and that decision stands. Thank you.

Senator Telo Taitague: Well, the reason why I ask is we had a second round on the last, budget hearing.
I was just wondering.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: We, we did because I opened it up for the chairperson then who had additional questions, and I was fair across the board. There have been no additional questions, and we are sticking to our clock. Thank you very much. So I would like to go back to.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Mr. Chair, there's I'm gonna ask again.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: We're, we're in recess.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Just to have another round for the GMH budget who's asking for thirty.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: We're in recess. IT, we're in recess.
Thank you, GMH, for a great, public hearing. This, public hearing on budget is adjourned.

The Budget Hearing was adjourned at [10:41 AM]..

COMMITTEE REPORT

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) -

INTRODUCED BY

Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam

AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 9:00 A.M.

Department of Public Health and Social Services

Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas
259 Martyr Street, Hagatna Guam 96910 | Tel: 671-989-9554 | senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov
Like and follow @senatorduenas

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 14, 2026

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Thu, May 7, 2026 at 9:28 PM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Christopher Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com" <stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com>, "vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com" <vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com>, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 07, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 14, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, May 14, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

FIRST NOTICE - DPHSS.pdf
746K

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 07, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 14, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, May 14, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 14, 2026

PRINT

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 14, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 05/07/2026 09:30 PM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

Public Hearing Date: 05/14/2026 09:00 AM

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 07, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 14, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, May 14, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** **(https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
· Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS)

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 budget hearing, 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.

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 14, 2026

1 message

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Mon, May 11, 2026 at 10:20 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Christopher Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com" <stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com>, "vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com" <vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com>, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 11, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 14, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, May 14, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

SECOND NOTICE - DPHSS.pdf
693K

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Notice of Budget Hearing

Thursday, May 14, 2026, 9:00 A.M.

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, May 14, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Department of Public Health & Social Services (DPHSS)

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

GUAM LEGISLATURE
AUDIO VISUAL DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Office Submitting Request: Senator Chris Dueñas

Date of Request: 05/07/2026

POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Ashley Shinohara Contact #: 671-989-9554

Email: senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS

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

☐ Oversight Hearing ☐ Committee Meeting ☒ Other: Budget Hearing

Notice Title / Bill(s) / Resolution(s) / Appointment:
Department of Public Health & Social Services (DPHSS)

Date of Event: 05/14/2026 Start Time: 9:00 AM AM/PM

End Time: 12:00 PM AM/PM

Location: Public Hearing Room

MEDIA HANDLING

Recording Format: ☒ MP4 ☐ MP3 ☐ Other: _____

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

CERTIFIED BY AV:

Name: Rudy Perez Signature: _____

Posted on/Air Date: 2026-05-07 to 2026-05-14

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 11, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 14, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, May 14, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 14, 2026

PRINT

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 14, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 05/11/2026 10:20 AM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 11, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 14, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, May 14, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** **(https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS)

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 budget hearing, 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.

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

BUDGET HEARING AGENDA

Thursday, May 14, 2026 – Guam Congress Building

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam – AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

9:00 am:

- Department of Public Health & Social Services (DPHSS)

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

Date: May 14, 2026 Time: 9:00 a.m.

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS. Relative to Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS)

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Katherine Duenas	DPHSS - DEH					✓	
2	Samuel Untalan	DPHSS - DEH	300-9573				✓	
3	Charlene Sanchez	DPHSS - DSC					✓	
4	Theresa C. Arriola	DPHSS - Director	[redacted]				✓	
5	PeterJohn Camacho	DPHSS - Deputy					✓	
6	Heidi Quinata	DPHSS - DCW						
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahån

Date: May 14, 2026 — Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas — Time: 9:00 a.m.

Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS. Relative to Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS)

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	ROB SAN AGUSTIN	DPHSS DYSS	[redacted]	ROBERT.SANAGUSTIN@DPHSS.GUAM.GOV			✓	
2	Francine Salas	DPHSS/DPW						
3	Catherine P. Duncan	DPHSS - DPH	(671) 300 6213	catherine.duncan@dphss.guam.gov				
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								

MAY 14

FY27 GUAM DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN - 38TH GUAM LEGISLATURE PRESENTATION

20
26

Director Theresa C. Arriola, MBA
Deputy Director PeterJohn D. Camacho, MPH

Department of Public Health and Social Services
Seven (7) Divisions and Division Chiefs

DIVISION / LOCATIONS	NAME / TITLE
Division of Children's Wellness (DCW) Castle Mall, Mangilao Terlaje Building, Hagatna I Guma Mina'ase Alee Shelter I Alee Shelter II Guma San Jose	Heidi J. Quinata Chief Children's Services Administrator
Division of Environmental Health (DEH) Hesler Building, Hagatna Guam Environmental Public Health Lab, Dededo	M. Thomas Nadeau, MS Chief Environmental Public Health Officer
Division of General Administration (DGA) Hesler Building, Hagatna Terlaje Building, Hagatna	Joaquin R. Blaz Acting Chief of General Administration
Division of Homelessness Assistance and Poverty Prevention (DHAPP) MInsitry to the Homeless Soup Kitchen (former Kamalen Karidat), Hagatna	Robert San Agustin Acting Chief of Homelessness Assistance and Poverty Prevention

Department of Public Health and Social Services
Seven (7) Divisions and Division Chiefs

DIVISION / LOCATIONS	NAME / TITLE
Division of Public Health (DPH) Hesler, Building, Hagatna Terlaje Building, Hagatna ITC Building, Tamuning RanCare , Tamuning Castle Mall, Mangilao Tiyan, Barrigada Northern RCHC, Dededo Southern RCHC, Inalahan WIC Clinic, Santa Rita	Catherine P. Angcao , CPMA Chief Public Health Officer
Division of Public Welfare (DPW) RanCare , Tamuning Castle Mall, Mangilao Northern RCHC, Dededo Southern RCHC, Inalahan	Francine B. Salas Chief Human Services Administrator
Division of Senior Citizens (DSC) Castle Mall, Mangilao	Charlene D. San Nicolas, MPA Senior Citizens Administrator

Department of Public Health and Social Services
Enabling Statute, Mission and Vision Statement

Enabling Statute

DPHSS was created by 5 GCA, Government Operations, Chapter 3, Department's of the Government, Article 1, §3111, DPHSS.

Mission Statement

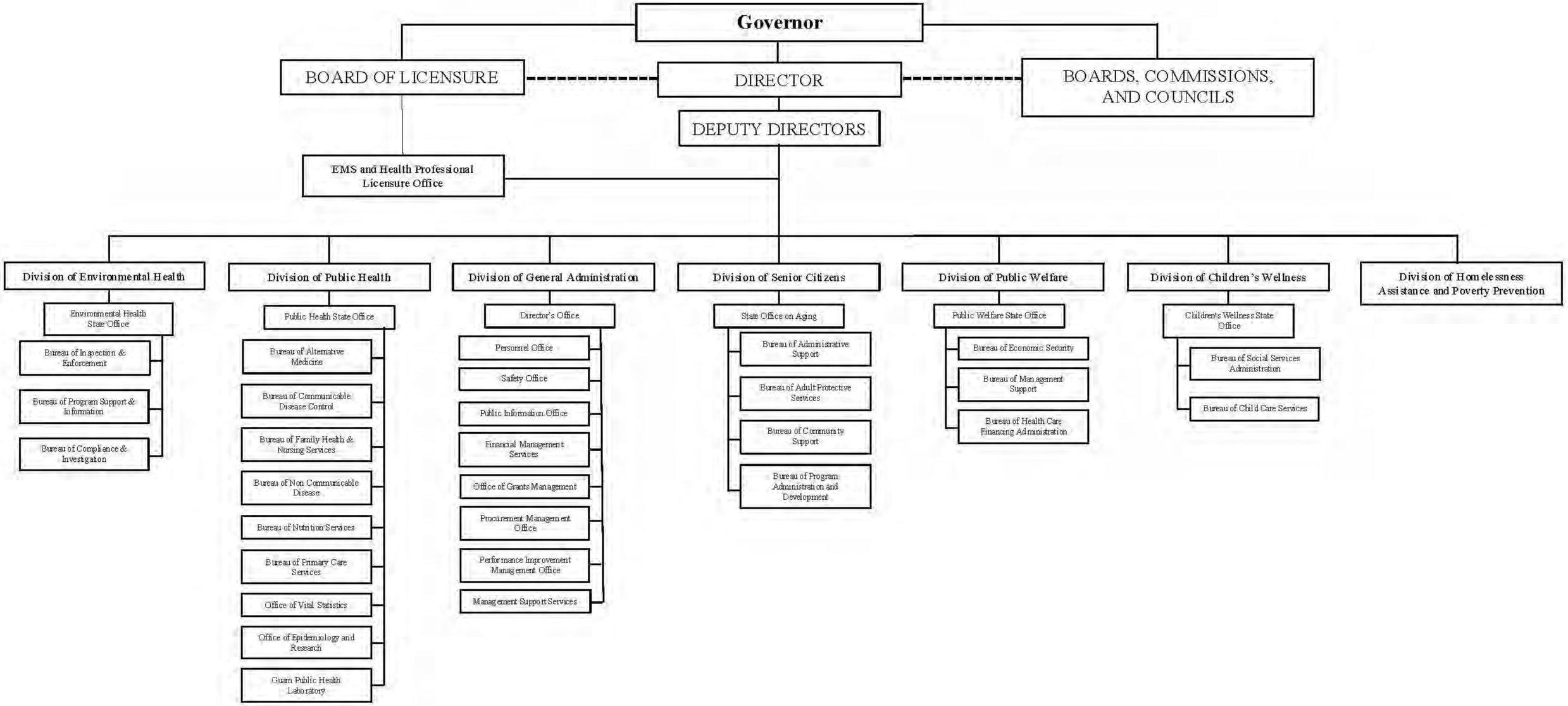
To assist the people of Guam in achieving and maintaining their highest levels of independence and self -sufficiency in health and social welfare.

Vision Statement

A community of empowered individuals with healthy minds and bodies, thriving in a safe and nurturing environment across every stage of life.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Department of Public Health and Social Services
FY27 Budget Request by Division

Division	Personnel	Operations	Total
Division of General Administration	$2,040,804	$2,614,803	**$4,655,607**
Division of Public Health	$3,003,270	$1,535,672	**$4,538,942**
Division of Public Welfare	$9,852,577	$222,779,626	**$232,632,203**
Division of Homelessness Assistance and Poverty Prevention	$533,545	$575,019	**$1,108,564**
Division of Environmental Health	$2,827,518	$330,216	**$3,157,734**
Division of Children's Wellness	$3,247,445	$9,840,672	**$13,088,117**
Division of Senior Citizens	$1,292,192	$13,014,886	**$14,307,078**
TOTAL	**$22,797,351**	**$250,690,894**	**$273,488,245**
Supplemental Match Request (DPW: Medicaid CAP)	-	**$918,000**	**$918,000**
Supplemental Match Request (DPW: Medicaid APDs)	-	**$1,870,667**	**$1,870,667**
TOTAL	**$22,797,351**	**$253,479,561**	**$276,276,912**

FY2027 Budget FTEs	Count
Classified	260
Unclassified	43
TOTAL	**303**

Division of General Administration



Division of General Administration – Topics of Interest

- **DPHSS One Space :** Purchase Orders awarded for Division of Public Health and Division of Public Welfare . An Invitation for Bid (IFB) will be pursued for the remaining divisons .

- **Increments :** 98 .69 % Completion/Current Rate as of March 2026 .

- **Prior Year Obligations :** All Divisions are working on ensuring all invoices for prior years are paid in this fiscal year .

Division of General Administration - Budget Request Summary

FY27 Overall Budget Request By Funding Source

Funding Source	Budget Amount
General Fund Director's Office Financial Management Services Management Support Services	$3,922,087
Special Fund Health Professional Licensing Office Revolving Fund	$733,520
FY27 Total Budget Request	**$4,655,607**

FY27 Personnel Breakdown

Type	Count
Unclassified	8
Classified	8
Vacant Funded	7
Total Positions	**23**

FY27 Operational Cost Breakdown

Cost Area	Cost Amount	% of Cost
Personnel	$2,040,804	44%
Operations	$2,614,803	56%
FY27 Total Cost	**$ 4,655,607**	**100%**

FY27/FY26 Year Over Year Variance

FY26 Authorized Level	FY27 Governor's Request	Variance	% Variance
$4,697,468	**$4,655,607**	**-$41,861**	**-0.89%**

FY26 Fund Utilization
(as of March 2026)

Authorized Level	Expenditures	Encumbrances	Exp + Enc	% Used
$3,975,143	$964,743.96	$711,665	**$1,676,408.96**	**42%**

Division of General Administration – Overview

Mission Statement

The mission of the Division of General Administration is to provide department wide administrative support functions to the Divisions.

The Division of General Administration (DGA) serves as the central administrative hub of the department, overseeing critical operational functions such as human resources, finances, procurement, compliance, and performance improvement .

Offices :

- Director's Office, Personnel Office, Safety Office, Public Information Office, Financial Management Services, Office of Grants Management, Procurement Management Office, Performance Improvement Management Office, Management Support Services, and Health Professional Licensing Office.

Programs :

- The Strengthening Guam DPHSS Infrastructure, Workforce, and Data Systems, also known as the **Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG)** is an opportunity for the DPHSS to invest in its workforce, foundational capabilities, and data systems. PHIG's mission is to improve public health outcomes by strengthening the public health infrastructure and workforce. As of this reporting period, the total amount received in PHIG funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is **$11690 ,181** for a period of five years (December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2027) to support **Strategy A1 Workforce Development , Strategy A2 Foundational Capabilities, and Strategy A3 Data Modernization** .

- The **Health Professional Licensing Office (HPLO)** protects, promotes, and advocates for the health and safety of the community by pursuing the highest quality of care through education, communication, licensing, legislation, and enforcement.

Division of General Administration – Accomplishments & Initiatives

Accomplishments

- **PHIG** submitted its application for **initial accreditation** to the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) on November 30, 2025, with the goal of achieving full accreditation by June 2027. PHAB approved the application on December 1, 2025.
- **HPLO** successfully implemented **online theory testing** (October 2024) and **practical examinations** (August 2025) for the **Guam Board of Barbering and Cosmetology**. Furthermore, HPLO has successfully administered multiple **Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Examinations**, achieved **100% digital broadcast rate** for all board meetings to ensure public transparency, and transitioned to **digital licensing,** successfully reducing wait times and allowing licensees to begin working immediately upon approval.

Initiatives

- **DPHSS is updating 8 major departmental plans:**
  - Community Health Assessment
  - Community Health Improvement Plan
  - Organizational Strategic Plan
  - Performance Management System
  - Workforce Development Plan
  - Quality Improvement Plan
  - Emergency Operation Plan
  - Continuity of Operations Plan
- **HPLO** is also working to roll out **online applications for eight (8) additional boards** and plans to **launch the Pediatric Readiness Recognition for Guam with the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA).**

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN - 38TH GUAM LEGISLATURE PRESENTATION

Division of Public Health

Division of Public Health – Topics of Interest

What is the status of the capital improvement projects (CIP) of th Division of Public Health?

- Ribbon cutting of the new Guam Public Health Laborator and Training (GPHTL) Facility in Mangilao is scheduled for July 31, 2026. The facility w serve as a regional hub for laboratory services and training.
- Expansion of the Northern Region Community Health Center (NRCHC) bega construction in January 2026, with target completion June 15, 2026. The expansion w create a new secured main entrance for the center, a modernized lobby and patien waiting area, an upgraded registration area for streamlined check-ins and a dedicated medical records office.

How many healthcare providers at the Community Health Centers (CHCs)?

- Currently, CHCs have 17 healthcare providers which consist of 1 OB GYN, 3 family medicine, 2 internal medicine, 6 pediatricians, 1 nurse midwife 3 nurse practitioners and 1 clinical psychologist.

What steps have the Community Health Centers taken toward achieving autonomy under Public Law 38-97?

- CHC Board is preparing to approve the CFO job description.
- Developing business and financial processes and systems to support an autonomous infrastructure.

Division of Public Health – Topics of Interest (Cont.)

- **What are the Operational Hours of CHCs?**
  - The Northern Community Health Center is open from 8am to 5pm, Monday Saturday . The Southern Region Community Health Center is open from 8am to 5pm Monday – Friday .

- **When will the Southern Region Community Health Center provide Urgent Care Services?**
  - The SRCHC currently does not provide Urgent Care services because we operate under HRSA's approved scope of work which prioritizes primary , preventive, and chronic care only . We may include Urgent Care Services in the next grant application period in 2027 .

- **What is the status of Specialty Clinics services that previously operated at the former DPHSS facility in Mangilao?**
  - The specialty clinics for tuberculosis, leprosy, sexually transmitted dieseases, HIV maternal and child health, and maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting ar currently servicing out of the Northern Region Community Health Center .

Division of Public Health - Budget Request Summary

FY27 Overall Budget Request By Funding Source

Funding Source	Budget Amount
General Fund	$4,317,907
Special Fund Office of Vital Statistics	$221,035
FY27 Total Budget Request	**$4,538,942**

FY27 Operational Cost Breakdown

Cost Area	Cost Amount	% of Cost
Personnel	$3,003,270	66%
Operations	$1,535,672	34%
FY27 Total Cost	**$ 4,538,942**	**100%**

FY27 Personnel Breakdown

Type	Count
Unclassified	8
Classified	34
Vacant Funded	10
Total Positions	**52**

FY27/FY26 Year Over Year Variance

FY26 Authorized Level	FY27 Governor's Request	Variance	% Variance
$3,853,326	**$4,538,942**	**$685,616**	**18%**

FY26 Fund Utilization
(as of March 2026)

Authorized Level	Expenditures	Encumbrances	Exp + Enc	% Used
$3,853,326	$1,497,139	$150,105	**$1,647,245**	**43%**

Division of Public Health – Overview

Mission Statement

The mission of the Division of Public Health is to preserve, promote, and improve the health and well -being of populations, communities, and individuals through prevention, education, surveillance, treatment, and regulation.

- Administers preventive and primary care services such as immunizations, family planning, tuberculosis (TB) screening, diagnosis, treatment and control, Hansen's disease (Leprosy) diagnosis, treatment and control, STD/HIV screening and treatment, breast and cervical cancer screenings, and maternal, infant and early childhood home visits .

- Administers the WIC Program which provides nutrition services to pregnant, post - partum and breastfeeding women as well as infants and children under 5 years of age who are at nutritional risk .

- Oversees the Guam AIDS Drugs Assistance Program (ADAP) which is authorized under Part B of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 2006 .



Division of Public Health – Overview (Cont.)

- Conducts disease surveillance, epidemiological investigations, and make appropriate recommendations for mitigating the impact of illnesses to prevent or promptly control epidemic outbreaks .

- Promotes the reduction and elimination of racial and ethnic health and wellness disparities by supporting and advocating for improved services to minority and marginalized communities such as the immigrating people from neighboring islands, veterans, the homeless, the LGBT communities, and people at risk for sexual violence and cancer survivors .

- Custodian of vital records such as birth, death, and marriage certificates, adoption and marriage licenses .

- Manages the Medical Cannabis Program which allows the beneficial use of medical cannabis in a regulated system for alleviating symptoms caused by debilitating medical conditions and their medical treatment .



Division of Public Health - Typhoon Sinlaku Emergency Plan in Action

- **Bureau of Primary Care Services (BPCS) aka Community Health Centers (CHCs)**
  - NRCHC was open 24 hours during typhoon Sinaklu starting from COR2 to COR1
  - From April 20 – 30, 2026, NRCHC extended clinic hours from Monday to Friday, 5pm to 9pm, and SRCHC on Saturdays, 8am to 5pm.
  - NRCHC healthcare staff rendered acute care services at Tier II Shelter (Yigo Gym) **49 patients seen from April 20 – 21, 2026 (including follow -up).**
  - Joined Immunization Program Outreach at the Mall in April 24, 2026. **Assisted a total of 41 patients.**

- **Bureau of Family Health and Nursing Services (BFHNS)**
  - Collaborated with American Red Cross (ARC) in assessing the medical and social needs of Tier II shelter residents. **2,818 Residents assessed from April 17 - May 1, 2026 (duplicate count).**
  - Required prescriptions, laboratory tests, Medicaid application, WIC eligibility and shelter assistance were coordinated with CHC healthcare providers, GPHL staff, Division of Public Welfare, WIC program and Division of Homelesness Assistance and Poverty Prevention, respectively.

Division of Public Health - Typhoon Sinlaku Emergency Plan in Action (Cont.)

- **Bureau of Communicable Disease Control (BCDC) with support from DPH Programs Staff**
  - **April 23, 2026**: Pertussis & Flu Immunization Outreach at Tier II Shleter (Yigo Gym). **40 total patients screened, and 31 total patients immunized.**
  - **April 24, 2026:** Child Immunization Outreach at Micronesia Mall. **63 total patients screened, and 63 total patients immunized.**

Division of Public Health – Accomplishments

- **Guam Public Health Laboratory (GPHL)**
  - **February 26, 2026:** Commissioning Planning kick-off meeting for new Public Health Laboratory and Training Facility. Scheduled to open Summer 2026.
  - **March 27, 2026:** Established the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) and Laboratory Data Exchange (LDX) Coordination Group
  - **July 2025 to April 2026:** CDC National Surveillance Cooperation for Local Specimens
- **Office of Vital Statistics (OVS)**
  - **January 2026:** Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) Project Implementation (Supported by Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Data Modernization Initiative (DMI) funds)
- **Bureau of Alternative Medicine (BAM)**
  - **January 29, 2026:** Held Guam's First Cannabis Policy Summit
  - Assisted the Issuance of Guam's First Cannabis Establishment License
  - **April 8-10, 2026:** Presentation of Guam Childhood Lead Poisoning and Prevention Program at Regional Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention (CLPP) Engagement Meeting in Hawaii
- **Bureau of Communicable Disease Control (BCDC)**
  - **The Tuberculosis Program contained a Multi-Drug Resistant outbreak and completed treatment of two pediatric MDRTB patients (first time in Guam).**
  - Guam selected to host the Pacific Island Tuberculosis Controllers Association Conference, last time Guam hosted was in 2009 (after 17yrs)
  - Advance notice of new school vaccine requirement HPV vaccine to be implemented in SY2027-2028
  - **Aug. 26-29, 2025:** Hosted a full scale Regional Health exercise "Fire on the Horizon"
  - **January 6 – 8, 2026:** Regional Disease Conference, "Guarding the Pacific in the Age of Avian Influenza"



Division of Public Health – Accomplishments (Cont.)

- **Bureau of Family Health and Nursing Services (BFHNS)**
  - Successfully advance through Phase 1 of the Home Visiting Program Re-Accreditation, demonstrating readiness, adherence to national standards, and commitment to continuous quality improvement .
- **Bureau of Non-Communicable Diseases (BNCD)**
  - **DPHSS Mobile Clinic Village Outreach started October of 2025 –** Yona, Agana Heights, Talofofo, and Piti
- **Bureau of Nutrition Services (BNS) aka WIC**
  - Achieved 99% satisfaction in the WIC FY2025 survey .
  - **Sustained increase of Breastfeeding Rate from FY2024 of 63% to FY2025 of 64.2%.**
  - Telehealth services for nutrition education and other services
- **Bureau of Primary Care Services (BPCS) aka Community Health Centers (CHCs)**
  - **Onboarded 5 healthcare providers since July 2025, including Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Psychology, Family Medicine, and OB-GYN.**
  - Implemented PrimeRx pharmacy software in December 2025 to modernize pharmacy operations, strengthen 340B compliance, and improve medication access.
- **Office of Epidemiology and Research (OER)**
  - Completing Guam's 4th Post-Graduate Certificate in Field Epidemiology cohort . 10 this cohort, to date 29 completed .
  - Collaborated with National Governor's Association (NGA) amd Johns Hopkins Center for Outbreak Response Innovation Policy Academy in developing Guam Field Epidemiology Outbreak Manual
  - Supported the development of "Health Islands Vision 2050".

Division of Public Health – Initiatives

- **Guam Public Health Laboratory (GPHL)**
  - **Opening of new Guam Public Health Training & Laboratory Facility Summer 2026**
    - Serving as the local and Micronesian regional hub for public health laboratory operations and training for laboratory staff from Micronesia and students from Guam .

- **Office of Epidemiology and Research (OER)**
  - Propose amendment of law governing reportable diseases (Pending AG's response since Januaury 2025).
  - Ongoing project of the statistical data gathering for the OVS annual publication .

- **Office of Vital Statistics (OVS)**
  - Implementation of Electronic Death Registry System starting with Fetal Death Registry with target Go Live in June 2026 .
  - Publication of Comprehensive Civil Registrations and Vital Statistics (CRVS) 1998 to 2023 with support from the Office of Epidemiology and Research (OER) - ongoing .

- **Bureau of Alternative Medicine (BAM)**
  - Implementation of Comprehensive Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Plan by September 2026 .

Division of Public Health – Initiatives (Cont.)

- **Bureau of Communicable Disease Control (BCDC)**
  - Influenza A/H5N1 (Bird Flu) Response – Ongoing
  - Proposed amendment of law governing Guam Immunization Registry pending legislative response
  - Pertussis Immunization Outreaches from May to June 2026

- **Bureau of Primary Care Services (BPCS) aka Community Health Centers (CHCs)**
  - New Electronic Health Record (EHR) System with August 2026 go live target
  - Telehealth development initiative to improve access to health care across Guam
  - Integrated primary care and behavioral health services
  - Operational readiness for CHC autonomy

Division of Public Welfare

Division of Public Welfare – Topics of Interest

What is the financial impact of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act for DPW?

- For FY27, the SNAP Administrative costs will be covered by the federal government at 25%. Local share will increase to 75% from 50% (approximately $1.7 million increase).

What is the status of implementing the SNAP Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) waiver changes?

- DPW is prepared to be fully compliant with Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) requirements related to the ABAWD waiver changes by June 1, 2026, including completed staff training and creation of communication materials for program participants.

How is DPW improving responsiveness and communication with clients?

- As of April 2026, the email backlog is zero, and inquiries are responded to within two business days. DPW is committed to improving client responsiveness through implemented standardized communication procedures, including a centralized BES email inbox and phone line.

When will the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) be available to the public?

- D-SNAP activation is contingent on approval of a Major Disaster Declaration and subsequent FNS waiver approval. DPW is actively preparing to implement benefits for eligible non-SNAP households as soon as the declaration is approved and FNS authorizes the waiver.

Division of Public Welfare – Topics of Interest (Cont.)

What is the Food Loss Affidavit (FLA)?

- DPW received approval from FNS to implement the Food Loss Affidavit (FLA) benefit and collected affidavits from May 11 to May 14 to support eligible households in replacing additional disaster-related food losses, up to the full monthly SNAP allotment .
  - May 11-12 Stats: 640 in-person affidavits received; 402 processed; 168 approved; 230 denied; 4 pending (exceeded threshold, request was less than AMR received, did not receive AMR, etc.)
  - May 11-12 Stats: 600+ email inquiries and affidavits received

Are provider and pharmacy payments current?

- Yes. As of April 30, 2026, 100% of clean claims have been paid to medical and pharmacy providers.

What is the Medicaid CAP for Fiscal Year 2027?

- The Medicaid CAP for FY2027 is $150,980,000 which is a $5.4M increase from last year (Notice of territorial cap received April 22, 2026, requiring 17%/$918,000 of additional local match).

Division of Public Welfare – Topics of Interest (Cont.)

What is the status of Summer EBT?

- DPW anticipates launching Summer EBT between June and July 2026, pending receipt of the remaining grant award, which is 100% federally funded .

What is the status of the Integrated Eligibility & Enrollment (IE&E) system procurement?

- DPW's procurement of the IE&E system is under review with CMS, FNS, and Guam AG, and is anticipated to be advertised in early fall 2026.

What actions has DPW taken to strengthen program integrity and audit readiness?

- Establish a dedicated Program Integrity unit focused on fraud, waste, and abuse .
- Strengthen audit and oversight functions through defined methodologies and improve audit readiness .
- Expand data analytics and monitoring to improve visibility into program activity .

Division of Public Welfare - Budget Request Summary

FY27 Overall Budget Request By Funding Source	
Funding Source	**Budget Amount**
General Fund (Local Funds Sub-Total)	$ 44,166,620
Federal Grants in Aid (Match)	$ 188,465,584
FY27 Total Budget Request	**$ 232,632,203**
Supplemental Match Request (Medicaid CAP)	**$918,000**
Supplemental Match Request (APDs)	**$1,870,667**
FY27 Total Budget Request	**$235,420,870**

FY27 Personnel Breakdown	
Type	**Count**
Unclassified	6
Classified	105
Vacant Funded	25
Total Positions	**136**

FY27 Operational Cost Breakdown		
Cost Area	**Cost Amount**	**% of Cost**
Personnel	$ 9,852,577	4%
Operations	$ 222,641,676	96%
FY27 Total Cost	**$ 232,632,203**	**100%**

FY27/FY26 Year Over Year Variance			
FY26 Authorized Level	**FY27 Governor's Request**	**Variance**	**% Variance**
$41,000,000	**$44,166,620**	**3,166,619**	8%

FY26 Fund Utilization (as of April 2026)				
Authorized Level	Expenditures	Encumbrances	**Exp + Enc**	**% Used**
$41,000,000	$21,731,000	$2,728,648	**$24,459,647**	60%

Division of Public Welfare – Overview

Mission Statement

The Division of Public Welfare (DPW) is dedicated to supporting Guam's most vulnerable populations by delivering essential services that promote health, stability, and self-sufficiency. DPW administers a range federally and locally funded programs and is structured to ensure effective oversight, policy development, a service delivery through its central state office and three specialized bureaus, with a focus on efficiency throu people, process, and technology.

STATE OFFICE	BUREAU OF ECONOMIC SECURITY (BES)	BUREAU OF MANAGEMENT SUPPORT (BMS)	BUREAU OF HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION (BHCFA)
Leads Bureaus across the division, driving strategic planning, policy development, and financial performance	Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) Eligibility Medicaid Application TANF and SNAP E&T Cash Assistance Program (CAP) *Temporary Asst. for Needy Families (TANF)* *Old Age Assistance (OAA)* *Aid to the Blind (AB)* *Aid to the Perm. & Totally Disabled (APTD)* *General Asst. (GA)*	SNAP Quality Control and Management Reviews Fair Hearings (Appeals) Investigations and Claims	Medicaid Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Medically Indigent Program (MIP) Enhanced Allotment Plan Program

Division of Public Welfare – Operational Snapshot

Clients

41,865
Medicaid Clients

119
MIP Clients

36,390
SNAP Clients (Households)

1,562
Cash Clients

Expenditures

FY25*

$4.1M Federal	Medicaid – Admin/MMIS	$3.7M Local
$185.6M Federal	Medicaid - Benefits	$27.9M Local
- Federal	MIP	$1.5M Local
$3.9M Federal	SNAP - Admin	$2.1M Local
$134.8M Federal	SNAP - Assistance	- Local
$892K Federal	Cash - Admin	$41K Local
$1.2M Federal	Cash - Benefits	$1.3K Local

*Actual expenditures for full fiscal year

Expenditures

FY26**

$5.8M Federal	Medicaid – Admin/MMIS	$2.1M Local
$117.5M Federal	Medicaid - Benefits	$15.9M Local
- Federal	MIP	$1.7M Local
$1.2M Federal	SNAP - Admin	$1.2M Local
$92M Federal	SNAP - Assistance	- Local
$621K Federal	Cash - Admin	$204K Local
$971K Federal	Cash - Benefits	$627K Local

**through April 2026

Division of Public Welfare - Typhoon Sinlaku Emergency Plan in Action

- DPW issued SNAP Automated Mass Replacement (**AMR**) benefits on April 24, 2026, providing eligible SNAP households with 63% of their monthly allotment to rapidly address food loss.
  - **$7 million** additional circulating in our economy
- DPW received approval from FNS to implement the **SNAP Food Loss Affidavit** (FLA) benefit and collected affidavits from May 11 to May 14 to support eligible SNAP households in replacing additional disaster-related food losses, up to the full monthly SNAP allotment.
- CMS **approved** Emergency Advanced Planning Document, which will provide **$15M** in federal funds and requires $385,000 in local match. Local match has been approved by the Governor's Office to come from Sinlaku Emergency Appropriations Fund.
- Pharmacies were able to reopen promptly and process prescription needs for Medicaid members with minimal disruption due to Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM).
- DPW is leveraging CMS emergency waivers and flexibilities to extend application and renewal processing times for Medicaid beneficiaries and expanding access to help ensure all eligible individuals receive benefits.
- **Pending** : DPW is actively preparing for Disaster SNAP (D-SNAP) activation, pending Major Disaster Declaration, to provide benefits to eligible non-SNAP households impacted by the disaster. Readiness efforts include staffing, system configuration, and coordinated benefit delivery.

Division of Public Welfare – Accomplishments (NEW September 2025 t

People

- Initiated succession planning activities to prepare for leadership transitions, mitigate knowledge loss, and ensure continuity of operations in critical roles.
- Provided staff at all levels with division-wide accountability training as a targeted investment in professional development, strengthening staff performance, ownership, and consistency across programs.

Process

- **Improved SNAP application processing timeliness** by 36% (from 43% to 79%) since January 2025, reflecting sustained operational improvements.
- Continued workload management to reduce backlogs and manage increasing application and change report volumes. Backlog of new applications and recertifications has decreased by approximately 84% (from 510 to 84) over the past 12 months.
- **Strengthened customer communication practices** through SOPs, staff training, and a centralized email and phone line.
- Developed staff resources and public-facing materials to prepare for ABAWD waiver changes, strengthening staff readiness and ensuring consistent communication with program participants.
- **Recovered $163,268 in SNAP and Cash Assistance Program funds** in FY26 through internal investigation auditing.

Division of Public Welfare – Accomplishments (NEW September 2025 t

Technology

- **Implemented the Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM) system** on September 1 2025, enabling centralized pharmacy claims processing, prior authorizations, and enhanced cost management oversight.
  - Estimated annual savings: **15%**
  - Estimated Medicare Part D Savings: **$540 ,000**
- **A first for Guam, $1.7M was generated** in program rebates by leveraging the new PBM, expanding the cap by $1.7M.
- **Improved access to affordable medications** for Medicaid members on and off island through the PBM system, enhancing coverage availability and cost savings.
- **Developed a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a modern IE&E system** and submitted it to FNS and CMS for review.
- Met CMS Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System (T-MSIS) reporting requirements and submitted consistent Medicaid and CHIP data since July 2024, **becoming the third U.S. territory to achieve compliance to maximize program integrity .**

Division of Public Welfare – Modernization Initiatives

Active and In Progress

- Establish Program Integrity Unit addressing fraud, waste, and abuse
- Expand Medicaid access to include coverage for Doula and Home and Community-based services
- PBM Post Implementation: Continued enhancements to operations, workflows, and data
- Enhance health systems interoperability (DPW Multi-Division Collaboration)
- Implement data modernization activities
- Procure and implement integrated eligibility and enrollment system
- Implement emergency response activities and flexibilities to support typhoon recovery

Upcoming

- Request for Proposal for new Integrated Eligibility and Enrollment system
- Enhancements to Program Integrity
- CMS Territory Summit
- Procure and implement claims processing system
- Conduct beneficiary, community, and provider engagement
- Infrastructure enhancements with OTECH to support modernization, continuity of operations, and emergency preparedness
- DPW relocation to Castle Mall, Mangilao
- CMS certification of Pharmacy Benefits Management system

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN - 38TH GUAM LEGISLATURE PRESENTATION

Division of Homelessness Assistance and Poverty Prevention



Division of Homelessness Assistance and Poverty Prevention (DHAPP)

Topics of Interest

- **What is the purpose of DHAPP as a division of DPHSS now?**
  - Per 10 GCA Chapter 17, it is a mandate of Public Health to provide assistance to the homeless. Executive Order 2025-01 created a Division under DPHSS on January 24, 2025. This now appropriately establishes homeless services under DPHSS.
  - DHAPP aligns with the mission of Public Health and provides the services navigation aspect to the existing benefits that DPHSS administers to the most vulnerable residents of Guam .
  - DHAPP has also played a role in the Department's accreditation efforts, upcoming strategic plan and Quality Improvement council .
  - DHAPP also plays an important role in readiness, response and recovery for vulnerable populations during disasters and emergency situations such as Typhoon Sinlaku .

DHAPP – Topics of Interest (Cont.)

- **What is the status of shelters and housing?**
  - Affordable rentals and programs are affected by the market forces and the Administration has increased government inventory to allow for more housing opportunities for the vulnerable populations.

Name	Estimated Opening Date	Acquired Date and Deed	Details	Funding Source	Population Served
Bradley Apartments, Anigua	End of Summer 2026 (Phase 1)	2021, DOA	18 unit - 2BR/1BA. 900sf.	COVID TAP Grant (Federal)	Homeless families, adults
Tamuning Drop In Facility (Iriarte Street)	2027 (Phase 1 Renovation 2026)	Jan 2025, GHURA	4,550 s/f warehouse. Night shelter with day services. 24 -hour facility.	CDBG (Federal)	Street homeless adults
RanCare Residences, Tamuning Adult Transitional Living Home	End of Summer 2026	Pending, DOA	32-unit facility	CDBG (Federal)	Disabled, elderly (55+)
Ministry to the Homeless Soup Kitchen/DHAPP Drop - in Center	Summer 2026	Apr 2024, GHURA	Feeding facility	CDBG	All homeless populations
Guma San Jose, Dededo	End of Summer 2026 (Phase 1)	GHURA/CSS	15-22 bed emergency shelter	CDBG	Homeless families, adults

DHAPP – Overview

Mission Statement

*Decreasing homelessness and poverty on Guam through : **COMPASSION** for our people, **CONNECTION** to services and families, **CULTIVATION** of life skills for resilience against poverty .*

The Government of Guam's lead division for homeless intervention. Created in 2021 and transitioned into a division under the DPHSS in January 2025.

Services currently offered:

- Village Outreach- Intake assessments, Mayor liaisons, food distribution, education/awareness
- Case Management, Homeless Services Navigation and Connections
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)- food commodities distribution
- Domestic Violence (DV HARBORS) Survivor transitional housing program
- SAFEhouse- (Shelter Assistance for Elderly)- Emergency and transitional shelter for elderly street homeless or disabled individuals
- Guam ID for homeless program - Public Law 35-32

DHAPP – Overview (Cont.)

Mission Statement

*Decreasing homelessness and poverty on Guam through : **COMPASSION** for our people, **CONNECTION** to services and families, **CULTIVATION** of life skills for resilience against poverty .*

Services currently offered (continued):

- Storage for essential belongings and vital documents- Assist street homeless protect vital belongings
- Assistance with obtaining documents (Vital Docs, Homeless Mayor's Verification, SS Card)
- Assistance with public health benefits (SNAP, Medicaid, etc...)
- Emergency shelter coordination and shelter referrals to Guam Homeless Coalition Partners
- Housing stability services and eviction mitigation- Advocacy for renters and landlords
- Formal partnerships established: 5 (Guam Homeless Coalition, Dept. of Rev and Tax, Division of Public Welfare, Mayors' Council of Guam, Guam Homeland Security)

DHAPP - Budget Request Summary

FY27 Overall Budget Request By Funding Source	
Funding Source	**Budget Amount**
General Fund (Local Funds Sub-Total)	$ 1,108,564
Federal Grants in Aid (Match)	$ 0
FY27 Total Budget Request	**$ 1,108,564**

FY27 Operational Cost Breakdown		
Cost Area	**Cost Amount**	**% of Cost**
Personnel	$ 533,545	48%
Operations	$ 575.019	52%
FY27 Total Cost	**$ 1,108,564**	**100%**

FY27 Personnel Breakdown	
Type	**Count**
Unclassified	4
Classified	0
Vacant Funded	4
Total Positions	**8**

FY26 Fund Utilization (as of March 2026)				
Authorized Level	Expenditures	Encumbrances	**Exp + Enc**	**% Used**
$1,062,306	$138,326	$42,484	**$180,810**	17%

DHAPP - P.L. 38-60 (Housing, Food, and Medical) $500,000 appropriation for homeless response

Program	Description	Amount
Guam Housing Corporation Emergency Shelters	SAFE House; Elderly/Disabled emergency shelter to prevent hospital discharge into street; emergency displacement shelter for families	$100,000
Guam Homeless Coalition Emergency Housing and shelter	Emergency shelter up to 90 days for displaced households. Operated by Guam Homeless Coalition.	$174,000
DV HARBORS	Domestic Violence Survivor Transitional shelter program. Grant match	$102,000
Vehicles	2 vans, 1 truck to carry out DHAPP mission including limited emergency transportation for appointments (medical, benefits, housing); TEFAP delivery (Feeding) and village outreach	$70,000
Ministry to the homeless feeding	Supporting Ministry to the Homeless feeding mission	$24,000
	Total:	**$500,000**

DHAPP – Typhoon Sinlaku 2026 Response and Recovery

- Worked with Guam Dept of Education in coordinating shelter for unhoused individuals at designated shelter locations.
- Street outreach through Condition of Readiness (COR) 2 to help inform and urge street homeless to avail of emergency shelter for safety and well being.
- Provided food and other needs to emergency shelters for those who did not bring recommended sheltering supplies.
- Coordinated shelter transportation with the village mayors, Dept of Public Works, Guam Regional Transit Authority and law enforcement.
- TEFAP food items distributed to assist those who endured food loss and face food insecurity due to loss of income, food supply or public benefits disruptions.
- Assisted the American Red Cross (ARC) Shelter Response Team (SRT) onsite at Tier 2 shelter with case management and service plan determinations. DHAPP played a crucial role identifying local resources and avenues for the national response ARC volunteers.
- Arranged shelter for vulnerable and elderly individuals at shelter closure.



DHAPP – Typhoon Sinlaku 2026 Response and Recovery (Cont.)

TEFAP Urgent Food Commodity Distributions for Typhoon Affected Households

TOTAL IMPACT : 3,040 Households . 11,060 + adults and children

4,000 commodity bags assembled . Store value per bag : approximately $30. Total food value to affected Guam households : approximately $120,000 .

Date	Location	Total Households	Total Individuals
April 22	Gil Breeze Outreach **100 bags ; 50 cases of water**	35	200+
April 23	Adelup Breezeway	570	2,114
April 24	Micronesia Mall and Northern Public Health	1,681	5,879
April 24	Guam Housing Corporation Lada Gardens Outreach- 100 bags	100	200+
April 25	Inalahan Community Center	257	988
April 29	Yigo Community Center	397	1,678
Total :		**3,040**	**11,060+**

DHAPP – Accomplishments

- **Developed and finalized DHAPP Strategic Plan**, which included the following priorities, in addition to development and implementation of a three-year funding roadmap by October 2026:
  - Organizational Structure and Brand
  - Operations and Service Infrastructure
  - Technical Infrastructure and Reporting
  - Strategic Partnerships
  - Funding and Sustainability

- Establish a presence at the Ministry to the Homeless Soup Kitchen to expand assistance and services navigation for unhoused individuals.

DHAPP Casework Stats	Total
Emergency shelter coordination (Households/Adults/Minors)	12/21/22
Requests for financial assistance to Guam Homeless Coalition (Health Certificates, Clearances, rent and utilities arrears, eviction mitigation)	21
Birth Certificates obtained	29
Mayor Homeless Verification letters	192
DHAPP navigation services - constituent inquiries (Hagatna Soup Kitchen)	**563**

DHAPP - Initiatives

- **S.A.F.E. (Shelter Assistance For Elderly) House** - Lada Estates, Dededo- 4BR/1BA house. Transitional shelter for fully independent homeless elderly (60+) or disabled individuals who are in a hospital and can be discharged. Shelter to avoid discharge to the streets, assist recovery and case management to connect all eligible services with hopeful transition to permanent housing. Have sheltered 7 elderly individuals in FY26. Two (2) GMH social cases entered into shelter in January 2026 saving GMH approximately ***$3,500 per bed per day. Estimate to date= Over $500,000 in potential hospital costs saved.*** Additional savings by mitigating constant emergency room visits by sheltered individuals. Funded by Public Law 37-125.

- **Ministry to the Homeless Feeding Support** - Providing feeding support and water for non-sponsored nights at the Hagatna Soup Kitchen. FY26= **14 feedings** to date. **1,155 meals** provided. Funding source- Public Law 37-125.

- **TEFAP (The Emergency Food Program) -** Transitioned from GDOE March 2025. Provides supplemental food security for eligible households (SNAP/TANF recipients or income qualified). **USDA has complimented DHAPP for bringing in fresh produce, which was never done by previous TEFAP operator .**

DHAPP - Initiatives (Cont.)

- **Bradley Apartments (Anigua)** - Anticipated date of opening: Phase 1 August 2026. 18-unit complex. Goal: Family reunification where parents or household is justice involved and a steady home is needed for reunification.

- **RanCare Residences :** 32-unit apartment facility for elderly, independent individuals who face unstable housing due to need of care, lack family support and housing options. Renovations in process and full completion anticipated by the end of FY26.

- **DV H.A.R.B.O.R.S. (Healing And Recovery Based On Resilient Supports)** - HUD Continuum of Care grant award for housing and recovery program for survivors of domestic abuse. Transitional housing and case management for domestic violence survivors. Currently 2 domestic violence survivor households participating. Capacity= up to 10 households.

- **Bed At Night/Drop in shelter** - 4,500 sq foot, 24-hour facility. Daytime wraparound services and night shelter for street homeless. Estimated renovation start end of FY26 through the GHURA "Fix in Six" Program.

- **Current unhoused count** - Point in Time 2026 from Guam Homeless Coalition. Preliminary count for FY26= 849 (not yet confirmed by HUD). FY25- 861.

Division of Environmental Health



Division of Environmental Health – Topics of Interest

What is the status of school inspections?

- **DEH is on track to complete inspections of GDOE schools** before its Sanitary Permits expire
- Inspection schedule of GDOE schools has been established and provided to GDOE
  - Order of inspection based on expiration date of Sanitary Permit
  - GDOE comments and requests incorporated whenever possible
- FY 2026 results:
  - No. of schools inspected (as of April 2026): 17
  - No. of schools pending inspection for fiscal year: 19
  - Not included in count:
    - FBLG and SSHS undergoing renovation/construction
    - Chief Brodie and LBJES were decommissioned
    - JP Torres housed within Tiyan HS
- Top 5 Violations by Categories:
  - FY 2025: Windows; Exits Doors; Walls & Ceilings; Air Temp. & Humidity; and Lighting
  - FY 2026: Walls & Ceilings; Windows; Exits Doors; Facilities & Equipment; and Air Temp. & Humidity

Division of Environmental Health – Topics of Interest (Cont.)

How are sanitation inspections going?

- Pursuant to P.L. 37-87, Sanitation Inspections of ~3,000 Regulated Establishments are Conducted Based on Risk and Available Resources:
  - oFrequency directly proportional to the risk
    - ▪Establishments posing greatest risk of harm is to be inspected more frequently
  - oRisk Categories
    - ▪Category 4 (highest risk) to Category 1 (lowest risk)
- Ideal Inspection Frequencies Based on Risk:
  - oCategory 4 (Quarterly)
    - ▪Food establishments for highly susceptible population (HSP) and Childcare Facilities
  - oCategory 3 (Tri-annually)
    - ▪Large pools, wading pools, and food establishments with extensive menu
  - oCategory 2 (Biannually)
    - ▪Most food establishments
  - oCategory 1 (Annually)
    - ▪Cosmetology establishments, Schools, Barracks, Dry-Cleaner, others

Division of Environmental Health – Topics of Interest (Cont.)

How are sanitation inspections going? (cont.)

- Current Inspection Frequencies Based on Available Resources:
  - Establishments catering to Highly Susceptible Population
    - Elderly nutrition and Hospital cafeterias – *Biannually*
    - Childcare Facilities and Nursing Homes – *Biannually*
  - Schools and Workers' Barracks – *Annually*
  - Public complaints – *Triaged*
  - All other remaining establishments - *As resources permit*
- Status of Inspections of Health-Regulated Establishments (HRE)
  - Percentage of HRE not inspected in the last 5 or more years:
    - 67% Food Processors
    - 65% Cosmetology Establishments
    - 63% Swimming Pools
    - 59% Laundromats
    - 59% Eating and Drinking Establishments

Division of Environmental Health - Budget Request Summary

FY27 Overall Budget Request By Funding Source

Funding Source	Budget Amount
General Fund (Local Funds Sub-Total)	$835,031
Special Fund Environmental Health Fund	$1,812,482
Special Fund Sanitary Inspection Revolving Fund	$510,221
FY27 Total Budget Request	**$3,157,734**

FY27 Personnel Breakdown

Type	Count
Unclassified	1
Classified	22
Vacant Funded	13
Total Positions	**36**

FY27 Operational Cost Breakdown

Cost Area	Cost Amount	% of Cost
Personnel	$3,051,456	97%
Operations	$106,278	3%
FY27 Total Cost	**$ 3,157,734**	**100%**

FY27/FY26 Year Over Year Variance

FY26 Authorized Level	FY27 Governor's Request	Variance	% Variance
$2,644,363	**$3,157,734**	**$513,371**	**19%**

FY26 Fund Utilization
(as of March 2026)

Authorized Level	Expenditures	Encumbrances	Exp + Enc	% Used
$2,644,363	$703,068	$0	**$703,068**	**27%**

Division of Environmental Health – Overview

Mission Statement

The mission of the Division of Environmental Health is to serve and protect the people of Guam from environmental hazards and drug diversion through education and the implementation of governing laws designed to prevent injuries, diseases, disabilities, and deaths .

The Division of Environmental Health (DEH) Inspects health-regulated establishments; regulates consumer commodities; issues regulatory permits; provides environmental health education and training; and manages mosquito control, food safety, drug diversion, indoor smoking, and public nuisance.

Oversees island-wide environmental health programs and activities grouped into 7 major functions :

1.Health & Sanitation

- Sanitation inspections of over 3,000 health-regulated establishments to prevent disease transmission

2. Food Safety

- Investigation of foodborne illness complaints and outbreaks; promotion of food

Division of Environmental Health – Overview (Cont.)

3. Consumer Commodities
- Regulation of food, drugs, cosmetics, and medical devices to prevent misbranding and adulteration , and investigating drug misuse/abuse

4. Mosquito Surveillance and Control
- Prevent the importation, establishment, and spread of mosquito - borne diseases (i.e., dengue fever)

5. Counter Service
- Issuance of over 30,000 regulatory permits, certificates, and registrations

6. Radiological Health
- Regulating ionizing radiation emitting devices

7. Education and Awareness
- Environmental health communication and training to the public



Division of Environmental Health – Accomplishments

As of April 30, 2026:

- **Processing Center Section**
  - Issued 21,067 Health Certificates ; 1,542 Sanitary Permits ; and 322 Drug Registrations
  - Over 90% of survey respondents rated customer service as "Excellent"
- **Health & Sanitation**
  - Responded to every public complaint : 86
- **Business License and Permit Center**
  - Expanded to daily service since August 2024
  - Provided 1,551consultations and 735 business clearances
- **Consumer Commodities Program**
  - Partnership with FDA resulting in improved identification of violative commodities
  - 104 detentions involving nearly 162,000 pieces of articles



Division of Environmental Health – Accomplishments (Cont.)

- **Food Safety Program**
  - Coordinates and facilitates Guam Food Safety Advisory Group; comprised of over 20 representatives of the community
  - Trained nearly 4,412 food handlers (as of 4/31/26)
  - **No confirmed foodborne illness outbreak in the last 11 years**
  - Successfully held the island -wide 13th Guam Food Safety Education Month 2025
- **Mosquito Surveillance and Control Program**
  - All imported and locally -transmitted mosquito -borne disease cases successfully contained
  - Weekly trapping and identification of adult mosquitoes from 10 sites

Division of Environmental Health – Accomplishments (Cont.)

- **Continue to Collaborate with GDOE for annual inspections of public schools**
  - Meets and communicates monthly to address inspection status and challenges

- **USFDA partnership still ongoing in preventing the importation of misbranded and adulterated consumer commodities**
  - Still seeing significant number of detention of violative products at ports of entry

- **DEH/DPHSS helps lead Micronesia and the USAPI in mosquito management**
  - DEH chairs Pacific Vector Network (22 Pacific Island Countries and Territories)
  - DEH chairs Pacific Island Vector Management Council (Guam, CNMI, Palau, FSM, RMI, and AS)

Division of Environmental Health – Initiatives

- **Architectural and Engineering Design of Proposed DEH Main Facility completed**
  - Awaiting additional funding
  - Completion date pushed back to 2027

- **Governor's Environmental Health Collaborative Team (UOG, GCC, and DEH) Continue to Meet to Develop Educational Pathway to DEH Employment**
  - GCC planning Associate's Degree in Env. Technology
  - UOG developing environmental health/ science curriculum for Bachelor's Degree



Division of Environmental Health – Initiatives (Cont.)

- **Still Seeking to Adopt Revised Rules and Regulations for School Building, Combined Childcare and Intergenerational Day Care Centers, and Health Certificate**
  - o Pending Economic Impact Statements

- **Implementation of Health Certificate Cosmetic Sanitation Training Course for Employees of Cosmetic Establishments**
  - o Targeting summer of 2026 to implement

- **Initiated Actions for Adoption of 2022 FDA Model Food Code to replace existing code via Guam Food Safety Advisory Group led effort**
  - o Targeting its adoption by end of FY 2027

Division of Children's Wellness



Division of Children's Wellness – Topics of Interest

- **What can families expect when they apply or renew for Child Care Assistance?** Effective January 1, 2026, the Bureau of Child Care Services (BCCS) has reinstated its pre-pandemic standard child care policies for families who apply or renew their Child Care Assistance applications:
  - Families will be responsible to pay tuition overages and co-payments charged by their child care provider.
  - Subsidy payments will only be paid up to the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) maximum rate.
- **What does this mean if I apply for Child Care Assistance before January 1, 2026?** Active certifications will remain exempt from tuition overages and co-payments through December 31, 2025. Updated policy changes took effect beginning January 1, 2026.
- **Are subsidy payments up to date?** BCCS has processed all error-free subsidy payments through March 2026; April payments are scheduled for disbursement in May.



Division of Children's Wellness – Topics of Interest (Cont.)

- **What can delay child care subsidy payments?** Subsidy payment timelines are dependent on several external and internal factors. The most common reasons for a delay include:
  - **Timing of Federal Allotments :** The primary factor, and the cause of recent delays, is the timeline for federal funding releases. BCCS cannot process or disburse any subsidy payments until these federal allotments are officially received. As of today, DPHSS has only received NOA for the 2nd quarter. 3rd quarter has not been received.
  - **Heightened Federal Scrutiny ("Defend the Spend") :** In response to widespread fraud in stateside jurisdictions, federal entities now mandate a "Defend the Spend" policy. This requires an additional, rigorous level of scrutiny and documentation review for all funding requests, which inherently extends the processing timeline.
  - **Standard Processing and Disbursement :** Once federal funds are secured and all compliance checks are satisfied, BCCS conducts an internal review. Approved payment requests are then routed to the respective partner agencies for final disbursement.
- **Are foster care maintenance payments up to date?** Yes, paid up to date as of March 2026. April is in process and will be paid in May.

Division of Children's Wellness – Topics of Interest (Cont.)

- What is the status of your contract for the group homes?

Program	Contract Update
IGM	2/2024 – RFP DPHSS-2024-004 submitted to AG 3/13/25 – Submitted responses to AG inquiries, pending review 1/7/26 – Following a status inquiry, the AG's office reported no record of the RFP submission 1/8/26-5/7/26 – After failed validation attempts, BOSSA updated the RFP for a new submission 5/8/26 – Updated RFP routed for approval and submission to AG's office
ALEE I GSJ	Procurement process in progress. Expected to announce in the next quarter. Currently paying month-to-month.
ALEE II	12/6/24 – RFP DPHSS FY2025-006 submitted to AG 5/8/26 – Re-submitting due to no update on review. Routed for approval and submission to AG's office.

Division of Children's Wellness - Budget Request Summary

FY27 Overall Budget Request By Funding Source	
Funding Source	**Budget Amount**
General Fund	$ 13,088,117
FY27 Total Budget Request	**$ 13,088,117**

FY27 Operational Cost Breakdown		
Cost Area	**Cost Amount**	**% of Cost**
Personnel	$ 3,247,445	25%
Operations	$ 9,840,672	75%
FY27 Total Cost	**$ 13,088,117**	**100%**

FY27 Personnel Breakdown	
Type	**Count**
Classified	21
Unclassified	12
Vacant Funded	0
Total Positions	**33**

FY27/FY26 Year Over Year Variance			
FY26 Authorized Level	**FY27 Governor's Request**	**Variance**	**% Variance**
$13,088,117	**$13,088,117**	**$0**	--

FY26 Fund Utilization (as of March 2026)				
Authorized Level	Expenditures	Encumbrances	**Exp + Enc**	**% Used**
$13,088,117.00	$7,739,879.12	$121,363.08	**$7,861,242.20**	60%

Division of Children's Wellness – Overview

Mission Statement

The mission of the Division of Children's Wellness is to protect and serve the children of Guam, strengthen families, promote access to and maintain quality child care services, assess and provide help for children, and maintain programs that help ensure school readiness.

Bureau of Social Services Administration (BOSSA)

Child Protective Services
Foster Care

DIVISION OF CHILDREN'S WELLNESS
BUREAU OF SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Bureau of Child Care Services (BCCS)

Child Care Assistance
Child Care Licensing

BUREAU OF CHILD CARE SERVICES
DIVISION OF CHILDREN'S WELLNESS

Division of Children's Wellness – Accomplishments

BCCS

Number of Families Receiving Childcare Subsidy	2,097
Number of Children Enrolled in Subsidy Program	3,137
Monthly average costs of childcare subsidy (100% Federal)	$1.9 M
Number of CCDF Licensed Childcare Centers	69
Number of Licensed - Exempt After School Progran Childcare Providers	25
Number of Licensed - Exempt Relative & In - Home Childcare Providers	79

As of April 2026

BOSSA

Number of Referrals Received	1,004	Number of Children in CPS Custody	689
Family Services to prevent CPS Intervention	138	Number of Children in Relative Homes	379
Number of Adoptions	35	Number of Children in Licensed Foster Homes	150
Number of Family Reunifications	16	Number of Children in Non - Relative Homes	51
Monthly Average cost of Foster Care Maintenanc e Payments	$408k	Number of Children in Group Homes	50
Number of Licensed Foster Homes	90	Number of Children in Other Placement (i.e.: institution, off - island)	59

As of April 2026

Division of Children's Wellness – Initiatives

- Deploy a Workforce Needs Assessments to child care providers for targeted training
- Increase the number of high-quality child-care programs in Guam
- Contract services for I Guma Mina'åse, Alee I & II, and Guma San Jose
- Secure Title IV-E federal reimbursements for Foster Care and Adoption
- Develop a Workforce Registry to track provider credentials and support compliance with licensing and CCDF requirements
- Develop a Quality Improvement System (QIS) to enhance child care quality

Division of Senior Citizens



Division of Senior Citizens – Topics of Interest

- **FY2026 Senior Center Operations (SCO)**
  - **DPHSS has fully funded the Senior Center Operations program** under the Mayors' Council of Guam at the approved budget of $1,476,087. As of April 2026 the SCO program expenditures are $494,338 or 33.5%.
- **How many Home-delivered meals were served?**
  - In FY2026, as of March 2026, 240,526 meals have been served to Home-bound clients. The current Home Delivered meals program clients served is at 1,395.
- **Why is there an increase in Contractual Services from $6,991,972 in FY26 to $8,407,862 (increase of 21%) in FY27?**
  - The increase is due to projected operational costs for contracted services in compliance with Guam Public Law 26-111.e Service Contract Act
- **Does the Division of Senior Citizens Pay Family Caregivers?**
  - No, it's not an allowable cost. DISID has an existing family caregiver program.
- **Does the Division of Senior Citizens have a waitlist?**
  - Yes, the In-Home Services waitlist is at 134 as of March 2026. The contracted In-Home services is serving 387 clients from the maximum amount of 400 clients. Medicaid program is exploring Medicaid coverage for this service.

Division of Senior Citizens – Budget Summary

FY27 Overall Budget Request By Funding Source	
Funding Source	**Budget Amount**
General Fund (Local Funds Sub-Total)	$ 10,481,498
Federal Grants in Aid (Match)	$3,825,580
FY27 Total Budget Request	**$ 14,307,078**

FY27 Personnel Breakdown	
Type	**Count**
Unclassified	0
Classified	10
Vacant Funded	5
Total Positions	**15**

FY27 Operational Cost Breakdown		
Cost Area	**Cost Amount**	**% of Cost**
Personnel	$ 1,292,192	9%
Operations	$ 13,014,886	91%
FY27 Total Cost	**$ 14,307,078**	**100%**

FY27/FY26 Year Over Year Variance			
FY26 Authorized Level	**FY27 Governor's Request**	**Variance**	**% Variance**
$12,818,171	**$14,307,078**	**1,488,907**	10%

FY26 Fund Utilization (as of March 2026)				
Authorized Level	Expenditures	Encumbrances	**Exp + Enc**	**% Used**
$9,000,000	$4,981,121	$3,191,688	**$8,172,809**	91%

Division of Senior Citizens – Overview

Mission Statement

The mission of the Division of Senior Citizens is to plan, coordinate, implement and evaluate programs and services, and to identify and leverage all possible resources towards promoting, maintaining and protecting the total well -being of older persons (senior citizens age 60 years and older), while safeguarding their dignity, integrity, independence, values and cultures .

- State Office on Aging
- Bureau of Administrative Support
- Bureau of Program Administration and Development
- Bureau of Adult Protective Services
- Bureau of Community Support

Division of Senior Citizens – Accomplishments

Title III -B Supportive Services		FY2025		FY2026 As of March 2026	
Programs	Vendor	Clients Served	Units	Clients Served	Units
Adult Day Care (3 Sites)	Health Services of the Pacific	95	102,106	89	48,867
Case Management Services	Health Services of the Pacific	2,042	10,641	1,417	5,098
In-Home Services	Health Services of the Pacific	458	29,554	387	14,975
Legal Assistance Services	Guam Public Defender Service Corp.	563	3,125	408	1,875
Senior Center Operations (11 Sites)	Mayor's Council of Guam	835	94,751	780	35,468
Transportation Services Program	Kloppenburg Enterprises, Inc.	273	54,940	356	25,529

Title III -C Elderly Nutrition Program		FY2025		FY2026 As of March 2026	
Programs	Vendor	Clients Served	Meals Served	Clients Served	Meals Served
Congregate Meals (C1)	SH Enterprises, Inc.	919	104,775	724	46,807
Home-Delivered Meals (C2)	SH Enterprises, Inc.	2,189	482,609	1,891	240,526

Title III -E Family Caregiver		FY2025		FY2026 As of March 2026	
Programs	Vendor	Clients Served	Units	Clients Served	Units
National Family Caregiver Support Program	Health Services of the Pacific	240	14,040	186	16,714

Division of Senior Citizens – Accomplishments (Cont.)

Protection and Advocacy	FY2025	FY2026 As of March 2026
Adult Protective Services Referrals	307	296

Information and Assistance	FY2025	FY2026 As of March 2026
Presentations - Contact	43	33
Outreach Activities - Contact	17	30
Medicare Beneficiaries – Contact	478	439
TOTAL	521	472



Division of Senior Citizens – Initiatives

- **Veterans Directed Care (VDC)** – The Division is exploring partnerships with the Veterans Administration to coordinate Veterans Self Directed care services on island.
  - VDC is a home care program that authorizes an annual budget to allow Veterans or an approved Authorized Representative to select and hire their own caregivers/employees to provide Veterans with hands-on personal care services in their home.
  - VDC is an alternative to the Non-institutional Care (NIC) program, which utilizes agency care to provide personal care services to Veterans in their home.
  - The Division will
    - Deliver Client and Home Assessments
    - Provide Person-Centered Counseling services
    - Assist in developing client spend plan



MAY 14

UN DÅNGKULO NA SI YU'OS MA'ÅSE

2026

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

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

In accordance with Section 6.04(c)(1) of the Standing Rules of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* this committee digest provides a *summary* of the public hearing detailed below. To assist the general public in navigating this report please note that all blue-highlighted text contains hyperlinks. Clicking on these links will direct you to the corresponding referenced sections/documents. For any questions or assistance regarding this digest please contact our office at (671) 989-9554 or email us at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov.

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) – COMMITTEE ON RULES BY REQUEST OF I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30 2027 MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

I. OVERVIEW

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) was introduced on **February 2 2026** by **Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* the Governor of Guam in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam** and was subsequently referred by the Committee on Rules to the **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** on **February 3 2026.**

The **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** convened a Public Hearing on Bill No. 266-38 (COR) on **Thursday May 14 2026** at **9:00 AM** in the Guam Congress Building's Public Hearing Room.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Public Hearing Notices were posted to the Government Public Notices Portal and disseminated via electronic mail to all senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on **Thursday May 7 2026** (5-Day Notice) and again on **Tuesday May 12 2026** (48-Hour Notice).

SENATORS PRESENT
Honorable Senator Christopher M. Dueñas, Chairman
Honorable Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane
Honorable Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Honorable Senator Telo T. Taitague
Honorable Senator Therese Terlaje

ORAL TESTIMONY:
Therese Arriola Director DPHSS
Francine Salas, Chief Human Services Administrator, DPHSS
Joaquin Blaz, Acting Chief of General Administration, DPHSS

WRITTEN TESTIMONY:
Therese Arriola Director DPHSS

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The public hearing for **Bill Number 266-38 (COR)** was called to order at **9:07 AM.**

[Questions and Discussion] [*Begins at 00:01:18 and ends at 03:13:41*]

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: *Manana Si Yu'os Todu Hamyu* Mic is not on Good morning good morning. There we go. *Manana Si Yu'os Todu Hamyu*. Thank you very much for being here this morning. Welcome to the 38th Guam Legislature the Guam Congress Building the People's House. This morning's budget hearing is conducted by the Committee on Finance and Government Operations and is called to order at zero nine zero seven this Thursday May 14th 2026.
First notice of this public hearing was disseminated to all senators and media outlets on May 7th 2026 with its second notice disseminated on May 12th 2026. 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 on the agenda BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) – COMMITTEE ON RULES BY REQUEST OF I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30 2027 MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The focus of this hearing this morning is the FY 2027 budget request for Department of Public Health and Social Services. At this time I would like to welcome my colleagues who are joining us this morning. First of all the Chair of Health Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane. Thank you Madam Chair. Also Senator Shawn Gumataotao and Senator Therese Terlaje.

Thank you colleagues for joining. 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 and the nature of the bill that's on the agenda.

Personal inferences to the character or motive of any senator individuals testifying is not permitted. The chairperson of the committee may order the removal from this hearing of any member of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* or public audience who fails to observe proper decorum pursuant to the 38th Guam Legislature's standing rules.

Any violation of this general rule of conduct will result in immediate removal from this public hearing room. With that we'll now proceed to hear testimony on Bill 266-38 COR. I'll recognize the representatives of Department of Public Health and Social Services for their presentation and opening statement.

But prior to that we will have them please rise. Anyone who will be testifying on the bill that's on the agenda the budget please rise to be recognized and sworn in by the sergeant-at-arms. as you know this is customary whenever we're dealing with financial matters.

Yeah. So you may just wanna go ahead and get sworn in.

Yeah. You're you're exempt sir. Don't worry. We recognize that you will be truthful.

Edward Pocaigue, Sergeant-at-arms: Please raise your right hand. Under penalty of perjury do you affirm that any and all information you provide today whether it be verbally electronically and in writing be the truth the whole truth and nothing but, the truth?

Mr. Chair you may proceed.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: *Si Yu'os ma'åse.* And Director Therese Arriola you are recognized to open with any comments that you have as well as your presentation. It looks like a relatively lengthy one so we're \ very happy to get a lot of detail this morning. *Si Yu'os ma'åse.*

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Thank you Chairman Dueñas, Oversight Chair Salas Matanane, Senator Gumataotao, Senator Terese Terlaje. Thank you so much for being here at 9:00 AM. and thank you to everybody my division chiefs who have

joined me as well as Deputy Director Peter John Camacho. I would just like to say *Manana Si Yu'os*.
Thank you very much for having me. I don't have any opening statements other than I have a very robust PowerPoint and hopefully that will answer some of the questions beforehand. And so we can go straight to the presentation.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Certainly. Please proceed.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Thank you. Okay. So it looks like it came through good morning everyone.
I will be presenting on the Department of Public Health and Social Services FY27 budget request to the 38th Guam Legislature. Next slide please. Just a quick overview we do have seven divisions and you do have copies of the slides as well as in the presentation of the overhead. Those are the divisions where they're located and the title of the chiefs.
Division of Children's Wellness Heidi Quinata; Division of Environmental Health Mr. Tom Nadeau; Division of General Admin Kin Blaz; Division of Homelessness and Poverty Prevention Robert San Agustin; Division of Public Health Catherine Ankiau; Division of Public Welfare Francine Salas; and the Division of Senior Citizens Charlene San Nicolas.
This is just our overall enabling legislation. Of course Public Health was created by 5 GCA Government Operations Chapter 3 Department of Government of the Government's Article 1 Subsection 3111 Department of Public Health and Social Services. Our mission is to assist the people of Guam in achieving and maintaining their highest levels of independence and self-sufficiency in health and social welfare. Our vision is to see a community of empowered individuals with healthy minds and bodies thriving in a safe and nurturing environment across every stage of life. Next slide please. Next slide. Yes. This is our organizational chart for you to review. Next slide please. And then we get to the meat of things.
The Department of Public Health and Social Services FY27 budget request by division.
Senators you see a division breakdown of a total of a total request from the general fund of $273,488,245.
The Division of General Admin is four million six fifty-five six O seven. Division of Public Health four million five hundred thirty-eight nine forty-two. The Division of Public Welfare two hundred and thirty-two million six hundred thirty-two two O three. The Division of Homelessness and Poverty Prevention one million one O eight five six four.
The Division of Environmental Health three million one five seven seven three four. Division of Children's Wellness thirteen million zero eight eight one one seven. And

the Division of Senior Citizen fourteen million three O seven O seven eight for a total of two hundred and seventy-three million four hundred and eighty-eight thousand two hundred and forty-five.
You do have additional supplemental requests. I needed to add that in because this is information we received after the budget submission. I'm looking at an additional two million
Seven hundred and eighty-eight thousand six hundred sixty-seven for a grand total request from the general fund of two seventy-six two seven six nine one two
General fund is eight-eighty thousand but, we have a general federal match request
It doesn't,I'm sorry. We don't have that breakdown. It was just the total budget of two hundred seventy-three four eight eight two four five. but, the general fund request is seventy-seven thousand seven hundred and sorry seventy-seven million nine one eight nine eight two four with a supplemental of nine one eight nine hundred and eighteen one million eight seventy-six six seven for a total request of eighty million seven O eight four nine one.
I think that- We can give you a copy of that breakdown. We just showed the general request. So the general fund request again is $80,708,495. Special funds Three two seven seven two five eight with a total of two seventy-three four eight eight two four six. but, we have a supplemental request of nine one eight nine hundred and eighteen thousand for the additional Medicaid cap that came in after the budget was submitted and an additional Medicaid APDs for modernization of one million eight hundred seventy-six six seven for a total request of the general fund of eighty million seven O eight four nine one
And we'll go for- we'll go on
Next slide please. So I'll be going through the divisions and we'll start with the Division of General Administration. Next slide
So I started every division slide with topics of interest or hot topics of interest. And so I wanted to share with the legislature that by the end of this summer purchase orders were awarded and an invitation of bid will be pursued for the remaining divisions. but, public health and social services one space will be moving out of Hessler and we will be at the end of the summer.
An IFB was put out proper responses came in and it's been awarded. And so for everyone's information by the end of summer we will be moving out of Hessler and going to Park Place or One Place across AK Tamuning. And that will be the the department the general-- the director's office as well as the Division of General Admin as well as the Division of Public Health will be coming together. Regarding increments I know it's very important and I've always stated to the team at public health that it's important to pay our s- team and our staff well and on time.
And I'm happy to report that 98% of all increments or work WPPEs are up to date as of March. So we, Staff has been getting their increments when they used to when

they should be. in the past there was some concerns and that's why it's in the topics of interest of the delay of staff increments.
So that has been resolved. Prior year obligation all divisions are working on ensuring that all invoices for prior years are paid in this fiscal year. Next slide please. This again is just the division of general admin. We're looking for this division $4,655,607. The breakdown of unclassified classified and vacant funded are there in the lower block lower left The operational cost breakdown 44% personnel 56% operations.
The variance is a decrease. And to date this fiscal year our burn rate is at 42%. Next slide please
Division of General Administration mission statement of course is to provide the entire department-wide administrative support functions to the divisions the other six divisions. Offices are are identified on the slide all the different programs. One of the main programs is the strengthening of course the infrastructure workforce and data systems in the Division of Administration with the Public Health Infrastructure PHIG grant.
To date we have received eleven million six hundred ninety thousand hundred and eighty-one for the period of five years from '22 to '27. That grant will end in twenty twenty-seven next year November Also HPLO is under our division and of course they are, they're committed to pursuing the highest quality of care through education communication licensing legislation and enforcement for all boards
Next slide please. I've listed the accomplishments and initiatives of this division
I think the most important accomplishment for the division is us seeking accreditation for the department. And we did our initial accreditation we submitted an application in November of twenty twenty-five with the goal of achieving full accreditation by June of next year. PHAB or the Public Health Accreditation Board approved the credit the application in December of twenty twenty-five HPLO successes we've implemented an online theory testing in October of '24 practical exams in October '25 and the Guam Board of Barbering and Cosmetology.
Furthermore HPLO has successfully administered multiple certified nursing assistant CNA examinations achieving a hundred percent digital broadcast rate for all board meetings to ensure public transparency and transitioning to digital licensing. Some of the initiatives they're working on public health is updating eight major departmental plans: community health plan community health assessment plan community health environment improvement plan organizational strategic plan performance management system workforce development plan quality improvement plan emergency operations plan continuity of operations plan.
HPLO is also working to roll out the online applications for eight additional boards and plans to launch the pediatric readiness recognition for Guam with the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority And that concludes the presentation for the Division

of Administration. We will go towards the largest division of the department the Division of Public Health.

Next slide please. Topics of interest for the Division of Public Health I think one of the greatest things we can talk about under the Division of Public Health is the ribbon is the immediate future ribbon-cutting for the Guam Public Health Laboratory and Training Facility located in Mangilao in partnership with Guam University of Guam and we expect a ribbon cutting in July of 2026.

Another CIP project that we're very proud of and happy to realize very soon is the expansion of the Northern Regional Community Health Center. If you've been there lately you will see construction in the be- in the front of the northern clinic and our target is actually next month. It's pretty much there.

Again that will help with the main entrance modernization of the lobby and patient waiting area and upgrading the registration area. So an expansion of the check-ins and medical records office as well. There's always been a question about is there enough healthcare providers at the community health center and I'm proud to announce that the CHC have seventeen healthcare providers to date which consist of one OBGYN, three family medicine, two internal medicine, six pediatricians one nurse midwife, three nurse practitioners and one clinical psychologist.

So the CHC is a very well-rounded well-broad primary care center Also another hot topic or lots of questions come up for us is what's the steps what steps have the community health center have taken towards achieving autonomy under Public Law thirty-eight dash ninety-seven. The community board the community health board is preparing to approve the CFO job description chief financial officer very important to stabilize the funding before they go autonomous and the development of business and financial processes and systems to support an autonomous infrastructure

Next slide please. At one point there was a lot of questions about the opening of the of the CHCs. So just as a plug-in to the to those listening our northern clinic is open eight to five Monday through Saturday and the southern regional community health clinic is open eight to five Monday through Friday.

I should plug in that's not on the slide that we take all insurance except for Medicare which we are applying for and hoping to receive shortly, but, again the notion that the community health center is not for everybody is incorrect. We want the people of Guam to know that the community health centers of the north and south are your community health centers.

If you are looking for a primary care provider or a clinic to call your own please consider the community health centers of the north and south

There's also been discussion about when can the Southern Regional Community Center provide urgent care. Senators currently the Southern Community Health Center does not provide urgent care because we operate under a HRSA-approved scope of work that only prioritizes primary preventive and chronic care.

However we are not closed to it at all and we will include the urgent care services request in the next grant application period in twenty twenty-seven. So hopefully if we get approved we will not only be a primary care center but, also an urgent care center in the next application to HRSA in 2027.
What is the status of specialty clinics services that previously operated at the former public health facility in Mangilao? These are the specialty clinics of tuberculosis leprosy sexually transmitted diseases HIV maternal and child health maternal infant and early child home visiting are all currently serviced out of the Northern Regional Community Health Center.
There is despite the exodus from the Mangilao Center early 2019 maybe 2020 none of the clinical services ever went away. We have always continued to provide those services just in the different location and that is being performed in the Northern Regional Community Health Center.
Next slide please. Okay. The budget slide for the Division of Public Health. We are requesting four million five hundred thirty-eight nine forty-two. Sixty-six percent of that comes from personnel if you look at the cost breakdown thirty-four percent operations. Please note don't be alarmed we have much more operations but, on the federal grant side that we don't discuss in this budget because it's federal.
We have a breakdown of personnel in the lower left-hand. Classified-Unclassified eight classified thirty-four vacant funded ten. Our burn rate right now for this fiscal year of this fiscal year's expenses and budget is forty-three percent
Next slide please. This is the slide of just basically the overview of what the Division of Public Health mission statement and what they oversee and you can read that at your leisure Next slide please. Continuing overview of the many things that the division is responsible for to execute
Next slide please. This is a slide that you know for the recent typhoon that hit our island mostly our parks and our shoreline but, we were honestly spared because it could have been a Typhoon Mawar all over again or worse. And we we pause and give and keep our prayers to our Northern Mariana Island brothers and sisters who are really struggling today in their recovery.
But Guam fortunately enough was not as greatly impacted by the typhoon but, not to say it was not impacting to our lives because many of us of course did not have power for days and weeks. But, I just wanted to break down just so because it's fresh in our minds what the Division of Public Health did in response to the typhoon.
For the first time ever the community health center I ordered them to stay open. Why is that important? Because it moved the traffic from GMH for non-urgent care to the community health center as well as we wanted to very much be there for the community who were who were oxygen dependent and knew that either their power was going to go off and they would not be able to survive without oxygen.

In addition to that so we were open during the entire storm and I thank the hardworking providers who braved that and stayed away from their homes to be available for the people of Guam during the storm. We also partnered up with Red Cross and we our healthcare staff rendered acute care services at the tier two shelter. When the DOE shelter closed the tier two shelter manned by Red Cross opened up in Yigo Gym. Forty-nine patients were seen from April 20th to the 21st including their follow-ups. We also did immunization outreach at the mall on April 24th and assisted a total-another total of forty-one patients there.

The Bureau of Family Health and Nursing their response to Sinlaku

They assessed two thousand eight hundred and eighteen residents. Of course that's duplicate counts at the tier two meaning encounters two thousand eight hundred and eighteen face-to-face encounters with the tier two population Next slide please.

The Division of Public Health through the Bureau of Communicable Disease on April 23rd forty executed at the Tier II shelter pertussis and flu immunization. Forty total patients were screened thirty-one total patients were immunized. April 24th we had child immunization outreach at Micronesia Mall which is sixty-three total patients screened and sixty-three total patients immunized. Next slide please.

So from some Sinlaku slides I have listed some of the highlights and it's definitely not all the highlights. When preparing for the budget Division of Public Health which is the largest division gave me pages and pages of accomplishments. But And if you want that we can give that to you. But, I figured that I will just really highlight the highlight of the highlights.

And so of the accomplishments of the lab of course was the planning kickoff to plan for the lab that we're scheduled to open this summer. And then of course under the lab on March twenty-seventh of this year we established the Laboratory Information Management System and Laboratory Data Exchange for the first time.

July of twenty-twenty five to April twenty-sixth CDC National Surveillance Cooperation for local specimens were achieved. Office of Vital Statistics. So these are all the offices and all the bureaus that fit under the Division of Public Health. Office of Vital Statistics, January of this year we launched the Electronic Death Registration System that was supported by epidemiology and laboratory capacity.

And we're so pleased because soon we will have online electronic registrations for other things. Right now it's electronic deaths that was completed. The next is we'll be getting into is birth but, that's quite extensive. So we started with the death registry. The Bureau of Alternative Medicine as you can see held the first summit in January of 2026 of this year.

April of this year the presentation of the Guam Lead Poisoning and Prevention Program was achieved in in the meeting in Honolulu. The Bureau of Communicable Disease Tuberculosis Program contained a multidrug-resistant outbreak and

completed treatment of two pediatric patients. First time in Guam. Guam was selected to be the host of the Pacific Islands Tuberculosis Association Conference. The last time Guam hosted was in twenty, 2009 seventeen years ago. Advance notice of new school vaccine requirements for HPV vaccine to be implemented in this upcoming school year. August of this year or last year I'm sorry we hosted a full-scale regional health exercise called Fire on the Horizon that brought in all the health leaders from all the region.

In January of this year we rolled out a regional disease conference entitled Guarding the Pacific in the Age of the Avian Influenza. So again just some highlights. I have pages and pages of accomplishments but, we'll be here for days. Next slide, again bureaus and offices in the Division of Public Health and some of their highlighted accomplishments.

You have the Bureau of Family Health The Bureau of Non-Communicable Disease. I want to stop here with the. I'm sorry let me go back to the Bureau of Family Health and Nursing. We successfully advanced through phase one of the home visiting program re-accreditation demonstration readiness and that is ongoing.

The Bureau of Non-Communicable Disease. I want to highlight last year we highlighted our mobile clinic. You might have seen that around. Immediately we wanted to make sure that the clinic the mobile clinic did what it's meant to do and to go and meet people in the community. So we started in October and we have visited the villages of Yoña Agana Heights Talofofo and Piti thus far.

The Bureau of Nutrition Services or known as WIC achieved ninety-nine percent satisfaction in their WIC survey sustained increase of breastfeeding rate from sixty-three percent to sixty-four percent and telehealth services for nutritional education and other services were launched. The Bureau of Primary Care of course we talked about that a little bit in the highlights earlier or known as our your community health centers.

And again we onboarded from the last presentation last year five additional health providers and we implemented PrimeRx which is the CHC's pharmacy software in December of this year or last year I'm sorry. The Office of Epidemiology and Research It's not listed here but, I do want to say that we have now a classified permanent territorial epidemiologist and by the name of Patrick Soto and that's really important 'cause we've been always having an acting and it's important to have stable leadership in epidemiology especially in the public health field.

We have completed the fourth postgraduate certificate in epidemiology cohort which has ten and thus and to date twenty-nine completed that. We collaborated with the National Governors Association and John Hopkins for the Outbreak Response Innovation Policy Academy in developing Guam's Field Epidemiology Outbreak Manual and we supported the development of the Health Islands Vision twenty fifty Next slide please.

Okay. It's under initiatives because it's wasn't accomplished yet. but, again I wanna repeat we're very pleased to anticipate the opening of the public health lab that's this summer in 2026. And it's not only we are blessed because this is a Department of Interior funded facility

It is not just for our community of Guam but, it's a regional lab that the entire region can bring forward their specimens to us and have quicker response times so that decisions in their island jurisdictions can happen quicker.

The Office of Epidemiology some of the niches they're still working on is the proposed amendment of law governing reported dis- diseases mandatory reporting and we are waiting the AG's response in that. Ongoing project for statistical data gathering for OVS annual publication is also ongoing. Again, these are initiatives that haven't been achieved or completed but, we are highlighted initiatives big initiatives that we're working on.

OVS fetal death registry is being worked on and planning to go live next month. As I mentioned we already completed the death registry so the fetal death registry will be go live in June and then the next is birth certificates and marriage. And then we will be electronic

The publication of the comprehensive civil registrations and vital stats from 1998 to 2003, 2003 with support from the Office of Epidemiology. Epidemiology is ongoing And in the Bureau of Alternative Medicine the implementation of a comprehensive childhood lead poisoning prevention plan will be implemented by September of this year.

Next slide please. The Bureau of Communicable Disease Control again some of their highlighted initiatives. We continue to do responses for influenza that's ongoing. Our proposed amendment of law governing Guam Immunization Registry is pending legislative action. And the pertussis immunization outreach from May to June of this year continues.

We just had a immunization outreach yesterday in the village of Barrigada. The Bureau of Primary Care Services again your CHC a new electronic health record will go live. Our target date is August of this year. Telehealth development initiative to improve access to healthcare across Guam is being worked on.

Integrated primary care and behavioral health service continue to be worked on. And operational readiness for CHC autonomy continues to be worked on. And that concludes the largest division of the Department of Public Health. The second-largest division we will proceed to is the Division of Public Welfare.

It's the second-largest division but, it's the division that's asking you the most money. So we will proceed with topics of interest. Next slide please. What is the financial impact of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act for the department or the division? For FY27 specifically this was shared last year that it was upcoming.

Time flies and we're here today. For FY27 SNAP FNS administrative costs will be covered by the federal government at twenty-five percent only increasing the local share to seventy-five percent which is approximately one point seven million increase. So we appreciate FNS's funding for SNAP but, more and more like lots of states the burden is put on the local government to cost share that.

So an approximately increase is the impact of one point seven million. What is the status of implementing the SNAP Able-Bodied Adults with Dependents or ABAWD waiver changes? This is an immediate impact that we're going to realize in two weeks.

DPW is prepared to fully to be compliant with FNS which is the funder of SNAP related to the ABAWD waiver that takes into effect June of this year. We put out the press release in January. We told all, we wrote to all able bodies impacted po- population of SNAP and we just for statistical data points nineteen thousand two hundred and seventy-seven are identified in SNAP as able-bodied The number of clients that will drop off from SNAP because of this implementation federal law six thousand nine hundred and fifty-six.

The number of clients that will comply with the change twelve thousand three hundred and twenty-one. They either complied with the change which required twenty hours of volunteer or paid work, work proof a week eighty hours a month or they got an exemption from their doctor. So it's a combination of exemption as well as actually meeting the work requirement proofing.

That's twelve thousand three hundred and twenty-one. The average dollar figure per ABAWD household financial impact that will be removed from the economy is three million fifty-three thousand six hundred and eighty-five. That's four hundred and thirty-nine dollars times six hundred and nine, six thousand nine hundred and fifty-six able bodies that will no longer be able to avail of SNAP.

Concerning because the question is where are they gonna get their food help? And that's where the Division of Homelessness and Poverty Prevention our food commodities and our soup kitchen can assist. But, I just wanted because that's a big impact for public welfare the Division of Public Welfare.

back to the third item on hot top or topics of interest. How is DPW improving responsiveness and communication with clients? That was a big topic 'cause two years ago when I came the public relations concerns of the department seemed to be centered specifically in the Division of Public Welfare mostly because of SNAP and Medicaid clients feeling that they're not served or communicated in a timely manner. And I just wanna share that we are completely focused in that. as of April of this year there are no email backlog is zero. Inquiries are responded within two days. We continue to have a single line that's answered by a warm body instead of a hunting and just ringing and ringing which is a previous complaint.

And again emails are being answered in a timely manner within two days.

When will disaster SNAP be available to the public based because of Sinlaku? That is a question that comes up all the time. And D-SNAP I just wanna reassure everyone that we are planning to execute D-SNAP when the declaration for the major disaster declaration is approved by the President and FNS approves the waiver.

So we're not waiting for that in to prepare. We are preparing now because we do have experience in Mawar and I do recall in Mawar I was at behavioral health at the time. There was lines and frustrations and things like that. So we're really trying to build on that experience and make sure that when it does roll out that the public is less frustrated less waiting in line.

One of the things that we're looking at is an online application that will reduce the waiting in the sun and the waiting in the line and things of that nature. So next slide please.

Currently today is the last day for the food loss waiver. The food loss waiver was the second disaster SNAP program that we rolled out in a month because it's been just a month since Sinlaku hit our island. w- food loss waiver are for those who received sixty-three percent of their SNAP replacement in April of '24 just a week after the typhoon hit our island and feel that they really lost more food than sixty-three percent.

So they're able to apply for a food waiver that we verify and if we could see that they spent most of their money or more than sixty-three percent prior to the storm then they're able to get up to thirty-seven percent which adds up to a hundred percent. So today is the last day. We rolled that out this week.

I just wanna give a big shout-out to the team that's working the food loss affidavit program because it's running well. I think I provided you some stats as of yesterday. The email inquiries or the email applications and inquiries of affidavit received was six hundred. This is what I mean by we implemented a online application or affidavit in this case so that people don't have to waste gas with gas prices.

We're very pleased you know we think of these things. We're very cognizant of the price of gas. We don't want people waiting in line unnecessarily. So we launched a online affidavit that yielded six hundred affidavits and emails. That's six hundred people less waiting in line or having to drive.

So a really big shout-out to the division and the SNAP folks for making sure that that is rolled out. That did not happen in Mawar. And so we learn from our experiences. We did have an influx of people the last two days Monday and Tuesday. I don't have the numbers from last night. It's probably in my email inbox.

But six hundred and forty did come to Castle Mall. Four hundred and two were processed. A hundred and sixty-eight were approved. Two hundred and thirty were denied. Four were pending. The denial was basically mostly because they did not qualify for the affidavit to begin with but, they put it in anyway.

So again the criteria for the affidavit is you must have received your sixty-three percent in the beginning for the food automatic food loss replacement. So a lot of these denials are folks who are maybe mistake it for D-SNAP maybe. Or became SNAP recipients after the storm which means they didn't qualify for the 63% automatic replacement which means they don't qualify for the food waiver for the difference

Okay. Today is the last day for the food loss waiver affidavit to be submitted and then we will close out that disaster project Are provider and pharmacy payments current? as of April 100% of the claim claims have been paid to medical and pharmacy providers. So we are current. What is the Medicaid cap for fiscal year '27? I bring this here because it's our ask right? We talked about this Mr. Chairman. after the budget was submitted we received from Medicaid or CMS an increase. And to date we anticipate $150,980,000 which is a five point five million increase from last year. We received the notice April twenty-seventh-- twenty-second which requires a 17% match 'cause we are at a match rate of eighty-three seventeen of an additional nine hundred and eighteen.

And just wanted to share that. I know I shared it with the chairman earlier.

Next slide please. The status of Summer EBT. You know where graduation's happening it's summer school's out. DPW anticipates launch- launching Summer EBT. That's summer SNAP for their ki- for kids who traditionally get meals in the schools but, 'cause school's out they will get it through their EBT card.

And we plan to roll this out next month June and July. But, we are waiting for the grant award which is 100% federally funded. So hopefully we'll get that soon and we will roll that out next month What is the status of the integrated eligibility enrollment system procurement? This is the big effort of modernization that I've been talking about last year.

We-- It's currently the IE&E or the eligibility enrollment system is under review from CMS FNS the Guam, our attorney general. And we do anticipate an advertisement out of fall of this year. But, I do have to say that CMS has already cleared it. FNS is really in review still and we are waiting as well as the finishing review of the attorney general's office before we can proceed in the procurement phase of advertising it out What is the actions that this division has taken to strengthen program integrity and audit readiness?

Again, very important fraud waste and abuse is something that nobody should tolerate. Mm. We are establishing literally establishing a dedicated program integrity unit focused on fraud waste and abuse It will strengthen audit and oversight functions and it will span data analytics and monitoring to improve visibility into the program activities.

We do not currently have a program integrity unit and we are establishing it right now. Next slide please. Okay so we're at the budget.

Oh what is this?
So, I'm sorry senators. Give me a minute.
Sorry my slide. I can't very I can't see very far and my. It's stuck. Sorry I have double, anyway the slide is before you if I can. Sorry my copy of my binder slide is kind of messed up. I don't know. Here we go. Yes, here we go. Now I can see what you see. Sorry. for the Division of Public Welfare.
We are looking at forty-four million hundred and sixty-six thousand six hundred and twenty. And I ask a huge ask as I mentioned it's not the largest division but, it's the largest money ask division of a hundred and eighty-eight million four hundred and sixty-five thousand five hundred and eighty-four of matching federal grant in aid.
A total budget request of two hundred and thirty-two six three two, two o three.
You do have a supplemental match request of nine hundred and eighteen. Senators Mr. Chairman this is the additional Medicaid cap. I do have a requested something we did not talk about and I can give you a breakdown of this. A supplemental match on all our APDs. APDs are advanced planning documents, and all based on our modernization effort which we receive as part of the 39 million last year that I said that I received from CMS for modernization. But, there is a match that is required. And this is the APDs that were not received on time and for the budget submission so this is a supplemental ask for the match for the APDs.
So if you see in the total request for this division it's totaling 235,420,870 from the original budget request of 232,632,203.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Director.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yes.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Just so that I just want my colleagues to know.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yes.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Before we go into the question and answer I will read out the OFB.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yes.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: The adjusted general fund request.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yes yes.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: 'Cause I you know the numbers can become overwhelming.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yes.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: But, most of this is federal.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: I know.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: So I want once before I start questions so that they'll have a full accurate representation I will go through by the subject category.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yes.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: And I will show the total change in the general fund ask. Please proceed.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Thank you. So just looking at public welfare in general on the general, general fund side it looks like only 4% but, really it's because our federal dollars pay for most of our personnel.
If you look at the utilization in the bottom meaning our burn rate how we're spending this fiscal year's dollars that was given to us we're at sixty percent of course because we're pushing out SNAP we're pushing out Medicaid. I mean we're paying providers we're paying staff. So we're at a burn rate a good burn rate of sixty percent. Okay.
Next slide please. This is just an overview for, I don't wanna read this. This is for your your review and it's just a you know what the Division of Public Welfare is all about our mission.
Next slide. when we talk about impact, impact into the community here's our client impact We serve 41,865 Medicaid clients 119 MIP clients 36,390 SNAP clients
And 1,562 cash clients.
Next slide please.
This is the division's performance in recovery after Typhoon Sinlaku. Again during in the SNAP arena we executed AMR benefits which is the automatic mass replacement on April twenty-fourth. And that I just wanna say FNS and I we were on the phone through the storm. They were. We in one day we submitted.
In the next day they approved it. And less in a week's time after the storm it was in our SNAP recipient's EBT card. What does that do? It circulated seven million dollars in the economy
We received again SNAP food loss waiver. That is an initiative for the disaster of Sinlaku. Again today's the last day to receive those affidavits and we continue to

process. The third bullet and I'm proud to say we work very closely with CMS and we approved for the first time an emergency advanced planning document which is additional dollars which will provide one point five million dollars in federal funds. That has been approved because of Sinlaku. That requires three hundred and eighty-five thousand in local match. However, the local match has been approved by the governor's office to come out from the Sinlaku Emergency Appropriation Fund that the legislature provided So we're not asking for it here in this budget request.

Pharmacies were able to reopen promptly and process prescription needs all due because of the pharmacy benefits manager that went live September of last year. DPW is leveraging many emergency waivers for the next sixty days. We are in a public health emergency that was declared by RFK Jr. and is good for sixty days and we have a bunch of waivers automatic emergency waivers that will apply to the provider as well as the beneficiary.

And that we can give you a whole list 'cause it's quite lengthy if you like to see it. but know that in the next, we're a month out after Sinlaku we have another month everything can be retro back to April 12th. So we're gonna see providers getting some increases and flexibility as well as our clients when it comes to coverage.

So what does that mean maybe in the health arena? For those who walked into GMH for example right now from April 12th sixty days out which is a month out from now will be covered by Medicaid if they don't have insurance. So we do our little part to try to help the hospital with their unfunded or cash clients.

Again, if you want the list we can give it to you. It's quite lengthy. Next slide please. Oh I'm sorry, yeah. And the of course pending is the D-SNAP but, we are preparing for that. Next slide. This is our accomplishments of the of the division of the Division of Public Welfare. And you know you can read it at your leisure but, I wanna highlight some things that I bolded. In the processing we improved the SNAP application processing timeliness from 36% went up to 43% now 79% since January of 2025.

So, since January 2025 we've been working really hard to make sure that SNAP applications are done in a timely manner We strengthened communications customer communication practices. I talked to you I mentioned before a centralized email and phone line and no backlog so that's been helpful. And something that we're very proud of you know unfortunately we've recovered, recovered a hundred and sixty-three thousand in SNAP and cash assistant program funds in FY '26 through internal investigation auditing.

Next slide.

More accomplishments from the division.

Implemented of course pharmacy benefit manager system in September of twenty twenty-five. Estimated annual savings of fifteen percent. Estimated Medicare Part D savings five hundred and forty thousand. Why is that important? We collaborated

with CMS and those who are dual-eligible for pharmacy coverage are now moved over to Medicare and no longer in the Medicaid.
Medicaid is no longer paying for that. Medicare is now paying for that a first for Guam something I'm very proud of. Guam does notwe are not part of the national rebate for medication. but, through our PBM for the first time we have generated one point seven million in program rebates or program income expanding the cap that much more.
In other words it needs to go back it, the rebates go back to the program and so it's almost like we have an artificial extension of our cap of one point seven million. We anticipate at the end of this fiscal year to be at two point five million. So this is a first for Guam taking advantage of rebates and kinda extending our cap out.
Improving access to affordable medication on and off island. Our PBM is negotiating for the first time general off island pharmacies out there like CVS Walgreens those that you find in the States so that our local people that are off island that go and refill because they're there for Medicaid, medical work can get a discounted rate
And of course I mentioned earlier our request for proposal for our modernization of our eligibility and enrollment system and that's still pending FNS, AG's review. CMS review we were informed is completed and they're fine with it We met CMS we are the third US territory to achieve compliance to maximize program integrity is through the Temps, Temsas reporting requirement for Medicaid
Next slide.
Can we go back a slide?
And these are all the lists of all the modernization initiatives that I'm talking about all the APTs are supporting
It's lots of it is technical but, we tried to put it in as even with me and those terms in CMS. but, you can review that at your leisure but, know that these are all the modernization initiatives that this division is working on and supported by APDs. That's APDs are federal dollars that do not impact our Medicaid cap.
It doesn't come out of the cap. It's a separate fund but, there is a match
Okay. And we are done with the Division of Public Welfare. We'll move forward to the Division of Homelessness and Poverty Prevention.
Next slide please. This slide is shows DHAP and its transfer from the Office of the Governor through an executive order creating a division of public in public health that ties into our mandate of mi- of missioning and helping the homeless and this happened last year of 2025.
Next slide please. This is a slide that shows what's the status of all the shelters and the housing that DHAP is overseeing assisting with case management. We have the Bradley Apartments in Anigua, the Tamuning drop-In Facility or Iriarte Street the

Bed of Night. Rancare Residence we call it Rancare because it's the it's the apartments behind Rancare Building.

We don't have an official name yet so it's currently we're calling it Rancare Residence. of course the Ministry of Homelessness Soup Kitchen we are in the middle of a that was the soup kitchen is transferring to public health and DHAP's drop-in center is located there. It's kind of like everybody the homeless goes to the drop-in Karadot

Kamalen Karadot in in Anigua. That's the Ministry of Homeless Soup Kitchen or better known as Kamalen Karadot the soup kitchen that feeds nightly. DHAP now is a drop-in center during the day. And Guma San Jose Dededo.

So there's a lot of information there estimated opening date when it was acquired and who acquired it the details of the unit the funding sources and the population it serves.

Next slide please. This is just a slide of an overview of the mission of DHAP and all the services they provide. Village outreach case management emergency food assistant or the TEFAP food commodity distribution is under them. Domestic violence program is under them. Safe house is under them. And the Guam ID for Homeless program created by Public Law 35-32 is under them Next slide please for the overview.

Continuing. More continued services that they do. They help with storage of essential belongings with the street homeless assistance in obtaining documents assistance with public health benefits. They help navigate the public health programs SNAP Medicaid et cetera. Emergency shelter coordination and shelter referrals to Guam Homeless Coalition partners housing stability services and eviction mitigation and they have formal partnerships established.

Five of course the largest is the Guam Homeless Coalition which we are a part of the Division of Rev and Tax Department of Rev and Tax the Division of Public Welfare within Public Health the Mayor's Council of Guam and the Guam Homeland Security. Next slide please.

Okay we're at the budget. For DHAP our overall ask is $1,108,564. Our operational breakdown is about 48% personnel 52 operational. The one million senators include the 500,000 that was separated out in a section. And our burn rate right now is at 17% but this is as of March. The current burn rate I will get that to you but, we have an MOU that's being executed right now as we speak at 298,000 that's going to the Homeless Coalition but, it's in the process so it's not actually executed yet so I did not put it down as a true burn rate.

But that burn rate should go up as soon as that dollars are transferred over to the Guam Homeless Coalition which is one of our biggest partners. Okay. Next slide please.

This is the slide of the breakdown of the five hundred thousand in the section the five hundred thousand that is inclusive of the one million ask okay? Last year
Next slide please.
Typhoon Sinlaku response it's important that I say this because this is one of the divisions with public health with immunization that and with DPW that really came out quickly with response to Typhoon Sinlaku. They worked with DOE in coordinating shelter. In other words right out there while we were bunkering down my staff was out there coordinating getting homelessness into the DOE shelters during the typhoon.
It's a process. Many of them don't wanna leave but, we we got them into shelter because we did not know how hard it's and we didn't want them out in the streets. we provided food and emergency shelter for those who did not bring sheltering supplies in the shelter. We com- coordinated shelter transportation with the village mayors public works Guam Regional Mass Transit and law enforcement just to get our homeless off the streets during the during the storm.
You might have heard of all the dis- food distribution. That all was initiated through DHAP with the help of everyone in the department trying to help pass out food. and that was through the TEFAP program. We had various locations and there's a breakdown coming up. Assisted American Red Cross with the tier two shelter with case management at Yigo Gym And arrange for she-shelter for vulnerable and elderly individuals at the shelter closure of the tier two shelter.
Next slide please. This is the breakdown of the number of food commodities and where, we where we were able to meet the clients in need. Really 3,040 households or an estimated 11,000 plus individuals received food commodity bags from DHAP in these various dates and location distribution points.
Each food commodity bag is an estimated retail of $50 a bag.
Next slide please. Accomplishments, this is an accomplishment that we're very proud of. As the newest division of the department it was important that they establish a strategic framework in which they run their department. So I'm happy to report that they developed and finalized a DHAP strategic plan And roadmap the the funding roadmap will be completed by this year but, their strategic plan is completed and that's a big task in itself.
What did they do? They met with stakeholders. They brought stakeholders from the community all the partners that they naturally work with. We held meetings of how are we gonna address the homelessness issues that honestly predominantly in Agana not just in Agana butI I'm sure just very nearby across the street here.
How do we address homelessness? How do we get vulnerable population like the homelessness into housing or the assistance the social assistance that they need to be ready to get ready to go into housing? Because some of them are not ready to go

into housing. Or the medical or emotional care they need to ready themselves to get into housing.
So that was all captured in their strategic plan and that I'm very pleased that happened. Next slide please. Initiatives meaning what are they working on?
To date. These are some of the initiatives
Can we go back? There are two pages of initiatives senators that you can read and see. Initiatives meaning they're working on it.
Under the Safe Shelter Assistance for Elderly Housing Ministry of Homeless Feeding What DHAP did with the funding that the senators gave of 500,000 the homeless the Ministry of Homeless Feeding support that is run by the Catholic ministry ran through volunteer families that wholeheartedly give and donate every night.
But not every night not every 365 day a year is covered. We covered the gap with the funding that was received making the entire feeding for the entire year available
And of course TEFAP is the emergency food program and that is the food warehouse that we're that used to be warehoused at DOE but, now with the Division of Homelessness and Poverty Prevention. And those are That's where we get our food bags and food commodities that we passed out during disasters and on a regular basis I should say in partnership with the mayors.
Next slide please.
Ongoing initiatives Bradley Apartments RanCare Residence, the DV Harbor Grant Project, the Bed and Night Drop-In Center and of course they're very involved with the PIT count that most of you are involved in as well. To date officially the current unhoused count point to date that occurred in January of this year is looking at eight hundred and forty-nine but, that has yet to be confirmed by HUD.
But that is the count that we gave HUD for this year. Eight hundred and forty-nine individuals living on the streets Or I should say living on the streets or living in substandard housing.
And I believe that rounds up the division of public division of homelessness and poverty prevention.
The Division of Environmental Health I think in this division it's always safety food safety and school inspections. And I'm happy to report that our inspections are on track with DOE. We have a closer collaboration with DOE. The times of the past of worries of whether, whether the schools are gonna be open because the inspections did not happen on time is a time of the past.
So I'm happy to report that. And there's. Next slide please. I'm sorry. Yeah. So school inspections slide is right there on slide 43 and you can the detailed information is there for your review but what's important is that we are ready for this school year and on time and on track. Next slide please.

The Division of Environmental Health. How are sanitation inspections going? Again I think one of the biggest highlights is that we do inspect many different facilities. Of course restaurants food establishments
Cosmetology schools barracks dry cleaners. So the sanitation inspections are ongoing. You can see the detail. The good news is that we have not had a outbreak food outbreak in years.
Next slide please.
This is shows how often we with the minimal staff we have how often we inspect the various establishments required by law.
Next slide please. The budget for environmental health The budget for environmental health requests $835,031. Also, from special fund the Environmental Health Fund $1,812,482 million. From the special fund of Sanitary Inspection Revolving Fund $510,221 for a total of $3,157,734.
If you look at the operations breakdown ninety-seven percent is personnel because really that's what they do. We need people to go out and inspect. Inspect schools inspects establishments food establishments etcetera.
And you have a burn rate of twenty-five twenty-seven percent at this point.
You have I want to highlight there's vacant funding request of 13. Environmental health is one of those divisions that just has a very difficult time in recruiting. We have a continuous open recruitment in the Department of Administration. So those of you who are find environmental health interesting you might want to take a look at those ongoing recruitments that is year-round.
We continue to work with schools to bring the interest to our young folks with University of Guam and GCC but there is a struggle in obtaining folks who want to work as inspectors.
Next slide please. The Division of Environmental Health overview. Again, health inspection this is their mission statement. They oversee island-wide environmental health programs and activities in several major functions: health and sanitation food safety. Next slide please. Consumer commodities inspection mosquito surveillance and control counter service issuance of thirty thousand regulatory permits certificates and registrations radiological health and education and awareness to the public.
Next slide please. Next slide.
As of April 30th these are some of the highlighted accomplishments. They've issued twenty-one thousand health certificates, fifteen hundred plus sanitary permits, three hundred and twenty-two drug registrations. They've achieved ninety percent survey respondents rated customer service as excellent.
Health sanitation responded to every public complaint. There was about eighty-six at- anonymous complaints that they look into or they looked into. Business license

and permit center of the Department of Public Works permitting center they expanded their services since August of twenty twenty-four.
They provided fifteen hundred plus consultations and they issued seven hundred and thirty-five business clearances at one stop. Customer Commodities Program we have a great partnership with FDA resulting in improved identification of violative commodities that are bringing imported at the airport or in the ports.
a hundred and four detentions involved nearly a hundred and sixty-two pieces of articles that are questionable and have to be a decision has to be made whether or not it's safer-- safe to have enter our island.
Next slide please. Continued accomplishments. Food safety program. We trained nearly four thousand four hundred and twelve food handlers as of April thirty-first. Again, as I mentioned early we have no confirmed foodborne illness outbreak in the last eleven years. That is important. Now not to say that people don't get sick after they eat but, that is in between and never foodborne illness an outbreak that we can declare an outbreak because of unsanitary establishments.
So thank you DEH for that. And thank you participating restaurants who keep your restaurants clean for our people to be to be able to eat there. Thank you so much. Last but not least accomplishments of s- mosquito surveillance control program. All imported and locally transmitted mosquito-borne disease cases are successfully contained and we do weekly trapping and identification of adult mosquitoes from ten sites.
Continuing. Next slide please. We continue to collaborate with GDOE for annual inspections. As I mentioned we have a strong relationship with DOE. We have a very strong relationship with FDA for the commodities. And DEH helps lead Micronesia and the USAPI in mosquito management. Our division chair Tom Nadeau is chairs the Pacific Vector Network which encompasses twenty-two Pacific Island countries and territories as well as chairs the Pacific Island Vector Management Control which involves our Micronesian Islands.
So, we are seen as the leaders and we take this responsibility serious and we share what we know with our island brothers and sisters not just in our region but, in the greater Pacific
Next slide please. For the Division of Environmental Health some of the major initiatives they're working on we do have the DEH main facility identified in Dededo right next to the mosquito lab. Architectural and engineering design is completed but we are looking for additional funding for the construction.
And so, we're looking at hopefully getting some help from the congressman's office and so the architecture and engineering design is completed but, looking for funding for construction. It's always the issue construction. Governor's Environmental Health Collaborative team continue to meet to develop educational pathways to DEH employment.

I spoke earlier about how difficult and the interest of our people of Guam to get into this field. we have ongoing recruitments that is continuous. There's no, if you look at DOA announcements any time of the year DEH positions are there waiting for people of interest to please join the team.

We work with GCC planning an associate's degree in environmental technology and again working with the University of Guam developing an environmental health science curriculum for a bachelor's degree but that is really the biggest I believe the biggest struggle that we have in the Division of Environmental Health is the number the limited number of employees and really starting to create the interest at a young age in the high schools so folks can get into this arena.

Next slide please We are still seeking the adoption of the revised rules and regulations for school building combined childcare and integration intergenerational daycare centers and health certificates and we are collecting and working on the economic impact statements for these rules and regulations.

We are working on the implementation of health certificate cosmetic sanitation training course for employees of cosmetic establishments and that's targeted for this summer. And we are working on initiating actions for the adoption of the twenty twenty-two FDA Model Food Code to replace the existing code via food via our food Guam Food Safety Advisory led effort.

And that target of adoption is the end of next year. So those are some ongoing initiatives that the division is working on and that rounds up the Division of Environmental Health. Two more divisions senators. Division of Children's Wellness Thank you. Topics of interest. What can families expect when they apply or renew for childcare assistance?

Effective this year in January the bureau has established reinstated its pre-pandemic status standard childcare policy for families who apply or renew their childcare assistance application So during the pandemic and up to December 31st of last year we paid for all overages and co-payments. As of January of this year we no longer pay for tuition overages and co-payments.

The only payments we will pay is paid based on the Child Care Development Fund maximum rate. So what does that mean? That means if a childcare center charges $1,000 per child or for a child of a young age under five and we only pay seven hundred the family has to pay the difference. And this is not new.

This is just pre-pandemic going back to the pre-pandemic standards.

Next slide please.

What can delay childcare subsidy payments? One of the biggest delay recently is the timely federal allotments that have come down. In the past we were able to predict when our allotments were coming from our federal funders. Lately we are now senators in quarter three and we have not received quarter three.

We are midway quarter three. We just recently received quarter two. So, one of the biggest concerns and unfortunately something that we have no control over is the timing of federal allotments. Again, third quarter even though we're already in the third quarter we haven't received it. That would be the only reason why we're holding off on paying.
Our foster maintenance payments are up to date as of March of 2026.
Next slide please.
What is the status of our contracted group homes? I've listed the program and the contract updates for your review IGM which is our I Guma Manasi our public health-run child's shelter unfortunately has been in the RFP process since 2024. And we continue to follow up. the latest follow-up was last week where we had to resubmit to the AG's office a copy of it because despite reviews previously as you can see in the dates they could not locate it.
And I think what's happening is as legal counsel who work at the AG's office lawyers who work at the AG's office probably leave the AG's office maybe they pack up and they take the copies with them. So that's why it's important that our staff constantly follow up 'cause in case they need a new copy we're able to give it to them.
But I know that the AG's office is reviewing it. it's just been quite a long time. So why is that concerning? Because we really don't want to be in the service side. The department wants to monitor push this out to nonprofit organizations that are better equipped and understand shelter management.
But until then we are running IGM our shelter.
Alley one and two the procurement process is in progress. Guma San Jose again their the procurement process is in progress
In alley two you see an update there. All our contract updates are there for your review.
Next slide please.
Division of Children's Wellness budget request. We're requesting thirteen million zero eight eight one one seven
If you look at our operational cost breakdown twenty-five percent is personnel seventy-five percent is payments or operations. We have a good burn rate of sixty percent well into this fiscal year.
Next slide please. The Division of Children's Wellness. This is a quick overview of our mission and the two bureaus under that division. Very clear Child Protective Services foster care under BOSA. Bureau of Child Care Services take care of child care assistance and child care licensing. Next slide please.
Next slide please.
Accomplishments. Just gave you the data how many people we serve how many children we serve in the Division of Children's Wellness. I want to highlight on the

right the number of children in CPS custody six hundred and eighty-nine. That's the breakdown where they're located.

We're up to date in all the referrals. We do not have a backlog in referrals. So these are our accomplishments and data points.

Number of families receiving childcare subsidy 2,097. Number of children enrolled in subsidy program 3,137. Our monthly average cost of child subsidy is 1.9 that's monthly. The number of CCDF licensed childcare centers to date is 69. The number of license-exempt after-school program childcare providers that's like our back after-school programs at the mayor's office DYA centers 25.

The number of license-exempt relative and in-home caregiving providers 79. A lot of our kids you know the next best thing is having them live with relatives that they are familiar with.

And then of course the BOSA breakdown to the right. Something that you can look at. Next slide please. Some of the initiatives that they're currently working on currently working on. Deploying a workforce needs assessment to childcare providers for targeted training. Increase the number of quality high quality childcare programs in Guam.

We're working on contracting services as I mentioned earlier of the shelters children's shelters. We're trying to secure Title 4-E federal reimbursement for foster care and adoption. We're working on development of a workforce registry to track provider credentials and work support compliance with licensing for the CCDF requirements.

And we're developing a quality improvement system to enhance childcare quality Next slide please. And that's that rounds up the Division of Children's Wellness. And last but definitely not least is our Division of Senior Citizens.

Some topics of interest of course is our 2026 senior center operation. Just so everyone and the senators know public health has fully funded the senior center operation that we partner with the Mayor's Council of Guam with an approved budget of 1.476087. As of April of last year their expenditure rate is at 33%.

How many home delivered meals were served by this division's contract? As of March two hundred and forty thousand five hundred and twenty six meals have been served to homebound clients The current home delivered meals program clients served is 1,395 Why is there an increase you might ask in the contractual services from six million in five twenty in FY26 to eight hundred million four O seven eight six two an increase of twenty-one percent in FY27 ask?

And it's due to the projected operational cost of contracting services compliance with service contracts and that's the natural compliance of food costs going up and labor costs.

Another hot topic of interest for the Division of Senior Citizens: Does the Division of Senior Citizens pay for family caregivers? In this time when so many of our

elderly our culture of *inafa'maolek* and keeping our family and our elderly a home we get inundated for the number of people who are asking to please find caregiving services for their elderly loved ones who are at home.

Unfortunately, our divisions do not. This is not allowable costs in our federal funding. However, DISID has an existing family caregiver program that we often refer clients to who are looking for that kind of in-care home service. Does the Division of Senior Citizens have a wait list? Yes we do.

In-home care service wait list is 134 as of March. The contracted home service is servicing 387 clients from the maximum amount of 400 clients. Medicaid program exploring how Medicaid coverage can pay for this service so that we can remove the wait list. Again the wait list is there based on our contractors' ability to to recruit for to execute our contract with them and thus the wait list of 134.

Next slide please. The Division of Senior Citizens is asking for ten million four hundred and eighty-one thousand four hundred and ninety-eight dollars. A federal match there's only two divisions that ask for match and that's the Division of Public Welfare as well as the Division of Senior Citizens.

And they are asking for a federal match of three million eight hundred twenty-five thousand five hundred and eighty for a total number of requests of fourteen three O seven.

Fourteen million three O seven zero seven eight. If you look at the operational cost breakdown you might say nine percent is the smallest division. Most of its work and its is contracted out and that's why you see a very high ninety-one percent in operation Our burn rate is very high. We're at ninety-one percent.

We will make it whole for the next five months or whatever is left of the fiscal year Whatever is needed by the division to continue its services to September we will make it whole and look within our department.

Next slide please. The Division of Senior Citizens Overview, its mission statement and the different support services it provides.

Next slide please. It's accomplishments given to you in data points for your review

Next slide please. More accomplishments through data and how we touch our senior citizens.

Next slide please.

Initiatives what they're working on. This is a great initiative that they're working on. It's starting and it's the Veterans Directed Care. The division is exploring partnership with the Veterans Administration in coordinating veteran self-directed care services on island. So our veterans will get some very specific funding and specific care through this initiative.

And last but not least today, May is Senior Citizens Month. You all should have received a list of scheduled events. We will make sure that you all receive again the scheduled events but we would like to especially invite you all to the proclamation

signing on May 19th at the Sinajana Mayor's Office for the proclamation signing of the of Senior Citizens Month.
And there's a frail elderly mass on the 22nd of May. Of course the legislature is hosting its reception with the oversight chair Senator Shelly Calvo on May 27th. The Governor's Conference on Aging is June 3rd. our centenarian celebration is June 9th. And *Huégun* Senior Games which is Senior Games is on August 28th. So a lot of them it's I know in May is a senior s- Senior Citizens Month but, it was pushed back because of the storm. So unfortunately, we're not declaring a month with a proclamation in the beginning of the month like we normally do but please join us. This will be sent to you. And senators that concludes *Un Dangkolo yan Si Yu'os Ma'ase* for your time and attention of the department's request for FY27 budget.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* Director Arriola for that very detailed presentation. To my colleagues I direct you to the budget digest that has been provided for you this morning.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: On yeah.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: The adjusted requested levels under the fiscal year '27 agency's request general fund you will find the number currently on the sheet 77,919,824. That will increase to 80,708,491. And under the variance of the 2027 agency request versus 2026 authorized level that number will change from 5,588,860 up to 8,377,527.
And so just to be clear once again in the grand total which will change of the over $273 million 80 million is the general fund request as public health actually is generously funded by federal government for various programs that the director has just enumerated throughout her presentation.
So I will now move to if the health chair wants to go first or last I will defer to your decision. First. Okay. the health chair Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane you have five minutes. And I just wanna reiterate once again I thank the health chair for having several oversight hearings under her leadership as the health chair as well as this very detailed presentation.
I have been very strict to our budget meetings to discuss the budget. And thank you for coming forward and having the pre-budget meeting with us so that we could understand exactly what your request was from the agency level. Also, your request was in the governor's submittal back in January so we had plenty of time to review it but, and now we'll talk about the numbers and I will go to the oversight chair. Senator Matanane you're recognized.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Thank you Mr. Chair and thank you public health for your very thorough presentation. I do have another meeting that I have to go to so I'll keep my questions brief. I wanted a question first about the staffing pattern especially this Division of General Administration and I noticed that the director's office is under that particular division.
Can you explain why and how long has this division been in in place?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: The Division of General Administration?

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Yeah I noticed that the staffing pattern that your office is under the DGA.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Mm-hmm. How long has the division's been in existence?

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Yeah. from the beginning. Since the beginning of public health it's been.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yeah. Okay.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: And so I noticed that there's 23 positions that are funded but, there's seven vacant that you need to fill. And so you have some very important offices under this division to include Financial Management Service, Office of Grants Management, Procurement Management Office, Performance Improvement Management Office, Management and Support Services.
And so I'm just kind of concerned because when I looked at the 20 fiscal year '24 audit findings there were I guess public health was the second in terms of questioned costs. And I know that you guys had a response but, are all these offices still in in existence under this division? Do you still have an Office of Grant Management a Procurement Management Office?
Are all these still because I'm hearing that some of these offices don't exist anymore or

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: We do. there it might be an office of one person handling it but, there is the the activity of managing. We don't currently Grant Managements right now is vacant. It's important with the department being the largest agency that receives a great number of grants over 100 grants in the department.
But it's just the finding the right person the recruitment for that grant management that's that is a difficult task. A lot of the grant the expert grant managers out there

are running nonprofit organizations. And so that I have to say has been the hardest recruitment of that vacancy.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: How long is this, isit a position or an entire office?
Like how many employees?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Well the goal is to have an office several people. but, you know we need to start with at least one right now. Somebody who's going to oversee. Right now all the grants are all over the seven divisions and the program staff are of course running and executing the activities of those grants.
But to ensure of compliance to ensure that we meet the federal recording reporting making sure that we're able to say that we're in good standing to the grants managers or the grants funders it's important to centralize the grants reporting system in a grants manager but I have um I don't know do I- Yeah.
If I can ask Kin Blaz who's the chief of that division to expand more.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Okay.

Joaquin Blaz, Acting Chief of General Administration, DPHSS: So Senator with regards to the Grants Management Office it was a couple years ago fully staffed with a couple individuals but, they have since retired so we've been having difficulty with recruiting for those positions.
So what we did was a lot of the work has migrated to other offices within the division who carry that load such as the Public Health Infrastructure Grant staff so as well as the individual divisions oversee their own grants. So- but, we're we are trying to stand these offices up it's just that we're tied to you know recruitment.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Okay. You said offices. So what other offices are we talking about? Office of Grant Management you have vacancies there. What else?

Joaquin Blaz, Acting Chief of General Administration, DPHSS: There's manage- there's MSS there's I don't have a list in front of me.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Management and support services vacancies there?.

Joaquin Blaz, Acting Chief of General Administration, DPHSS: Yes. Right now there's really no vacancy because they're not funded but it's our hope that we can move some of the people from the other offices.
Once like from the FIG office once that grant expires then we will move them over to these offices.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Performance improvement management office?

Joaquin Blaz, Acting Chief of General Administration, DPHSS: Yeah that one we have yet to stand up but, we're in the process of trying.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Okay. Procurement management office.

Joaquin Blaz, Acting Chief of General Administration, DPHSS: We're in the process of trying to stand up a procurement office.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: And so you don't have anybody running grant management it's just filtered out into-

Joaquin Blaz, Acting Chief of General Administration, DPHSS: Yes, the different divisions to the various.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yes. Divisions that are carrying the program.

Joaquin Blaz, Acting Chief of General Administration, DPHSS: As well as as well as within our own division we have people under the FIG grant who are offices.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: So you don't have one office overseeing how all of this is being managed?

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: It's Like your grants are just spread out. There's not one central.

Joaquin Blaz, Acting Chief of General Administration, DPHSS: Yes there is. It's it's still funneled under this division under Division of General Administration. Yes. So we oversee the federal programs inventory. Everything that happens with all the grant funnels through our offices.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: And who who is overseeing it? You?

Joaquin Blaz, Acting Chief of General Administration, DPHSS: Yes.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: You're the only. So let's just talk about then this whole childcare the issues that I think it's the reimbursements. because I get the phone calls. There was a bill that was introduced to fund $6 million to help with paying out these reimbursements but I'm hearing in your presentation that that's no longer needed.
I mean what's changed? What's changed.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: I mentioned earlier. The allotment was released is the funding being received. We finally received the funding so we were able to pay the invoices That's the only reason why would we hold any CCDF funding. As I mentioned we are already in the third quarter and we are haven't even received our third quarter allotment from the federal funder.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: And is the delay in the release of these allotments from the federal government is it an internal issue or an external issue? Meaning that is it because you don't have this Office of Grant Management you don't have the staff for pr-procure-procurement management?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: No ma'am.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Is it a capacity issue with the Department of Public Health?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: No not at all. We just can't pay invoices that are funded a hundred percent by federal funding that has not been received by the government of Guam yet. So once we receive the money we process it out. as soon as we receive the money I think. When did we receive it? Quarter two in April we paid out.
We caught up. Now unfortunately there will be a delay unless we get the money for third quarter anytime soon because we are in the middle of the third quarter and we haven't received the federal funds for third quarter yet. So yes unfortunately we're gonna have to we're gonna feel it if we don't receive it the federal dollars.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Is this just an issue isolated to the government of Guam or other jurisdictions experiencing this same public delay.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Oh every jurisdiction, allotments in the nation that is funded by CCDF funding. I'm assuming that and I know because I'm speaking to the chief Heidi Quinata the first thing I asked is exactly that.
"Is it just us? Are we like Is something going on? Like I don't know." And she reached out to her network of states and it's everyone who's experiencing delays. The delays in the federal government today that never was experienced in the past is also because the current Trump administration is has a lot of scrutiny about Defend the Spend.
So Defend the Spend is really causing my interpretation is that they have a much more scrutiny on their spending so their allotments are being released slower. That's it the Def. You know you've heard of Defend the Spend. They are being asked to look at the federal level to re-look is it really defendable?
Are the states and territories in our case really justifying the need? And I believe that maybe that's a little bit of it and maybe federal also federal employees not really Maybe they have a shortage too. I don't know.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Okay. Well I can move on 'cause my time is really limited. So I did wanna follow up on this program integrity unit.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yeah.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Very important. you know defend this then I guess. it's "Establish a dedicated program integrity unit focused on fraud waste and abuse." Yes. "Strengthen audit and oversight functions through defined methodologies and improve audit readiness. Expand data analytics and monitoring to improve visibility into program activity."
Is this gonna be under the Division of Public Welfare or is this gonna be under this Division of General Administration?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Correct.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: So Division of General Administration?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Correct.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: And do you have anybody qualified but it's funded.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: But, it's funded ma'am through It would be funded through CMS but, because it's going to be it's like an internal auditing.

Because eyes and ears will be looking at the way the program is executed it cannot sit in Public Welfare. It has to sit outside Public Welfare so there's some separation and no conflict of interest if you will. So the program integrity unit will look specifically on programs that are administered by DPW but, it will not sit or have oversight at DPW.
It will sit outside DPW in the Division of General Admin answering directly to the executive. So if they see something like they do some internal auditing and they see something that shouldn't be there or shouldn't be doing like the processes then they won't It would not be reported to the chief of the Division of Public Welfare. It will be reported straight up to me.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Okay.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Or I'm sorry in this case the the public the de- deputy. And let me explain why the deputy because I am the the Guam State Medicaid Director. So even I have to be out of it because they're really auditing my team working the Medicaid program.
So they wouldn't be have go to answer to me. So what I needed to do is establish a conflict curtain with me and so they would report all the way to Peter John. Now Peter John who's a deputy you might say "But he answers to you." but, there's a conflict curtain that was put up meaning whatever he finds stays with him and if he thinks it requires higher level of you know like reporting it to the authorities attorney general whatever he does that without my knowledge.
Because I am the Medicaid director for Guam. So there's a conflict curtain that was put up between us. Okay. So I hope that explains a little bit.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Okay. wanna follow up real quickly on the APDs.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Okay.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: The 39 million congratulations on that for securing all that federal funding. I know you s- mentioned that you needed $1.8 million match.
Are you anticipating any other or have you applied for any other APD funding?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Not at this time. the only APD that's outside that we didn't expect is the 1.5 million from the disaster. but, that is because of a disaster and we're able to apply. but, it wouldn't affect this one this this request because the 1.5 Sinlaku disaster APD-

the match what come from what the senators passed giving the governor the ability the 25 million and so she's already approved that. So that wouldn't affect my FY27 ask but that would be the only thing that is outside the current. We have a lot of work being done and we can go on and on and on but we need to get some things implemented first.
And so we're looking forward to the biggest implementation which is really the RFP going out and being advertised for an upgrade after 20 years the eligibility enrollment system that we're hoping I mean it's going in a good tick a good cadence. Hopefully when the attorney general finishes his review and FNS finishes their review and you might ask why FNS and this is Medicaid because we have an integrated system.
It's one system that takes care of many programs. So it's an integrated system. So all the funders who are putting money into funding this modernization have to approve the RFP. So CMS is done. FNS is still reviewing it. Attorney general is still reviewing it. Our hope is that by the summer we will have an approved RFP and then the next process of the procurement will take into effect which is really an advertisement.
And let's see what big vendors out there that are in the procurement space or in the space for eligibility enrollment will come. but there is a lot of interest right now. When I go to national meetings Guam is bombarded with interest of help. So I'm excited because that means we're really gonna get a competition and with competition we're gonna get the best product for the best dollar.
Unfortunately in this space the dollars are in the millions sorry.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: So under DHAP I'm reading.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yeah.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Through your your presentation and it looks like almost all these status I mean these shelters and housing you're anticipating that they will be turned on by the end of this summer.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Sure.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: And but you have under DHAP eight positions I believe on the staffing pattern and you have four vacancies. Do you need more personnel.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yes. Always Okay but, I think we have two social workers. We have a lot of partners in the community that we partner with.

This is a division that partners a lot with different nonprofits and so we're really in this together.
That word we're in this together but DHAP is the glue is the glue is the coordinating glue because the different nonprofits only support homeless based on their funding and their funding specifically to what their funding says they should help with you know homeless. So the government has always been the conduit right?
That has always been what brings people together and then pushes back out hopefully the money. And I think you know the one point one million the five hundred thousand in the one section in the last budget act you know I gave you a breakdown you'll see but DHAP staff social workers we can always
You know I don't wanna grow too much either too fast. It's a new division. we like I said we just we just finished our strategic plan. We wanna be able to roll this out and take care of the homeless the right way with the right pieces in the community in place. We're fortunate enough that the administration were able to buy some buildings some apartments.
And I just wanna give a big shout-out I forgot I'm sorry to the Church of Latter-day Saints. A big shout-out to them because they came into partnership with us and they are funding the majority of all the furniture in the RanCare residence.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Okay.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: And I was told yesterday that what is it Rob? The washers came in?
Dryers. The dryers were arrived. So you know this is a lot of things. RanCare is not ready. The the we have the elevator but, the ele- elevator shaft has is being worked on and so we can't really open a facility but the good news is the elevator's here. So we're not waiting for the elevator. We're just waiting for the elevator shaft to be ready to receive the elevator.
But it's not only the shaft but, it's also those of us who know there is a very few if not just one elevator vendor. So we're kind of like in their wait list in their you know work order wherever they can. So it's unfortunate. It's, I think that's something that people should look into get into that business because one elevator vendor on Guam that services all elevators on Guam.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Does your budget factor in the additional cost for opening these facilities utilities things like that?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yes.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: It is incorporated.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yes.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Into your budget?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yes.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Okay. and just I know I asked this before I'd like to schedule a tour of these facilities so that we can see take a look at these shelters and these housings.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yes.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Facilities. Okay.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: We can.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Like within the next week or so.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Okay.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Okay. that's it for me now. I do have to go but thank you so much for the presentation.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Thank you Senator. I just wanna also say thank you for your support. You've always been open to our department and I appreciate that very much as our oversight.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Thank you
Thank you. And I'll be sending the revised bill to you probably by tomorrow. Thank you.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: *Si Yu'os ma'åse* Madam Chair and yeah definitely I I think we're ripe for an informational. I'm sure you'll find some time in the coming weeks and months. I'll join you on that with a lot of the detail on these programs.
Think there might be some interest in the new public health location so we'll discuss that with you as we go but I think that's the way to go. I'll join you in that Senator. Senator Gumataotao you're recognized.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Thank you Mr. Chair and thank you Public Health for your robust presentation today as you described so aptly earlier.
Let me start with your property insurance. Regarding your budget request of 107,544 for property insurance which is the same amount that you requested last fiscal year. for the record which government of Guam-owned property or properties are covered by this insurance policy? And has Public Health confirmed whether there's an option for these properties to be covered using the same approach that is used for other government properties such as the Department of Public Works the mooning facilities our village mayors' offices and the Department of Parks and Recreation?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: This is for insurance?

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Your property insurance.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: I'll get back to you on that. Sorry.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: I would hope so for the committee as we're looking at the budget. Let me just move.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: We have a list. We will give you the list- Thank you and share it with everybody.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Yes please. Thank you. For your, under your office or the director's office for the benefit of the committee and those that are following today's discussion what programs personnel contracts and other obligations are anticipated to be covered with the requested 724,126 for miscellaneous under the DPHSS director's office?
So what is included in the miscellaneous that cannot be categorized into existing budget lines? Can you give us some examples?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Okay. I'm going to, we do have the breakdown and so Kin if I can ask you to join me?
And you're looking at the Division of Public Health I mean Division of

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: It's on that same page with the property insurance seven hundred twenty-four thousand one twenty-six page two dash forty-seven in the BBMR document Schedule E.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Just give me a minute Senator.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Sure.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Senator. We can go on to the next question and we'll get that to you.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Sure. let me just I know the this-

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: And this is the breakdown. I'm sorry just one more time. This is the breakdown of properties insurance properties but the second question you had is.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: First one was for property insurance.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: The miscellaneous breakdown.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Yeah which of the owned properties are covered by the policy? And the second one is that $724,126 for miscellaneous under the DPHSS director's office.
Okay let me go to my next question Mr. Chair if I can. according to the GovGuam fiscal year 2024 financial statements this is the audit from the Office of Public Accountability. through that they mentioned and reported that DPHSS lacks adequate internal policies and procedures over compliance with the applicable special tests and provisions for provider eligibility.
This is the screening and enrollment. I know this is hitting directly to the MIP. and can you tell us what is the value of the uncollected Medicaid provider application fees as were outlined in that audit and what you can tell us about it?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: You want me to answer for an audit question right now Senator?

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: There's fees that are outstanding that are collected. So I'm just wanting to know what's the value of the uncollected Medicaid provider application fees? It goes in and it's spent in your budget right? So I just wanna know how much you guys are collecting.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: No I do not have that direct.

Francine Salas, Chief Human Services Administrator, DPHSS: I can answer that directly.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Okay.

Francine Salas, Chief Human Services Administrator, DPHSS: Hi senators. Good morning. Good afternoon. actually currently we do not charge.
Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Hold on hold on. For the record can you please identify yourself?

Francine Salas, Chief Human Services Administrator, DPHSS: Oh my name is Francine Salas. I'm the chief human services program administrator for the Division of Public Welfare for the Department of Public Health and Social Services.
We actually don't charge provider enrollment fees which we are looking because as our Medicaid program grows in just let's say like six years ago pre-COVID we were getting a federal amount of roughly $18 million a year. That was our cap. Now we're at 150 million going into FY27 which in that time we've encountered an increase in provider enrollment an increase in Medicaid clients.
So what we've also identified is the need to build a more robust program integrity arm and part of that is looking at provider enrollments looking at people when they come doing site audit visits 'cause as you know the specialty care isn't necessarily here. So our clients go off-island to the Philippines to Los Angeles to San Diego and they are infants to adults.
Their ages range.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: There's no fee charged right?

Francine Salas, Chief Human Services Administrator, DPHSS: Right now in building our program integrity arm there is a focus on our provider enrollment. And I don't know if you've seen too just because it's all over the news stateside there's a lot of focus on fraud within the within the Medicaid space.
And so part of a part of our requirement is to heavily vet these off-island providers as well as the new providers who wanna enroll. So we last spoke I think we were roughly at I wanna say maybe 76 providers that are enrolled with the Guam Medicaid program.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Okay. So which gets me to my next question.
Have all the Medicaid providers submitted a copy of their current and valid either business licenses to public health or any type of license to do business here?

Francine Salas, Chief Human Services Administrator, DPHSS: Yes.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yes.

Francine Salas, Chief Human Services Administrator, DPHSS: They face a so it's like it's not re-credential but, it is re-credential. It's like every time there's an expiration we follow up.
We send notices as well as we there's an expectation that to receive it before any claims are paid out for their services.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: And that, that's where it was gonna kind of a follow-up to an issue that I brought up earlier this year regarding the OPA's findings in their report 2503 on Medicaid providers whose medical and/or DEA licenses Expired but, who were paid for up to two years for failing to renew their licenses.
Have these same Medicaid providers provided a copy yet of their re-required medical license and/or DEA license to public health? And were any payments they received while their license or licenses were expired required to be returned to the federal government?

Francine Salas, Chief Human Services Administrator, DPHSS: So first of all no there's no funding that has been yet required or determined to be returned to the federal government.
Second it might be important to note that the audit period of the OPA audit was twenty twenty-four. So what they had noticed back and they're citing two years of providers not re-credentialed that was due to the public health emergency and CMS had actually waived the requirement to do that. So since that time has happened though we've obviously we've re-credentialed people.
Now individual people may individual providers may have chosen to close up shop may have closed chose up chosen to retire. However the service date is what we pay based on.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Correct.

Francine Salas, Chief Human Services Administrator, DPHSS: And not if their re-credentials if their.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Correct.

Francine Salas, Chief Human Services Administrator, DPHSS: If their license expires today I'm still paying on the service date. The service date was a year before six months before and they were licensed then.

So it really is tied.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Right.

Francine Salas, Chief Human Services Administrator, DPHSS: To the service date of when they administered whatever service. And if it happened to be during the public health emergency where the updated licenses.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Waived.

Francine Salas, Chief Human Services Administrator, DPHSS: Was waived the requirement from CMS is in we're able to pay them based on that requirement. Going forward though everybody has been all their licenses have been updated everything on file we see.
And one of the initiatives we're moving towards in terms of modernization is we do have a provider enrollment Portal and that allows them eventually to enroll online or update all their licenses as they come in. Right now it's just for them to submit and upload claims. but, at the same token this will help us sort of flag and trigger anything coming up expirations.
And I really think that because locally it's easy. We're here. We can knock down doors if we need to. We can we can say "Okay well then we're not gonna be a Medicaid program."

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: So you would agree that maybe doing fees would be able to help put that program together?

Francine Salas, Chief Human Services Administrator, DPHSS: Correct.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Right.

Francine Salas, Chief Human Services Administrator, DPHSS: And that's actually something that we are authorized to do under CMS so.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: All right. Thank you so much.

Francine Salas, Chief Human Services Administrator, DPHSS: You're welcome.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: But Senator thank you for that message but, just so that providers don't freak out we're looking into it. We haven't established the fees for providers to come in.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: I'm not trying to freak them out.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yeah.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: But, I think we're trying to cover the costs that are.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Correct.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: actually born. And public health can't come and ask.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: And allow.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Let let me finish. They can't come back and say "Hey listen we're not getting the resources. Here's another way to be able to cover that."

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Right.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: So that was my that was my point.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yep.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Yeah.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: No I appreciate that.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Okay. Thank you. can I ask for the record I know US Secretary or Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins had asked across the country for SNAP program recipients to reapply for SNAP benefits for Guam's SNAP ben- recipients did you did they go through that? Or I did see something about a waiver and will our SNAP recipients have to reapply?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: We don't qualify for that. That's an exemption for the territory Senator. We can get.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: So they're not gonna have to reapply?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Not to reapply. Are you talking about the re- for SNAP? I'm not aware.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Yeah yeah. And why am why I just wanna know why wouldn't we do it? It's not.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: No. No.

Francine Salas, Chief Human Services Administrator, DPHSS: So real quick Senator it's not the request to reapply isn't there it's a renewal on a annual basis which is basically sort of a reapplication. 'Cause you gotta report has there been any change in your income have you had additional kids have some of your kids aged out that they can no longer be covered under SNAP?
So there is there's a renewalyeah there's already systems in place. There's a periodic change every six months. a SNAP recipient head of household has to report any changes to their income their life what what's happening that can affect their SNAP amount that they receive. And on an annual basis they actually need to reapply and and that's sort of how it normally works.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: So based on your guys' assessment compliance rate just a round number are SNAP recipients compliant with all applicable federal and local laws? What's the percentage do you think?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: So in general yes because if they don't come in for their certification FNS is very very strict about recertification or updates and the minute they don't they get dropped off the SNAP.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: So so I'll ask what's what do you think is a round number percentage-wise that that they've done their part?
'Cause we do have those new work requirements and the like now.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Are you asking like a rough estimate of those who are in compliance? I would say today everyone who is currently on the rolls are in compliant. They are very aware of the strict regulations of face meeting their appointments face to face.
And so I think they're getting accustomed to how things are very different about making sure they meet their appointments. For in the past they face to face appointments were weren't really forced. Now there's a lot of strict rules for with FNS. And so I can say that the 30 some thousand SNAP recipients today are in compliant or else they would be automatically dropped after their date.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: And that 30,000 has not changed much has it in over two years? The amount of SNAP.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: No it has. It has. There has been a dip. There has been a dip of number of clients that get SNAP. There'll be an additional dip with the ABAWD folks that are not gonna be able to qualify any longer or they didn't get an exemption.
So there is a drop in in SNAP recipients and I think SNAP recipients today know that the federal government is really looking and really honing in compliance and program integrity. And our division is really. We're gonna get dinged by FNS if we don't really push that. our system is so integrated in that the minute they miss an appointment they get dropped off the rolls.
It is so entwined that and we had to do that. We had to ensure that our systems really comply or else the program will be will be dinged. And I think there's you know we need the program to continue to exist. We just wanna make sure that those who do qualify actually get it.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: All right. Thank you so much for that Director and thank you all for being with us this morning.
Mr. Chair that's all the questions I have and appreciate the effort from Public Health on your robust presentation to this body. Yeah.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Thank you Senator. Thank you for being here.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Senator Taitague you're recognized.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Thank you, thank you Senator Terlaje. I have an appointment I have to make too. Just real quick. First thank you so much for this really in-depth presentation. I know you probably can do another you know 100 sheets you know to explain all the work that the Public Health does and fully explain it.
But you guys are very good at answering our questions appreciate everyone that's here today. Thank you so much. And please send those who are not here today at at Public Health who are working hard to all extend my *Un Dangkolo yan Si Yu'os Ma'ase* Director just a few questions from me regarding this increase.
Can you kind of explain this increase that was not incorporated in here again just so we clarify that we.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: The additional supplemental ma'am?

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Yeah yeah. Okay. And the correct number on the additional supplemental and why.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: So when the fiscal budget was submitted our cap was at 145,000 or estimated cap.
We just recently in April received the official notice that the Medicaid cap for claims is at 150 million.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: So that's a $5.4 million increase in a cap. We r
emember Medicaid is we have a match a percentage match. 83% 17. So based on the percentage increase or based on the amount increased. We needed to ask the legislature for the 17%. That wasn't included when the budget went down in.
Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Earlier this year the first quarter of this year.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: The 17% equates to.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Is 918,000.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: I'm sorry?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Nine the 918,000 on the supplemental.

Senator Telo T. Taitague Okay. 918,000.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: That was based on the Medicaid cap.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Right.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: When we received the.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: It's an increase.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Official notice that it went up.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: To 150. So that's good news.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Yeah.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: 'Cause we got more money.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Very good.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: More money from the federal dollars.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Yeah that's true.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: But, it also means that we needed to come back and ask you folks to help us- For- with the match because we needed the match.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Which is additional 918.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Correct.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay. For the Medicaid. but, the increase that the chairman was mentioning was $8.3 million increase.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Just a point of information the overall is 8.3 but, it's not just for this program.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yeah

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: This program is only requesting nine 977,000.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Right 918.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: There are other programs that have requested.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: For Medicaid.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Under the variation.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay. Thank you so much. Okay. just moving on the regarding the DHAPP the funding source for this was federal funds to Okay.
It was it was federal funds. The CDBG federal going down the line. Now it says deeds acquired date and deed. So you were able to acquire the Bradley Apartments. You were able to require

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: DHAP.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Yeah these are not like rentals at all. These are buildings that are owned now by the government of Guam.
By the government of Guam. Correct?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Correct.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay. that being said how are what kind of funding are you setting aside for the maintenance. So of these buildings?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Okay. Yeah. Thank you. So the government of Guam owns it. We administer the program in it. I think if I'm not. Okay here it is. I'm on the right page.
The it was acquired and owned by certain like for example the Bradley Apartments Randcare. We acquired that through Department of Administration. They hold the title. We are the lessees. So as these people go in for example they would we would case manage them and they say "Okay they qualify," for example Bradley.
. We will see. Some of them will have vouchers from GORA. We will see. So they are paying for that. So DOA who is the landlord is going to be collecting from the individuals who we place there who more than likely either have jobs or most of them will have probably GHURA vouchers. but, right now housing for one bedroom or two bedroom are so scarce that this fits the need in the community of one and two bedrooms.
But it's for specialty the homeless for women for example I know you're very passionate about this. For women who are coming out of recovery housing like from Guam Behavioral Health and they finished their recovery period but, they have to find a job find a place to live and then they can be reunified by their children who we're housing at for example the some of their children might be in shelters or part of the six- the CPS kids.
There has to be a reunification and the best way to reunify or to make them ready for reunification is to help them find housing. Guam does not have the housing of one or two bedrooms. This fits the need.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: I understand but, the maintenance of these buildings it sounds like DOA is the is your tenant.
I mean- Landlord is your landlord. Landlord. So it's up to DOA to provide funding to maintain these buildings and make sure it's in good order. Is that right?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Correct and I.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: So you guys don't have to worry about that.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: No and I, Okay, and I don't want to speak for DOA.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Yeah.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: But, I have to believe that part of that rental they're collecting is gonna go Toward maintenance
and things like that.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay. That sounds good. And my last question on that one would be are you seeing an increase of individuals wanting you know needing a place to stay?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Well you know the pit count as we can see just driving around especially in Agana.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Yeah.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: there's a lot of people. But, I have to say been working with the homeless population not even just with public health but, through my years in nonprofit work some people are just not ready to be housed.
And so the question you asked me is is there an increase? Yeah. there's definitely We definitely see an increase of more homeless. there is we're fighting a 35-year addiction There are women and fathers.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Yeah.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: who are going through programs.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Recovery programs who are detached from their children who are no longer probably have work that they can pay rent or buy a home so there is an increase.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Yeah.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Of need for one two-bedroom places.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Yeah. Could we get.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Where we can have them reunified with their children.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Yeah. Madam Director can we get an a statistics data you know start from the beginning. You know let's see how many people were there with vouchers how many you had to turn away who are actually seeking help within this department of yours.
So the numbers would be very helpful you know as far.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: As we as we fill. We're definitely gonna get the data points.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay. Yeah.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Right now there's we'll have the data points. Okay.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Appreciate that. Sorry.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: That we'll collect.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: I didn't mean to jump in but- That we're definitely.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yeah
collecting that. Okay. That's data point that we need to collect.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Thank you also were you affected your agency affected on the dark lord that you know affected all the hacking the cybersecurity attack?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: No.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: You were not?
Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Thank goodness. None of our systems.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: So are you on on iCloud for all your data and information or are you using OTech?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: OTech.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: But, the goal in the modernization is go to cloud.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay. To it does go to cloud. Okay. Let's just see-

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: That's the goal.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay. lastly on the HPLO you know it's always there's always need for like an attorney an investigator with regard to HPLO. It's really desperately needed but, the one thing I'm very interested is and thank you so much for your testimony on the foreign medical grads the ITP as well as the FMGs.
I appreciate your testimony. Hopefully this bill that's coming on the session floor does not get through because it like you said it's a great pilot program and you talk about public health and the hospital. It's the public sector that needs these hospital I mean need these doctors because many of them do come to Guam but, they go to the private sector which they'll get paid more versus if they come to public health you know working in our public sector where we cannot turn patients away and we should not.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: And we are very supportive of that.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Yes. Thank you so much. So I'm hoping that whatever the Guam Medical Board of Examiners need to start the rules and regulations I do have a bill that puts a date and time on it to get it through. but, you know it's you don't need that from me. You can do it on your own and I hope you take that initiative to start those rules and regulations so we can get these most needed doctors here to our islands so our people are not you know left behind when it comes to healthcare. And I appreciate that if you can do that.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: I hear you and the urgency is in on our courtAnd I can tell you that nobody is more urgent to do it than the doctors that are currently in the board on the board. They worked very closely with the National Federation Board to get the best legislation together.
and we are guided by them with all the states the other states that have done this and so getting the best practices into the SOPs. but, absolutely this bill that allows or the law that allows us to bring foreign doctors in is not going to only help the need of the community but, as we mentioned earlier we send a lot of Medicaid patients off-island because we don't have that care here.
And that's Medicaid dollars helping another jurisdiction. That Medicaid dollar is not circulating in our economy. That Medicaid dollar when I send and when I send somebody over there to a to a hospital that hospital when I pay that hospital that hospital pays in the jurisdiction or the state they're in.
It's not circulating here. Unlike when we pay our local providers they pay taxes. They you know they help in our economy. They have clinics they hire people. So it's it helps in the economy. So definitely keeping people here is the advantage all around.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Yep. And more so you know the public law that just passed that created the ITP and the FMGs it's a pathway for both the private clinics on this island through the FMGs and the ITP for the public facilities on the so there are two options for both public and private on the law that was passed.
So thank you so much for everything and thank you. Thank you Senator Terlaje for letting me take your space. I have to run. Thank you.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Senator Terlaje you're recognized.

Senator Therese Terlaje: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase*. Thank you all for your presentation and your work on this for BOSA is this 689 number of children in CPS custody is that an increase from last year? Oh. Yes. And is there a delay in paying foster parents?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: No.

Senator Therese Terlaje: No?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: No.

Senator Therese Terlaje: All right. On the Environmental health the we're talking about the need f- that you have openings and they're not being filled. There's a need

for these inspectors in order to increase inspections. was there a boot camp at GCC for this type of thing?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yes
Senator Therese Terlaje: Yeah were any of those people hired? My understanding is none of them were hired.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: So interesting enough right? They folks have the you know they're they think they're interested in this arena and they go through the boot camp. It's not a direct funnel to go to the department. Sometimes people take boot camps and then they want to Maybe they think they're applying for other positions in this arena like maybe EPA for example.
So I don't have the exact data how many in the boot camp applied and came but, I know that we're always challenged with other departments that that can use this kind of employees and skill set and that's just our challenge. Unless the boot camp is unless the boot camp is specifically for just public health we wait for those folks with that boot camp experience to apply.
I mean I'm assuming that's why they want to.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Yeah experience right? I was told that they're waiting they are the ones waiting for interviews or to be hired.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Oh no.

Senator Therese Terlaje: That no one has been hired from that. but, could you please check that?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yeah I'll check if they're but, we have ongoing recruitments and the recruitments are year-round so the list comes us to us quickly so.

Senator Therese Terlaje: All right.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: I'll look into that though.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Okay. Please.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yeah.

Senator Therese Terlaje: The DEH building the A&E how was that funded? Is that a grant?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yes it was. It was a grant funded Department of Interior.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Okay. And the SAFE Shelter Assistance for Elderly housing is that also funded by a grant?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Is that harbor?
The harbor?

Senator Therese Terlaje: The lada. The elderly.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: No no no no no. Let me pull it DEH. Sorry.

Senator Therese Terlaje: No not DEH. SAFE.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: This is on the DHAP.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Yes.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: I'm sorry one more time Senator?

Senator Therese Terlaje: Just the funding for how we're gonna run the shelter.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: The 500,000?

Senator Therese Terlaje: The homeless elderly shelter. Yeah.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: The 500,000 ma'am. The 500,000 that's given to part in our budget this current budget it's the same. We're asking for an additional 500,000.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Okay so what was it used for before?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: It wasn't used.

Senator Therese Terlaje: I'm sorry. So you had 500 in your budget before and it was not used?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: No no no. You gave the legislature gave us 500,000. For a breakdown.

Senator Therese Terlaje: For food?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: And forgive me I'm looking for it.
Here we go. Public Law 38-60.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Public Law 37.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Public Law 38-60 gave 500,000 for homeless response and housing food and medical. Slide 37.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Yes.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: That would be the where the money.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Okay.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: So it's locally funded.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Is that the same as the.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yeah.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Oh okay. Yeah.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: That's 500,000.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Oh so you're gonna use that for that?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yes. Yes.

Senator Therese Terlaje: So you're gonna use how much? 500,000?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: No the 500,000 on slide 37 ma'am.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Yes.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Is shows the breakdown so that's where we're that's how we're splitting. There's different housing. There's different needs. So 174,000. Do you see it? slide 37.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Yeah well, are you saying that these this list here is the same as well it that includes the SAFE building? The shelter for the elderly?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: That's the first slide right?
Yeah that's what I'm doing. It's right here. The Guam Housing Corporation Emergency Shelter Safe House that's part of the 500,000 ma'am. That's slide 37.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Okay so GHC. Because on the safe slide it doesn't talk about Guam Housing.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Okay sorry. Well Guam Housing Corporation is our partner. Sorry about that.

Senator Therese Terlaje: That's with the elderly.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yes.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Okay. All right. And then.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: The elderly and disabled emergency shelter. And are you running that or who's running it? Who will be running it?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: We manage it. Manage. We go into We manage it because it's we we partner with Guam Housing Corporation and they we put the elderly or disabled person into that shelter and then we check on them daily. We do case management.

Senator Therese Terlaje: All right. So this says people are already in this. So this is not the one that was on TV the other day where the where they had brought the beds in from the Church of Latter-day Saints?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: O no that's Rand Care.

Senator Therese Terlaje: O that's the RanCare okay.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: That's Rand Care.

Senator Therese Terlaje: All right thank you.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yes.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Okay.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Rand Care Residence.

Senator Therese Terlaje: All right. Makes sense. Okay. Then on the budget it talks about there's a in the contracts $9.5 million increase and in miscellaneous an $18 million increase. And so during your presentation I was able to catch that maybe 1.4 million of the increase in contracts is for the senior contracts.
Which contracts are those? Is that for the villages or 1.4 million increase in senior contracts.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: This is for DSC senior citizen.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Yeah

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yes. So again it's our request is for supportive services. I'm sorry. Give me a minute You're asking one more time Senator.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Just the so there's an increase of 9.5 million in contracts and- Right what is that for? You told You said earlier 1.4 million was for the seniors division in contracts and I'm just curious which types of contracts is increased by 1.4 million.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Oh supportive services congregate meals home delivery meals for benefit.

Senator Therese Terlaje: It's the meals?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: It's the meals and the and the home services supportive services.

Senator Therese Terlaje: All right. Okay.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yes.

Senator Therese Terlaje: So that's not the daycare or the senior centers. It's not. It's just the meals?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: It's just meals.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Okay. All right and yes meals and- A 1.4 million increase.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yes.

Senator Therese Terlaje: All right. And then the rest of the 9.5 million increase in contracts overall in the department?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yes and that's just because of like meals for example cost of meals cost of food has gone up. Our providers HSP for for home care their natural increase in salaries you know their you know the organic increases in salaries.
I mean that's just the natural kind of like the increment of cost of living.

Senator Therese Terlaje: All right. What about the 18 million increase in miscellaneous?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: For division of.

Senator Therese Terlaje: This is overall 18 million increase in miscellaneous. You had mentioned that you have a 724,000 in the director's office for miscellaneous or you didn't mention but, that's in the papers.
Yeah. So I'm just looking for where's the rest of that miscellaneous increase going?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: 18 million? I'm sorry. 18 million?
But not at DPW. I mean not at Division of General Admin. No it's not. No. It's at It's in DPW. It's in welfare. Welfare.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Okay. Is that your um Can you just explain?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: You're reading the summary?

Senator Therese Terlaje: Yeah.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: It's in the increase.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Yeah

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Overall is majority in well public welfare.

Senator Therese Terlaje: All right. And can you just explain?
What do you mean?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: The SNAP. So the- SNAP the flip of more local dollars now need to be spent in SNAP versus it used to be 50/50 now we have to cover 75%.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Why is that in miscellaneous then and not in the regular welfare budget? It's agency work sorry.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: And a social also the APDs in the Medicaid space.
The APDs are all the modernization efforts that we got the 39 million for but, the match that goes with that that's coming down so that is part of that increase.

Senator Therese Terlaje: All right. What about the 724,000 increase in miscellaneous in the director's office?

Joaquin Blaz, Acting Chief of General Administration, DPHSS: Yeah I'm gonna provide you Senator that the justification after this. They just can't get into my computer. So once we leave here and I can get into my computer I have all my notes there. So we'll provide you that.

Senator Therese Terlaje: O okay.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: We'll give you the breakdown on the miscellaneous of the director's office

Senator Therese Terlaje: Yeah of the miscellaneous
.

Joaquin Blaz, Acting Chief of General Administration, DPHSS: Yes for that one.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Okay.

Joaquin Blaz, Acting Chief of General Administration, DPHSS: Just for that particular one.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Great.

Joaquin Blaz, Acting Chief of General Administration, DPHSS: But, for the rest of the that increase is actually 3 million overall in the general fund and the rest of it of course reflects in the federal match right? For the for the matching portion. Okay?

Senator Therese Terlaje: Okay. All right yeah.
And so that's great news about the increase in the Medicaid cap. Can you just tell us what do you expect that to go to? Will that go to an increase in patients or will that go to different services altogether such as elderly or?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Well, thank you for that of course we're gonna continue the services we provide already.
We are looking at reviewing all the services that might not be used that we can take off the rolls so they don't charge because they're not being used. but, the increase will definitely go towards we're bringing online wellness. You know we need to focus on wellness and making sure that those who are diabetes go down.
The wellness checks being covered by Medicaid. Our doula services because will be covered. We're working on the SPA or the State Plan Amendment to making sure doula services are covered for the first time on Guam. That will help with female and pregnant mothers. That will definitely go into We're looking at hopefully having those funds as well touch some increases in doctors' fees.
I know everybody is looking at Medicaid and wanting an increase in fees but, we need to just see how that between the doula services and when I say doctors' fees I have everyone coming all Medicaid providers coming into me whether they're doctors or dentists asking for the state to please increase their fees.
Cannot increase the fees if we don't have the funding. So the five million helps. The rebates help. Getting certain codes off the rolls making sure that codes are being the right codes are being charged. All that process should help in all the new requests between dentists getting an increase doctors getting an increase OBGYNs get an increase doula services coming on board.
So it is good news and it seems like a lot 'cause five million seems like a lot and then you add the rebate that we achieved that stretches the cap maybe another a total of seven million eight million but, we're gonna we're gonna put it Where it needs to be and we hear the providers asking for an increase so hopefully we will be able to after some major analysis is done.

Senator Therese Terlaje: When when will you be changing your state plan to make those changes?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: It State plan takes a while. it takes at least 12 months if even longer because CMS today requires a lot of proof that our what we're charging is in the right codes. And so It takes about a year.

Senator Therese Terlaje: I know but I would say aren't you in the process of it? Some of So when do you expect?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: O I'm sorry. Not till next year? Doulas doulas are the doula approval will be this year this fiscal year.

Senator Therese Terlaje: What month do you do that do you make that change? Or do you just do it on an ongoing basis?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: It's been we've been working we've been working on the SPA amendment with CMS.

Senator Therese Terlaje: But do you change the state plan annually every year or do you do it any month you want to?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: No when we need to.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Okay.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: At needed and as we get guided by CMS.

Senator Therese Terlaje: All right. So has it ever been changed recently to include this elderly assistance living that we talked about during one of the hearings?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: That is one of the things that we're looking at Medicaid looking at going and we are in the process of making the state amendment so that when folks go into these residents like Rand Care if they're Medicaid then Medicaid can pay for it.

Senator Therese Terlaje: All right. Will these changes then What I wanna know do we have a- Um- Do we max out the use of the Medicaid every year?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Last year we were up at 140-some million. So we touched the cap but, we didn't go over the cap.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Okay. If we we're So that's good. Do we have a waiting list of people who want services and we have to deny because we're at our cap?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: No.

Senator Therese Terlaje: No. Okay.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: No.

Senator Therese Terlaje: So all right. Yeah. So we kinda have the luxury of including additional services versus cutting anyone off?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS:. Before but, we also need to be able to prove we can afford it.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Yeah within the cap.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Okay.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: And so the additional cap the rebates turning off certain codes making sure that providers charge the right codes and not the wrong codes that are have higher charges all that matters in the analysis at CMS before we can turn on another service.

Senator Therese Terlaje: All right. Did you submit an application to increase the cap or that was automatic?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: That was given to us.

Senator Therese Terlaje: All right. All right. And then a couple more things. The I heard you talk about who's moving where environmental health. Where are they moving DEH?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: You mean in.

Senator Therese Terlaje: So some of like you said the admin is moving to the ne I think auto spot building

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: DEH in Rand Care. I mean I'm sorry in Hessler. DEH will stay there for now. A part of it but, gov- director's office and division of- Public health.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Are moving to your new space on the-

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: To the new space the on the swipe is that but, everybody else will stay

Senator Therese Terlaje: So are you still gonna be paying the rent at Hessler the 600,000?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Not it's gonna be proportioned out. DEH- whatever DEH square footage they will pay for it.

Senator Therese Terlaje: All right. And then the new rent?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: well that's gonna come out from what we used to pay Hessler DOA. Yeah. 600,000.

Senator Therese Terlaje: So it'll just come out of our budget like normal. Same? So you're saying it's a wash?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Same same.

Senator Therese Terlaje: And or in the Mangilao building I met with DPW and they s- in February because I was told through all the testimony that that contract that we paid a million dollars to assess and they determined it should be refurbished and they were working on the design. Right. And they estimated it would be 27.8 million to actually refurbish it but, they were finishing the design which was due in February 26 2026.
When I met with him he said he had given the contractor a 30-day extension but, that all the parties had agreed on the design. do you intend to move forward with that this fiscal year?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Well one we need to find the money and I think the pu- the new public law that moved GCC the old public health building to

GCC that new public law now the Mangilao Central what it's normally called in the past is now owned by GCC.
We are coexis we will coexist there. We have an MOU already in place and I think the financing arm that's the whole rationale is GCC is gonna find the financial arm. So definitely we wanna We're in partnership with GCC to coexist with their nursing but, that financial arm will be on them to determine.

Senator Therese Terlaje: All right. and that you agree with DPW that the you agreed with the design?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Well the design was just my design. It did not include the annex. So it's gonna be Yeah we agreed with the design for our part but, not the annex for the nursing for GCC. Because remember that design did not include GCC at the time.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Oh no no. The design he showed me had public health all on the first floor and GCC on the second floor.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yes. Yeah. So maybe I mean he's probably talking to GCC without me but, I know my part we're good. All right. We like the design.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Okay. And All right. Then the just this homeling- the homeless shelters can you just explain again why they took so long?
Everybody has seen particularly the Anigua building. It's been worked on maybe years ago you know? It's been years and like you said some of these were acquired in 2021 2024 and it's really just taken a long time while we really have a growing crisis. Right. Well- And they they don't seem to be opening yet.
End of summer 2026. End of summer 2026.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yeah. Okay. So I can only say that it took long because they may have acquired it at the time but, ADA requirement and refurbishments needed to be conducted. The all the construction to make it ADA compliant because every room has to be for a wheelchair because we're expecting frail elderly in that case.
So all the ADA all the construction You know that's what's delaying it. I mean and then we needed to furnish it. We found a partner thank goodness for the Church of Latter-day Saints. That's in. So things are just coming in you know. We can't open it without furniture. We can't open it without

I can't open it today even if I wanted to because the elevator is not in yet for example. the Bradley Apartments in Anigua we're waiting for range hoods to go in.

Senator Therese Terlaje: What?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Range- range hoods. You know for the stove ranges.

Senator Therese Terlaje: How long you been waiting? Because that building we've had in our possession since 2021 it says.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Thank you Senator. That's your time. Please answer the question.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: We are we are pushing it along as fast as we can and we have a lot of people ready to move in or at least identified to move in. but, I you know I'm not the landlord. I'm not the holder of the lease. And so all I know is that the delay was caused because of some construction ADA compliance issues and equipment and stoves being installed and things like that nature.
So all that.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Thank you Senator.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Thank you. That's DPW?
Yeah. DPW you're saying is the landlord? Who's the landlord?

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Thank you Senator. That's your final question. Yeah we'll have you answer.

Senator Therese Terlaje:. If you could, Mr. Chair this is a two-hour. We waited for these questions. Yes.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: I understand ma'am. but, we've been fair with everybody with their five minutes and we can have another hearing on that. Well but, this is for the budget. All right?

Senator Therese Terlaje: This is the budget.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Yeah. I know I know you want to engage Senator. That is your time. Thank you. Therese you can answer the question.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: It's it's there Senator.

Senator Therese Terlaje: The landlord?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Your The landlord is there.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Is DP is DPW the landlord?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: on the on the on the on the chart. If you look at the chart.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Oh.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Thank you Senator

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: the landlord is there.

Senator Therese Terlaje: DOA?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: DOA.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Yeah thank you. Okay. So Therese.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Thank you.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: on the budget I just wanna make some observations and a couple questions as I close. So as we look at the general fund 'cause that's really what matters here is the general fund request you are obviously are administering the federal funds and it's a great benefit to Guam. So just an observation. Fiscal year 2025 expenditures and encumbrances basically you closed out at $63,779,305.
And then your authorized fiscal year 2026 level is $72,330,000 basically about a about a $8 million increase and then we're tracking that again for this year in terms of the request. Of course we have the matching requirements for Medicaid and the like and other presentations that you made.
I just wanted to make that for the record that we have been supportive and the track is on the same in terms of being able to avail at a maximum level for those programs.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yes Senator. Thank you. And we appreciate that.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Sure. Thank you so much. So what we'll do is we'll evaluate like there was some questions in for different divisions.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yes.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: We'll evaluate the final ask and then maybe send some follow-up questions to you.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Absolutely and every.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Yeah.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: All the senators that asked and-

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Sure.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: thank you for the five senators that actually came to my budget hearing.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Sure.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: I appreciate it. We have the you know staff is here.
We have the notes and we'll definitely get back to you and you know of the responses.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Yeah. So we'll yeah we'll send follow-ups. I mean the Medic- the Medicaid's pretty straightforward.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yeah.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: And I'm I'm sure most of them are. I'm just saying that so we can have details for when we go into the Committee of the Whole and debate the budget and when we do the final in terms of general fund.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yes.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: And- Just a couple of questions on O go ahead.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Okay. S- Senator and again the budget session is expected in July?

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Yes. Okay. we will start just right after the 4th of July- So we'll and we will we are planning to vote.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: It'll definitely be in discussion before then by July 17th. Yes. Together.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Yes. Yes. one more.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Chair can you clarify if the program integrity unit new unit is a federally funded or locally funded new unit of the department?

Senator Therese Terlaje: Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Federally.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Federally funded.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yeah.

Thank you. I have a question on page 22. This kinda jumped out at me and I and I wanted to ask this 'cause I know that I've heard from different jurisdictions by others that I talk to in stateside in terms of the effect of the big beautiful bill and those programs being administered.
And a lot of them under this as you mentioned the effect of the 75% and also the effect of the the waiver without the dependents having the waiver they've worked with their Department of Labor and other programs to ensure that they could work with these clients to meet those requirements.
Are we doing that here as well?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: We're doing that we have a partnership Department of Labor but, also many of the clients for example the able-body folks that have to now prove that they have to do 20 hours whether a week whether it's actually paid work or volunteer they're really going out on their own I have to say.
They're going out and volunteering in churches. They're volunteering in mayor's offices. They're actually getting part-time jobs and a lot of them are getting the exemptions as well right? - Yes there is a lot of folks that will that we are expecting to drop June 1st about 6,000 I mentioned.

But also are the Division of Homelessness is ready to help them where we can.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Sure.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: With food commodities and you know wherever we can we're gonna help. We're one department.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Yeah the reason why I ask is because I know that we have a a reported relatively good news on our Department of Labor report in terms of unemployment. but, on the private sector side when we talk to the businesses and others they talk about needing employees badly right? And so probably you know I was talking to a couple businesses and they said you know they're anticipating maybe a surge in applications and the like through this program. and what you know.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: The Department of Labor program?

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Yeah when the benefits change. Yeah. Well no that the benefits change. They're they're anticipating that perhaps to meet the requirement they're gonna get maybe a lot more applicants right in order to stay on the on the program but, meet the work requirements right?
And so I just wanted so that we can work on this together and maybe envision this and get some synergy here.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: It's there already.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Yeah.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yeah Senator. We're already working with them. Yeah. We not only work with them in our We have our own SNAP employment education program. Right. but, we're also working with Department of Labor to see
I mean SNAP and Department of Labor already have a working relationship. Yeah. So we're definitely- No I know you're a mandated partner under Workforce Investment.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Yeah. I got it.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Yeah. We already have a partnership with them.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Right.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: And like I mentioned this new ABAWD requirement that's gonna hit us June 1st.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Yeah.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: A lot of them majority of them have exemptions and are actually complying.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Yeah.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: So that's good news.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Yeah so the I just wanted to give you the feedback that I'm getting even j- especially from the private sector.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: They're expecting some so that.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: So that Well and the thing is not only their expectation but, the thing is that what they're looking at and what they're finding now.
'Cause I'll tell you a lot of businesses you know their operations do ebb and flow. I mean not all of them like have full-time jobs for a long time right?

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Correct.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: So a lot of what they're looking at and what they think they might be able to do here which is a perfect relationship under this need for that work is have a consortium of employees that need to work part-time.
So that so that they don't you know they're not They themselves also have to pay you know less benefits and the like when they have part-time. but, those who are subsidized under these programs at least for an interim seems like a happy marriage.
So I'm just saying that you know the more we get the word out the more we work with the private sector through Department of Labor and Public Health you know perhaps we fix a problem that currently exists.
Or even the private sector they don't really need full-time employees for a long period of time but, they need this rotation of part-time employees and with more

than one full-time or several full-time where they know they have a flux in terms of how their business Just like the tourism industry namely right now.
You know we know that Sinlaku set usput us set us back right? I'm sure operations in Tumon had to you know peel back. Peel back for a while there was not much demand but, then they fire back up right? And we're coming into summer so there's probably gonna need a lot of employment. I'm just saying that while we look at the you know the the challenging side of this I'm just I'm asking for also a push on the opportunity side.
That I'm not saying you're not doing it but, maybe a bigger emphasis knowing that this is this is the implementation now with this program going forward.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: So noted.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Yep. Thank you.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: I will make sure.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Thank you. And I really only had one other question and now I gotta find it. What happened to me? So that was that program. You know what? It must have not been important enough and maybe I'm too hungry.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: You can always ask it and I'll get back to you.

Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas: Sure. We will send you some follow Like I said we'll send you follow-up questions on the breakdown. I know that OFB is continuing to push forward on examining the detail of that of that request.
But like I said on most of the matching it's basically a no-brainer because of the programs that it brings forward. It is lunchtime and we're gonna go ahead and adjourn this hearing on public health and consider their budget for '27 having been heard and it is 12:19.

Therese Arriola, Director, DPHSS: Thank you Senator. Thank you so much.

The Budget Hearing was adjourned at [12:19 PM].

COMMITTEE REPORT

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) -

INTRODUCED BY

Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam

AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

Monday, May 11, 2026, at 9:00 A.M.

Department of Administration

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 11, 2026

2 messages

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Mon, May 4, 2026 at 9:34 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Christopher Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com" <stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com>, "vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com" <vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com>, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 04, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 11, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, May 11, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Guam Department of Administration (DOA)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--
Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

FIRST NOTICE- DOA.pdf
698K

Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov> Mon, May 4, 2026 at 9:36 AM
To: Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

Hafa Adai,

Budget Hearing has been posted on calendar.
[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

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 04, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 11, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, May 11, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Guam Department of Administration (DOA)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 11, 2026

PRINT

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 11, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 05/04/2026 09:34 AM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 04, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 11, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, May 11, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR) (https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Guam Department of Administration (DOA)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Notice of Budget Hearing

Monday, May 11, 2026, 9:00 A.M.

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, May 11, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Department of Administration (DOA)

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

GUAM LEGISLATURE
AUDIO VISUAL DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Office Submitting Request: Senator Chris Dueñas

Date of Request: 05/01/26

POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Ashley Shinohara Contact #: 671-989-9554

Email: senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS

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

☐ Oversight Hearing ☐ Committee Meeting ☒ Other: Budget Hearing

Notice Title / Bill(s) / Resolution(s) / Appointment:
Bill 266-38 (COR) - Dept. of Administration

Date of Event: 05/11/2026 Start Time: 9:00 AM AM/PM

End Time: 12:00 PM AM/PM

Location: Public Hearing Room

MEDIA HANDLING

Recording Format: ☒ MP4 ☐ MP3 ☐ Other: _____

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

CERTIFIED BY AV:

Name: Vray Perez Signature: _____

Posted on/Air Date: 5/4/26 – 5/11/26

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 11, 2026

1 message

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Thu, May 7, 2026 at 8:30 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Christopher Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com" <stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com>, "vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com" <vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com>, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 07, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 11, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, May 11, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Guam Department of Administration (DOA)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

--
Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

SECOND NOTICE- DOA.pdf
697K

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 07, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 11, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, May 11, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Guam Department of Administration (DOA)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 11, 2026

PRINT

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 11, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 05/07/2026 09:00 AM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 07, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 11, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, May 11, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** **(https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
· Guam Department of Administration (DOA)

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 budget hearing, 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.*

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

BUDGET HEARING AGENDA

Monday, May 11, 2026 – Guam Congress Building

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam – AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

9:00 am:

- Department of Administration (DOA)

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahån

Date: May 11, 2026 — Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas — Time: 9:00 a.m.

Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS. Relative to Dept. of Administration (DOA)

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Krystel Guiao	DOA	671-475-1707	krystel.elaine.guiao@gsadoa.guam.gov				
2	ROSEANNE BARIS	DOA	671-475-1712	ROSEANNE.BARIS@GSADOA.GUAM.GOV				
3	Veona A. Untalan	DOA	671.475.1705	veona.untalan@gsadoa.guam.gov				
4	Ryan Eriksen	DOA	671 475 1713	ryan.eriksen@gsadoa.guam.gov				
5	Andriana Quitugua	DOA	671 475 1701	andriana.u.quitugua@gsadoa.guam.gov				
6	SCHNIEP, MARIA	DOA	(671) 475-1723	MARIA.SCHNIEP@GSADOA.GUAM.GOV				
7	[illegible] R	[illegible]	[illegible] 475-	1151				
8	IVAN PAMA	DOA	475-2278	FILIVAN.PAMA@DOA.GUAM.GW				
9	Thomas Paulino	DOA	475-2278					
10	James Ungacta	DOA	475-1250					
11								
12								

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahån

Date: May 11, 2026 | Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas | Time: 9:00 a.m.

Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS. Relative to Dept. of Administration (DOA)

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	EDWARD M BIRN	DOA	475-1250	edward.birn@doa.guam.gov				
2	Rena Borja	DOA	475-1250	rena.borja@doa.guam.gov				
3	Lenora Cardenas		x 1103	lenora.cardenas@doa.guam.gov				
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

DOA Budget Hearing

May 12, 2026

2026 – 2027 Priorities

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

- Improve Financials Monitoring Tools with introduction of Budget Vs Actuals (Federal Expenditures – Fund 101) Reporting for Line Agencies, in addition to similar report for the General Fund introduced in 2025.
- Pursue enabling of Direct Debit (ACH Pull) for Tax Payments to support DRT with Tax Collection.
- Finalize Financial Statements Capability to ensure timely provision of Financial Statements for Annual Budget Reviews and to meet Audit timelines.
- Complete migration of All Line Agencies, Semi-Autonomous Agencies to paperless Payroll System.
- Implement AI driven recruitment application evaluation system and paperless interview notification system.
- Centralization of Procurement enhanced compliance, standardization, and purchasing effectiveness across departments.
- Modernization of Surplus Property and Inventory Management through the establishment of tracking systems, increased reuse across departments, expansion of surplus sales, and improved purchasing of supplies for the government store to maximize value, reduce waste, and strengthen operational efficiency.
- Better utilization of GFMIS with focus on resolving issues flagged via User's Service Requests and implement process improvements and progress completion remaining modules.
- Multi-Year contracting for the Third-Party Administrators (TPA).
- Issuance of the life insurance RFP, contractual award, and change in statute to increase the Basic 10k.
- Optimize Medical Enrollment of Medicare Eligible and Non-Medicare eligible subscribers.

2026 - 2027 Challenges

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

- As procurement workload continues to grow, allocating adequate resources is critical to improve turnaround times.
- The achievement of a unified digital records management system remains a key a challenge as we strive to improve accessibility, strengthen data security, and meet compliance requirements across departments.
- Management of Federal Grants with additional requirements, justification of expenditures and with restricted access.
- Continued efforts to support Line Agencies better manage payment, procurement and recruitment process.
- Timely and Accurate Reporting from Agencies regarding Insurance enrollment, terminations and payments.
- Centralization of Insurance processing of Defined Contribution Retirees and Survivors.
- Separation of senior staff and succession plan implementation.
- Availability of qualified and experienced professionals for specialized roles required to resource the Department of Administration.

1H2026 General Fund Revenues

	Combined Comparative Statement of Revenues MONTHLY ACTUAL Collection Comparison FY2026 and FY2025 For the Month Ending March			Combined Comparative Statement of Revenues YTD ACTUAL Collection Comparison FY2026 and FY2025 Six month ending March 2025		
	2026 March	2025 March	Increase (Decrease)	Fiscal Year 2026	Fiscal Year 2025	Increase (Decrease)
Income Taxes:						
Individual	$ 10,418,957	$ 12,309,584	$ (1,890,627)	$ 38,567,794	$ 37,597,541	$ 970,253
Corporation	14,632,195	11,035,018	3,597,176	64,570,347	47,669,142	16,901,205
Withholding	29,163,255	28,418,638	744,617	174,269,797	172,856,576	1,413,221
Income Taxes	**54,214,406**	**51,763,240**	**2,451,167**	**277,407,938**	**258,123,259**	**19,284,679**
Business privilege taxes:						
Gross Receipts Taxes	32,992,227	33,700,876	-708,650	191,042,669	202,314,234	-11,271,565
Other Taxes:						
Use Tax	480,965	414,782	66,182	3,910,073	2,386,070	1,524,003
Business Privilege Taxes	**33,473,191**	**34,115,659**	**-642,467**	**194,952,742**	**204,700,304**	**-9,747,563**
Licenses, Fees & Penalties	**190,079**	**256,137**	**-66,058**	**1,532,180**	**1,425,974**	**106,206**
Use of Money & Property	**280,647**	**316,304**	**-35,656**	**1,884,491**	**2,318,636**	**-434,145**
Federal Sources:						
Section 30	0	0	0	79,732,367	76,402,101	3,330,266
Immigration fees	0	562,210	-562,210	802,565	2,328,530	-1,525,965
Recovery from Individuals	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child Support AFDC Local Share	5,170	0	5,170	22,035	9,197	12,838
Federal Sources	**5,170**	**562,210**	**-557,040**	**80,556,967**	**78,739,828**	**1,817,139**
Department Charges:						
Agriculture	5	5	0	20	141	-121
Police & Corrections	10	40	-30	50	12,130	-12,080
Public Works	6,500	7,250	-750	41,125	47,450	-6,325
Public Health	760	680	80	3,330	3,140	190
Commerce	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other charges	73,731	58,031	15,700	385,339	510,346	-125,006
Department Charges	**81,006**	**66,006**	**15,000**	**429,864**	**573,207**	**-143,342**
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES	**$ 88,244,499**	**$ 87,079,555**	**$ 1,164,945**	**$ 556,764,181**	**$ 545,881,207**	**$ 10,882,974**

1H2026 General Fund Expenditures

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Dept Name	Sum of Total revised budget	Sum of Total actual expenditures	Sum of Budget reservations for encumbrances	Sum of Budget reservations for pre-encumbrances	Sum of Budget funds available
Bureau of Budget and Management Research	1,239,837.00	487,513.26	25,375.17	-	726,948.57
Bureau of Statistics and Plans	1,973,531.00	742,168.48	40,444.00	-	1,190,918.52
Bureau of Women's Affairs	272,277.00	134,369.73	13,787.65	-	124,119.62
CAHA (Council of Arts and Humanities)	817,866.00	178,241.77	-	-	639,624.23
Chamorro Land Trust Commission	654,883.00	112,665.81	19,552.68	-	522,664.51
Chief Medical Examiner	1,322,999.00	294,271.84	1,020.00	-	1,027,707.16
Civil Service Commission	1,449,798.00	699,773.17	95,392.50	-	654,632.33
Customs and Quarantine	14,587,104.00	5,869,135.65	142,795.87	-	8,575,172.48
Department of Administration	34,148,679.00	9,360,179.37	9,259,070.52	3,000.00	15,526,429.11
Department of Agriculture	5,339,317.00	2,073,998.47	662,873.46	900.00	2,601,545.07
Department of Chamorro Affairs	4,206,759.00	1,101,743.15	497,203.62	9,696.00	2,598,116.23
Department of Corrections	41,757,567.00	17,989,374.18	855,355.10	16,552.62	22,896,285.10
Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Dis	2,502,297.00	1,383,883.52	12,816.44	1,451.35	1,104,645.69
Department of Labor	638,581.00	299,812.85	43,362.47	-	295,405.68
Department of Land Management	963,078.00	597,455.83	12,129.45	-	353,512.72
Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse	10,035,990.00	3,022,752.03	246,749.75	6,000.00	6,750,489.22
Department of Military Affairs	1,197,710.00	284,366.26	7,288.60	-	906,055.14
Department of Parks and Recreation	4,596,359.00	1,808,429.75	-	7,876.68	2,785,052.57
Department of Public Health and Social Services	84,122,006.00	39,529,236.89	2,910,141.78	20,400.00	41,662,227.33
Department of Public Works	4,213,119.00	1,483,609.06	-	-	2,729,509.94
Department of Revenue and Taxation	14,715,861.00	7,389,892.07	26,133.00	20,580.00	7,327,255.93
Department of Youth Affairs	9,759,299.00	2,911,971.43	329,922.36	36,990.41	6,480,514.80
Government Ethics Commission	552,680.00	209,430.64	57,715.82	-	285,533.54
GovGuam Retirement Fund	52,256,349.00	37,273,513.86	-	-	14,982,835.14
Guahan charter School	25,545,000.00	10,357,918.18	-	-	15,187,081.82
Guam Community College	14,891,858.00	7,445,930.00	-	-	7,445,928.00
Guam Department of Education	239,926,558.00	119,963,284.00	-	-	119,963,274.00
Guam Election Commission	2,855,669.00	842,058.85	150,613.68	-	1,862,996.27
Guam Environmental Protection Agency	516,715.00	201,228.32	141,754.68	-	173,732.00
Guam Fire Department	39,906,992.00	18,927,683.83	689,000.54	-	20,290,307.63
Guam Legislature	10,117,775.00	5,058,884.00	-	-	5,058,891.00
Guam Memorial Hospital Authority	54,956,146.00	19,961,286.00	-	-	35,024,860.00
Guam Police Department	54,934,459.00	24,422,261.29	1,972,430.29	16,370.40	28,523,397.02
Guam Regional Transit Authority	2,840,499.00	684,175.32	596,410.81	-	1,559,912.87
Hagatna Restoration and Redevelopment	443,589.00	155,280.44	8,288.24	-	280,070.32
Mayors' Council of Guam	19,230,007.00	6,673,628.79	1,318,754.78	-	11,237,623.43
Office of I Maga'lahen Guahan	7,598,417.00	4,416,424.72	146,567.11	-	3,035,425.17
Office of I Segundu Na Maga'lahen Guahan	482,787.00	359,042.39	-	-	123,744.61
Office of Technology	5,362,796.00	1,822,009.63	116,272.82	8,075.00	3,416,438.55
Office of the Attorney General	22,214,020.00	7,387,661.68	1,067,953.84	6,000.00	13,752,464.48
Public Auditor	2,252,943.00	1,148,686.39	-	-	1,104,256.61
Public Defender	11,698,308.00	5,829,669.00	-	-	5,868,639.00
Transfers Out	18,993,083.00	17,133,258.20	-	-	1,859,823.80
United Judiciary	45,007,145.00	23,127,079.00	-	-	21,880,066.00
University of Guam	47,504,968.00	23,752,442.00	-	-	23,752,526.00
DOA - Cost of Living Allowance (Annual)	18,498,285.00	17,832,315.20	-	-	665,969.80
Guam Educational Telecommunications Corporation	970,000.00	-	-	-	970,000.00
Guam Visitors Bureau	13,245,571.00	10,314,449.50	-	-	2,931,121.50
DEBT SERVICE	83,137,749.00	41,855,310.48	-	-	41,282,438.52
Grand Total	**1,037,273,344.00**	**505,656,686.28**	**21,466,676.23**	**153,792.46**	**509,996,189.03**

FY27 Budget Request

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

DEPARTMENT OF AMINISTRATION

FY2027 Budget Request

General Fund	FY 2025 Expenditures & Ecnumbrances	FY 2026 Authorized Level	FY 2027 Agency's Original Request	FY2027 Additional Operations Cost	FY2027 NEW Staff Requested		FY2027 Agency's Revised Request	Commentaries
					No	$ Value		
Director's Office	3,247,021	2,679,577	3,002,019	40,000			3,042,019	
Inernal Audit	183,830	267,570	193,051		1	66,435	259,486	
Human Resources	2,188,415	2,296,205	2,704,521		5	343,372	3,047,893	Additional Operational
Insurance Benefits	430,052	498,083	463,192		4	300,777	763,969	Costs of 40k plus 10 new
General Services Agency	790,721	1,161,826	1,590,780				1,590,780	staff has increased DOA's
Division of Accounts	4,042,041	4,133,581	4,843,778				4,843,778	FY27 Budget ask by
Total General Fund	10,882,080	11,036,842	12,797,341	40,000	10	710,584	**13,547,925**	$750k
Special Funds								
Division of Accounts	867,449	1,001,767	779,008		-	-	779,008	Taking total Request from
Indirect Cost & Limited Gaming Fund								$13.6m to $14.3m
Total Special Funds	867,449	1,001,767	779,008		-	-	**779,008**	
Total	11,749,529	12,038,609	13,576,349		**10**	**710,584**	**14,326,933**	

FTEs					
Unclassified	5	8	6		
Classified	108	110	125		10
Total FTEs	113	118	**131**		**141**

FOOTNOTES:
NOT INCLUSIVE OF FY 2027 MISC APPROPRIATION REQUEST - GMIS $3,516,446 & SOFTWARE LICENSE REQUIREMENT $560,000

FY2026 DOA Activities

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

	1H2026	
	No (#)	Value ($$)
Treasurer of Guam Collections	266,530	493,366,709
Invoices & Direct Payments	41,574	557,814,544
Requisitions	1,094	33,246,967
Purchase Orders	1,763	31,561,034

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

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

In accordance with Section 6.04(c)(1) of the Standing Rules of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, this committee digest provides a *summary* of the public hearing detailed below. To assist the general public in navigating this report, please note that all blue-highlighted text contains hyperlinks. Clicking on these links will direct you to the corresponding referenced sections/documents. For any questions or assistance regarding this digest, please contact our office at (671) 989-9554 or email us at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov.

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) – COMMITTEE ON RULES BY REQUEST OF I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN, THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

I. OVERVIEW

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) was introduced on **February 2, 2026** by **Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam** and was subsequently referred by the Committee on Rules to the **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** on **February 3, 2026.**

The **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** convened a Public Hearing on Bill No. 266-38 (COR) on **May 11, 2026** at **9:00AM** in the Guam Congress Building's Public Hearing Room.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Public Hearing Notices were posted to the Government Public Notices Portal and disseminated via electronic mail to all senators and all main media

broadcasting outlets on **May 04, 2026** (5-Day Notice), and again on **May 07, 2026** (48-Hour Notice).

SENATORS PRESENT

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman
Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada, Vice Chairman
Senator Telo T. Taitague
Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Senator Therese Terlaje
Senator Chris Barnett

ORAL TESTIMONY:

Edward Birn, Director, Department of Administration
Rena Borja, Deputy Director, Department of Administration
Therese Rivers, Chief Financial Officer, DOA
Tony Aguon, Personal Services Administrator, DOA
Andriana Quitugua, Acting Chief Procurement Officer, DOA
Leonora Candaso, Personnel Specialist IV, DOA:

WRITTEN TESTIMONY:

Edward Birn, Director, Department of Administration

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The public hearing for **Bill Number 266-38 (COR)** was called to order at **9:00AM**

[Questions and Discussion] **[***Begins at 01:00:00 and ends at 02:34:00*]

Senator Christopher M. Duenas Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Good morning to everyone the Committee on Office and Finance and Budget is hereby called to order. Before going into our formalities I will be going to a recess. We're starting on time. However Department of Administration provided a PowerPoint presentation that now the legislature requires must be submitted 24 hours before we actually

have the hearing.

And the reason for that is pretty obvious. As you have seen throughout media reports that there has been a number of cyberattacks on systems throughout the government. And so we must take every PowerPoint that's brought to us emailed or the drive and make sure that it's virus-free before we can upload it to our system.

But the senators need that for the presentation so I'll take a recess. Once we have 15 copies produced we will reconvene- reconvene this budget hearing with Department of Administration. We are in recess.

Manana si yu'os todus hamyo. The Committee on Finance and Government Operations has reconvened after a recess. For those just joining us we recessed for a moment so that senators could receive the PowerPoint presentation by Department of Administration for their budget hearing. The legislature has a 24-hour requirement to clear any presentation and ensure that it is virus-free and able for usage in electronically.

However senators do have this presentation and Department of Administration will be using it. So with that senators you have the presentation and I will begin the public hearing. The first notice of this public hearing was disseminated to all senators and media outlets on May 4th 2026 with its second notice disseminated on May 7th 2026.

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 in the following on the agenda: Bill No. 266-38 (COR) – Introduced by Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* the Governor of Guam in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam -AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30 2027 MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The focus of this hearing this morning will be on the FY budget 2027 Request for Department of Administration DOA. At this time I'd like to welcome my colleagues who have joined us this morning. First of all the vice chair and vice speaker of the 38th Guam Legislature Senator Ada. Vice Speaker Ada thank you for being with us.

We also have Senator Shawn Gumataotao. Thank you for joining us. Senator Telo Taitague Senator Therese Terlaje and Senator Chris Barnett. Thank you senators for joining us this morning. Before we begin I'd like to remind everyone in attendance of *I Liheslaturan Guahan'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 and the nature of the bill that is on the agenda. Personal inferences as to the character or motive or of any senator testifying is not permitted.

The chairperson of the committee may order the removal of this hearing-- from this hearing of any member of *I Liheslaturan Guahan's* public audience who fails to absorb excuse me observe proper decor 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 hear testimony on Bill No. 266-38 (COR). I will now recognize the representatives from Department of Administration for their presentation and opening statement. But prior to that I will ask you all to rise and be sworn in by the sergeant at arms as is the procedure in the 38th Guam Legislature when we're dealing with any financial matters. Sergeant at arms please.

Edward Pacoigue Sergeant-At-Arms 38th Guam Legislature: Under penalty of perjury do you affirm that any and all information you provide today whether it be verbally electronically and in writing be the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth? Mr. Chair your honor you may proceed.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Si yu'os ma'ase Sarge. So Director Birn you are now recognized. If you would please either have your panel that is assisting you to introduce themselves or you can introduce them and proceed with your presentation on your budget request.

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Good morning Mr. Chairman senators with your consent first of all I'd like to have the panel introduce themselves. I'm Edward Birn Director of Administration after that I'd like to give some remarks and then each member of the panel will address the information that you have in front of you. Thank you. So starting from the right

Tony Aguon Personal Services Administrator DOA: Tony Aguon Personal Services Administrator

Rena Borja Deputy Director Department of Administration: Rena Borja Deputy Director.

Andriana Quitugua Acting Chief Procurement Officer DOA: Andriana Quitugua Acting Chief Procurement Officer.

Therese Rivers Chief Financial Officer DOA: Therese Rivers CFO

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman and senators it is our privilege to be appearing before you to present the needs of the agency for fiscal 2027. Department of Administration is at the heart of government. DOA has to account for every dollar spent by government. DOA is tasked with ensuring compliance with laws rules and regulations not only within the agency but also by every line agency.

This task is not necessarily popular but it is essential. Essential to maintain continuity of federal grants essential to follow a path to a clean and issue-free audit and essential because of you the legislature and the public expects the government to operate both effectively and within the regulatory framework.

This compliance role is often misunderstood by line agencies and their staff as necessary hindering the mission and the performance of the agency its delivery of services its societal contribution

I would say to them do not allow yourselves to confuse intention with good management and senators please consider the consequences of special exceptions legislation when none is needed. So you have a deliberative process. Public hearings should expose all sides of a discussion and most importantly their consequences.

Hasty course changes in late night debate can produce unpredicted results. Equally well reactionary defense of outdated or redundant practices have consequences. Simply because we're familiar with a process or application does not mean that it is automatically qualified for use especially when there is new improved software hardware and technology.

We do not put aside technology in our private lives. Technology is our servant not our master. Government staff and the people they serve will perform at a high level with these tools. Simply throwing people at a problem or attempting to does not necessarily work and usually is not the best solution.

You may ask why is this director raise these matters in his agency's budget meeting? Department of Administration needs its budget to address its requirements to achieve its goals goals which are dynamic flexible enough to address the issues raised above predictable enough to allow projects to be completed valid enough to retain the confidence and commitment of staff encouraging them to stay in government service.

Monitoring performance and evaluation is an important aspect of retention and satisfaction. Adequate compensation for all employees not just a few will return the best result. Human relations I will therefore start with this division of DOA. Fully staffing this division has been challenging. When employees come to DOA they tend to stay.

The task is persuading them to come. Our retention rate is good. DOA does however have a reputation for requiring hard work. We make no excuses for hard work for getting the job done for engaging the best to make this happen. The deputy director has done a good job in recruiting staff for this division.

Recruiting them will improve agency recruitment itself. Fully staffed HR can do everything that a professional HR department should do not just parts of the job. There is a reason why trained experienced professionals are the best people to carry out these tasks achieving both compliance. There are many laws and regulations governing employment and compensation.

We must be guided by them and comply not just at the recruitment stage but from recruitment to retirement. Staff should feel that their employer the government cares. Late evaluations incomplete onboarding unaddressed grievances and erroneous records must be addressed. HR uses both personal attention and modern technology to achieve the correction of these errors. In the scale of non-compliance human relation deviations rank high.

People are our most valuable asset. HR must oversee performance at all levels. There is nothing worse in my view than dissatisfied employees. It is essential that we put the right people in the right job. HR can do this. HR will with your help in the form

of a budget for fully staffing this division. HR will reach into agencies as other employers do to make sure that this essential resource is preserved.

Retentions cost less than recruitment. Investment in HR will stimulate this turn-- this return. The job will get done timely fully and effectively. Please consider why staffing levels are patchy. We ask that you give us a budget in which potential employees will have confidence. Confidence the job will not be phased out next year or the year after.

Confidence that there is a promise of a career in the civil service. Confidence that they will have access to tasks which will enable them to do their job well. In this endeavor training is an essential factor. This is a joint task shared between HR and an agency. Specific training is an agency responsibility but must have HR oversight.

Just as important is general training active shooter protection safety instruction are examples sexual harassment training is mandatory Most of all training most of all training in how to supervise and manage is vital. For experience is only good if it's a good experience. Training encourages standards.

Feedback from trainees will improve future training. This training section often overlooked needs adequate staffing also. The personnel services administrator and some of his staff are here today to support his mission and his staff will address this. Procurement GSA has many tasks and I will touch on some of these later.

But by far some by far the most important of these is procurement. Much has been said and written lately about procurement not all of it is on point. Procurement must be modernized and we are using technology to do that. Process and thinking must be modernized also. We should not however forget that the main goals should be to acquire equipment if that is what the procurement of at the most equitable at the most equitable price. It must be fair to potential suppliers for they are are a resource. I learned long ago the importance of looking after vendors. It only makes sense. But this must not go too far.

Business with government is not a right it's a commercial arrangement. Lack of vendors should not be considered a reason for sole source procurement and above all sole source procurement should not stifle innovation. GSA is committed to these joint principles of equity and efficiency. These goals must not be obfuscated by ambiguous specification.

Such in my opinion are the greatest barriers to successful procurement. The effort for this must occur in the agencies. That these employees who must be trained in how to write clear statements of requirements is an essential training task. This training is available from professional bodies such as NASPO and DOA will make sure that it's available.

Agencies must ensure that staff take this training and that the staff who are actually responsible for procurement act in a coordinated fashion. Procurement is too important to be passed down to most junior staff. Supervisors and directors must think responsibly. Compliance training is also important.

Much of current training is concentrated on this. Although however although I spoke earlier about the need for compliance most vendors are rooted in commercial ways. They understand the roles of compliance. They relish at commercial excellence. Procurement is not a contest cooperation allows the best results.

In this respect I must address the provisions of Section 5150. As written it encourages confrontation. Agreed it has reduced its the number of appeals which is its goal. Now is the time to reexamine its provision and make necessary adjustment. DOA supports a bill introduced into the legislature to place a time limit for the attorney general's review.

That of course depends on the attorney general recruiting and retaining attorneys who specialize in this area. Again I recognize the importance of compliance. This section requires that the attorney general confirms the form and legality of procurement. That should be the goal of Section 150 and no more not a loose interpretation of it

It must be remembered that the procurement role in Guam requires life cycle cost evaluation not just looking at the initial cost but at the life cycle cost which is only a sensible commercial principle and GMA-- GSA is committed to that. Procurement and a significant amount of procurement occurs outside GSA is not a chaotic and costly process as some have written and spoke about recently.

It certainly needs review and modernization. The Model Procurement Code is currently being updated by the American Bar Association and the National Association of State Procurement Officers and we should use this review for our own modernization. We should incorporate the best provisions into our statutes but make local provisions for con- for Guam conditions.

We can work with standard products to minimize delivery times. The long supply chain that we're at the end of does work to our disadvantage so we need to work on this and GSA is doing so. You may have noticed that when certain online distributors do not want to ship or because there is some difficulty in shipping to Guam the website notes that it is out of stock.

Diligence on our part and the part of GSA will ensure that we are not tarred with the same brush. And an example of this is the reluctance or actually refusal of shipping companies to put electric vessels-- electric vehicles on their vessels. We currently have a grant for electric school buses but we're having a hard time finding out how to get them delivered to Guam.

So we're working on that and we're trying to separate out the actual procurement of the product from the procurement of the transportation.

As for other divisions GSA needs to be fully staffed. The historical stigma and current workload will not impede our search for exceptional staff and we request the budget to do just that.

Insurance and benefits. This division is responsible for the self-funded health insurance plan. This plan has returned significant benefits to GovGuam employees retirees and their dependents. The goal is to provide healthcare access to providers and at the same time achieve a small surplus to keep the plan going.

This goal was met in fiscal year 2024. For fiscal year 2027 the procurement has started. This time round we're asking for separate bids for TPA services for medical dental and pharmacy. By separating out pharmacy we can access maxim rebates on pharmaceutical purchases which make up about sixty percent of healthcare costs.

This arrangement also allows us to access EGWP which is the EGWP employer group waiver plan a subsidized drug plan for Medicare subscribers. You the legislature participate in the negotiations for the procurement of TPAs with representatives of the legislature and the health committee.

We do renew our recommendation for a three-year contract not currently permitted under current law as we have been advised by our advisors that this will allow us better pricing. Claims are well controlled under professional medical guidance and although we all know that Guam medical costs are higher than the national average

the increase in costs is running less than the national average just over four percent compared with the national average increase of six percent.

DOA is also looking at other insurances particularly the required insurance for buildings which have already been subject to FEMA damage reimbursement. This is important as we have four schools which will be fully paid next year and therefore will become government property. Risk management is an important task of any administration department and DOA ranks this high in its priorities.

Accounting and audit I have saved the best for last and by the best I mean the best. This division accounts for over $1.3 Billion in the general and special funds for local accounts and about $600 Million in federal funds. The audited financial statements also incorporate the results of the component units totaling $1.2 Billion in revenues and fiduciary plans including the pension fund with assets totaling$3 Billion.

$3.9 Million in other funds and $13 Million in charter school financials. The audit is a massive undertaking. We consistently achieve unmodified clean audit reports. We are looking forward to the fiscal year 2025 audit which for the first time all records and supporting documentation for payment and procurement are contained within the new GFMIS system.

Because of the complexity of some departmental payrolls it took some time to transfer some agencies from the legacy system to the new system. This was finally achieved in November 2025. All payrolls are on the new system as you will hear accounting is responsible for recording and payment of all expenses of the 32-line agencies which it manages.

Treasurer of Guam receives and reports all taxes and other revenues which are received by governmental funds and payroll pays for about 3500 employees every other week with frequent demand runs to correct late or delayed payroll entries. Component units UOG GCC GMH GVB the judiciary and legislature and other smaller units receive their appropriations timely.

DOA is well aware that these units rely upon their subsidies to function. The federal section draws down federal grants as timely as individual grants will permit. Accounting as well as providing information each month to BBMR for compilation of the CRER both general and special funds has for several months provided and sent to agency directors budget actual expenditure reports and for the last two months has also sent budget actual expenditure reports for our principal federal grants fund

which is…and it looks very similar to the local funds report. These new reports are designed to help agencies quickly identify areas of concern in local fund accounts and which federal grants are not being fully used. Plans are in place using the new system to improve interim reporting so that budget and forecast projections can be based on these rather than waiting for audit completion

The origin of the word audit goes back to 1435 and derives from the Latin word audire to listen. Double entry bookkeeping was first used in the year thirteen hundred. Our modern systems follow these very same principles. GFMIS is a full double entry set of programs. Our processes are much more complex and require more than ledgers and quills.

We need qualified accountants to use the system and to ensure timely and understandable reporting. This need and we are in contact with UOG and GCC so they understand our need is applicable to both accountants at DOA and at the firms that audit our books. Each of us recognizes that the need is not well filled.

Accountants skilled accountants are scarce worldwide so we must look to technology to fill in the gaps. We have made significant progress in implementing and using new technology. We have a largely paperless system and we intend to keep it that way. It is surely no secret that our relationship with our auditors needs repair.

We have engaged in full and frank discussions with Ernst & Young over the last few days. We must recognize that a finding reported in fiscal year 2024 may recur in fiscal year 2025 since it cannot be addressed until fiscal twenty-six or even fiscal twenty-seven. Without going too far into the complex array of audit reports as it is said the-- as it is understood the legislature intends to go in this matter in another way.

I would add that the audit reports recommend changes in the way government operates. I would insist that there must be changes in the way that the audit is conducted. Auditors must appreciate that the technology is there to help us and them. Face-to-face communication will usually elicit a much better and complete understanding of a process than a lengthy exchange of emails.

Expertise does not exist only on one side. DOA employees take pride in what they do. If an error is made we find it and we fix it and we expect operating agencies to follow policy and comply with rules and regulations. No matter how urgent or

necessary a service or item of equipment is or seems to be process must be followed or a deviation will occur.

Everyone inside government no matter which branch they serve should follow that principle. If agency managers do not understand the process they should ask. If auditors have questions let them consider and ask for let and ask for explanations once or maybe twice but not return multiple times with multiple questions.

I was expected to do this when I was being trained at Deloitte I expect no less. It is said that we get the politicians we deserve. We deserve professional cooperative audits respecting DOE employees who are people trying to do their job in the face of many pressures. I am confident that the discussions which have-- we've had over the last few days will deliver.

Internal control is crucial. Interpersonal courtesy indispensable.

I will now ask the DOA deputy director to take you through some of the presentation which you have in front of you. It's insight into our operations duties responsibilities achievements and concerns. After this I may offer a summary of the essential points and we certainly welcome and look forward to your questions.

Thank you for your attention. The staff at DOA from the bottom to the top are grateful. Some of them are seated here behind me today or on the side. I commend them for their work their patience and their grace. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Si yu'os ma'ase Director Edward Birn but prior to going to the presentation I must address your commentary and we need that for the record of course to be submitted

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Yes.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Yeah. Director Birn we will be absolutely going through an investigation as well as additional hearings coming forward with department administration as well as the public auditor to get to the bottom of everything. and so you can look forward to that and we will use your presentation as a guideline as well going forward.

I think that this committee as well as this legislature has been nothing but open. Nothing but open and nothing but transparent in terms of being patient patiently waiting for audits to come out. And we have had a number of hearings and that's why I want-- going to mention once again to our senators that we are here to discuss this document which is your budget that has a modest variance of approximately a little over one million dollars in order to be able to move forward.

But senators can look forward to plenty of time to go over department administration the audit with the public auditor as well as department administration. And we also join in thanking the employees and the hardworking individuals that are tasked with this duty and responsibility going forward. So we will now move to the presentation please proceed.

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Thank you Mr. Chair

Rena Borja Deputy Director Department of Administration: Rena Borja Deputy Director. Before you you have our presentation on the priorities for 2026/2027 that we would like to do. First off we'd like to improve our financial monitoring tools with the introduction of budget to actual tool. We have been doing and we've been giving to the line agencies and having them review what they have monthly and year to date so they can monitor it throughout the the year the fiscal year. We are pursuing the enabling the direct debit the ACH pull for tax payments to support DRT for the tax collection.

We are finalizing financial statements capability ensure timely provision of financial statements for annual budget reviews and to meet audit guidelines. We are also looking at completing migration of all agencies semi-autonomous agencies to paperless payroll system which we the last agency line agency was the-- that we put was GPITI onto the new system.

And the paperless so remember we had all the time sheets and whatnot. We're going into where we don't have to have all of those pieces of paper. We can cut down paper we can cut down storage so that's where we would like to be able to get to. That's one of our priorities. We want to implement AI-driven recruitment application evaluation and paperless interview notification.

We are also-- We now have applications for GovGuam employment online. And from there we are actually this week we are meeting with our vendors to bring in

where we have evaluations done online it's not by our staff. They will monitor. They are looking by and reviewing those.

But it'll be faster to now rate the applications. And so I believe we may have had like two thousand applications. We have how many positions open? If you go to our website we probably have fifty forty-some to fifty-some open announcements. And we are working on trying to get those announcements as fast as we a-we get them out go to the recruitment process and continue the process where the comment that it would take a year to get employed by GovGuam we're hoping that really changes to to two to three months because there are steps that we have to go through to make sure back to what the director said we hire the right people for the government that are employees that we want to keep and that we train them and that we hire the best for the government.

Decentralization of the procurement enhancement compliance standardization and purchasing effectiveness across departments. We are also looking at we're adding this into the GFMS system. The vendors are here. We are working on the procurement module. So there's a few modules that we're going to be working on this week and hope to roll them out in phases so that our staff are not overwhelmed in doing all of this at one time.

But we have deadlines on things that we want to do to get them on the GFMS system which brings me to the this is also we want to modernize the surplus property and inventory management through establishment of tracking systems increase reuse and how the staff here can talk to the agencies and be able to get information faster.

We talked about now everybody does emails and sometimes I think they lose the fact that we need to speak to each other once in a while and not just through email. And this technology I think sometimes gets a little ... takes out some of the people power in doing things together. We also want to do better utilization of our GFMIS system with a focus on resolving issues flagged on the user's request and implement better progress of the other remaining modules and for the next year or so that we want to implement certain things.

We are also looking at the multi-year contracting for the third party the life insurance RFP. Our insurance group is working very hard to make sure that all of these things are done and that the change in statute to increase the basic 10K life insurance that they get.

I think it's been quite a while and that needs to be looked at as far as how we all. Rates go up and I think that's one thing that she is looking at trying to make sure that we get on with that. We optimize the medical enrollment for Medicare-eligible and non-Medicare-eligible subscribers.

So there's... I think there's twenty-some thousand employees of GovGuam that are being serviced by that.

As procurement workload begins to grow we are trying to make sure that we have adequate resources. We have just gotten a buyer supervisor promoted. We need a couple more buyers to be able to... The workload that they have supervisor promoted and... but we do need to have more assistance in that area.

We want to achieve a unified digital records management system so that data is kept. We don't have all these pieces of paper in GSA that's been there for I think fifty years. But all these reports that we would like to be able to electronically digitize them so that we have information at our fingertips instead of looking for paper all over the place.

We are also having management of federal funds we are also doing that with another grants module so that we have information additionally information is there justification of the expenditures and we also will have restricted access. It's just not anybody that can go in and look at these.

Continued efforts to support the line agencies to better management their whole process their payments their procurement and their recruitment process. We do assist them with information and if we need to send an EO or if we need to send help them with their questions when they're doing their interviews.

We are also very cognizant of the timely and accurate reporting from the agencies regarding their insurance enrollment terminations and payments. And it's our area there or downstairs where it's convenient for people the seniors people in a wheelchair to come in to to ask about their benefits.

And we're trying to get a little bit more room there so that if you're coming in you're a widow or whatever and you don't want everybody to hear the information. So we're trying to segregate so that they have a little privacy when they come in and talk to us about things like that. The centralization of the insurance processing of the defined contribution for the retirees and survivors.

We definitely want to look at the senior staff and the succession plan because we have people that are going to be retiring. I think that's everywhere in the government but with-- especially in DOA and all the like agencies that we support. If we have people that are going to be retiring I think since I've been there we've had like four or five retired.

We anticipate more will be retiring by the end of the fiscal year or even the end of the year. And that's a lot of knowledge that is not going to be there. And so we would like to able to have plan A B and C to be able to have people to step into these roles and train alongside of them before they retire.

The availability of qualified and experienced professionals for the specialized role especially to ensure that DOA has best qualified people as even the public auditor EY and ourselves we do know that there's a shortage of accountants there are accountants being churned out at UOG.

We do have people that have applied and there's quite a few. But one of the things that we're looking at is making sure that we hire the right staff. So we don't have... And I'm not saying anything against what we have currently for our accounting group but as things change and all these requirements for accounting comes up we want to be able to get staff that have the background not necessarily just promote from within but try to get I don't want to say new blood but other ways of looking things that may come from the private sector. So that's one thing that we're looking at when we look at recruitment. Our CFO is going to talk about the next slide.

Theresa Rivers Chief Financial Officer DOA: Theresa Rivers. The next slide is what you would be familiar with. This was presented or provided in the CRER. This gives you a summary of all the revenues generated for the general fund up to the first half of 2026 which is up to March. You can see the total revenues.

And one of the reasons why we wanted to put this slide here also because our TOG cashiers these are the folks that are actually collecting all of this revenue aside from what's received over the internet over the DRT site. The bulk of the revenues are collected at the TOG offices.

So we want to touch on that and I know that we're still tracking as you can see in total comparing 2026 to 2025 for the month of March we generated 88 or tax collected $88 million versus $87 in 2025. And in year to date fiscal year to date the

total that's collected up to March you're looking at $557 million versus $546 million in 2025.

So there is a 10 11 million increase compared to 2025. However you are going to start to see that starting to slow down. As you can see the gross receipts tax given the 4.5 percent tax rate reduction that's going to start to come down. So that is one of the key lines that we monitor and we put some commentaries when we provide the report to BBMR before it's presented. So we wanted to share that with the group. The next slide talks about-

Senator Christopher M. Duenas Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Can we just qualify this though also? Because I want to make sure that this is in the reconciliation. We did have the downtime with regard to Department of Revenue and Tax unable to process. And so I think the better picture will be definitely the April-

Theresa Rivers Chief Financial Officer DOA: Sure

Senator Christopher M. Duenas Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: representation.

Theresa Rivers Chief Financial Officer DOA: Correct. That's correct. Thank you for confirming that we also wanted to share with you I know you also received this report as part of the CRER but that's a summary of the first half of the year-to-date expenditures from the general fund as of March. So that's the list of all the agencies including some of the semi-autonomous and lining and autonomous some of the transfers to the autonomous agencies.

You're looking at the total appropriation or the total budget for 2026 of $1 billion and year to date based on 2020-- March six months The total spent is $506 million. So that leaves half of that to be spent over 2020 for the remaining six months. So what we encourage the agencies is to utilize and monitor their budget when we send them the budget versus actuals report so they are spending what they were given to spend towards the end of the year.

There are challenges with requests to roll over or to carry over but we do-- we've clarified that in multiple times that it's a challenge and it'll be hard for them to request to carry over funds. They need to spend what's been given the end of the year. So we're working closely with the agencies.

We have had meetings with some of the line agencies to help them better understand and flag spending or lines that are not spent. There are some that up to six months we haven't seen any expenditures. So we either check if the invoices are sitting somewhere or they're just the budget appropriation wasn't correctly aligned.

So the reports that we're sending them monthly is helping them and us better manage the financials. So we wanted to also show that this is as you can see to manage or monitor a $1 Billion in just the general fund alone this does not include the 101 or the federal financials. So to manage this we only have our budget if you look at what we're asking the Department of Administration that's kind of responsible for-- which is the engine of the government is actually only asking for thirteen and we're increasing our ask to fourteen million to manage this $1 Billion budget.

So we kind of want to bring that to perspective to help us you know justify our ask for the 2027 budget and those are the financial... And then the next slide leads us right into our request our budget request. So we after our meeting with OFB we did a review and we made some additional.

You can see that in the last one two three four last four columns. So our original ask was $13.5 Million for 2027. We actually did not factor in new staff that we need to manage to support the operations for the government. So we have asked for an additional $750000 and that includes just $40000 in operational cost.

So our ask has come-- has increased from $13.5 Million to just $14.3 Million which is kind of similar to what we were asking for last year. So again if we could request our leaders today for your kind consideration given that we've kind of presented you a budget for the operations and the financials that we are expected to manage.

Also we don't have specific people in Division of Accounts to purely focus on audit and it becomes it- an ongoing activity for us. We don't have those resources. We are using the current resources right now that manages all of this to also coordinate the audit. So just trying to bring all of those into perspective for today's conversation.

And then the last slide we have in front of you gives you the volumes year to date. So this is just the key activities. It doesn't include other sections but we wanted to kind of map this to the financials that we provided earlier. So if you look at the Treasurer of Guam all of the locations of Treasurer of Guam across Guam for the first half of 2026 those are the volumes they manage 267000 collections to the value of $493 million.

And that is all of the fees all of the cash all of the checks everything that they receive in these locations. and for Division of Accounts and which TSA those are the payments to date for the first six months and the value $42 million in invoices... Sorry $41.6 million in invoice and direct payments to the value of $558 million.

That value also includes invoices paid out of the Fund 101 or federal funds. And then there's about 1100 requisitions to the value of $33 million and purchase orders received and processed 1.8... Sorry yeah 1800 to the value of $32 million. So those are just the key activities we wanted to share with you our leaders today and to also provide support our request for funding for 2027.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Si yu'os ma'åse. Just for perspective before we go to question and answer of our colleagues in the fiscal year 2026 budget we adopted the entirety of the governor's request $1.35 plus Billion dollars. Currently so when we talk about the impact of taxes currently we are tracking $58 million in excess revenue.

So the story here is when we talk about impact we adopted the entirety of the governor's budget. There was no reduction although we did the BPT rollback and we're still performing at $58 million excess revenue. As you see in your also in your slide here very clear and easy to see the cumulative is performing at almost $11 million better overall the tax categories.

When we had our budget hearing or session a couple months ago this is what Director Birn and I went over at least currently the other performing categories is an awash between BPT and other revenues. So thank you very much for that. I will now go to Senator Shawn Gumataotao for his questions.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao 38th Guam Legislature: Thank you Mr. Chair and thank you to DOA for being with us today. I'm just going to jump right in. And recognizing that public safety and law enforcement departments confirmed during their respective oversight hearings these past few months that they were prohibited from accessing unexpended FY2025 did DOA encumber or expend any portion of its $967,251 dollars in lapsed general fund appropriations and any other unused FY2025 appropriations reported as of September 30 2025?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: No sir. And if I could just add you know the law enforcement agencies all of them are currently underspending their current budgets so I don't really know how they look at their budgets in this

kind of skewed way. But the important thing is to spend the current budget and not look back to a previous year's budget without asking themselves "Why didn't we spend it last year?"

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao 38th Guam Legislature: All right. Thank you Mr. Birn. Let me just talk a little bit about the recruitment of public safety officers. So in the FY 2025 budget this is Public Law 37-125 there was an appropriation from the general fund of $794,000 for firefighter recruits. The GFD had an unexpended balance of $181467 from this appropriation as of September 30 2025. The GFD received an additional $794,000 for firefighter recruits through Public Law 37-135.

The department did not use a single penny of that supplemental funding. At the end of FY 2025 DOC had $1.1 million dollars available from funding appropriated for correction officer recruits at the end of the fiscal year. And GPITI they were appropriated just o- over one million eighty-five thousand and an additional three hundred and sixty-one thousand totaling over one point four million dollars for police officer recruits in FY 2025.

However GPITI was unable to spend one million dollars by September 30 2025. Recognizing that the recruitment process for many years has been described by public safety and law enforcement leadership and multiple other agencies as a rather lengthy experience and as was further expounded on by the deputy director how can DOA specifically expedite or otherwise improve the current onboarding of public safety and law enforcement officers?

And we heard a little bit today about there could be some way in technology to help. But acknowledging that many resources have been prioritized by this branch of government in the current and prior fiscal year for the recruitment of these critical positions any way we can expedite this?

Tony Aguon Personal Services Administrator DOA: Hi. Thank you senators. Currently right now there is a process to recruit law enforcement personnel. I will have however say that it is extremely critical that we onboard and we screen these personnel very thoroughly. So in my experience onboarding of law enforcement personnel may not be the most expeditious but again thoroughness is actually at the top priority.

There are a few methods we can explore to expedite the more administrative but not the security. Again the administrative processes of onboarding these folks we can still make some improvement. But as far as the security review that... I don't believe that could be rushed. And just you know just as a note the administrative onboarding of the law enforcement personnel is in my opinion the least cumbersome.

In a sense it's merely filling out you know a few papers packets. It's going through an orientation review and a few trainings right? So a few mandatory trainings but nothing too elaborate not on the administrative side. On the security side my understanding is that is a lengthy process.

In other words it encumbers a polygraph test a federal national background check again I think polygraph I as I mentioned that but also a personality test and psychological test right? So those are actually the bulk. The bulk of the onboarding process for law enforcement personnel is the security and the backgrounds of each individual.

And mind you it's not a matter of like ten or fifteen. Sometimes we have-- You know historically we've had like seventy-five personnel being onboarded at the same time from multiple academies. That in itself takes time. And the other facet is the fact that they must be onboarded at the same time because of the academy.

The academy all starts at the same time in the same classroom. We're not able to break them up and staggeredly you know bring them in. So as far as speeding up the process again administratively we can explore to expedite that process.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah I think as they're watching I think that expediting means faster than today.

I get the security parts. I'm not here to beat you up on that. But when it comes to the part that you can control that's what they've been talking about throughout all of our pre-budget meetings and budget meetings is: How can we get this process quicker because the people of this community want to ensure that they're safe.

Let me just stay with that if I could Mr. Chair. - Expanding on our earlier discussions including the legislature's February 20th oversight hearing for the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission and a March 2026 oversight hearing with the OPA and DOA and in our broader effort to avoid inconsistencies and potentially

costly piecemeal policies to what extent is DOA's HR division engaged with the POST Commission on the development of a general force structure plan?

Recognizing that the POST Commission has taken some steps to review all of the law enforcement positions in the government of Guam through their subcommittees which are reviewing approximately seventy-seven positions including their respective position description questionnaires.

Tony Aguon Personal Services Administrator DOA: Thank you for the question. So we do have several requests from several agencies most notably Customs and Corrections. We just recently a year and a half ago restructured the police officer series. And so now currently there is a new job specification with new qualification requirements that enables more flexibility into progressing their specific job series.

We are currently exploring Customs and Corrections as well. We do have a request. we received one just recently for Corrections and a few months ago Customs. The challenge though is yes of course aligning the law enforcement personnel and their positions and their ranks. And I'm very familiar with the force structure concept.

But of course there is a diversity of ranks and personnel within each law enforcement group. As an example police officers of the police GPITI they do have a few hundred as opposed to Territorial Park which they only have what four or five personnel as well as conservation folks.

So they don't have the same number of personnel which also in turn means they don't have the same number of ranks. And so getting those aligned so that there's parity within the force structure you know is is still open. It's still a conversation that we're exploring on the HR side. We do have other things to contend with.

In other words lateral transfers re-employment. you know of course the pay scale moves and so we do have re-employment personnel coming in several years after the fact and you know migrating them back into the workforce is challenging. So there is there is conversation. Although we don't have those conversations at the post commission we do have requests and we are exploring those conversations administratively within our office and between the posts. So we are actively engaging with them.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao 38th Guam Legislature: I'm a little disappointed on the answer. How many HR staff are actually dedicated to public safety officers in this community?

Tony Aguon Personal Services Administrator DOA: I'm sorry one more time.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao 38th Guam Legislature: How many HR personnel are dedicated to processing the requests from our public safety agencies?

Tony Aguon Personal Services Administrator DOA: For the force structure requests?

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao 38th Guam Legislature: How many HR personnel are dedicated to ensuring that our public safety agencies are hiring and doing their part?

Tony Aguon Personal Services Administrator DOA: So for the classification section we do have not dedicated and unfortunately the person's not dedicated. We only have four people. Of the four people two are relatively new. The one senior staff member you know has been engaged and is communicating with the agencies.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao 38th Guam Legislature: So Mr. Birn are we saying that we only have four personnel to the entire government of Guam that's dedicated to HR?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: No Senator. The deputy will take you through the listing.

Rena Borja Deputy Director Department of Administration: No we don't. We have more of that in the recruitment process in the recruitment department. So there's the group in the recruitment department there's three PS2s and two PS1s.

We have the assistant PSA the PSA. We have a PS4 two of them that are helping in the recruitment process. I guess the question you're asking is do we have one dedicated two dedicated three dedicated? We don't have dedicated HR person to strictly do GPITI for example. They are all experienced.

They have the training and we're continuing training to have them do... to be all exposed. I find that it's hard to have one person who's dedicated to doing law

enforcement because that can lead to tunnel vision subjective. So they're all trained that they're able to step in and cover for each other in this recruitment process.

So for the I think at the beginning of the year we had like a recruitment for the fire department. I believe there must have been 200 applications for 20 positions. So the 200... And this is just an example of how it goes the 200 applications come in. They all have to be rated.

They take the exam then the written exam. Then they have the other the physical exam. So all those timing and the setting up of when it's going to happen and it requires involvement of the recruitment staff and sometimes we get it from the other departments within HR to help out.

So back-- I think your question sir is that how many people are just dedicated that-- They're all dedicated to being able to do the different law enforcement. And law enforcement we are also very much working with the chiefs of all four branches five to structure the written exam because those written exams are like thirty forty years old.

I've gotten the chiefs to be involved so that they can look at the national standards. There are several of those websites that they do. And then just using GFD as an example we looked at what it is that he wants to be included in this exam and that there-- and the weights okay? So those are things that we're working with improving.

So back to the question of how many people and how long and all that we're really working hard to improve this to be able to have people not just one person dedicated to one agency. That's really should not be the way it should be done. We have HR-

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao 38th Guam Legislature: Oh no and I'm not even implying that. I think it's a priority of this government to get these law enforcement guys on as fast as I can.

Now let me just go take this a step further. Will it make sense to do a Hay study only for law enforcement to make sure that they're all taken care of and we compensate them correctly?

Rena Borja Deputy Director Department of Administration: You want to you want to answer that?

Tony Aguon Personal Services Administrator DOA: Thank you sir for your question. So you know with the law enforcement as you know a few years ago three or four years ago we did upgrade the pay scale for the law enforcement.

We just recently last year upgraded the GPITI pay scale very generously we do have in hand a proposal for the other law enforcement personnel and so we are actually on track to upgrade the last law enforcement pay scale. We are on track. In fact we're ahead of the schedule because again we updated GPITIs.

And so at this time I don't see another Hay study contract or effort that's necessary because again we do have a schedule that we're trying to keep to in updating all the pay scales which includes the law enforcement.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao 38th Guam Legislature: Again goes back to the ability of our government to be able to support them. That's why I'm asking if there's any alternative we could consider.

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Well the deputy started to explain about the new technology and I'll ask her to expand on that that we're trying to roll out I think it's the end of this month which relies upon much more computer assessment than individuals. Yeah to pick up your point about who should be dealing with this we certainly don't just want one person dedicated for if that one person isn't there- Right ... the whole process stops.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao 38th Guam Legislature: Oh no I'm talking about a team of people. And that's not acceptable. Right. there's no I in team so I'm trying to figure that out.

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Right. I just on Friday got a letter from the chief of police about his recruitment and we will process that as quickly as we can but I only got it on Friday.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao 38th Guam Legislature: Okay Mr. Birn I'm sorry-

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Can I get the deputy to talk a little bit about the new technology?

Rena Borja Deputy Director Department of Administration: So the recruitment module that we're going to be implementing as we're sitting here our contractors are here the vendors are here to go over that with us. It will actually take the application and take what they filled out and some... and rese and whatnot and that w- that particular system that we're implementing will take what usually would take us...

You have all these applications you take them and you're going to rate them and what would normally take to rate one application could take four hours. Okay? So one application is four hours and how many applications? We get 200 applications for let's say GPITI. That takes a while for all those 200 to be done.

So with this system it feeds in and it reads off the application it reads off the reses and all the information and then takes what is required for that position and it'll spit it out in minutes on what these ratings are going to be and then we'll move down along. And so that's the process we're working on.

On this end of this month it's going to go live. And so that will speed up that process of recruitment and all the staff in recruitment will know how to use that.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao 38th Guam Legislature: That's a big promise. We'll have to check you on that. I only have one question Mr. Chair. I heard Mr. Birn you said there's a surplus in our self-insurance plan. Is that right? Did I hear that right?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: It's in the audit. There's a surplus of just over six million.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. Is any of that going back to our employees?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Well that... the whole idea is to have a buffer so that in the course of a year because claims and subscriptions revenues don't necessarily match that we have a buffer in order to make sure that we don't that we don't exceed our cash reserves.

You know the actual revenues are something around about 200 million so six million is not going to be a big amount even if we did decide to return it.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao 38th Guam Legislature: Let me just ask one question on the TPA Mr. Chair because I'm running out of time. So what was the total amount appropriated for reinsurance or stop loss coverage in FY2024 and FY2025? I brought this up in an oversight hearing.

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: I'm sorry could you repeat the question?

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao 38th Guam Legislature: What was the total amount appropriated for reinsurance or stop loss coverage in FY24 and FY25?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: The amount that we pay is about 5 million. It's actually decreased as we've gone through this process because experience has reduced the premium because we've only had no more than three claims in any one year.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao 38th Guam Legislature: So where are we going to find this budget item for these reinsurance premiums? Where do we see it in the-

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: It's within the self-insurance. It's like a claim. It's a cost of the insurance.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao 38th Guam Legislature: So who at DOA has the authority to obligate these millions in reinsurance spending?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: The actual process is currently done by the TPA because we the government cannot access the secondary insurance market. We are looking at that. We are thinking of setting up a captive so that we can access the secondary insurance market but we're not in a position to do that now.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao 38th Guam Legislature: So my final question is are you guys meeting the goals of self-funding of insurance? Is it working out?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Yes.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao 38th Guam Legislature: All right. Thank you Mr. Birn. And thank you DOA. Thank you Mr. Chair for the time.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Si yu'os ma'ase Senator Shawn Gumataotao. Senator Telo Taitague you're recognized five minutes.

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: Thank you Mr. Chair and good morning to my colleagues. Of course good morning to the hard people working at DOA.

You guys doing the best you can with what little you have and we get hacked every once in a while you know through the internet servers. We're looking at you know shutting down certain areas. So it's a concern. So how much of your budget that you're requesting is actually put to ensuring the safety and well-being of DOA?

And you can also elaborate on if your data and information is used on the cloud or is it with OTECH? And you can also please talk about since we're in this... Well let me just let you answer that question.

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Okay. Yes I can address some of the points you made that the actual budget for cybersecurity is with Homeland and OTECH not with us. The GFMIS system is in the cloud it's a Microsoft system and therefore benefits from Microsoft's own practices for making sure that s- full goals of cybersecurity are achieved. And we our service has not been interrupted because of cybersecurity issues. One of the interruptions that we do encounter is we're within the government internet ring and we access the system through that ring. So if that's compromised we would be in difficulty. But I don't believe that we've been down for more than about thirty-five minutes over the last year.

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: So you weren't affected in that last attack on the they call themself the Lord of Darkness. You were not?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: No we weren't we weren't affected-

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: Okay

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Other than- Our interchange with other government agencies that were affected.

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah. It sounds good that you're you know doing every precaution but you know remember once upon a time even before technologies even gotten better at going through these what they call holes you know in cybersecurity where they can infiltrate. This latest one that's international it also brings an opportunity for the bad actors even the ones who are not that good at hacking to be able to infiltrate. So it's so important to save that. Because I was... Actually I was one of those back in what about eight years ago when they took a lot of the information our Social Security number date of birth everything like that. Many of us were hit taking what is that -

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Yes unfortunately-

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature:... identity theft ...

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: there's some very large corporations-

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah ...

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: that have had data compromised. Yeah. and they've had to provide access to credit ratings and things like that that out of their own funds because that might have been compromised. But we take every precaution we can.

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah and the funding I think it was $1.6 or $1.8 that was actually there was a hack that came in but you were able to recover that funding. –

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Yes ...

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: was it $1.8 or $1.6 million when it was judiciary and DOA? It was two.

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: The total was $1.8.

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: Total was $1.8 and you recovered that no problem?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: We're still trying to make sure that we get the full amount.

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: Okay so you haven't recovered the full amount yet?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: We haven't recovered the full amount no.

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: Okay because the media says that you have recovered it. So how much of it that you have not been able to recover?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: I think we've recovered about a million but I'd have to check because it was a while ago.

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: So far you've recovered about a million?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: And we're engaging the FBI to on this trace process.

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah FBI Homeland Security let's just keep them all in the in the move.

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Yes absolutely Yeah. Absolutely. But the origin of this was not with us. It was unfortunately with the judiciary but-

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: Yep judiciary

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: it impacted us.

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: Yes. Okay Mr. Birn let's now that we talked about the cyber because that's the way to go. I mean I'm glad to hear

that you're going to integrate AI systems to help you know augment the shortfalls that you have. That's good. We're not looking at you know displacing employees.

We're looking at just enhancing the areas that you fall short. And I mean everybody's into speed. You know they want instant everything- doesn't work that way when you don't have a lot of staff to help you. One of the biggest loopholes I guess not loopholes but - One of the biggest hurdles that we have for every government of Guam agency is procurement.

And so tell me about the procurement and what are you doing how many employees do you have there? How many are you looking at bringing in? And I know Andy has been the acting CPO for a while now. Is she planning on being no longer acting but the you know chief procurement officer?

So can you give me a little bit more on that and what are you going to do on retention? Because I do know that many of these... This job in procurement is very difficult. And how are you going to keep them there? Are there any increase in salary so that they are they're not leaving for other agencies with better pay?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: May I ask Andy to address it in particular her personal approach?

Andriana Quitugua Acting Chief Procurement Officer DOA: Hi Andriana or Andi GSA. So right now I do have a makeup of four buyers and one buyer supervisor in procurement. We are waiting on a certification list from HR for our buyer one positions and I was updated last week that we have a buyer two position that is out there if anyone would like to apply.

So I've been lucky enough for the time that I have been there that I have not lost my buyers. They have been committed to the mission of GSA and I hope they continue to stay and like the work that we do. We are doing a lot of efficiencies right now. Every buyer's assigned to agencies. Unfortunately with the amount of buyers I have they're assigned to a multitude of agencies and the buyer supervisor and I are good about getting our hands you know in the nick of things with the buyers because we are short-staffed.

So we're doing everything we can to process as it comes in. Of course requisitions-- some requisitions come in more urgent than others and so those are ones that I would

take on with... I would assign a buyer. So right now the assignment of the buyers are-- it's working but of course it's not as quick as agencies would like right?

So we're working on our turnaround times. Compared to last FY our turnaround times have really improved I do have a little bit of data that I'll speak to. So right now we're only in the third quarter of the FY and our ... We have actually reached 60% of FY '25's volume right now. Of course when things happen like an emergency things have to not stop on the regular procurement but I have to be able to juggle both.

And so we've done that well with the amount of resources we have. But of course I don't want to burn out the staff and so a lot of what HR hears from me is I need at least more buyer ones you know. I'm grateful that we do have a buyer two out. So we have reached about 60% of FY '25's number and we're not even close to the end of the FY.

And so with that I'm working on assigning staff working with them and hoping to bring in a couple of more buyer ones at least for the time being and hopefully a buyer two. There are other things that GSA does. We do have records management. We do have surplus. We also have Tenda the government store.

And so those are areas that are very very critical as well. And so I just try to divide the time and work with the staff I currently have. So it's really GSA's success is really the staff. It's not me. I'm just the person in front of it. But I couldn't do it without the staff being dedicated and I work well with them and I communicate with them about things that we can do.

A lot of things that we do currently is we have roundtable discussions on what efficiencies we can do this FY that we weren't able to tackle last fiscal year. So I think that's all I'll say right now. I hope that answered your question.

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: And you're acting so are you planning on stay- on you know have you applied?

Andriana Quitugua Acting Chief Procurement Officer DOA: Right now it's in the process so I'll just let the HR process work itself out on that. So I know that it works.

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: And how many buyers do you need right now? You have four. How many do you really need?

Andriana Quitugua Acting Chief Procurement Officer DOA: Yeah. So we're trying to get at least up to three more buyer ones and if I could get one buyer two depending on the workload.

I'm trying to train the buyer twos to do more of the analytical work that comes with procurement because I you know like I've said in the past I don't rubber stamp what comes in. I still have to analyze the needs of the agency to make sure what they're spelling out in the specifications is truly going to meet their need.

And so I want the buyer twos to really hone in on that aspect of procurement and not just do regular procurement processing.

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: Andy is that included Do-- Mr. Birns in your request for additional employees?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Yes ma'am.

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: And So you have asked for that budget that additional seven hundred thousand budget is to include for GSA employees?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Yes. And could I add to what Andy just was talking about specifications. You would be amazed at some of the specifications we get. We get some that are pages and pages long and therefore almost impossible to procure because they're so specific. And sometimes we get one that's just a few sentences and it's hard to interpret what the agency actually wants.

So we need to train agencies in how to compile specifications. That will save a whole lot of time and to-ing and fro-ing that goes on so that's one of the tasks that we obviously have to get GSA to understand first and then the relevant responsible personnel in procuring agencies.

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: Well and definitely we are finding you know just a real hurdle you know when it comes to procurement.

I mean we're seeing it every day I get calls from my office asking that this is the delay. We can't spend our money and time. There seems to be lapses but we all realize that in procurement you have to have the money you know first in order to acquisition anything. You have to prove there's money.

So this is an area in DOA that really needs some help because it could... Well let's go-- I'm going to move on. I'm not going to elaborate on that. But I hope she gets the job. You know she's doing an excellent job. Excellent job. I saw her over at Homeland Security after the typhoon just a day after typhoon already sitting there all day long to get these emergency procurements through.

So thank you so much Andy for all your hard work. And we are working on the margins. The other question is do we have any liabilities Director Birns in the government of Guam with respect to FY 2025?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Liabilities of what type?

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: You know there's always bills that were never - money that was ever - when we appropriate right?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: I see. Yeah well if you look at our Fiscal '24 balance sheet there are some liabilities accrued liabilities on there. Not all of them materialize but many of them do and one of the ones that we did include in the fiscal '24 financials was the excess gasoline revenues that need to be paid back to or paid over to the airport.

We are looking at this pretty carefully. In fact we were looking at it last week. The budget wording is really hard to interpret and not surprisingly members of the administration have come out with different interpretations. But we are aware that that nine point three million and you'll see it you see it in the CRER does need to be dispersed to the airport.

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: Can you talk to me about the warehouse in Peve and the damage and what are you doing to fix it?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Again Andy is right on top of that.

Andriana Quitugua Acting Chief Procurement Officer DOA: I've been working with the staff maybe to give you an update from our oversight. We were able to work with DOA's property site manager and the director and the deputy to see a warehouse in Dededo.

And so I'm hoping that that will close soon so that I can shift my warehouse staff a lot closer to us in ITC and in a safer work environment. So I am working closely with the property site manager on this.

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: What's your timeline?

Andriana Quitugua Acting Chief Procurement Officer DOA: So when we went to visit it was thirty to sixty days and so we're at the thirty-day mark. I did ask for an update and he's working on getting that to me.

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: So maybe in thirty days you'll be able to get in there?

Andriana Quitugua Acting Chief Procurement Officer DOA: I really do hope so for the staff's sake.

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: For the safety of the staff.

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: It's a building that really should be condemned. Yeah. Yes. Yeah.

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: Can you tell me about vendor payables? What is the update?

The update is that we pay vendor payables you know within the thirty days when everything is absolutely clean and clear from the submitting agencies. I'll ask the CFO to address this too but we-- within the financial system we have a process called xFlow which means that if there's a encumbrance in the system a PO or other encumbrance the agency enters the invoice into the system and it matches up against that encumbrance.

So we don't have to do a whole lot of additional work associated with invoice validation because you can actually see both the PO and the invoice on the same

screen. So we encourage agencies to do that. But in order to use it to its utmost the agency must follow the encumbrance process.

Otherwise it becomes a payment that we have to pay through the old type of system where we have to investigate invoices. Do you want to add anything to that?

Theresa Rivers Chief Financial Officer DOA: Sorry. Sorry I don't have the numbers year-to-date but I do have the numbers of what we've paid which we spoke about. We did improve our over sixty and ninety days prior to the typhoon. That has impacted a little and so when we went back after the typhoon we were able to bring it back up to our normal which sits at roughly about two 2.5% is our over ninety days and about six percent of our payables is between sixty and ninety and the rest are within the thirty days.

So I don't have the actual numbers with me today but the results of the typhoon has impacted but we've been able to turn that around and reduce our outstanding payables. And we were focusing when we went back on the individual payments the stipends the child support payments and all of the individual payments.

We also were asked to proceed with the COLA payments which was also followed up by multiple agencies and some senators' offices so we were able to also process those after the typhoon. So we're managing our payables. we've improved the turnaround time with the engagement of the agencies.

We are continuing to support to provide trainings on the use of the system that they have access to enable them to upload the invoices. And they're also very good in holding us to account by contacting us and escalating to the leaders if there's a queue that hasn't been cleared over a day or two.

So compared to last year we've improved the turnaround time but the influx of invoices continues and as services are increased so I hope that-- I don't have the actual data but I should be able to forward that to you when I get back to the office.

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: When I got to DOA I think the value of payables was something like forty-one million.

The last time I looked excluding the appropriations to government departments it was like four million. Generally for local funds we can get these out pretty quickly because the association is clear. Sometimes with federal funds because of confusion

between agencies' access to some of these federal funds it sometimes takes a little longer.

But we're aware. I mean we see a pattern. You know if you pay this vendor in January you-- it's more than likely you're going to have this vendor to pay in February. We have a system of GPA and GWA sending their invoices directly to us so that we know what power and water invoices that we have to pay.

And we also have a large number of leases that we're working on because they're holdover leases but we know we have to pay them every month. So we look out for them and enter them as soon as they're submitted.

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: My last question with regards to a bill that was passed Bill No. 46-38 for this has to do with the Cancer Trust Fund and making sure they get their allotment. So I guess Theresa can you tell me if the Cancer Trust Fund is up to date with their allotments? Because the bill actually even though it's trailing about three hundred and eighty-six million-- three hundred and eighty-six thousand dollars lower they are still supposed to get their allotment for the Cancer Trust Fund regardless and to the ability for you to use unexpended excess revenue to cover those costs. Are we up to date with them?

Theresa Rivers Chief Financial Officer DOA: I will have to double-check but I believe they have been up to date. I will need to reconfirm. I'm texting someone right now to reconfirm before the end of the hearing. I should have that information to you.

Senator Telo T. Taitague 38th Guam Legislature: Oh thank you so much. I really appreciate that. We worked hard on that and it gives the DOA authority to you know to use excess revenue to make sure that they get their allotment.

Other than that I wish you guys the very best. I mean your agency as well as the legislature we work hand-in-hand together and that's what we need to start doing is start working together to address some of the issues. And Mr. Birns the audit the audit the audit you know it's one of the biggest issues you know that we have in the government not having it on time so that we can do our job.

So let's see what we can do to work on that. GSA Mr. Birns please you know put more effort into GSA because that's one of the biggest complaints I get you know from agencies calling me. And lastly maintain that cybersecurity in your agency

because that's ... a lot of bad actors out there. That's how they're going to do it to try and take money these days. It's not a robbery. It's going into the internet makes it easy. So thank you so much for the opportunity. Thank you.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Si yu'os ma'ase Senator just real quick we can get you some legal clarification on the Budget Act but do you have a current fund balance for 2024 fiscal year? Ed is there a current fund balance?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: A fund balance for Fiscal Year 24-

Senator Christopher M. Duenas Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Yes

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: ... is in the audit. It's $40.5. The unassigned balance-

Senator Christopher M. Duenas Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: How much is it then since you-

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: **$**40.5 million ...

Senator Christopher M. Duenas Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: you should know it. Sorry what's that? T

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: The fund balance reported in the Fiscal 24 audit it unassigned balance is $40.5 million.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: $40.5.

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: For unassigned fund balance. The-

Senator Christopher M. Duenas Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Unassigned fund balance

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: The fund balance including all the assigned things which are principally DOE was $293 million.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: So we'll get you clarification on the legal language that's in the current budget act. I'm pretty sure you can pay that airport vendor. Vice Speaker you're recognized.

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Thank you everyone for being here this morning and thank you Mr. Chair. Just probably just a couple of questions. I didn't have questions earlier but Mr. Birn you said that you'll be requesting for 10 new staff positions. What exactly are these positions?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: They're on this list but I'll ask the deputy to respond.

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: But we can have that list if we can get a copy of the list?

Rena Borja Deputy Director Department of Administration: Sorry. It's on the report but we're looking at increasing one person in internal audit. We have two people there now but that person the head of that audit is acting CPO right now. So we need one more person in that department. We need five more people in HR as we attested Senator the good senator talked about our number of people.

We are interview-- And for 2026 we have positions that we're going to fill within the next sixty days but the five is we're asking for additional five. And then and then insurance benefits we're asking for four. Since we're ... It's a new... It's a department that's needs insurance specialists and contract specialists is going into all these contracts and negotiations and whatnot so we need four more people in there.

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: So that's 10 right there.

Rena Borja Deputy Director Department of Administration: Yeah. Oh that's included. Okay. Yes.

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: So the insurance specialist that would be for the insurance. I don't see any for procurement. So procurement getting any new folks out of this 10 that is being requested?

Andriana Quitugua Acting Chief Procurement Officer DOA: So right now we have vacancies for FY26 so we're trying to fill that before we-

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: How long have you had those vacancies?

Andriana Quitugua Acting Chief Procurement Officer DOA: Maybe two years.

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Two years?

Andriana Quitugua Acting Chief Procurement Officer DOA: Yeah.

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: And we're still trying to fill it?

Rena Borja Deputy Director Department of Administration: Yeah. Well the vacancies are there but as you know like we just-

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: But the funding was there as well right?

Rena Borja Deputy Director Department of Administration: Yes but we promoted recently a buyer two to supervisor so then that opening becomes available and so forth. So Yeah

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: But that's been two years now that we've had vacancies in procurement. So I'm just a little bit puzzled. If we have vacancies in procurement for two years how is it that we're not we're not getting more people into procurement knowing that we have a procurement backup?

Rena Borja Deputy Director Department of Administration: Senator another thing too is a buyer one slot is not-- it doesn't pay that well to be truthful. A lot of people you apply and they...There are not that many people that apply for buyer one positions.

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: What does a buyer one make? Andy? How much does a buyer one make?

Andriana Quitugua Acting Chief Procurement Officer DOA: It's under $20 right now for a buyer one. Starting under $20 an hour starting

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Under $20? And what's the annual with benefits on that?

Andriana Quitugua Acting Chief Procurement Officer DOA: $32000 is the annual for a buyer one.

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: So $32,000 we can't find anyone that would be interested in $32,000 annually with benefits right? We couldn't we can't find anyone. When was the last time a announcement position was made?

Rena Borja Deputy Director Department of Administration: Well we actually have eligibility list. Right now we're interviewing. We're scheduling interviews for our buyer one and we hope to get at least two buyer ones out of that group. Okay so we're ... It is being ready-

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: But this has been two years and now we're just we're just making a list now? Where are we at with the listing on the buyer one?

Andriana Quitugua Acting Chief Procurement Officer DOA: So maybe I can speak to two years ago when we first put the buyer one out. We only had one person that wanted to come and work at GSA and so through that process we didn't at least I'll speak for myself I didn't feel like they were capable to do the procurement because of their background and the way they answered the questions. We had another opening last fiscal year and so I believe that closed in September.

And internally the discussions where we have a substantial long list that is on that I'm just waiting for the certification packet so we could start the interview process.

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Okay. I'll move on. I'm not going to... I was looking at your budget digest and on your office space rental you're from FY '26 authorized a level of $522. Now for 2027 you're looking at $883000. What was the increase there for the office budget the office rental?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Our lease comes to an end Senator at ITC and we're expecting although of course with GSA's help we're going to try and minimize the effect but we're expecting a significant increase in the rent. Most of our neighbors around in ITC building are paying more rent than we are.

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: So you guys are not locked into a contract?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: It's a three-year-

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Is this a month to month or...?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: It's a three-year- Three-year contract ... three-year-

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: And that three years is coming up?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Yes.

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: When does it expire?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: It expires in September I think.

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Of this year?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: I think so. Is that right? Yes. Yeah.

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: This year? Okay. And then on your utilities power water and telephone Is this for ITC?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: No.

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: No?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: The rent includes the power and water at ITC.

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Okay.

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: This is for Piti mainly and if we do abandon it then we will obviously save some of the money on that.

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: So just power down at Piti is $134,000?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Yes because the air conditioning there is ancient to say the least and you have to air condition a big space. And it's not a modern system. The warehouse that we're moving to is a modern system and should cost very much less. So there is a possibility of a saving there.

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Okay. And then on the-- we were mentioning earlier on the procurement module you said the team for I guess the system is here on Guam. Is that going to cost anything additional for that procurement module or is that part of the system?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: It's part of the system Senator.

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: It's part of the system?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Yeah.

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: So how come we didn't implement this part of the system when we first got the new ...

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Well they were all progressive right? We kept on adding modules. But can I ask the acting CPO because she operates it every day and we have more and more implemented or integrated it I should say.

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Okay.

Andriana Quitugua Acting Chief Procurement Officer DOA: Just like any new system it has some kinks. In the beginning it was just a procurement module that we had for GSA. And so right now the additions are the surplus and the tenda aspect of the procurement process. So throughout the time we've had the contract we've implemented efficiencies in terms of the procurement. But the module we're working with the vendor now is on the surplus and the tenda to make it not manual and to make it efficient and everything drives to each other within the system. It all talks.

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Okay. I see. Thank you. And on recruitment we were talking earlier I guess on the time that I guess when the system for recruitment is implemented what would take four hours now will only take several minutes for-- per application. Is that correct? So does that include-- because I remember Mr. Aguon earlier was mentioning that the security questions things like that. Does that include that as well or how does that work?

Tony Aguon Personal Services Administrator DOA: No so the security or the onboarding of law enforcement personnel is separate. That's not a part of ongoing recruitment system ... that's not part of the recruitment right?

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Okay. So those will come from the agency itself?

Tony Aguon Personal Services Administrator DOA: Correct.

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Okay. So how is it then the recruitment how- The recruitment process is taking such a... It's such a long tedious process for law enforcement to get their listing and get their people to so they can start their training and get more folks out onto the streets.

Tony Aguon Personal Services Administrator DOA: So when we do open up the job announcement some of them on a continuous basis currently corrections is on a continuous basis. And so a big challenge as well is to wait for enough applicants to apply so that we can give the test the written test the physical test. and of course in our experience we do have more or less a preferable number of applicants that we like to wait for in order to go through the process of testing and selection.

As an example you know most recently we did a recruitment for one of the law enforcement. Out of the three hundred applicants only I believe fifty of them don't you know don't quote me on that but about fifty of them made it to the final stages. In other words they passed the test they passed the written the physical psychological background checks and out of the three hundred applicants only fifty was able to make it to a final selection.

So of course we'd like to provide the agencies with good quality applicants as the director mentioned and not just simply selecting from whoever applies. And so that also is a challenge.

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Senator I mentioned during my opening remarks that our priority is getting the right person in the right job not just a person the right person.

And I personally am kind of focused on that because I've seen employees in other agencies recruited for one position and either forced is not the right word but encouraged or required to fulfill the duties of another position. And all that does is create a dissatisfied employee. The law enforcement is not quite as bad in that because we have this kind of rigorous selection system going to it.

But I really personally am concerned that we employ a government workforce that wants to do a job enjoys doing a job and is not there simply because they got recruited and then somebody found that that really wasn't what they should be doing.

They should be doing something else. That's when we see requests for transfers to other agencies.

That's when we see requests for transfers out of some agencies. So in law enforcement as the PSA mentioned we have a high dropout rate. At one time there was some discussion of well should we reduce the barriers the levels at which some of these tests and employees score in these tests.

But I don't think that would have been a good decision. You know we we want capable law enforcement throughout the law enforcement agencies. You know you can imagine what would happen if a policeman had to give evidence at a trial and they were unable to put together the evidence satisfactorily. So we want to make sure that we that that we do have a system that singles out those who are best suited to the job.

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: So but does any communication go back to the agencies that or departments that you know because DOC was sitting here not too long ago and they were mentioning that you know it's DOA.

DOA's owning of the process for recruitment. Is there some type of communication that goes on between your department and the department that's requesting for recruits? And how is it done? Is there a paper trail that says you know we communicated with them and this is what it is? Or are is DOA just not speaking to the agencies?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Yes I heard the new director say that and I don't think I necessarily agree. I think he said he wasn't really sure what was going on. But again-

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: It was Major Anton that knows it.

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Yeah. I see. Well I heard the director talking. But I'll ask Mr. Aguon to comment

Tony Aguon Personal Services Administrator DOA: All right so we do we do communicate with the departments both indirectly and directly. So we do get requests and more or less we collaborate with the departments behind the scenes

administratively amongst our administrative personnel. However we do get and we must get an official request from the agencies to recruit.

And most recently we did get a couple of requests from Corrections and the Police Department as the director mentioned for recruits and applicants to be processed. And so once we get the request we go ahead and in turn put out the job announcement. We start scheduling the written tests the physical tests and all all that's necessary to get them through the process. So yes we do. We do work directly with the departments.

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Okay. That's great to hear. So when the new recruitment process for the new system comes on board we'll be looking forward to a quicker response to the different departments and agencies?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: We'd be happy to demonstrate the system to you when it's in operation sir.

Vice Speaker Anthony V. Ada Vice Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Oh that's great. Thank you Mr. Birn. Thank you to your team for being here this morning and for defending your budget request. Thank you. Thank you Mr. Chair.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Si yu'os ma'ase Vice Speaker Ada. Senator Terlaje you're recognized.

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: Si yu'os ma'ase. Thank you all and thank you all for all of your work. I know DOA is really as the director said it's in the center of the entire government.

You have to function well or our entire government is going to slow down in so many ways. So I appreciated your comment Mr. Birn your commentary in the beginning. You have a lot of suggestions in there that what needs to be improved in order for the entire system to work better. I'm wondering some of them you gave us very specific for example 5150 but some of them were a little bit more general and I'm looking forward to more specifics or if you are able to just issue circulars to the departments to do those things that you think that they need to do better.

For example the- Ambiguous specifications some-- that was one of them. I also think that's an issue. And what do you do when you have that problem? Are you able to discuss this with the directors themselves? or how do you see that being fixed?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Yes. Thank you for that. It's a really good question.

Thank you Senator. I do discuss it with the directors themselves. But better still would be that their staffs understand what the effect of some of these ambiguous statements are and correct them before they even get to the director. You know sometimes in the enthusiasm to get a procurement done especially if somebody finds they have funding or are awarded federal funding the confusion arises because they dig out an old specification and think "Oh that's okay."

And then when GSA tries to source that particular specification is no longer available or you know we've had instances with for heavy equipment for instance a specification for so many horsepower but the standard is now a different number of horsepower. So that kind of procurement is automatically frustrated because of that kind of activity.

Agencies are supposed under the rules to do diligent market research and this is an area where we're also looking-- that's one of the things we're looking at in new technology to help agencies with that. but the last thing of course we want is for GSA to try and source something that's just not there that-- or is no longer available in that form.

So yes but I also do talk to directors especially if it's a large procurement where I know it's got a high public interest and we do talk it through. But GSA does a really good job of doing that too.

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: All right. Well I appreciate that. I know this has been a perennial issue not just with you but with those before you because I remember agencies would complain our stuff is held up at GSA.

GSA when I ask would say "Oh no we rejected those. They've been rejected and they have to start again." And so that's really a cause of some delay. So I hope that we can get that fixed. FY24 audit based on that now that it's out are there any changes that you think are required in the FY27 budget?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: That's another good question. I mean the FY24 audit you know I think we all have to you know even in the best circumstances the audit is always going to come out a year after and even before you start to consider budgets. So my particular approach to this as I was hinted at in what I was saying is to have accurate helpful interim financial statements which are much better for guiding budgets or any other kind of spending and revenue plans.

Specifically in fiscal year 2024 you know we've tried to include everything. I mentioned in response to Senator Taitague question about the airport Tax appropriation basically that's needed to pay them the money that they didn't get from the air fuel fund. but if you go within it right there are obviously things that we can do better between the both of us.

The page that I would like to direct people to is the budget actual expenditure which I think is around about... It's right in the middle round about page one fifty-one and is the is a schedule that shows you know the original budget the updated budget and the actual expenditure by major agencies.

And the reasons behind the variances in there are things that we obviously look into and I want to do that kind of schedule currently because it's more useful currently. Yes but it does tell you which agencies overspend and which agencies underspend. but we do really have to address please all of us the way we appropriate funds you know.

I understand there are emergent circumstances that we have to address but proper budgeting should always come from expected or adjusted revenues. Other fund sources may be easy or may be necessary to access because of important things that happen right?

The you know we had to send money to GMH because otherwise the hospital would have stopped functioning had we not sent those funds to them. And we had to dig into a prior year amount in order to do it. That is not good practice. That is not good budgeting practice. I understand that in emergency circumstances it's something you choose to do but it's not something that we should make a habit.

I always remind people that the GFOA the Government Finance Officers Association thinks that the appropriate amount to have in the general fund untouched is two months' worth of revenues and expenditures. So in our case that would be

round about two hundred million and at the moment we're at forty million in the in the fiscal 24 audit.

Now we do have a rainy day fund and that's a good thing and investors congratulate us for having a rainy day fund. But there's no good alternative but for having a healthy fund balance in your general fund.

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: All right. You told us what that once before that we should leave a healthy fund balance in there. But then we also I think from a bill that was sent down spent 40 million from the general fund balance for GMH again. What is this 41.5 million unassigned fund balance for FY24? What is the practical implication of that?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Well unfortunately right it's it's... Th- there's a diff- that's why I ask you senators to look at that other schedule because the other schedule shows like a $15 million deficit because the fund balance only reflects revenues and expenditures.

It doesn't include future appropriations and it doesn't include encumbrances. It's an accounting number. So that's why I encourage everyone to look at that budget schedule.

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: All right. So you wouldn't say that there's $41 available for expenditure? Those appropriations are still valid?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Well a lot of that has been spent to you know-

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: That's what I mean

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: because we did spend it on the hospital and other necessary cases.

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: All right so the agencies we've talked about this a little bit this morning the agencies that are coming in here for their budgets are telling us they're unable to spend. I'm glad you're giving them a schedule now of what they're spending.

That's excellent. They're still saying they're not able to spend these things because either procurement's too long or hiring's too long. Those are the two biggest complaints. So we've talked about hiring. I want to talk about you you mentioned that you're doing some salary studies. Can we get the list of what your priorities are in these salary studies that you're doing? What can we expect before the end of the year and which positions are going to be studied?

Tony Aguon Personal Services Administrator DOA: So as I mentioned we do have in hand a revised law enforcement salary study. I also like to note that all all the different work groups have been renewed. That includes the teachers the nurses of course law enforcement and the general pay plan which is all the administrative folks.

So all those pay scales associated with those work groups have to be studied within more or less three years. So that's the goal. And so we're we are on track. In fact like I mentioned earlier we're actually early with GPITI. We're on track with the law enforcement. We've already done the nurses of course there's the GPP the -

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: The what?

Tony Aguon Personal Services Administrator DOA: The general pay plan-

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: Okay

Tony Aguon Personal Services Administrator DOA: which is the administrative folks.

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: Are you going to do that again before the end of the year?

Tony Aguon Personal Services Administrator DOA: Well I don't want to say that we are going to do it at the end of the year but we are actually currently putting together the numbers. We are putting together numbers and as well as start preliminary work on the that scale to include the teachers as well as the attorneys.

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: What was the last one?

Tony Aguon Personal Services Administrator DOA: Attorneys.

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: Attorneys?

Tony Aguon Personal Services Administrator DOA: Correct.

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: So all of these you're currently studying and it's possible you're going to submit something before the end of the year or reclassify them or readjust their salaries?

Tony Aguon Personal Services Administrator DOA: Well again we are putting together numbers. We're gathering information as we speak for all of those particular scales. Again they are on a schedule. They have been renewed at a certain time. And so to meet the three-year threshold we are trying to get ahead of it and you know put together information so that if we do put together a final study we'll be ready for that. As far as which priority I would go ahead and defer to my director.

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: Well you said they're on a schedule so which comes first? I want to know which ones are going-- are due by the November by which ones are due by December.

Tony Aguon Personal Services Administrator DOA: I don't have those dates with me right now but I will tell you though that the law enforcement the nurses and of course the general pay plan as well as the teachers those are definitely-

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: All due this year?

Tony Aguon Personal Services Administrator DOA: more or less.

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: You're saying the three years expires this year?

Tony Aguon Personal Services Administrator DOA: Yeah. Correct. Yeah more or less.

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: And the governor will make the ultimate decision as to whether to actually implement those after the studies are done?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Yes we would like to work obviously with the legislature because in order for the studies to be effective there have to be funds available to meet those if there's an increase obviously there needs to be funds available to meet those increases.

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: All right. And none of those increases was anticipated in FY27 budget request correct?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: That I don't know. I think you have to ask I'll ask my colleague at BBMR on.

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: All right. And then okay. If there is a time schedule I'd like to see a copy of that. Yeah. And so then the procurement back to that just for a little bit. - I'm glad to hear about the announcement being out. Does DOA monitor contracts? For example we procure something by contract. Do we monitor do you monitor the deliverables?

Do you monitor when these contracts expire? Are you managing those contracts or are we leaving it to the agencies? Because we've seen some errors. And of course we saw a big one with DRT letting that contract expire all of us getting offline and it was a... We're still suffering from that. So yeah if you could speak to that.

Andriana Quitugua Acting Chief Procurement Officer DOA: So this fiscal year the contract's registration moved from the Division of Accounts to GSA so that's an extra leg as part of the-

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: I'm sorry. Can you repeat that?

Andriana Quitugua Acting Chief Procurement Officer DOA: Sorry. Let me just move this. Contract registrations they are with GSA now. We are responsible for that. When it comes to contracts that we have procured we have implemented this fiscal year tracking especially if we know that it's going to be a recurring use for an agency.

So if it's a lease you know the ones that we know are services. However when it is a procurement of an item like a one-time delivery we don't track that because that's the responsibility of the end user to ensure that the vendor delivers the items to them within that required delivery deadline.

And so once they're responsible for receiving the goods and signing the receiving report that they then submit to accounting to pay the invoices. To speak to the DRT issue that's not a recurring contract. It's a sole source procurement because back before my time they had procured the system.

And so the responsibility of submitting the documentation so that we can get these contracts to the agencies on time so that things like what DRT experienced doesn't happen that's the responsibility of the agency. They need to make sure that they certify funds for us to procure for them. And so once those get submitted through the GFMIS then we would process it as it comes in.

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah. I just feel like with the turnover of directors and different things and yeah it's really a big risk that the government is running by not monitoring all of those things closely even quality control. What are we getting for our money? I'm very concerned about that. We've got consultants out there that I'm not sure what really the deliverables or where to find them.

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: I share some of your concerns. I mean that was one of the reasons why we moved the contract management to GSA because they're better equipped to do some of those tasks and we will get them done.

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: I'm glad. And then procure them in advance of the expiration right? renewal. What about the self-insurance? Is there an audit done of that?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Yes we're currently in discussions with the auditors because it was included in the audit. There's a separate statement in the audit because they're a proprietary fund. The auditors feel that they did a lot of work on that fund in order to include it in the audited statements. So I think it's their view and I tend to agree with them that we effectively have done an audit. I'm not sure the public auditor shares that view because he seems keen to have a separate audit done.

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: What about a claims report? Can we see that? Where would we find that?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: It is reported to the legislature-

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: The monthly

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: The monthly report yes. Right.

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: Do you have one like a cumulative that we can see the more detailed? The one I saw in June I guess was so vague.

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Yeah. Well yes of course you know providing there's no personal information we could give you any report. But what detail would you like to see?

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: Well I just think we should see the claims that are being covered under the contract any claims that are being covered kind of by exception to the contract and what types of claims of course in detail are being covered. Are you expecting any changes in the upcoming procurement for health insurance like coverage for example?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Well yes we are because we're trying to procure the pharmacy benefit managers separately because we believe that's a path to reducing pharmaceutical costs. in other respects you know generally we followed the benefit schedules that the TPA issues because it's easier for them.

And to be fair the TPAs have pretty good benefit schedules. If we try and go outside that then it's confusing for them and it's confusing for us. Now there... It-- You're absolutely right. There have been occasions when the TPA has said "That's outside our normal our normal benefit standard." And the governor has decided that is a case where we need to attend to an urgent medical issue. you know it's a life and death issue and we have done so. But it's very very rare.

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah I'd just like to see if there's a trend in those things. How are those reported? How can we see that?

Like for example- Were we having an issue with cancer medications not being covered? And did we have to make an exception for several people or just on a case by case and then the governor decides? I'd like to see a more policy-wide you know like a policy put in place for those types of things.

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Yes. Again cancer medications sometimes a cancer medication is a new medication. It comes out. It's one of the things we talk to the bidders for the PBM. It's not on their formulary not because of any expense issue. It's just a new drug that's not on their formulary. I think we've taken the view in a couple of cases over the last three years that administering the drug is going to be cheaper than a hospital admission. Even though these drugs are expensive the most the highest expense is a hospital admission and if we can avoid that we should.

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: So you're doing that on a case-by-case basis?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Yes. And it's very very rare. I mean maybe three four a year.

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah that's why I'd like to see a detailed report just so we can also monitor that ourselves.

And again I want to just thank you all for the work you're doing. I think with the limited number of staff you have particularly in procurement it's really amazing that we're getting this much done. But we need to get a lot more done faster and as you said Mr. Birn there's a lot of training that needs to happen.

So yeah I'm just hoping that these issues that you're having with these agencies can really translate into improvements as opposed to just continued problems with you know without some kind of …I don't know how to enforce it. But Mr. Birn I'm hoping that before you leave yet your suggestions are going to become some type of mandate.

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Yeah. The you know relationship with agencies are critical. And it shouldn't be a like I said it shouldn't be a contest. It should be a cooperative matter unfortunately like I said you know compliance sometimes falls in the way of that because if we say "You can't do that because the rules say you can't do that" then agencies you know tend to find...

They're not being singled out and they're not being treated in any different way. We try and treat them all separately but sometimes it's hard for them to accept that.

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: Mr. Chair can I ask one more question?

Senator Christopher M. Duenas Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Sure.

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: Thank you.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: This will be your last question.

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: Yes so some of the agencies claim that they have certain positions that are very difficult to hire and I don't know if they've tried the above step or they haven't but they say that the specs need to be rewritten for these positions right? But it sounds like you're doing these general studies and but are we do we have any priority for those positions that they have determined to be very critical?

Tony Aguon Personal Services Administrator DOA: So unfortunately the 2,000 some job specifications that we currently have on the books are very outdated. We are doing our best with the limited staff that we have and the expertise right to be able to create these job specifications. I will say though that most notably we just accomplished a few milestones right of updating these job specifications.

Again I mentioned earlier Guam Police Department we went through that milestone. We're very satisfied with the amendment of the PO2 PO3 positions. the OTECH positions far overdue. We did a complete overhaul of all of those positions. We've greatly modernized the job specifications to meet the current needs right of technology and computers and systems.

Now of course there again I mentioned there's about 2000 job specifications. We are going through each one of them in turn. Of course the ones that have the most impact and the ones that are being used. And we are at the same time not just updating but we're abolishing you know many many many job specifications that are you know positions that are obsolete.

As an example those positions that re- that require shorthands right? I don't know if we're all familiar with shorthand but we don't use shorthand anymore so again we are getting lots of requests law enforcement as well right to update the job specification. And we are tackling that challenge.

Senator Therese Terlaje 38th Guam Legislature: All right. Thank you. Again that's why I want to see the list of what you're prioritizing because I want to see if it matches what the agencies say are their priorities versus somebody else's priorities. Thank you very much Mr. Chair.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Sure. Absolutely and that's one of the reasons why many of us also have been advocating because a lot of times and this is what we get of all the reports of the agencies we've been seeing and talking to on pre-budget meetings their issue is not their budget.

Their issue for retention is updating and making sure that they can hold onto these people. It's not a budgetary matter. They've got lapses in the millions. So if they could pay these positions to keep them and even to recruit at what you're saying with some of the lower level that's got to be the alacrity is to get that done.

Because it's even within the agencies the capacity of the individuals to not lose them it's not a budget problem. It's a problem that they're not being paid to the retention level. So Ed one a couple of questions for you. I was a little concerned. You mentioned that of course this is a policy call and it's not policy yet on the multi-year for the health contract. Are you procuring for a multi-year even though you're not allowed by law at this point?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: No. Okay. May may I ask ... expand on that?

Senator Christopher M. Duenas Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Yeah. I just wanted to make sure because that seemed to have been heard by others and so yeah.

Leonora Candaso Personnel Specialist IV DOA: Thank you Senator. So at this point we are not procuring because the statute does require an annual. So the hope is that we are able to change statute to do a multi-year contracting.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Okay thank you. That's important. Okay. So you know there was also when DOC came they talked about a decision that was made to ensure DOC detainees. So just trying to understand the authority for that. How did you execute that Ed and then a couple follow-ups in terms of how that benefits are being afforded.

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: You will be aware Senator that DOC incurred a lot of medical bills and I think they mentioned this also. They... a lot of medical bills in respect to prior years that we're still trying to pay off.

So we engaged with them and this was a you know agreed within the administration by the governor. We agreed to include them in the medical plan now but there are certain exceptions right? They told us that they had a very good contract for renal dialysis. So we didn't try and override that.

We let them continue with their renal dialysis contract. If one of the things that was really really important that we kind of want to make the sure is that if a inmate is actually in a hospital as an inpatient we should be able to make a Medicaid claim. So this whole package was put together where you know they have a contract with the hospital for their day-to-day medical treatment but for - Actual going to the hospital for outpatient treatment which isn't subject to Medicaid and other providers we included them in the plan in order to avoid these prior year charges that providers were complaining to us about not being paid.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Certainly. Is it a blanket approach or how many detainees do you currently have then under the program?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Any detainee there is covered for the period that they're there so it's like 800 people.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Okay. Yeah I'm just trying to get some details on the program because when this when DOC was here we're kind of we're interested in how this is going. Yeah. So then kind of a funny question maybe but so there's not an employee share. You just-

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: No. There's not an employee share . But it's a reduced amount because of the exceptions that I just mentioned.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas Chairman Committee on Finance and Operations: Okay. So another question that came up. so with the FMIS I know that we went over before the procurement and the amount and everything else. The thing that seems to come out of the audit and a reoccurring issue is the additional models modules and the requirement for it. So how many additional modules are we talking about that we need to add to the current system? And is there a budget in place for that?

Edward Birn Director Department of Administration: Well we're constantly and maybe I'll ask the CFO to address this, but we're constantly adding modules just like we-- you heard about the new module for recruitment and evaluations. We're constantly adding modules. But before I ask the CFO to speak I want to be very clear that we've got an FMIS system. Feeding into the FMIS system are legacy-type systems.

I know public health told you that they were trying to modernize their system away from their legacy system because the way they feed into the new FMIS system requires a lot of intervention by the staff at accounting rather than... because they're not compatible rather than being able to move straight into the system.

We're also looking at integrating the tax receipt system which at the moment is to my mind totally chaotic and you have to put in receipts twice once into one system and once into another. So that would be a module that we are looking at. we haven't actually contracted for that module yet.

We're just investigating that one. The module that we're also trying to introduce this month should be the end of the month is the grants management system which was part of the original concept but always was going to be a later addition because we had to get that core accounting system working.

And so that is hopefully coming in at the end of this month. Well not hopefully. That's our plan to get that working at the end of this month. So we're constantly looking at how better to integrate all these systems and some are planned some are actually in progress like you heard with the with the HR systems. Do you have anything to add to that?

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: So I guess the follow-up then to that that handles all the module and the like is there is there do you have this built into your budget for additional costs with regard to that?

Theresa Rivers, Chief Financial Officer, DOA: At the bottom of the page of the request there's the footnote. In addition to that there's $3.5 about 4 million in the miscellaneous appropriation request for the ongoing operational cost for Chief MIS Plus license renewal. That's the only that's in addition.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: Right. Then that's why we were asking as well because it was in the miscellaneous. Okay. So we'll figure out how that will provide for the actual appropriation.

Edward Birn, Director, Department of Administration: And Senator I hope that if we come across a need that we feel needs to be addressed we can come to you and ask for the funding you know similar to the way the legislature did right on the cyber funding.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: We certainly will and we certainly can. And I guess just one of my final questions that kind of puzzled me in terms of how we've been able to make payments from time to time was there an appropriation that was actually the finding in the 2023 audit for the establishment of the account to start the self-insurance that $33 million that was populated in an account based on I guess DOA and the governor working together?

Edward Birn, Director, Department of Administration: The self-funded insurance plan is within the statute. It says-

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: But was there a specific line item appropriation for it?

Edward Birn, Director, Department of Administration: No because the revenues come from They're included in the benefits in each agency or for the component unit agencies like GPA they make their own contribution.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: So one of my points is I've seen a number of different non-appropriated items particularly with excess revenue when it comes to the final 60 days 30 days in terms of transfer authority.

And this is the point that I that I've been making from time to time that it seems selective that when we want to pay something depending on the authority given within the budget it's paid and from time to time when it's not it's not paid subject to an appropriation regardless of the fund availability. So we'll continue to discuss that as we go. Yeah.

Edward Birn, Director, Department of Administration: We try to be consistent.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Operations: We're thriving to ensure that happens as well. Thank you. Just in closing I want to make sure that there's no misunderstanding in terms of what this legislature's decision and it's what it's planning to embark on.

In no way does it contemplate what are actions to be taken that we have issues with the staff and their ability to do their job on a daily basis. And once again Ed you have provided your opening statement as part of the record correct?

Edward Birn, Director, Department of Administration: Yes sir.

Thank you. And since-- so we don't want to cross the wires here whatever we do going forward the implication is to answer a very difficult and very important question and that is disclaimer findings in the audit. That will include us talking to DOA and talking to the agencies to ensure that we can provide for the accountability of what's being discussed in the audit.

I think that's just prudent whether you accept it or not in terms of the procedure going forward. That's what will take place. But I've met with a number of folks who've called and asked to meet with me and I have many more meetings that that I'm going to be taking. And that is you know individuals at the agency level are reaching out and saying that we're going to discuss this with you.

That's the process. That's the process I think we should be embarking on in order to get to the bottom of it because some of it looks like in terms of the ability to provide the information and some of it looks like there is no information. That's a problem.

That's a problem that can be fixed and doesn't have to have an implication as to anybody doing anything wrong but it certainly must have something contained within it a procedural situation that is not working.

If that's where we end up then all of us benefit by being able to make sure that we close that gap. But to simply explain it away as audits are difficult and there's multi-billions of dollars involved I'm okay with that. I understand it. That's been happening you know since the iteration of our budgets and what we have to contend with.

But you know I look forward to cooperation. I look forward to all of us being able to get to the bottom of it and if there's legislation or procedural issues that need to be changed then so be it. Otherwise if there's other that's we've all faced that. So with that I want to thank you all for being here today and I want to once again say that this legislature as well appreciates the hard work of all the classified employees that watch administrations come and go on a yearly basis prior to their retirement after they put all of the hard work in.

And we believe that many do that job with honor and dignity and with all the energy that they have to put into it with the most of them being career employees in the government. As I said this looks like a relatively modest request. I don't think that we're going to have a problem achieving this.

Even though you're currently tracking $300,000 in in lapses we believe that you'll be able to exhaust that within the fiscal year the balance of time. We want to thank Department of Administration director management staff for coming down to defend your budget today. And at this time the budget hearing for Department of Administration is hereby adjourned.

Edward Birn, Director, Department of Administration: Thank you for listening to us Senator.

The Budget Hearing was adjourned at 11:34 AM.

COMMITTEE REPORT

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) -

INTRODUCED BY

Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam

AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

Monday, April 27, 2026, at 2:00 P.M.

Customs and Quarantine Agency

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 27, 2026

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Mon, Apr 20, 2026 at 9:07 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com" <stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com>, michaella.ofbguam@gmail.com, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 20, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 27, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, April 27, 2026,** beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

2:00 pm

- Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

FIRST NOTICE - CQA.pdf
697K

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 20, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 27, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, April 27, 2026,** beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

2:00 pm

- Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 27, 2026

PRINT

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 27, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 04/20/2026 10:58 AM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 20, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 27, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, April 27, 2026,** beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** **(https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

2:00 pm
· Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA)

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 budget hearing, please contact the Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas for further assistance via email***

Christopher M. Duenas for further assistance via email at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov (mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov) or by phone at (671) 989-9554.

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Notice of Budget Hearings

Monday, April 27, 2026, 9:00 A.M.

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, April 27, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Guam Police Department (GPD)

2:00 pm

- Customs & Quarantine Agency (CQA)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

GUAM LEGISLATURE
AUDIO VISUAL DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Office Submitting Request: Senator Chris Dueñas

Date of Request: 4/17/26

POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Ashley Shinohara Contact #: 671-989-9554

Email: senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS

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

☐ Oversight Hearing ☐ Committee Meeting ☒ Other: Budget Hearing

Notice Title / Bill(s) / Resolution(s) / Appointment:
Bill 266-38 (COR) - Guam Police Dept. & Customs & Quarantine

Date of Event: 4/27/2026 Start Time: 9:00 AM AM/PM

End Time: 5:00 PM AM/PM

Location: Public Hearing Room

MEDIA HANDLING

Recording Format: ☒ MP4 ☐ MP3 ☐ Other: _____

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

CERTIFIED BY AV:

Name: [illegible] Signature: [illegible]

Posted on Air Date: 4/20/24 — 4/27/24

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 27, 2026

1 message

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Thu, Apr 23, 2026 at 8:55 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com" <stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com>, michaella.ofbguam@gmail.com, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 23, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 27, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, April 27, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Guam Police Department (GPD)

2:00 pm

- Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--
Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

---

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

SECOND NOTICE - GPD-CQA.pdf
350K

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 23, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 27, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, April 27, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
- Guam Police Department (GPD)

2:00 pm
- Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 27, 2026

PRINT

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 27, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 04/23/2026 08:56 AM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 23, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 27, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, April 27, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR) (https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
· Guam Police Department (GPD)

2:00 pm
· Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA)

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***

accessible to individuals with disabilities. If you or anyone you know requires assistance or special accommodations to participate in the budget hearing, 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.

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

BUDGET HEARING AGENDA

Monday, April 27, 2026 – Guam Congress Building

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam – AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

9:00 am:

- Guam Police Department (GPD)

2:00 pm:

- Customs & Quarantine Agency (CQA)

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahån

Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas x Office of Finance & Budget

Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Date: April 27, 2026 **Time: 2:00 p.m.**

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules

by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam

AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

-- Relative to Customs & Quarantine Agency

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Franklin Gutierrez	CQA	[redacted]	frankieg@cqa.guam.gov	1			
2	Joey T. Cruz	CQA		joeycruz@cqa.guam.gov	✓		✓	
3	Zack Q. Peredo	CQA					✓	
4	Clarice Briggs	CQA		clarice.briggs@cqa.guam.gov			✓	
5	Johnric Mendiola	"		johnric.mendiola@cqa.gov	✓		✓	
6	Vincent Perez	CQA	475-6202	vincent.perez@cqa.guam.gov			✓	
7	Francis Tejarang	CQA	475-6225	francis.tejarang@cqa.guam.gov			✓	
8	Barbara Torres	CQA	671 4756208	barbara.torres@cqa.guam.gov				
9	Andrew Mad	CQA	[redacted]	andrew.mad@cqa.guam.gov			✓	
10	Naomi M.A. Cruz	CQA		naomi.cruz@cqa.guam.gov			✓	
11	Jason Frias	CQA		Jason.frias@cqa.guam.gov			✓	
12	Maybelle Muna	CQA		maybelle.muna@cqa.guam.gov				

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahån

Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas x Office of Finance & Budget

Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Date: April 27, 2026 **Time: 2:00 p.m.**

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules

by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam

AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

-- Relative to Customs & Quarantine Agency

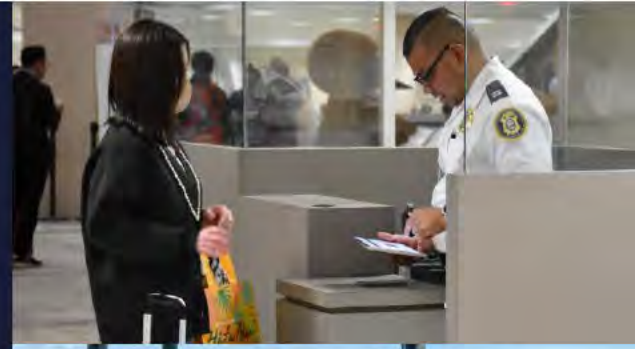
	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Michael Camacho	CQA	[redacted]	michael.camacho@cqa.guam.gov				
2	William A. Cruz	CQA		william.cruz@cqa.guam.gov				
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								

GUAM CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE AGENCY

Guam's First Line of Defense

FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET HEARING | BILL 266-38

APRIL 27, 2026 | 38TH GUAM LEGISLATURE









MISSION

The Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency is responsible for enforcing local and federal laws and regulations as they relate to passenger, cargo, and conveyance movements across Guam's borders and ports of entry.

PORTS OF ENTRY

- A.B. Won Pat International Airport
- Jose D. Leon Guerrero Commercial Port
- Hagåtña Boat Basin
- U.S. Postal Service Main Facility
- Andersen Air Force Base

CORE OBJECTIVES

INTERCEPT & SEIZE CONTRABAND

DETAIN & SEIZE UNSAFE SUBSTANCES

PREVENT BIOSECURITY THREATS

SAFEGUARD FROM TERRORISM

AVERT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

FACILITATE LEGITIMATE TRADE & TRAVEL

APPREHEND VIOLATORS

DIVISIONS

INSPECTION & CONTROL

Border Facilitation & Management

- ABWIAT
- Andersen AFB
- Commercial Port
- USPS Main Facility
- Hagåtña Boat Basin

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Strategic Direction

- Director
- Private Secretary
- Chief of Customs
- Internal Affairs Officer
- Executive Officer
- Public Information Officer
- MFC Liaison

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Fiscal Support

- Budget
- Human Resources
- Procurement
- Payroll
- Inspection Fees
- Account Receivables

SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT

Criminal Investigation & Assets

- Drug Detector Dog Unit
- Federal Task Force Section
- Contraband Enforcement Team
- Office of Intelligence
- Maritime Interdiction Task Force
- X-Ray Unit
- Biosecurity Task Force
- Agriculture K-9 Unit

LOGISTICS & SUPPORT

Technical & Operational Units

- Fines, Fees, & Forfeitures
- Research & Development
- Property, Evidence, & Control
- Records Management
- Training

CURRENT STAFFING

CURRENT STATUS

- Uniformed Officers: **148**
- Trainees: **11**
- Support Staff: **14**

Total Force: 173

Vacancies: 38

- Classified: 171
- UnClassified: 2

OPTIMAL TARGET

Uniformed: 300 | Support: 30

48%

UNDERSTAFFED

**Inclusive of CQTs*

OPERATIONAL ASSETS

Vehicles

47

*50% - >10 YRS

X-ray System

1 Mobile ZBV System

4 Small Handheld Systems

Drug Canines

17

AG Canines

6

EDF System

Operational

Patrol Boats

3

FY 2026 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Capacity Building

- **Graduation of 29 new CQIs** in December
- **Custom 16th Cycle:** Final phase for 10 CQT (Graduation June 2026)
- **Vessel & Maritime Domain Training (40hrs):** 30 CQA officers to attend training at FLETC (GA.) May-July 2026) — 100% PSG Funded
- **OCO Pacific Leadership Programme:** 6 Session Cohort for 15 CQA staff — No charge
- **Canine Trainers:** 2 additional Certified Trainers in June 2026
- 2026 International Education Workshop/Australian Border Force Detector Dog Program: 1 Detector Dog Handler in May 2026.
- **ACU Handler:** Graduated 1 Canine Handler Team in January 2026

FY 2026 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Equipment & Assets

- **Baggage X-Ray Machine:** Procurement for airport operations (operational June 2026)
- **CPF Grant:** Awarded $1M for the procurement of inspection assets
- **Handheld X-ray Scanners:** Acquisition and deployment of 4 units into operations
- Handheld Narcotic/Substance Analyzers: Acquisition and deployment of 4 units into operations

FY 2026 ACTIVITIES

Trade Facilitation: Oct'25 to Present

Aircraft Cleared **6,814**	Ocean Vessels Cleared **420**	Containers Processed **17,810**
Passengers Facilitated **612,389**	Air Freight Processed **6,131,008 lbs**	Break bulk cargo **685,000,000 lbs**
Transactional Activity **$2,705,705,042**		

FY 2026 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Agriculture Seizures

Meat: **1,055.7 lbs.**

Fruits & Veg: **28,948.6 lbs.**

Plants: **1,738.2 lbs.**

Aggregate: **4,050 lbs.**

Seeds: **23 lbs.**

Wood: **4,223 lbs.**

Fumigate/Treat & Release

Processed Cargo

Cut Flowers: **44,796 lbs.**

Fruits & Veg: **3,512 lbs.**

Live Plants: **903 lbs.**

Consumer Protection

99 cases

Intellectual Property Rights

10

Cases

EPA/DOT Regulatory Investigations

13

Cases

Oct'25 to Present

FY 2026 ACTIONS

DRUG INTERDICTIONS SEIZURES

October '25 to Present

Methamphetamine	Cocaine	Marijuana
376.85 lbs.	3.4 lbs.	27.25 lbs.

MDMA/Ecstasy	Illegal Pharmaceuticals
42 grams	40.2 grams

FY 2027 BUDGET REQUEST

General Fund	CAQIC Special Fund	Federal Fund
$14,542,426	$7,696,311	$1,875,000

GF+SF Total: $22,238,737

FY 27 Total: $24,113,737

CQA REVENUE ARRIVALS

Month	FY23	FY24	FY23/24 Change	FY25	FY24/25 Change	FY26	FY25/26 Change
OCT	47,280	63,228	33.7%	65,452	3.5%	74,502	13.8%
NOV	50,749	73,183	44.2%	66,718	-8.8%	86,023	28.9%
DEC	63,422	84,426	33.1%	82,412	-2.4%	110,637	34.2%
JAN	66,782	90,760	35.9%	82,676	-8.9%	86,619	4.8%
FEB	61,836	79,363	28.3%	70,504	-11.2%		
MAR	69,471	78,336	12.8%	71,333	-8.9%		
APR	53,793	64,913	20.7%	67,115	3.4%		
MAY	52,404	64,474	23.0%	64,396	-0.1%		
JUN	28,828	66,198	129.6%	69,851	5.5%		
JULY	67,686	77,561	14.6%	88,665	14.3%		
AUG	75,688	79,090	4.5%	92,791	17.3%		
SEP	61,449	61,704	0.4%	70,025	13.5%		
	699,388	883,236	26.3%	891,938	1.0%	357,781	

FY 2027 BUDGET BREAKDOWN

SALARIES, BENEFITS, & OVERTIME	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL FUND (CAQISC)
Director's Office	$1,978,344	$0.00
Logistics & Support	$2,799,054	$0.00
Airport Operations	$7,035,498	$0.00
Maritime Section	$1,257,808	$0.00
Air Cargo Section	$0.00	$1,837,126
Drug Detector Dog Unit (DDDU)	$0.00	$916,600
Contraband Enforcement Team (CET)	$0.00	$3,034,656
FY 27 Trainee Cycle	$0.00	$939,000
Sub Total	$13,070,704.00	$6,727,382.00

FY 2027 BUDGET BREAKDOWN

CONTRACTUAL	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL FUND (CAQISC)
Cargo	$0.00	$102,500
Drug Detector Dog Unit (DDDU)	$0.00	$18,000
Contraband Enforcement Team (CET)	$0.00	$1,000
FY-2027 Training Cycle	$0.00	$133,320
Sub Total	$0.00	$254,820
RENT		
Airport Operations	$846,722	$0.00
Air Cargo Section	$0.00	$274,380
Drug Detector Dog Unit (DDDU)	$0.00	$14,714
Sub Total	$846,722.00	$289,094.00

FY 2027 BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Supplies, Equipment, Workers Compensation, & Miscellaneous	General Fund	Special Fund (CAQISC)	Federal Grant
Air Cargo Section	$0.00	$146,205	-
Drug Detector Dog Unit (DDDU)	$0.00	$36,000	-
FY Training Cycle	$0.00	$197,060	-
DHS/FEMA Port Security Grant	$625,000	$0.00	$1,875,000
Sub Total:	$625,000.00	$397,265.00	$1,875,00.00
Power, Water, Telephone			
Drug Detector Dog Unit (DDDU)		$45,750.00	
Sub Total:	$0.00	$45,750.00	
Total FY2027 (GF+CAQISC+DHS) =		$24,113,737.00	

COA BD 3 of 4

FY 2027 BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Rent Cost Breakdown	Monthly	Yearly
CQA Headquarters	$19,500.00	$234,000.00
Air Cargo	$45,500.00	$546,000.00
Warehouse	$3,077.00	$36,924.00
DDDU	$2,453.00	$29,436.00
Maritime (CAF)	$1,728.00	$20,736.00
Airport Terminal	$167,911.00	$2,014,932.00
Janitorial	$7,598.00	$91,176.00
Power	$4,800.00	$57,600.00
GIAA Admin Fee	$8,400.00	$100,800.00
Total	$260,967.00	$3,131,604.00

COA BD 4 of 4

FY 2027 ADDITIONAL REQUESTS

$1M — UNCTAD ASYCUDA

$800K — Interoperable 2-Way Radio Communication Devices (80) P-25 Compliant (Motorola)

$700K — Inspection Facility A&E

$400K — Non-Competitive Promotion Initiative (P.O.S.T)

$200K — Maritime Office Renovation

$180K — Sport Utility Vehicles, LE package and integrated K-9 cages (3)

$140K — Cargo Vans (2)

$100K — X-ray Preventative Maintenance & Repairs

$75K — Case Management System (Yearly Cloud and Support Services)

$42K — Procurement of 9mm Pistol Transition Obsolete (70)

Use Tax Allotment: 20% of prior year (11 GCA/Ch28 § 28112)

TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST

$3.64M

Total: $3,637,000

"Enhancing Capabilities & Infrastructure for FY 2027"

FY 2027 GOALS

Personnel

Recruitment and graduation of 20 CQT

Expanding operational Coverage

Technology

Commencement of ASYCUDA Project in-country presence

Consultancy

IFB for A&E consultant service

Finance & Revenue

Implementation of adjusted Passenger & Cargo Rates

Equipment

Deployment of baggage X-ray scanner into airport operations

Establishment and Deployment of CQA's Drone Unit

Infrastructure

IFB for Mobile Command Post

THANK YOU

E-mail: inquire@cqa.guam.gov
Phone: (671) 475-6202

WEBSITE

INSTAGRAM

FACEBOOK

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

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

In accordance with Section 6.04(c)(1) of the Standing Rules of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, this committee digest provides a *summary* of the public hearing detailed below. To assist the general public in navigating this report, please note that all blue-highlighted text contains hyperlinks. Clicking on these links will direct you to the corresponding referenced sections/documents. For any questions or assistance regarding this digest, please contact our office at (671) 989-9554 or email us at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov.

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) – COMMITTEE ON RULES BY REQUEST OF I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN, THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

I. OVERVIEW

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) was introduced on **February 2, 2026** by **Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam** and was subsequently referred by the Committee on Rules to the **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** on **February 3, 2026.**

The **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** convened a Public Hearing on Bill No. 266-38 (COR) on **April 27, 2026** at **2:00 p.m.** in the Guam Congress Building's Public Hearing Room.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Public Hearing Notices were posted to the Government Public Notices Portal and disseminated via electronic mail to all senators and all main media

broadcasting outlets on **April 20,2026** (5-Day Notice), and again on **April 23, 2026** (48-Hour Notice).

SENATORS PRESENT

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas
Senator Jesse A. Lujan
Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao
Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada
Senator Therese M. Terlaje
Senator Telo T. Taitague

ORAL TESTIMONY:

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency
Vincent S.N. Perez, Chief of Customs, Customs and Quarantine Agency
Colonel Francis U. Fejerang, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency
Colonel Joey T. Cruz, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency
Colonel Barbara C. Tayama, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency
Colonel Franklin J. Gutierrez, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency
Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency
Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency

WRITTEN TESTIMONY:

Customs and Quarantine PowerPoint Presentation

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The public hearing for **Bill Number 266-38 (COR)** was called to order at **2:00 p.m.**

[Questions and Discussion] [*Begins at 01:31:47 and ends at 00:00:05*]

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: *Buenas tatdes hamyu todos* Good afternoon and welcome to the 38th Guam Legislature at the Guam Congress Building our public hearing being conducted this afternoon on the budget for Customs and

Quarantine Thank you once again for being here This afternoon's hearing, conducted by the Committee on Finance and Government Operations, is called to order, and it is now 2:00 PM on the dot this Monday, April 27th, 2026

First notice of this public hearing was disseminated to all senators and media outlets on April 20, 2026, with its second notice disseminated on April 23rd, 2026 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 bill on the agenda Bill number 266-38 COR, Committee on Rules by request of *the I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, Governor of Guam, **AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS AND ESTABLISHING, ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

The focus for this session this hearing in this session is the FY 2027 budget request for the cust- customs and quarantine At this time, I'd like to welcome my colleagues who are joining us this afternoon first of all, the chair and the oversight for customs, Senator Jesse Lujan *Si Yu'os Ma'åse* for being here Thank you, Mr Chair Senator Shawn Gumataotao, thank you for joining us the Vice Speaker and the Vice Chair of this committee Senator Vice Speaker Tony Ada, thank you for being here Senator Therese Terlaje, thank you for joining us, as well as Senator Telo Taitague *Si Yu'os Ma'åse* At this time I'd like to ask the customs folks, all those who will be testifying, to please come forward at the table here go ahead and remain standing as we have-- we need to swear you in as these are budget discussions and contain discussions on fiscal matters

And so our sergeant-at-arms will swear you in, and then we'll get to the presentation and question and answers Sarge you have the floor

Ed Pocaigue, Sergeant at arms, Guam Legislature: Please raise your right hand Under penalty of perjury, do you affirm that any and all information you provide today, whether it be verbally, electronically, and in writing, will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? Okay Mr Chair, under oath, you may proceed

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse* Before we begin, I'd like to remind everyone in attendance of the *I Liheslåturan* 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 and the nature of the bill that is 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 this hearing by any member of *I Liheslåturan* Guåhan's or the public audience who fails to observe proper decorum pursuant to the thirty-eight Guam Legislature standing rules Any violation of this general rule will con- of conduct will result in immediate removal from this public hearing room With that, we'll now proceed to hear testimony on Bill 266-38 I'll repren- recognize the representatives from CQA, Customs and Quarantine that are present and of course, I will recognize the director, Director Chief Peredo thank you for being here, and either yourself or the individuals on the panel can introduce themselves, and then you can proceed with your opening statement And I believe you may have a presentation is that correct?

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency:
Yes

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Okay, Chief the floor is yours.

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: *Håfa Adai*, and good afternoon Senator Senator Ada, Senator Gumataotao Senator-- or Chairman Senator Lujan Senator Terlaje and Senator Telo Thank you, thank you Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be here my name is Ike Peredo I'm the director for the Customs and Quarantine Agency, and I'd like to introduce my command staff and my admin people here to my left is Captain John Rick Mangila, executive assistant Right to his left is our ASO, Clarisse Briggs To her left is Colonel Tayama and to her left also is Colonel Fejerang to my right is the Chief of Customs, and to his right is Colonel Joey Cruz and to his right is Colonel Franklin Gutierrez.

Thank you again for inviting us here as I would like to mention that Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency proudly serves as Guam's first line of defense every single day Our core responsibility is enforcement of both locals and federal laws and regulations governing the movement of passengers, cargo, conveyances to our borders and designated ports of entry at the same time, we are tasked with facilitating

legitimate trade, commerce, and travel we fulfill this dual role in close coordination with our local, federal, and private partners, continually working to strengthen this relationship to enhance Guam's border security structure And at this time, I would like to start with my presentation.

Next slide, please the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency stands as the frontline defender of Guam's borders, ensuring safety, security, and integrity of our community Tasked with enforcing both local and federal laws, the agency monitors the movement of passengers, cargo, and conveyances across all five ports of entries, namely Antonio Wonpat International Airport, Jose D Leon Guerrero Commercial Port, the *Hågatña* Boat Basin, the US Postal Service Main Facility, and Andersen Air Force Base Customs and Quarantine provides an array of critical border management services that protects our island from threats and risks detrimental to our community while balancing its regulatory role to encourage legitimate trade and travel as a key gateway to Guam, Greater Micronesia, and the rest of the world, the agency plays a vital role in safeguarding the region's supply chain and ensuring secure and efficient movement across our borders Central to this mission are the dedicated men and women of the agency, both uniform and civilian personnel, who perform essential duties in executing our responsibilities and serving the public directly at all ports of entry through the collective efforts and agency works to intercept and seize contraband, detain unsafe and pr- and prohibited substances, safeguard against terrorism, provide biosecurity threats, apprehend violators of customs and applicable laws, and avert the spread of communicable diseases In fulfilling this mission, Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency remains committed to protecting the people, our economy, and environment of Guam with vigilance, professionalism, and integrity.

Next slide, please This slide outlines the organizational structure of our agency, which is designed to support effective border protection, enforcement, and operational efficiency At the core is our Inspection and Control Division, which manages border facilitation and security across all major ports of entry, including the airport, Andersen Air Force Base, Commercial Port, US Post Office facility, and the *Hågatña* Boat Basin. Providing all overall leadership is the Director's Office, which sets strategic direction and ensures accountability through key roles such as the Chief of Customs, Internal Affairs, Public Information, and executive support staff Supporting our daily operation is the Administrative Office, responsible for fiscal management, including budgeting, human resources, procurement, payroll, revenue tracking through inspection fees, and accounts receivable.

Our Special Enforcement Division focuses on criminal investigations and interdiction efforts This includes specialized units such as the K9 teams, the Contraband Enforcement Team, the Maritime Interdiction Task Force, the Biosecurity Agriculture K9 Task Force section, and the Office of Intelligence, all working together to detect and prevent illegal activities. Finally, the Logistics and Support Division ensures operational readiness, managing technical support functions such as training, records management, research and development, and handling prop- or property and evidence Together, these divisions create a comprehensive framework that enables us to secure our borders while facilitating legitimate trade and travel.

Next slide, please Currently, we have 173 personnel, including 148 uniform officers, 11 trainees, and 14 support staff with thirty-eight vacancies Compared to our optimal staffing target of 300 uniformed personnel and thirty staff support, we are operating at approximately 48 percent capacity. The largest gap remains in uniformed personnel, where we are short by a 140 officers Support staff shortages increase the burden on officers to perform non-operational duties Looking ahead, there is an additional concern Over 50 percent of the workforce has more than 20 of service, which means we anticipate increased retirement and resignation starting in fiscal year 2027 and continuing the following year this attrition is further impacted by recruitment efforts and other law enforcement agencies, which creates additional competition for experienced personnel To address this, the agency is implementing retention initiatives, mentorship programs that pair seasoned staff with newer personnel to ensure continuity of service delivery overall, we are actively working to stabilize the workforce Staffing level remains critically below target and requires sustained recruitment and retention effort.

Next slide, please Thank you This slide illustrates CQ's current operation assets that assist our border enforcement interdiction and facilitation CQA's vehicle fleet has a total of 47 in service, 23 or 50% of which are 10 plus years or older This supports a wide range of field operations, mobility needs, and response capabilities For inspection technology, we operate 1 mobile ZVB X-ray system, which allows for scanning containers entering the port authority of Guam along with 4 small handheld X-ray system that provide mobility and flexibility for more targeted inspection deployable at all ports of entry Canine assets, we have 12 operational drug detector dog canines actively deployed, with 5 undergoing training and 6 agricultural canines, which plays a critical role in identifying prohibited or harmful or regulated detrimental to our unique *flora* and *flora*-- and *fauna* to assist passengers processing, the agency is collaborating with GVB utilizing the electronic declaration form system for processing passengers, enhancing our detection and enforcement

capabilities, as well as providing real-time data of travelers and finally, our maritime operations are supported by 2 operational patrol boats, which are essential to coast, coastal surveillance and interdiction efforts from external threats that may utilize the 70 miles of coastline

Collectively, these assets or tools provide an array of options to protect, detect, and respond effectively.

Next slide CQA continues to strengthen its operational capability to sustain investments in workforce development, specializing-- specialized training and leadership growth This effort includes graduation of 29 new recruits, advance of ten CQ trainees towards graduation in June of this year 2026 Uniform domain training for 30 officers fully funded through the PSG capacity building is further enhanced through the Pacific Leadership Program for 15 officers A six-session cohort format provided by OCO free of charge and certification of 2 additional K-9 trainers participating in the Australian Border Force Drug Detector Dog Program the graduation of a new ACU K-9 handler team Collectively, this initiative expands frontline readiness, strengthen specialized enforcement capabilities, and support a more capable and future-ready CQA workforce CQA.-

- I'm sorry Next slide, please CQA has strengthened its interdiction and detection capabilities through the successful acquisition of critical inspection assets, including advanced X-ray screening system, handheld scanners, and narcotic substance analyzers these accomplishment bolsters efforts to combat contraband smuggling while enhancing border security operation and improving the efficient flow of legitimate travel and trade.

Next slide, please this slide highlights the operational performance of CQA's inspection and control, the backbone of the agency over a 7-month period ref- reflecting sustained high volume activity across Guam's ports of entry the division facilitates the safe and efficient processing of passengers, aircraft, vessels, and cargo while maintaining stronger border security enforcement outcomes During this period, CQA cleared 6,814 aircraft and 420 ocean vessels, facilitated the entry of 612,389 passengers through the Guam International Airport and Andersen Air Force Base, processed approximately 17,810 cargo sea containers and also processed 6,131,008 million pounds of break bulk shipments 6.3 million pounds of air freight were also inspected and cleared Collectively, these activities contributed to supporting the movement of 2.7 billion in declaim-- in declared transactional value

of commodities, underscoring CQA's critical role in protecting legitimate trade and travel while safeguarding Guam's borders and supporting our economic stability.

Next slide This slide summarizes many enforcement and regulatory outcomes of the agency's collective divisions from ICD, SCD, biosecurity, K-9, LSD unit from the beginning of FY26 to current, highlighting continued unified efforts to protect Guam's biosecurity, consumer safety, and intellectual property rights. During this period, CQA conducted agricultural interceptions totaling significant volumes of restricted or undeclared goods, including 1,500 pounds of meat, 28,948 pounds of fruits and vegetables, 1,738 pounds of plants, 4,223 pounds of wood products, and 4,000 pounds of miscellaneous agricultural items, and 23 pounds of seeds.

These interceptions reflect ongoing vigilance in preventing the introduction of prohibited agricultural pests and diseases from entering our island with potential detrimental effects in support of protecting potential agricultural diseases, CQA also conducted mitigation remedies such as fumigation, treatment, and release of compliant cargo, including 44,796 pounds of cut flower, 3,512 pounds of fruits and vegetables, and 503 pounds of live plants, ensuring safe market entry while maintaining regulatory standards on the enforcement and compliance side, the agency investigated or is investigating ten intellectual property rights, conducted thirteen EPA slash DOT regulatory investigations that included re-exporting dispositions for non-enterable determination, and processed 99 consumer protection cases, primarily due to non-compliance with food, drug, and cosmetic requirements or banned imports these actions reinforce CQA's broader mandate to protect Guam's fragile *flora* and *fauna* consumers, enfor-enforce regulatory compliance, and support fair trade practices.

Next slide, please This slides highlight CQA enforcement outcomes in combating illicit drug trafficking through Guam's ports of entry, reflecting sustained interdiction by the agency as a whole and the lead of our SEDs, especially our investigation officers, K9 handlers, and partner agencies such as HSI, DA- DEA, ATF, and US Postal Inspection Service through the Guam Interdiction and Anti-Narcotics Trafficking of Giant since October 2025, significant quantities controlled substance were seized, including 376.85 pounds of methamphetamines, 27.25 pounds of marijuana, 3.4 pounds of cocaine, along with smaller quantities of sy-synthetic pharmaceutical-based drugs, including 42 grams of MDA/ecstasy and forty point two grams of illegal pharmaceuticals. these results underscore CQH's and our cooperation-- cooperative partners, both local and federal, who continue vigilance

and operational effectiveness in disrupting the flow of dangerous drugs and safeguarding Guam's communities from the impact of illicit drug trafficking.

Next slide, please to continue with our border programs for FY27, the agency's budget requests for continued delivery and sustain of border security, inspection, and trade facilitation program is detailed above for another year since COVID, CQH's funding is primarily supported through the general fund in the amount of 14.5 million and the Customs Agriculture Inspection Service, which is known as the special fund at 7.7M , derived from both passengers fee and cargo fees, also supplemented by federal funding of 1.8 for continued Pro-- progra-- I'm sorry, programmatic, programmatic and operational capabilities together, general and special funds 22.24 million, reflecting investment in safeguarding our ports of entry, enabling legitimate commerce, and protecting our community from both illicit contraband and detrimental commodities including federal contributions, CQA's FY27 budget request is 24.11 million, ensuring continued capacity to strengthen inspection systems, advance regulatory enforcement, and modernize port of entry operations in support of Guam's security and economic re-resilience.

Next slide, please This slide represents a yearly comparison of monthly airport numbers that are subject to CQA passenger fee This chart illustrates a trend in revenue throughput across fiscal year 23, 24 , 25 , and the first quarter of 26 Next slide, please This budget slide stratifies CQA's FY27 for salaries, benefits, and overtime expenditures totaling 19,798,086 which represents approximately 82 percent of the agency's overall budget this reflects the personal cost to sustain our border security operation and programs needed to sustain continuous inspection and enforcement activities The general fund allocation of 13.7 million supports core operational division, including the director's office, which is 1.9, logistics and support, which is 2.8, airport operation at 7.04, and maritime section at 1.26, ensuring uninter-interrupted passengers and cargo processing across CQA offices.

CQA special funds allocation of 6.73 million supports trade facilitation, specialized enforcement, and capacity-building units, including the air cargo section of 1.8 million, drug detector dog for 916 thousand, contraband enforcement team of 3.0 million, and for FY25 trainee cycle at 939, strengthening interdiction programs, capabilities, and workforce development. Collectively, this investment ensures sustained operational readiness, enhanced enforcement capacity, and continued modernization of CQA's border programs.

Next slide, please Continuing with the budget, this slide outlines FY27 contractual and rental expenditures which supports operational readiness, facility usage, specialized enforcement activities, and work development across the agency inspection and control division Contractual service is showing at 254,820 contractual expenditures are fully supported by the special fund and includes services essential to enforcement and training operation This consists of cargo at 102,500, drug detector dog support, which is 18,000, contraband enforcement team of an additional thousand, and FY27 training cycle of $133,320 in ensuring continuing capability development and operational support Rental total of 1.1 Rental cost support critical operations infrastructure across both funds General fund allocation is 846,722 supports airport operation facilities, while special fund allocation at 289,094 supports the air cargo and 274,380 and the dog detector unit at 14,714, ensuring adequate space facilities for inspection, enforcement, and operational readiness combined total and rent amounts to 1.3, which is 4.7% of our budget.

Next slide, please The final budget slide lists CQA's '27 expenditures for supplies, equipment, workers' compensation, miscellaneous costs, and other utilities identifying secured federal granting or grant funding that supports critical operational readiness across the agency This cost across the general fund, CQA special fund for sustaining capabilities across enforcement inspection and support functions Operational supply and program support, CQA special fund at 397,265 supports key operational areas, including air cargo section at 146,205, drug detector dog unit at 36,000 and FY training cycle at a 197,060 ensuring continuous workforce development and operational sustainment

General fund, 625,000, the 25 percent match for the federal DHS FEMA Port Security Grant at 1.8 provides critical support for equipment, procurement enhancement for inspection, and interdiction capabilities initiative, utilities, and operation sustainment additional support costs includes 45,750 special fund for power and the telephone service for the drug detector dog unit, ensuring uninterrupted operational functionality In total, this section of the budget amounts to about one million or four point four million of the budget.

Once again, the allocation of all these budget categories contribute to the FY '27 budget of $24,113,737 for personal operations, infrastructure, and federal partnership program that strengthens Guam's border interdiction priorities and support border facilitation services required for CQA's 24/7 border security trade facilitation mo- mission.

Next slide, please. This slide lists the breakdown of FY27's rental and facility-related costs supporting operation from the agency's headquarters, airport, cargo, maritime, and enforcement units This cost ensures the sustained availability of needed working space required to execute border programs and facilitation operations

Facility rent and operational space, the largest cost driver, is the amount-- driver is the airport terminal, two-- about two million annually, reflecting the primary operational footprint for passenger inspection and facilitation initiative This is followed by air cargo at 546,000 annually, supporting air freight screening, inspection, and logistic func-functions

Additionally, facility costs include CQA headquarters, which is 234,000 Warehouse operation is 36,924. The architecture unit facility at twenty-nine thousand four hundred and thirty-six And maritime common area fee, CAF, operation at twenty thousand seven hundred and thirty-six support services and utilities Operational necessity is further supported through essential services, including janitorial service at ninety-one thousand one hundred and seventy-six, power at fifty-seven thousand six hundred, and the airport administrative fee of a hundred thousand, ensuring functional readiness and compliance across the facilities recapping CQA's rent to footprint, combined rental and facility related costs amount to three point one million, which is approximately two hundred and sixty thousand nine hundred and sixty-seven on a monthly basis.

Next slide, please in addition to the twenty-four million in CQA's bud-- twenty-seven budget request, additional funding is requested from this body for the significant investment projects and procurements that will further improve the agency's efficiency and effectiveness with our core mission mandates The Customs and Quarantine Agency submits the following FY twenty-seven budget request to strengthen operational readiness, modernize critical infrastructure, enhance workforce retention, and enforcement capabilities across all mission areas. CQA has secured a one point three million towards the ASYCUDA Modernization Project to be provided by the United Nation Conference on Trade and Development, known as UNCTAD, as passed into law earlier this month However, an additional one million is requested to offset anticipated inflammatory costs increase since the original minimum twenty-four months project cost provided by UNCTAD was developed in twenty-twenty-four and a newer version of ASICUDA Gen Five was launched-- just launched Planning, negotiation, and project modernization are anticipated to commence between the late FY twenty-six and the first quarter of FY twenty-seven Eight hundred thousand is requested to address critical communication

vulnerabilities exposed during Super Typhoon Sinlaku CQA requests funding for the acquisition of interoperable handheld radios capable of seamless communication with the Guam Police Department under the Smart Net System

The event underscored significant deficiencies in both internal and external communication resilience during large-scale emergency and disaster respond operation CQA has also secured a two million US Department of Transportation grant However, updated architectural engineer-- engineering, A&E costs estimated for the project have increased to two point seven million, resulting in seven hundred thousand funding gap that is being sought to begin any residual funds of realized-- if realized, will be directed toward the additional facility improvement requirements or other technical construction needs To support workforce, workforce stability and reduce attrition to local and federal agencies, CQA requests four hundred thousand dollars for non-competitive promotion and career advancement initiative for FY twenty-seven this initiative establishes a structured career progress-progression pathway for CQ1 to CQ3 after three years of satisf-satisfactory performance in each rank This aligns with peace officer standards, post principles, and best practices for retention and professional development Facility and operational modernization requests CQA further requests funding for the following critical operational needs Two hundred thousand for renovation or workspace improvement at the Maritime office located at the O'Horizon building at the Port Authority of Guam A hundred and eighty thousand for the acquisition of three new law enforcement SUVs to initiate phase replacement of aging fleet and a hundred and forty thousand for procurement of two cargo vans to support secured transport detained goods, ensuring protection of environmental exposure handling and transfer operation a hundred thousand for preventive maintenance and repair service contract for the existing X-ray scanning equipment to ensure operational continuity and equipment reliability for one year Seventy-five thousand for implementation of a centralized case management system to standardize reporting, improving data integration, and enhance agency-wide information sharing and lastly, forty-two thousand for replacement of an obsolete service pistol, some of which are nearly twenty-five years old, to ensure standardization, safety, and reliability across all sworn personnel statutory allocation requests finally CQA respectfully reiterates its request for the allocation of twenty percent of total use tax collection per fiscal year, as authorized by statute Current track distributions are as follow For FY twenty-four, one point four For FY twenty-five, one point one And for FY twenty-six, six hundred and sixty-one thousand five hundred and twenty-eight these resources are critical to sustaining CQA statutory mandates and ensuring continued modernization, organizational readiness, and enforcement effectiveness in support of border security and public safety.

Next slide, please For FY 27 priority initiative and investment personnel, CQA will support workforce strengthening through the recruitment and graduation of twenty customs and quarantine trainees to enhance operational staffing level and maintain effective coverage across enforcement and inspection functions address the need to provide more uniform presence at the Port Authority on a twenty-four-hour basis Technology CQA initiates an in-country implementation phase of the ASYCUDA World System, advancing modernization of customs administration processes, improving trade facilitation, strengthening revenue collection efficiency through digital transformation and lastly, the finance and revenue CQA will implement much needed adjustment to the passenger and cargo fee rates to better align cost recovery mechanism with current operational demands, implement tariff pressures and service delivery requirements, ensuring s-sustainability of agency revenue streams and thereby reducing reliance on the general fund. Equipment CQA will enhance operational capabilities through deployment of the x- baggage X-ray scanner into the airport operation, strengthening inspection and introduction capabilities at the border Establishment and development of a CQA drone unit to support surveillance, reconnaissance, operational monitoring in both land and maritime environments Infrastructure CQA will issue an invitation for bid for a mobile command post strengthening incident response coordination, field command capability, and emergency operational readiness during disaster response and enforcement station Slate.

Next slide, please We formally submit this budget And the accompanying information for your review, consideration, and appropriate action. We are prepared to address any question you may have, and thank you for your attendance at the CQA budget hearing. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: *Si Yu'os Må'ase* Director-

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: We're open for questions.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Yes, thank you first of all, I wanna begin by thanking you for appearing for the pre-budget meeting with Office of Finance and Budget and your team that came to discuss that which allows us further information to prepare for your budget for the final, going into the final bill that will be substituted before it goes to the floor I wanna also thank your chairman to which I am the vice chair as well, for having, significant oversight hearings in the last year

to year and a half on Customs and Quarantine over a number of different subject matters to include the recent passage and sign into law of a public law that is gonna greatly, we believe, enhance Customs and Quarantine's capabilities going forward and we'll have that discussion as things unfold obviously, you've put some of those requests in your budget in anticipation of the future and what the future holds I want to let the senators that have joined us today this has been how we are going to complete this budget cycle going forward concentrating on the budget because of the fact that as I said, there have been extensive oversights, and there will be oversights afterwards to continue discussions with Customs on their initiatives going forward we believe there's plenty of information in terms of the operations of Customs and Quarantine, and today what we want to answer is a simple question what are the needs of Customs and Quarantine, and how can we get as close to possible as meeting those needs and requests going forward into the fiscal year 2027 budget?

So, we do have the implementation of our five-minute clock, and so I encourage my ca- my colleagues to please concentrate on issues associated with the budget Thank you Chief, once again, for and your team for the presentation we can still also once a wa- once again take away from what you've put in front of us under oath as the current status of Customs and Quarantine, and that's on the record I don't think we have to ask a bunch of questions about that otherwise that's up to the senators on how they wanna use their time but I encourage everyone to use it very clearly for the budget process So with that, I will turn it over to the chairman of Customs Senator Jesse Lujan Senator?

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Thank you, Mr Chair Mr Chair, thank you very much for that and also for mentioning the fact that, that we've had numerous of course, oversight hearings regarding CQA but g- good afternoon, Mr Director and, and your team there yes, we've had quite a few of the the oversight, gatherings in regards to CQA and their needs but I wanna concentrate this afternoon because one of the things we haven't discussed, and this just came out actually after last oversight, is, is theg- the GAO report that came out and so some of the things that you've a- have addressed here, they've addressed, and I want my colleagues to know again that if we don't address these situations the GAO report has already come out now, right? So I wanna get your point of view 'cause we haven't had an opportunity to, to talk about this But, you know, right off the bat, so let me, let me ask this question GAO,

the Government Accounting Office, outlines the risk of federalization, including higher costs with tariffs and potential security gaps What is CQA's official position on that GAO report or that study that came out?

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Well, when we responded to GAO's last submission for information, they asked us what are There were three main There's areas that they identified three options the first one is Federalization Hybrid or status quo and we made it clear from our standpoint coming from the Customs and Quarantine Agency that status quo is our option.

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Okay Now that, that being said, again, if CBP, okay, if CBP were to assume control, see, you know, how would Guam address concerns in the drug interdiction and could weaken our domestic shipments?
And li- likewise with that, if it was federalized, what does Guam lose then? What does the federalization mean for the loss of Guam's designation?

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Well, if, if, if they take and federalize CQA, then that means that we have no authority with respect to goods coming in from the US.

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Okay But i- is there-- is, is federalization okay a- as well? Do we lose thetax benefits then in the, in the Go, go ahead.

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Senator, JohnRic Mendiola, with the director's office What do we what does Guam chance to lose is we will be included under the customs territory of the US so all goods, all goods coming from the US will be treated just like goods moving from California to New York, where it is not under any state control as far as clearances is concerned we will now be subject to duties and tariffs, potentially, more than likely for goods that are coming in from other areas, which repres- represents about thirty to forty percent of our goods coming into Guam from other foreign countries besides the US So we-- there's the, there's the potential of us paying duties and taxes one thing that we should also-- would need to explore, but the possibilities include, our fuel we got our fuel from Singapore Those may be subject to duties and tariffs if we fall under the customs territory of the United States.

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Okay Chief Perez, you you wanna-

Vincent S.N. Perez, Chief of Customs, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Good afternoon, senators My name is Vincent Perez I'm the chief of customs So the, the other thing to think about is strategically, what happens to our authority at the border? So right now we have, authority to be able to protect the island and the people and our resources because of our current status quo If we become federalized, a lot of the authority that we have will be reduced or diminished as far as being able to conduct inspections and to be able to intercept certain things If you take a look at, us becoming part of the federal umbrella, we lose that authority in other words, things coming in, like Captain JohnRic was mentioning, would be considered domestic so when you consider things coming in domestically, but yet currently the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency is faced with the situation of battling narcotics smuggling coming in from different areas of the United States, what that means potentially is that you open the door and it's free and clear and then the other one, of course, is, is, tariffs That's the other thing The United States Department of Agriculture, for example, has vested the authority of plant protection and quarantine to the government of Guam, most especially through our Guam Customs and Quarantine officers a lot of the things that you see us enforce is also through federal and local collaboration So many of the, the authorities that we have, and, and I'll just sum it up in, in one sentence, we're going to lose control and the authority of protecting the border to the federal government and who is to say that the federal government at this point in time is well-suited to protect the population of Guam, which is what? 150 to 170,000 people, plus protecting our resources If you look at the United States right now between the border of Mexico and the United States, for since the last administration, there was a free flow of people coming in and out, mostly in and so we're saying we're gonna ride that same system, ride the same train, because we think that if we go into the new system, that we're going to be well-versed at protecting because we have a current system using the federal government I suspect that if we were fully funded and given the, the resources that we need, the status quo would be greatly improved our issues with, with working at the border is, is several Of course, we have, the, the, the challenge of attrition we lose many of our officers to federal employment, most especially in the area of either CBP or some other special resident agent type, operation dealing with federal service and many of our officers who leave the agency are, are recruited at the GS-9 level but if you

take a look at what our officers are making as trainees and then when they graduate, it's like maybe around 21 to $24,000 annually and so we're working right now with the resources we have to be able to get into that next level and part of the correction or the strategic plan, at least for the agency, is we want to wean ourselves off of that annual average of $14 million that the general fund has seen fit to, to give us since COVID-19 hit us hard So what does that mean? We need to start taking a look at our finances We need to start working smarter

We need to develop the fees and the penalties and anything that's appropriate Our service charges have not been changed in over thirteen years but going back to your question, Senator, if we were to, to move towards a system of, of federal control, we would lose absolute authority at the border.

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Okay Now, now, now that being said, what immediate reforms then should we look at to implement almost ASAP versus a progressive reform over, over the years, to, again, to curtail maybe a, a continuous dialogue for, for such a federalization to happen?

Vincent S.N. Perez, Chief of Customs, Customs and Quarantine Agency:
So the one good thing about the GAO report is that it identified the fact that, even if it didn't focus in on, on, on the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency becoming an independent, agency with full authority to be able to collect and do things on its own, it did recognize the fact that we could, using the system we currently have, to address the issues now, if we were able to address financially our, our capability to not just collect, but to fund our operations, that would reduce the reliance on the govern- on, on the general fund And then the other thing that we need to look at strategically is, legislation and regulations that is necessary for us to be able to go to the next level part of that entails using the system of the automated system for customs data, which is the ASYCUDA Guam is one of the very few, entities left over in the world, I, I suspect, that does not have its own automated customs system and for years, we've been talking about trying to get out of this rut so certain things have to happen, and we're already working to that end So we're wo- we're working on changing legislation we're tightening up regulations as it deals with the violations we're creating tables of penalties And then the other thing is that we're looking at, hopefully retention incentives for, for our officers so that instead of graduating in December of 2025, and then two weeks later go out joining the federal government,

we would do a lot more for enticing our officers to be able to just stay so right now, as we sit and speak, we're not, we're not twiddling our thumbs We are looking at trying to work with anyone and everyone, to include the federal government, to build the capacity of where we need to be But we do recognize that we have a responsibility to the people of Guam to be able to protect our island because it is our island and, and, and that's where we're headed so give us the capability, give us the resources, and help us with, with legislation to be able to build the capacity Help us address our our our fee structures and our service charges, and I bet in the next few years, we would go more than halfway towards, getting that course of action as part of a solution.

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Now, Chief Perez, let me, let me ask this You said, eventually you wanna wean, you guys wanna wean yourself also off the general fund basically, right? Which would entail, okay, a fee structure that you guys will generate and, you know, im- implement and all that when was the last time a, the fee structure wasw- I mean, implemented or, you know-

Vincent S.N. Perez, Chief of Customs, Customs and Quarantine Agency:
Well-

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: How long has this fee been, been-

Vincent S.N. Perez, Chief of Customs, Customs and Quarantine Agency:
So, so the authority is given to the director to conduct periodic review So the last, time we had a, a rate adjustment was well over 13 years ago I think we're already heading into our 14th year and normally, what happens is that every year you're, you're expected to see, your, your budget need to grow but what we've been doing is that we've, every time we, we lose people and we get that amount, we don't do a recruitment So our, our bu- it looks on the paper like we're, we're meeting our budgetary needs, but it's been well over 13 years and so one of the things that we're looking at doing is, is coming up with a fee structure that has got a four-year phased period so that, you know, we're not just going to be throwing a big huge chunk, and then people are saying the utility to travel to Guam is not worth it even though it's been well over 13 years the, the GAO report also, identifies the fact that it's been some time since we've done this so, hopefully we're, we're able to, to work hand-in-hand with the reports that identify some of our shortcomings, but it also gives us an opportunity to be able to address some of the, the needs of rate changes and

legislation that, that we need and if you really peel back the layer of the onion, we actually have the capability It's just being able to, to really articulate what we need as far as, like, what type of legislation we're gonna need and I go back to, if we go back to the federal government and they take over, how do you know that they're gonna do a better job of protecting our island than we are? We are the ones that are passionate about what we do, what, and why we do what we do to protect us.

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Yeah You know, Chief, also the GAO report also shows that increasing passenger fees could reduce, of course, visitor arrivals and tourism spending a- a- again, but the reality is, right should you wean yourselves off of, of the general fund that will have to be the reality So how, a- again, what, what strategy do you guys have, again, to, you know, to wean yourself off, wean yourselves off of that? And actually, the good thing at, at this point is I have oversight of, of, of of tourism as well

Vincent S.N. Perez, Chief of Customs, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Right

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: So we know that, you know, on one hand we need to do this, on the other hand we know that that it's, you know, it's, it, it's poisonous as well, right-

Vincent S.N. Perez, Chief of Customs, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yes

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: to, to, to, to do as such But a- and I, I would like to get a round table, of course, with CQA and, and, and the, the Guam Visitors Bureau folks as well to see how we can move forward with this again, to give you the the tools as we did with ASYCUDA to be able to move on, you know? And how do we, a- again, continue to move on without hurting the industry and without a- again, having a negative impact on our, our tourism arrivals So it has to be a coordinated situation with, with the airport you know, yourselves and, and the Guam Visitors Bureau to, to, to be able to, to, to move forward with an eventual, eventual wean off the, the, the general fund Right And, and with that, Mr Chairman, you know, I, I got more, but we'll, we'll do that in, in other oversights as well But-

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Senator Lujan-

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Yes, sir

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: If I could just add you asked what are the important things, and you know, this, the, the administration and, and even this body and previous bodies before, we have been making the two critical things that we needed with the agency is modernization but not in, not really-- Now we're moving with automation, but modernization of our revenue structure and modernization of our statutory authorities which have been over 50 years old Sure I would always say it was since the typewriter period what's important, though, and we should have the discussions because as we modernize, we can improve in our efficiencies and effectiveness with our border operations And having that as well as mo- automation coming simultaneously, we can use that as benchmarks to measure our effectiveness and look for other cost recovery and more efficient tools that are out there to improve our, our facilitation and detection services.

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Well, no, no, and, and I totally agree I mean, again, with the, with the, with the ASYCUDA system in, in, in place and once, once it's implemented, you know, I, II mean, speaking with the, with the, with the chair of OFB and said, "You know, once it's implemented and we start collecting again the leakage that has been out there, I mean, a good portion of it has to go back to, toto, to CQA to be able to, to function you know, 100, 100%"
And you should, you know? We, we do it with the courts when they, when they do the, the the traffic tickets and all that, right? So what, what you collect there, you should get a, a good portion of that to, to continue with your operations and, and even take it to the, to the next level So I'm looking forward to that yeah and, and I wanna thank the body, and thank you guys again- Yeah for putting that that together, and, and we were able to get it across the finish line We, we, we just took it over the finish line You, you guys really did that You and- Thank you and Bureau of Planning were, were the ones that really put that together but, but, but thank you for that Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Thank you, Senator and definitely, I mean, there's no question I mean, you- you've, you've done the work You've put in what you needed to do you should be the first at the table to recoup, you associated recovery from that, and we'll do that that's why I said as things go forward but for this budget cycle we'll make sure you got what you need going forward Senator Gumataotao you're recognized.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Yes Thank you, Mr Chair, and thank you Customs for being with us this afternoon I'm not gonna beat up this dead horse about GAO report I think, and I agree with Senator Lujan and your chair, we will have to go to another meeting and look at the future Is-- It could be four years and beyond that I think that from a credibility standpoint, your credibility is actually, under threat and this the credibility of this government is also, being put to question So I just want you all to understand that, and I think that'll-- 'cause I think all of our opinions are different on what would be the future of Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency I have a couple questions I did have was good to hear and see a little bit about the satellite inspection holding and sterile facility that you mentioned I think it's like three pages near the end of the actual presentation Now, four months after the enactment of Public Law 38-86, which gave you an additional two years to develop that facility, where are we on this project? How does CQA's recent request for federal funding through the assistance of Congressman Moylan, about 1.3 million for the, for this facility and the program, anoth- anoth- and another 6 million getting in there Has either request been approved or awarded? And if so, how are those funded or for those funds reflected in your FY 2027 budget request? Do we see it anywhere in there? I know it's not seven hundred thousand, or is it?

Colonel Joey T. Cruz, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency:
Colonel Joey Cruz Logistics and Support Division I believe you're talking about the container inspection facility, correct?

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Yes, sir

Colonel Joey T. Cruz, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yeah, so that facility, what had happened is we have the A&E through a merit funding that's through Department of Transportation That's $2 million and the last we had we had

the bid go out, and DPW with our team went out, and the bid came back $700 over the 2 million mark so it was not a grant from the Congressman.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: So then again, let me ask again, is the 700,000 you're mentioning on the report, are you needing that to get this thing kickstarted, or what are we talking about here?

Colonel Joey T. Cruz, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: It's on top of the two million dollars, yes, sir.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: So we budget it, and this thing should let loose, and the bid can move forward Is that what you're saying on the record today?

Colonel Joey T. Cruz, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yes, the bid is at 2,600,000

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: No, I'll say it again If we add 700,000 that means the bid can move forward on this project that we added extension for?

Colonel Joey T. Cruz, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yes, sir.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Okay Thank you for that Yeah let me just jump right into the equipment on, on your budget excluding the 9 recently purchased vehicles assigned to the director's office, how many of your agency vehicles are operable or inoperable, I should say? How many days, weeks, or months have the vehicles been inoperable, and how specifically have these inoperable vehicles impacted your enforcement operations and when will these vehicles be available for use across the different sections of Guam Customs?

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: The, the vehicles that were, were identified on my testimony, I did mention 47 Those are operable vehicles but some of those vehicles are from the lesser program, and their lifespan is probably less than two years that we need to replace them So that's, that's why we, we had to put those things in.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: So on, on your, on your budget, you have for equipment you're authorized sixty thousand Is that even enough to keep-- take, take-- to take care of your fleet?

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Senator Gumataotao, we did, we did say we have 47 operable vehicles I'm just looking at our list here We have about two, four, six, eight vehicles that are inoperable but are more than ten years old, and they were obtained through the, leasehold program So they were used vehicles that Customs had the opportunity to acquire we used it as long as we could, but now they're inoperable, and we're gonna-- we're at the point where we have to make, make the decision since they're over ten years older and used is it-- should we still keep it within our fleet? because, you know, you, you could be throwing money down a down the pipe, and it's, it's only for-

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Yeah And that, and that's what I was kind of alluding to

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yeah

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: I mean, are we gonna spend 60,000 just to keep vehicles that are not on the road if we can just get rid of them and move forward, right? I mean, 'cause why spend that kind of money?

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: I think the, the, the money for our vehicles that we would have would be for the ones that are-- that we're more confident with that have a longer durability and lesser problems So, it would be an operational decision for us to, you know, to make the determination that the inoperable vehicles that we have that are ten years o- are old already and are from a, a used car, u-u- from a used fleetis it worth the financial resources to keep them operable.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Yeah Thank you for that now, a, a local newspaper reported last October that an establishment in Dededo months earlier,

they were they got in trouble, I guess, for allegedly selling unapproved or misbranded drugs through the news report, we were informed that if a compound is truly intended for research purposes and not to be used by people as a drug, it is not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration and individuals who do in fact sell drugs sometimes falsely claim that their products are intended for research purposes only in an apparent attempt to evade regulatory authorities or law enforcement recognizing that Guam Public Health relies heavily on CQA to i-identify and intercept illegal food, drugs, cosmetics, and medical devices, what portion of the 39 reported public health violations were tied to 21 USC Section 331, which prohibits the manufacturing and introduction or delivery for introduction into interstate commerce of any food, drug device, tobacco product, or cosmetic that is adulterated or misbranded?

And does your current or the-- sorry Does your fiscal year 2027 budget provide adequate resources to help the coordination in enforcement actions with Guam Public Health? I know you mentioned ear-- in your presentation on page nine, I think it was, you had got the four hundred and seven pounds of drugs Page eight, forty-four tons of other a-a So I'm kinda-- I'm trying to bring this all together from a public health point of view does anybody wanna try that crack?

Colonel Joey T. Cruz, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Senator, I can get you that information Send me that question again, and I'll put it together and I'll send it to your office.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Yeah I, I think it's important for us is to make sure that if you are helping public health- Yes, sir that the resources that you would need are available to you obviously, they have an activity that they need to enforce, but if you're helping, we just wanna make sure, or at least I do, that you have the resources to be able to support, that law enforcement activity Go ahead, Nick.

Colonel Franklin J. Gutierrez, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: If I could just add to that, our agency is coordinating with public health relative to any seizures regarding, those type of commodities but we also have other items such as marijuana or THC, CBD, and all of that stuff, and it gets very, very there's a lot of weeds in all of that, right? So, we're working with the, the Drug Enforcement

Administration here because those type of regulations would fall under 21 USC, under our federal code.

All right Thank you for that and Mr Chair, again, I, I do echo the sentiment of the chair of Customs that coming back on this GAO report is key but again, I appreciate all of your guys' input today for your budget hearing and this will work with your chair to make sure we get this all taken care of for you guys. Thank you so much Thank you, Mr Chair, for the time.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: *Si Yu'os ma'åse*, Senator Gumataotao and I, and I'm sure Customs is probably, would be excited to come and also present on the details of the GAO report and perhaps we could include some of your questions along the line of, enforcement at the border on the public health issues and commodities being brought in. Vice Speaker Ada and Vice Speaker of the committee you're recognized.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Thank you, Mr Chair, and thank you to Director Peredo and the team for coming down just a couple of questions that I had is, and the first question is, did Customs hire any personnel under the ARP funding? None?

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency:
No

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: No one was-

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency:
No, we didn't, we didn't hire anybody.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Okay, that's good to know that way, we just wanted to know whether those personnel moved from ARP into the general fund appropriation You know, I see here on overtime, you're requesting for 113,596 What is this overtime How does this calculate overtime for Is this for after hours or..

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency:
Yes actually, the, the overtime is, is to provide the additional services that we need to support the airport in case the airport needs additional manpower, then we allow people to come in and provide that services in addition to that, the overtime is also

geared towards the Special Enforcement Division who doesinvestigative work, control deliveries after working hours.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: So how does the off-duty service fee work into overtime, or is that a different, different fee- ODS separate and apart from-

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: The carrier off-duty service program is different from government overtime that's here it is paid by the consignee, the importer who requests for custom services after our normal business, af- after hours

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: So-

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: So they would pay it DOA facilitates the, the payments, and then from there, they prepare payments to each, each individual officer who worked it during that particular pay period.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: So what happens if the- The individual or the vendor or whoever it is does not pay that overtime fee, what happens then? How does, how does the officers get compensated?

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: If, if there's a situation, before what we doinitially before we entertain any requests, we inform the requester that they're obligated to pay the overtime services of the officer, or they can wait until we open and we can service them there before we get to that point, we ensure that they understand that they're responsible for paying for the services of the assigned off-duty officer

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: How about-

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: In the event that it's not paid, what we can what we will do is that we can, one not release their shipment, or two, release their shipment and not entertain any other overtime request after that from there, we can work within our agency to find some means of compensation for that officer but we do our very best to ensure be- before we give the assignment that the requester is, has the ability to pay for the services.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: How about for vessels that come in unannounced at the port that whether it be the marina or the port that they come in unannounced and how, how are they charged and how is it how do they process their fees?

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Senator, if, if a vessel comes in at the port and the port is closed, for example-

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Or let's say

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: The marina their operation is 8:00 to 5:00 and the vessel comes in at 10:00 at night, then the owner of that vessel is responsible to pay that services.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Okay

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: But we will clear them regardless if we're gonna, we will assign officers to do the inspection clearance service.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Okay

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: And then I also- Especially for arrivals such as that particular case.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Okay So then also the, I, I believe Customs had port funding grant funding for port equipment, and it's it's our understanding that those are, those equipment are being utilized at other sections and not at the port Is this, is this, accurate? 2022-2023 port grants intended strictly for port operations is being used in other sections.

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: If, if that particular equipment is identified to a federal grant for the port security, then it should be used at the that's what it dictates I'm not too sure whether they're- we're doing that that-

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: So we're not utilizing any vehicles or any equipment that is strictly for port use anywhere else?

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Anybody?

Colonel Franklin J. Gutierrez, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: We have multiple sections that operate at the port other than just the, the maritime section So there is our drug detector dog unit, for example, or our contraband enforcement team that, that are conducting operations of the port
So tho- those al- also those units would be considered as part of the port operations.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: I see Okay

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: If Senator, like what Colonel Gutierrez mentioned the maritime operation is dynamic It's not just situated fixed down at the commercial port It expands to the *Hagatña* Boat Basin, the *Hågat* Marina, our CFS locations located around the island So those are all maritime related activities, all border within the maritime domain to include even our offices and our support personnel that are up at our air cargo facility Our air cargo facility also has the ability to conduct maritime inspections at our bay there And if we need to position those equipments for maritime, it is maritime related.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Okay that's great to hear So when would the, the port-- When will customs be doing another review of your, your fee schedule?

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency:
We are currently reviewing the, the, the fees for the, for the adjustment And II met with the governor and explained to the governor the, the importance of initiating the fee, and she has given me the clearance to work on it and, and see what we can come up with and I'll let the chief handle the, the process that's going on right now right yeah So.

Vincent S.N. Perez, Chief of Customs, Customs and Quarantine Agency:

Thank you very much So currently, we've already met, as a committee for a rate adjustment, recognizing the fact that it's been well over 13 years, but also appreciating that you can't just take a fee or a, or, or a service charge and, and implement it in mass as one big chunk so our plan is to meet with all the stakeholders and to take into their-- into consideration the input And then, we've developed a-an interim four-year implementation for, for the fee or, or the service charge for both the maritime and air cargo and the passenger inspection fee And like I said, recognizing the fact that, you need to ensure that the public and the, the users of the, of the service charge understand, number one where-- why we're doing this and how much it's gonna impact them and what's the return for their money, right? That you're paying for every ticket or for every article that you import And in line with that, we're also taking a look at other areas that we could implement, certain fees to help us alleviate some of the stresses on increasing our fees So if you're looking currently like $8.29 for passenger movement I believe we might be one of the cheapest, rates in our region and so 13 years with very little movement as far as like increases in technology or personnel, equipment, we, we need to address But yes, we're, we're looking at ways of mitigating it One of the things we also came to understand was that if you're looking at a $14 million average that the general fund is offsetting And we implement this four years phased in implementation for the service charge at the end of the fourth year, based on our pre- our forecast, we will drop the fourteen million dollar offset down to about four million, which means that we still have general fund reliance So we've got to take a look internally at our operations and take a look around and see what else can we do you know, in the Air Force, they say work, work smarter, not harder So if there's ways that we can reduce the number of personnel which is a big ticket cost item, and use technology, for example, we, we are looking at that but in order for us to get there, we need to invest heavily, and we don't have that money to invest because every year it's like over eighty percent of our budget is personnel cost and so with that being said, you want to make sure you, you entice retention we, we've been fighting retention for years and, and so if we're able to address that and then also take a look at, modernizing our fees, which would not just go a long way towards helping the officers, but also investing in our infrastructure and our technology but like I said, we, we want to make sure we meet with all the stakeholders and we, we understand the perspective because you can't just arbitrarily insert a fee and then expect everybody to be happy but on the trade-off, you have to-- the public has to understand that it's not a, a s- a service charge that, that would-- it, it affects the traveling public or it affects the importers and so that's the reason why we have to make sure we do a good job of ensuring that every penny is accounted for in moving forward.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Yeah, definitely And I think that perhaps maybe something to look at in the future is where The, the law can be amended to say every five years that, you know, a certain percentage, like 2% increase would be done so that it automatically adjusts the fees every five years versus we, we wait what, 13, 14 years now-

Vincent S.N. Perez, Chief of Customs, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Right

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: And there's still no adjustment and that, and looking at doing it that way, it doesn't put the burden on Customs and Quarantine or the legislature It's just something that automatically goes into effect so something we can look at again and see how is it that we can make that more palatable for the people knowing that they'll be, and they'll be prepared knowing that in five years there'll be a 2% increase versus not knowing what to expect in the future So thank you for that input and hopefully that we can get with the chairman and see how is it that we can make things work better And like you said, you know, work smarter and not harder for both the Custom and Quarantine folks and all the work that you guys do up there so thank you for that, Chief thank you Mr Chair for the time to speak.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse* vice speaker Ada, as well as vice chair of the committee Senator Terlaje, you're recognized.

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse*. Thank you to all of you for your presentation and for your work I guess if I could just follow up on a couple things So you talked about, you're 48% understaffed, that you should have 300 officers You currently have 148 I think in February you said something very similar, right? 150 officers then, 282 needed but the request doesn't cover that, right? Your request is almost, status quo It looks almost exactly status quo except for a one point, 1875 federal-

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yes

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: What is that for?

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: That's the federal grant

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: What is it gonna do?

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: That's the port security grant.

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Yeah, what will it do?

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: It provides resources and equipment to the, the port maritime office.

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: To do what?

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: To procure equipment.

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: The, that 20 You wanna answer?

Colonel Franklin J. Gutierrez, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yeah, I mean I from top of my head, I, I know there was like radios some radios that we're trying to get some support for their X-ray equipment, CCTV cameras, things that are, to fill some gaps in our operations-

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Alright

Colonel Franklin J. Gutierrez, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: down there

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Alright will that grant help us with interdiction of drugs at the port, you think?

Colonel Franklin J. Gutierrez, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yes

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yes

Colonel Franklin J. Gutierrez, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yes, Senator

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Alright and so with the 48% understaffed of officers you said you have 38 vacancies- and then there are 11 trainees, and you expect 10 to graduate in June Is that 11 plus 10?

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yes W-w-we're looking at graduating, I think the cycle, the '16 cycle is scheduled to graduate in June I think it's the second week of June That's the the additional 10 that we're gonna get and then for FY26, we do have a recruitment of an additional 21, if I'm not mistaken Yeah, so 21 officers.

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Alright Is that, like, not started yet or-

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: No W-we have-- DOA has initiated the announcement in January

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Alright Okay

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: We are still waiting for them to to provide us a listing-

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Okay

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: So that we can start recruitment.

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Alright but you can fund up to 21 All right, that's great So you've got a 38 vacancies You're gonna get 10 in June, hopefully
If they graduate, you can-- you c-- you're-- you still have money to fund 21 more

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yes

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: And then in FY27, there's, $1.269 million for FY27 training Is that gonna be-

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: I think we're looking at 20 for FY27

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Additional

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yes

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Okay Alright yeah, I, I wanted to just ask, you know, the, the request is, is not for anything more than last year and so are we gonna end up with the same am- number of officers as last year? If you talk about, you know, we got these recruits, yet, you know, you have some retirees as well

Vincent S.N. Perez, Chief of Customs, Customs and Quarantine Agency:
Okay So thank you, Senator so every year we have people that retire, and then every year we also have members of our officer corps, to include the trainees, who decide to leave we've had some leave for the fire department I know that a, a couple of them have, had left for the police department, which just highlights the need for us to be able to address retention and implement initiatives that will help, us to stem the bleeding, if you will and so every year we contend with, with, uh and I know that it looks like our numbers have not really changed And if you look at the, at where we need to be around three hundred, there are certain gaps in our operation that we're trying to fill, and the only way to fill them is by recruitment I'll use the example of, like Anderson Air Force Base many years ago, we used to man it with a group of nine people twenty-four/seven It got to a point where our numbers went down so bad that we ended up reducing from nine down to one or two people being sent up per shift to address it and then now inother areas, we would like to also take a look at, the, the area of twenty-four/seven operations down at the port but You

have to address the biggest fire first And so the biggest fire is currently at the airport, meaning we're short of personnel And so we're at the point right now with this last site-- with this cycle that should be graduating in June to be able to, to address, the shortfalls at the airport based on operational need, we need around twenty officers on any given shift to be able to operate and entertain all the different areas of customs enforcement to include sending people up to Anderson and then we also have other areas within the agency like intelligence and narcotics enforcement and investigations what we're doing is we're, we're, we're prioritizing where they need and since we're addressing the airport, by the time we get the next cycle in, people have retired And so we're looking at a young corps of officers with very little institutional knowledge, which is why we're looking at mentorship but, but really, if we're able to, we will address the needs and hopefully get to a point where we, we have enough institutional knowledge, enough personnel to be able to address all the different areas there's a lot of things that we like to do, but as I said earlier, we wanna work smarter using technology, using risk assessment modules and modernization to be able to help us in identifying the bad people from the good Honestly, if I had my way, I wish I had a crystal ball to only identify those that we need to see I want to see the drug dealers, the one that violate, any of our, our laws as it relates to agriculture or biosecurity or public health and everybody else go free It's just kinda difficult, working with the system we have in which we're always losing people, and then institutional knowledge needs to be built up from the ground up and a lot of these guys here were all at thirty some years of service And so what happens to the leadership once we leave is that the next group-- We've already had many, instances where we sat with the last three cycles and we said, "You guys are gonna be the, the, the new corps of leaders," and they don't believe it but now some of them are already being-- They're by, by-- not by choice, they're being placed in situations where they have to be the leader, and they have to make it, you know to understand that, you know choices have consequences and you need to learn how to mentor your replacement.

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Alright, well, I feel for you because it's been repeated that you've said r- you're understaffed, and we have to account for, you know, retirements and all of that You deserve to do that, too but so I just wanna know, yeah, if we're so understaffed, and we know that, and we know we're gonna account for those, our budget to be status quo just kinda doesn't make sense to me that's my take on it But, the airport rent is two million Your revenue from, it looks like passenger fees or, or it says revenue, is 890,000, so that's including passenger fees, not even half of what your airport rent is is that correct?

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yes

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: And, there's $100,000 GIAA admin fee What's that for?

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: The, That's- The, tha- that is their processing fee that has been well-established since the beginning of the program over 30 years ago It's a, percentage for them to collect the fee from the airlines It's based on the way the, payment is made and the way it's structured, where it's not paid directly to the government It is paid, the, the, it's, it's, the Airport Authority collects it, so obviously there is a, an administrative fee that is attached to the collection of that fee from the airlines.

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Alright I know I always ask you this, but now the law has even changed for the airport where they are, have the ability to get huge profits from their leases and are you able to negotiate with them that you can go rent-free at the airport? I'm just putting that out there, alright? I have a few more questions there's, two point five million in miscellaneous What is that for? That's an increase, increase of 2.5 million in miscellaneous.

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: I think, Senator, that, that accounts for s- 625,000 That's where you're looking for the miscellaneous, right?

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Yeah 25 million-

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: So-

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Increase from last year

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: yeah, that's for the co- 25% co-share ma- federal federal grant match

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: For what?

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: For the port security grant For- For that s- that other- Port security

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: For that 1.8 grant?

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yes, yes

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Okay Perfect and then, it says that you're gonna increase FTEs by 30 Is that right?

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Clarice Briggs, ASO we're gonna increase by 20.

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Just the recruits?

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: For fiscal year '27

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Oh, is that the 21 recruits? Or is that-

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: That's, that 21 is for fiscal year '26

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Okay

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Then we're requesting 20 for '27

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: And what will that be, officers or not?

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Trainees- I mean, yeah will eventually be officers But

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: 30?

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: So total of 31

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Okay, I thought we said, FY26 was going to, you're gonna get 10 in June, plusyou've got money for 21 more.

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: We have 10 currently on board going through the cycle

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Okay

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: We have budgeted, to hire for additional 21 for this year

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Oh, okay So the 1.269 million for FY27 training is for 30 new

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: 20

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Oh, 20 Sorry, so what's the tw- 30 FTEs additional, this, for FY27?

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: It's a backfilling of the officers

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Like promotions?

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: When they leave,

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Pardon?

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: When officers leave, we backfill it as a trainee.

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: So it has that, that effect where it'll open up new positions So we, we don't eliminate the position We promote We're doing a good job in promoting and opening those remaining th- the, the vacant positions are filled, so thus that that allows that

vacancy to remain in place, and then we backfill it through the recruitment of new trainees.

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Alright Why did the office space rent in, under operations decrease by 17 million compared to last fiscal year?

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Senator, what line item are you looking at there? just for a reference.

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: I don't know Sorry I'd have to get back to you on that Do you think your rent is the same?

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: It went, it went down It went down?

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Or did it decrease?

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: If we could come back with you about- Sorry if the, if there was a, if the rent stay- was- remained the same or if there's any decrease or increase in rent for this coming FY Could we get back with you on those numbers so that we can check with the previous numbers from last year?

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Alright I see my time keeps going down but, just, like, two more questions One is there's a workload out- output on your budget request, page 17, which includes 300 inquiries for public assistance as a level of accomplishment in FY '25, and anticipated level for FY '26, and projected level for FY '27 Can you just, uh What does that mean, inquiries? What, what are we expecting there? I would expect this is, like, part of performance base if we applied that to Customs.

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Senator, could you repeat that question a bit?

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: The last one, public assistance See the last line on the workload, public assistance It says, sorry, three hundred inquiries the chart, workload output, page 17 Page- Do you have that? Alright.

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Senator, if we can get back with you on that-

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Sure

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Your information Thank you

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Okay, the, you, you put in this page in the PowerPoint, it says 3.64 million total funding request, like additional request above the current budget level that the governor submitted Is that what that means?

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yes

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: In addition to the governor's request?

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Thank you, Senator

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Alright And-

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Appreciate it

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: can I just, I s- I, just as my last final question is what-

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Sure

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: What changes can the people of Guam expect at the port, if any, during fiscal year '27 from customs, inspections or otherwise?

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: What we're looking at the port there, Senator, is that the people can expect that we're increasing the manpower down at the port with the additional FTEs that's gonna be graduating this June Part of that too will be be be used down at the port to enhance the, the manpo- manpower allocation at the port in addition to that, we have also mentioned that we have an additional K9 drug detector dogs that we have acquired

and additional handlers and K9s will also be used down at the port for inspection purposes.

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Will that increase the inspections that occurred in FY26 compared-

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yes I will say yes

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Do you agree?

Colonel Barbara C. Tayama, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Y-Yeah I- Do all the Barbara Tayama absolutely

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Alright Thank you Thank you, and I appreciate that *Si Yu'os Ma'åse* Thank you, Mr Chair

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse* Senator Terlaje I know I'm gonna get there was information that came into the chair, so I'm gonna allow him to to work with the panel on that So if anyone has an additional question after that too, I will be fair across the board to give time for that as well but first, Senator Taitague you're recognized at this time.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Thank you, Mr Chair, and good afternoon to my colleagues, and of course, good afternoon to Customs definitely hardworking individuals I greatly appreciate not just those who are sitting in front, but those who are sitting in the back you know, you're that generation that, that Mr Perez talk about that you're gonna be next so absorb as much information as you can, 'cause one day you'll be sitting on this table too answering some of our questions so again, I greatly appreciate all that you're doing always good to see you, Mr. Mendiola I do have a question with regards to why in your, budget you have no drug testing for officers In FY '26, you had, some funding set aside for $5,363 in FY '26 for drug testing, and I'm not seeing anything in FY '27 Is there a reason why?

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Senator, there was an error when I on my submission it's actually under workers' comp, but actually that was, initially supposed to be for the drug testing.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay, and how much do you have for drug testing?

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: 7,500

Senator Telo T. Taitague: 7,500 Okay Thank you That's good to know So you don't have anything for, workman's comp is also zero What, what do you have there for workman's comp?

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: No, we didn't, we didn't budget for workers' comp

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay Okay, so it stays zero Okay, the other one is, you know, individuals that are, are hired well, in order to hire, especially the, now that I have the CFO there, in order for you to hire any officers, you have to at least prove that there is funding available is that correct? Before you, you hire anyone?

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yes

Senator Telo T. Taitague: So you have to make sure that there's money in the bank, you know, it's all set to go and set aside for that Okay So, that being said, so how many of these openings do you have in FY '26 that was not fulfilled in the amount that was appropriated to you in FY '26? Is there any funding left over from that, just on the, on the hiring?

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Right now, for our fiscal year '26, to date, there is a lapse of 1.1 Million,

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Right? Okay, so there's 1.1 million now, when you go into FY2027, it's important to have funding available to hire these individuals so we need to that money that was in lapse of one point one million, has that already-- do you already have that obligated for the end of the fiscal year, or is the intention because of your, your training programs are sporadic throughout the year, doesn't always land on the the fiscal year, the beginning of the fiscal year?

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Those positions are still budgeted for in fiscal year 27

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay So, but do you think you're gonna be able to, spend that one point one million for FY26?

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: We hope to Yes

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Probability is very high since you've went through your recruitment already I mean, we have gone through that training do you think Chief?

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yeah Yes, Senator I'm making sure that the, the funding that's provided for the FTEs for FY26 are used for FY26 and I'm pushing with the front office to work with DOA to make sure that we have the recruitment process in place within the next thirty days.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Th-th-thirty, thirty days

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Thirty days, yes

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Yes, thirty days Okay That's good news Okay the, the last audit, I think someone brought that up earlier, something about the last audit, that I saw for customs and quarantine was for fiscal year FY 2021 And I believe that had to do with the beverage containers and coming in and how it's assessed there are of course findings in that and that was a while ago, but there are some findings there that to improve, on your operations has that been fulfilled? Given you enough time to fulfill what the audit's findings are?

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: What year is that audit, Senator?

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Well, the last audit that you've ever had actually was, it was for fiscal year FY twenty-twenty one, and it was audited on twenty-twenty five, four twenty-three twenty-five, I believe it came out It's audit number twenty-five dash zero six, Customs and Quarantine Is that—

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Is that Senator, is that the, tobacco audit or-

Senator Telo T. Taitague: And the beverage, alcoholic Alcohol

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Alcoholic beverage, yes we, we've implemented some changes to, to as, as far as how we-- the, the alcohol but more important, I think we also have done that in both for alcohol and tobacco, changing some of our policies and what we do internally as far as tracking and, and reporting it

Senator Telo T. Taitague: So you fulfilled that obligation already that was recommended?

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: I gotta relook at that thing, if you can just give me time to look at it

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Because I'm trying to recollect if, if we really did a-- if we were really audited on, on alcohol because alcohol and tobacco, although they are-- there, there is some-- there are, protocols in place that we do

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Right

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: A lot of it does fall with as far asthe, processing of tobacco products But if you can give me time, I can get back with you-

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: regarding what number? Twenty-five dash- zero- Zero eight

Senator Telo T. Taitague: It's twenty-five dash zero six

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Zero six

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Yeah You can find it in the public auditor's reports Just type in the Customs Quarantine, it'll pop up

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Right yeah, but, but for a lot of the audits that we-- that Customs has been has been, subject to, we've-- we-- it's been our, it's been our policy to take on and improve upon based on the recommendations of those audit findings even with our limited, Resources

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Resources

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: And our technology But we do we, we've, we've done our best to improve upon our processes, especially as a result of audit recommendations.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Well, the good news for you is that, you know, a lot of times I keep an eye on the special funds that are tre-trending, and last year at this time, there was actually a negative in the projected revenues for the special fund under Customs and Quarantine I believe it was a hundred and seven Let me see Yeah, a hundred and seven thousand nine hundred and two While FY26 today, you're actually-- I mean, one of s-- well, at least there's two that are trending higher than projected, but everyone else is in the negative Customs and Quarantine is actually trending five hundred and ninety thousand dollars more, for March in the CRE report, which is, which is a good thing it makes you wonder because a lot of those funds come from tourists, right? So are, are you-- What do you-- How do you feel about that? I mean, what, what do you think is trending that it's actually going higher than last year?

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Well, Senator I, I was just reviewing the the the passenger count that, that we get every month from the airport, and we haven't received for the month of March yet So now that you're saying that there's an increase for the month of March-

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Yep

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: I, I don't see that right now.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Oh, yes, it's-

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Hopefully, hopefully they will send it to us But, uh-

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Yeah

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: That's good news for us

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Yeah, absolutely So it's not until the end of the year that any excess revenue in this fund will go to you I mean, it's, it's done by the end of the year, but at least there's some funding there And it-- like I said, it's trailing at five hundred and ninety thousand dollars more So it's, it's good news Last question I have regarding, Use tax Now, I know that airport plays a role in inspecting cargo that's coming from the airport and to determine, you know, for-- and to ensure that use taxes are applied, you know, for rev and tax but are you getting any funding from doing that work that custom has to do to ensure that these products that You're all smiling I see It's probably a sore thumb somewhere But all the work that you're doing to inspect this cargo that puts money into the use tax funds, and does customs get any of that to help augment the work that you're doing up there at the airport?

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Senator, your, your time, but I'm gonna-

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Last, last question

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: circle-- I'll circle back-

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Yeah Yeah

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: if you need some extra time-

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Yeah

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: after I defer to the chair But that's the q-last question on that one, then I'll go to the chairman again.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Good

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Can I answer that?

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Please Go ahead Of course

Senator Telo T. Taitague Yeah

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: You can answer

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Okay So we-- So you're right, we haven't been receiving any funding from the use tax, there is a law which states that customs should get twenty percent of whatever amount that is collected for use tax at every year So- I found out that CQA has to include that as part of the budget process, that we sh- shouldin, uh- Be receiving make sure that we advise the legislature that Customs is, is asking for the 20% of the use tax that is afforded to the agency, and make that-

Senator Telo T. Taitague: And is it in there?

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yes We-

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Is it in your request?

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yes We included it

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay So-

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Thank you for that

Senator Telo T. Taitague: you know, lobby for that because it's money that should've been given to you m- many times over that would help augment to So thank you Thank you for that, Mr Chair .

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: You're welcome we'll put two minutes on the clock for the chair, and then we'll anybody else who needs additional time we will give it Chairman, you're, you're recognized.

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Thank you, Mr Chair thank you, and, Mr Director, and to your team as well and wa- wanna, again, thank you for, working closely with, with our committee, and for the OFB chair working closely with with his committee, and, and him being our, my vice chair as, as well, and working closely and in constant communication, not just with our, with ourselves chair and, and vice chair, but also with the administration I want to read what, umthe acting governor had just give just had, texted me and called me and texted me as well 'cause he's watching this he says, "Senator Lujan, as we have discussed during the bill signing ceremony for the ASYCUDA I'm directing DOA to implement a CQA recruitment and retention differential pay policy.

This will address the threat we face with the recruitment of our officers by federal law enforcement agencies We have sufficient funds to cover an adjustment through the end of the fiscal year Let's work together with Chairman Dueñas on the funding level for next year I'm certain the additional revenue will be collected through excise taxes from the new ASYCUDA system will support our officers" So that just from the from again, from the acting governor and again, I wanna thank Senator Dueñas for helping write that he, the op-ed today as well, because they, they took it to heart and we said, "Hey, look, this is the, the money that you're gonna collect, we're gonna, you know, fund you guys" and you know, I, I, you know, when, when, when, when we're hearing that your valedictorian the week after is, is pilfered by the federal government, you know, Houston, we have a problem, right? So we hope that in this next cycle, that we don't have i- whoever is, whether valedictorian or not, that they're

not pilfered by, by another federal agencies So congratulations and, and thank you working closely with with our committee and the OFB committee, and work closely with the, the collaboration with the, with the administration So thank you, and congratulations on that Thank you Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: You have anything additional to Senator Gumataotao? Thank you Senator Terlaje, do you have any additional questions?

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Yes So when you said you included the use tax in your budget request, is that on that three point four million additional, or you just, on the bottom where it says-

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency:
Nope

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: to include use tax?

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency:
It's, it's 20% Yes The law is very specific when it says-

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Right

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Use tax collection for the fiscal year, 20% goes to customs

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Right

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: And there's other agencies that-

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Right

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: That receive that o

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: All you did was say you want to make sure you get that

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yes

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Okay and we- you don't have an amount, and you haven't allocated it anywhere?

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Not at this time

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Okay

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: We, we do have preliminary numbers for that amount that we 'Cause we, we do track it as a result of an audit

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Oh, okay So- What does it look like?

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: We're tracking currently, we're right now for the current FY at 761,000 In previous years it's upwards of $1.1, $1.2 million for the past two fiscal years

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Is that the 20% or that's a total?

Captain JohnRic Mendiola, Executive Assistant, Customs and Quarantine Agency: That's the 20% of the 4%

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Okay Yeah Thanks and then, is it true that the GFMIS is causing delay in your expenditure of federal funds, and that you've actually lost $30,800 in December back-- or had to return that and at a risk of returning $79,000 in September if you don't use it in federal funds?

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency:
Are you talking about this year?

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Yes

Colonel Franklin J. Gutierrez, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Senator, I'll just answer that generally Colonel Franklin Gutierrez we do have multiple federal grants that are expiring on the 30th of September, and all of those items are currently with GSA, and they're procurement type of items that are current requisitions that are pending awarding.

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Did you, did you have to return $30,000 in December?

Colonel Franklin J. Gutierrez, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: I, we'll, we'll get back to you on that particular one I, I don't know But I know that there are s- there's an- there's, we have grants under, our It's our burn grants a- as well as the port security grants that are, are expiring 2022, 2023, as well as the, sub s- we're a sub-grantee under the, with Bureau of Stat- Statistics and Plans and we have that grant is expiring at the end of the, at the end of the-

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Yeah, that, that one Are you expected to use it all? Or is there some kind of delay?

Colonel Franklin J. Gutierrez, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yes, every- everything that as far as they're in and out, everything's been identified We're just waiting for the, the,

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Waiting for who?

Colonel Franklin J. Gutierrez, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: It's been requisitioned into GSA, and we're just waiting for the review and the, the awarding

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: So how long has it been waiting?

Colonel Franklin J. Gutierrez, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yeah, several months

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Months, right?

Colonel Franklin J. Gutierrez, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yeah Yeah Some of them are more recent, but then I wanna say starting since January, we were really submitting multiple requests I think we have around $21 million that are pending awarding that's in to include our drone program as well we have seven drones and eight drones total for that,

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Yeah Alright and you're saying the backup is strictly GSA?

Colonel Joey T. Cruz, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Senator, if I may, we should also mention that some of those grants, those grants are on hold right now with the federal government shutdown Some of the offices in FEMA have not gone back to work on these grants, so it's not strictly just a procurement issue on Guam It- it's the federal government themselves There's a lot of the offices has- has not gone back to work yet So those grants are on hold Although we do have the requisitions in play, w- it can't move until those, that hold is lifted from the federal government themselves

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: All right But the Alright If we could get a, a real clear accounting of that, soon, director, just what, what is pending at GSA and how long they've been pending, and w- how many of those expire in September, right?

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency:
Yes, Senator We have several especially we have IFB equipment that has been forwarded to GSA since March, and we're still waiting for them to, to come back to us and let us know where they're at with this particular equipment
but in total my agency at this point in time has a total of $2.1 million worth of pur- purchase order down at GSA And I understand the challenges that we have with GSA because of the number of personnel that they have They're always short too, but I'm hoping, I'm hoping that they can allow and give us the opportunity to make sure that we get all this equipment before the closing of the fiscal year I don't wanna see any lapses based on our equipment because if we don't partake in this equipment, then we're gonna lose it.

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Right Did we lose the 30,800 in December?

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency:

I'm not too sure about that.

Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Alright Okay Please check and let me know Thank you, and thank you all again for all your work Thank you.

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Thank you

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* Senator Senator Taitague, did you have any additional questions?
Senator Telo T. Taitague: Yeah, just one more question the funding that you're talking about is coming from BS- BSP, right? The one that you said it's been put ho- on hold that-

Colonel Franklin J. Gutierrez, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: No, no

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay

Colonel Franklin J. Gutierrez, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: The, the funding that Colonel JT is talking about is the port security grant So some of-

Senator Telo T. Taitague: I understand

Colonel Franklin J. Gutierrez, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Some of them were there were reprogramming requests and then there were other issues and if you notice that certain areas like FEMA and D, TSA, they got shut down 'cause of funding So their administrative side-

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay

Colonel Franklin J. Gutierrez, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Basically went silent for the last few months So that's what we're waiting for at this point.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay The drones you mentioned earlier, are you getting drones through grants?

Colonel Franklin J. Gutierrez, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Correct

Senator Telo T. Taitague: And what-

Colonel Franklin J. Gutierrez, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: And that's under the port security grant

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Port security?

Colonel Franklin J. Gutierrez, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: And seven are under an IDIQ Okay Which is already currently with GSA.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay and then- Do you have any grants under the BEADS program? The BEADS? Nothing, right? You're not doing anything under BEADS?

Colonel Franklin J. Gutierrez, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: No, not, not that I'm aware of, Senator

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay Okay

Colonel Franklin J. Gutierrez, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Maybe you could enlighten us-

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Oh- later there's money there but unfortunately, like you said earlier the federal government has put a hold on it, on its guidance You know, there's $150 million there sitting there for Oh, no, I'm sorry, $130 million sitting there for Guam right now It's from the BEADS program But unfortunately March has passed with regards to how we can spend that money, and we're still waiting we might know in about two more weeks But that, that's a probability for

Customs to actually go seek some funding there that's $130 million, so hopefully it could address some of your needs too as well- Okay especially for technology-wise So thank you All right And thank you everybody for all your hard work Appreciate it.

Ignacio "Ike" Q. Peredo, Director, Customs and Quarantine Agency:
Thank you

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse,* Senator Taitague So I'll just complete my questions, and then we'll be done for this public hearing So once again, Chief, actually you have quite a challenge in front of you 'cause according to Office of Finance and Budget, you're currently lapsing at $2.5 million for the current fiscal year so we'll follow you through that process That's what's happening I like to use perspective, Chief, just so that we all kind of understand what the legislature's been up to in terms of helping Customs
So the actual fiscal year 2025, expenditures and encumbrances were $18,653,796 The fiscal '26 authorized level was $22,238,000 about a little bit over $4 million you know increase based on your expenditures and encumbrances That's the closeout of the fiscal year That's what you actually spent the current year request is two-- $24,113,737 That is identical to the governor's request, but it's not a status quo request yourvariance actually from '27 to '26 is $1.875 million for your variance, andthat's a variance although still, tracking at a $2.5 million lapses So- This is what we're contending with from the perspective of finance and budget in terms of what you're actually able to spend Chief, I think it's important that you're, you're saying that you're gonna work really hard it's now close to the end of April, so we've got May, June, and my understanding is that it has been the practice of the administration to discontinue POs, purchase orders, and other procurements beyond June so I hope you have stuff in the pipe ready to go 'cause other than that, I don't see it happening beyond June unless there's a change in, in policy so your-- it's gonna be your personnel actions It's gonna be your procurement But can I just ask though, Chief and director, and maybe anybody else who wants to chime in, the ASO or like H- how are we, how are we tracking at two point five million? That seems quite large in terms of the current lapses.

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Well, as the director said, we have about two point one in procurement at, GSA We also have, some of the lapse can-- are, because of the recruitment, that are not filled at this point as I

mentioned, one point one is what I'm tracking for the, for the year for the recruitment side.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: I'd like to direct my colleagues to, to the, footnotes o-on the budget So just going through that, we're looking at including-- this includes re- recruitment and process-- progress for director's office seven and logistics and support fifteen in terms of recruitment So is that still what's going on? And that should be on the footnotes of your budget digest as well, footnote two.

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: So we have thirty-eight vacancies, an d of the 38, CQ the trainees, there's, total of 21 From that, we have 10 officer vacancies and seven support staff.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: So that's the recruitment and progress director's office, seven Logistics and support, fifteen.

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Actually ten

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Ten, okay So that should be adjusted

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yes

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Footnote three says includes thirteen for twenty twenty-six FY customs quarantine trainees Twenty fiscal year twenty twenty-seven, I think we're good on that because that's your presentation Ten positions funded by CQA inspection fund carry over from twenty-three

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yes

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: So you're still exhausting that revenue?
Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yes, we're still It should be exhausted by this year.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: And that's special fund?

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yes

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Yeah So that, that cannot-- You're right That cannot lapse

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yeah

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: That belongs to you, and so we thank you for that because that's, that's a big, That's one of those that you don't have to worry about, Chief That, you know, you-- it's always your fallback, right? if something goes wrong in terms of other you know operational issues, yeah, they can't touch that That's, that's your funds So that, that's, that's good to hear So footnote four, miscellaneous appropriation under thirty-eight sixty, I believe that was the Budget Act or, or fiscal Yeah, fiscal twenty twenty-six Ten CQA officer trainees, that's on track Okay, thank you so fiscal year twenty twenty-three, Customs Agriculture Inspection Fund over collection six hundred and fifty-one thousand, funded ten positions Is that kind of a, eight customs and quarantine officer one and two customs quarantine officer trainee? Is that a, a loop back to the earlier appropriation-

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Yes,

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Twenty-three?

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: This goes back to Senator Terlaje with the additional ten

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Okay

Clarice Briggs, ASO, Customs and Quarantine Agency: So that's where the additional ten came from, from the overcollection of the twenty-three

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: That's, that's where that lines out Okay So we're clear on that, and that was, yes, a question from Senator Terlaje Thank you Proposed budget staffing pattern accounts for thirteen, twenty-six of the twenty-six CQA, and the ten positions carry over So yeah So we're looking strong going into there to include the cycle that would be funded in twenty twenty-seven So, you know, folks, I, I, I look forward to working on this going forward I really look forward to trying to see what the ASYCUDA implementation i-is going to do And I, I don't have any problem working on the adjustment you know, that's, that's exactly

what we've always asked for, that you get the green light from BBMR' cause the green light exists for under both special conditions, whether or not it's your capital outlay or whether it's your fixed cost and if the fixed cost is something that they're saying, you know, they're willing to cut loose And to make sure that you have that recruitment and retention, that's internal that's their authority, and then they gotta come back to us and say"This is what we've done, and this is why it needs to be funded going forward because we've been able to, you know, provide for that compensation" And that cons- compensation becomes a fix- fixed cost My concern really is on the issue of procurement, and that is where, you know, I- I've, I've been telling all the agencies that, "Listen, you know if, if you have the authority and you have that procurement going forward, don't give up on it when things close See if you can see that through even to the time when the closing of the books starts to become, near" meaning sometime around-- We'll be debating this budget in July, anticipating, you know, a vote on July seventeenth and so going forward from there, you know, through August, there's no reason if, if, if you're on track, your procurement's on track, finish that money You know, get it encumbered, get it committed so that you don't have to have this capital outlay that you need hanging over your head for fiscal year 'twenty-seven I, I, I cannot overemphasize how many of the pre-budget meetings that I've had that I'm, I'm frustrated because those that are coming before us have money now, you know and, and, and to be going forward and once again having to push that into fiscal year twenty-twenty-seven when if you can just get that procurement out, it's locked and loaded You know, you have it available to be able to do that, and y- that's one less worry that you have You know, we had GPD this morning, and, you know, they have their air con issues and everything else with the evidence and, and, and their labs, and it's like, "Man, get that thing fixed now or get the procurement in so that you don't have to be sweating that for the fiscal year twenty-twenty-seven"

So I encourage you to continue all the way through in order to be able to do that so that, so that we can go into fiscal year 'twenty-seven as clean as possible and then manage that during that time So just before I close we have one other message, uh Okay Oh, yes I forgot, and I gotta start asking the other agencies this your, your leave Man, I don't know how this has happened We're gonna have a public hearing on a couple of bills here in a, in, in, in a week or so but I- I- I Ever since I was the director, I- it was absolutely a no-no to go past three twenty I don't know how it's happening, but guys, do you have any of your customs officers, employees throughout the entire you know CQA that have accrued hours beyond the three twenty which the attorney general has noted by law?

Okay Can you give me a, a breakdown of that Chief Peredo? Yeah, I, I-- we're gonna have to look at that because what we're looking at is op-- You know, one of the contemplations really is, is that to extend this out for a year because we understand the, you know, the, the, the problematic situation that you have being short-staffed already and then doesn't matter if you're holding onto the hours above three twenty and you wanna take it if manpower doesn't you know, suffice for that, right? But hopefully what happens is our cycles come through, and as you get on the recruits and they're in the field, you know, if you have additional time to expend then Then we have to address the law going forward beyond that But it's gonna be unfair to you know, to, to not allow for that that's been bookedI, I-- like I said, I don't know how it's been that way I encourage those to not do that anymore 'cause, you know, you might lose it Sir?

Colonel Franklin J. Gutierrez, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: Y-y-you know, Senator, I, I really think that, like, the reason why a lot of the law enforcement was because for many years we've been short, and so a lot of times leave has been denied because of operational and it's just kind of unfortunate that we're getting penalized for that, and rather than not, you know, maybe, maybe two hundred can go towards sick leave instead of one hundred or things like that, right? just to save the, the leave but, hopefully we can, figure it out or, or maybe a bill to make that amendment to the law.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Yeah

Colonel Franklin J. Gutierrez, Asst. Chief, Customs and Quarantine Agency: At least for law enforcement, 'cause we're always covered under an, an exemption, and then I guess the exemption doesn't apply based on the legal opinion, I believe

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Yeah We-- we're gonna have to do something You know, I, and I think that I, I don't know I, I, I think the We'll have to work with DOA and, and, and, you know, h-how we formulate the policy because I, I, I don't I mean, I understand the law enforcement issue We all do in terms of how that happens The thing is, is that I don't think we can implement a un-uniform policy So I think we're gonna have to solve it in terms of what does it mean in terms of the balance of annual and sick and I just say that because, folks, once we, you know, accumulate this total, we have to look at what actually it means in dollars and cents,

and that's a real That's a real impact in terms of the ability to give the folks their time off We also do not wanna get in a perennial situation we had this with DOC, and it was really to the point where they, they were telling us it was getting bad, you know we also really gotta make sure that do everything we can to give our people their time off as well I mean, with your families, for your health, for your, you know, everything that, that, that really encompasses what you do It's not healthy toto continue to work hours and accumulate hours beyond, you know, your ability to take time off and, and, and relax and be with your family and kinda, you know adjust that way But we'll, we'll address it, but we need to know So that needs to be part of information coming to us right away Chief Peredo, so we can calculate that and know what it isas we contemplate legislation going forward So that's really all I have folks Thank you once again for all you do, and thank you you know, for all the work that you put in to get recent legislation passed and what that's gonna mean going forward And we'll all work on the implementation as well but, you know, I think we can, we can see and demonstrate by the last several fiscal years, your budget has definitely exponentially increased And so we wanna make sure that we have a steady level going forward as we do the, the additional work So with that for Customs and Quarantine, thank you for all the senators that were here today to hear the budget And we are adjourned at 4:07 *Si Yu'os Ma'åse*, Committee on Finance and Government Operations hereby adjourned.

The Budget Hearing was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORT

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) -

INTRODUCED BY

Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam

AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

Monday, May 04, 2026, at 9:00 A.M.

Department of Corrections

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 04, 2026

1 message

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Mon, Apr 27, 2026 at 10:51 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Christopher Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com" <stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com>, michaella.ofbguam@gmail.com, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 27, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 04, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, May 04, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Department of Corrections (DOC)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

FIRST NOTICE - DOC.pdf
697K

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 27, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 04, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, May 04, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
- Department of Corrections (DOC)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 04, 2026

PRINT

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 04, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 04/27/2026 10:52 AM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 27, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 04, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, May 04, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** **(https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
· Department of Corrections (DOC)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Notice of Budget Hearing

Monday, May 4, 2026, 9:00 A.M.

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, May 4, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Department of Corrections (DOC)

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

GUAM LEGISLATURE
AUDIO VISUAL DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Office Submitting Request: Senator Chris Dueñas

Date of Request: 4/24/26

POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Ashley Shinohara Contact #: 671-989-9554

Email: senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS

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

☐ Oversight Hearing ☐ Committee Meeting ☒ Other: Budget Hearing

Notice Title / Bill(s) / Resolution(s) / Appointment:
Bill 266-38 (COR) - Dept. of Corrections

Date of Event: 05/04/2026 Start Time: 9:00 AM AM/PM

End Time: 12:00 PM AM/PM

Location: Public Hearing Room

MEDIA HANDLING

Recording Format: ☒ MP4 ☐ MP3 ☐ Other: _____

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

CERTIFIED BY AV:

Name: Rudy Perez Signature: _____

Posted on/Air Date: 4/27/26 – 5/4/26

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 04, 2026

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Thu, Apr 30, 2026 at 8:30 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Christopher Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com" <stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com>, michaella.ofbguam@gmail.com, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 30, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 04, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, May 04, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Department of Corrections (DOC)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

---

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

SECOND NOTICE - DOC.pdf
697K

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 30, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 04, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, May 04, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Department of Corrections (DOC)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 04, 2026

PRINT

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 04, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 04/30/2026 09:31 AM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 30, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 04, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, May 04, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** **(https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
· Department of Corrections (DOC)

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 budget hearing, please contact the Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas for further assistance via email***

Christopher M. Duenas for further assistance via email at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov (mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov) or by phone at (671) 989-9554.

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

BUDGET HEARING AGENDA

Monday, May 4, 2026 – Guam Congress Building

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam – AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

9:00 am:

- Department of Corrections (DOC)

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

Date: May 4, 2026 **Time: 9:00 a.m.**

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS. Relative to Department of Corrections (DOC)

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Patty Rose Chargualaf	D.O.C	671-735-5172	patty.chargualaf@doc.guam.gov				
2	APBorja	DOC	[redacted]	alan.borja@doc.guam.gov				
3	Rima Okada	DOC		rima.okada@doc.guam.gov				
4	Ron Santos	DOC		ron.santos@Doc.guam.gov				
5	Arthur Aguon	DOC						
6	Lisa Monique T. Cepeda	Doc						
7	Dean J. Taitague	DOC		dean.taitague@doc.guam.gov				
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								

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

Date: May 4, 2026 Time: 9:00 a.m.

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS. Relative to Department of Corrections (DOC)

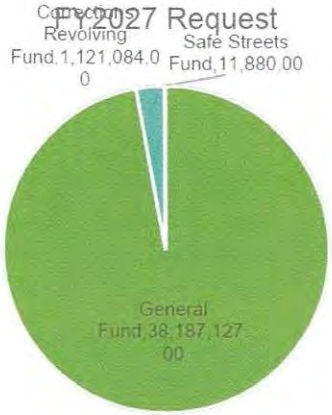
	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Marylen S. Cizeme	DOC	671858-4454	marylen.cizeme@doc.guam				
2	Thelma Thyne	DOC						
3	Frankie Tbt. Aguon	DOC	[redacted]					
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								

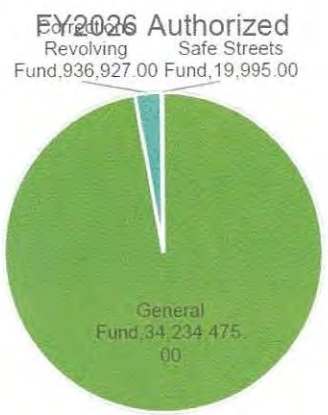
FY2027
BUDGET REQUEST

Joseph S. Carbullido
Acting Director

Ronald S.N. Santos
Acting Deputy Director

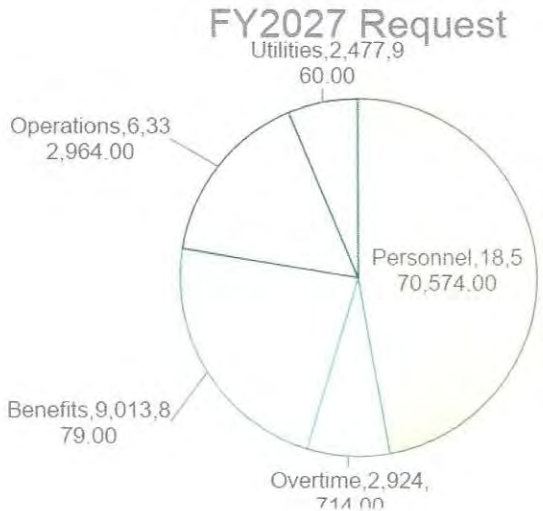
FY 2027 Budget Request Review

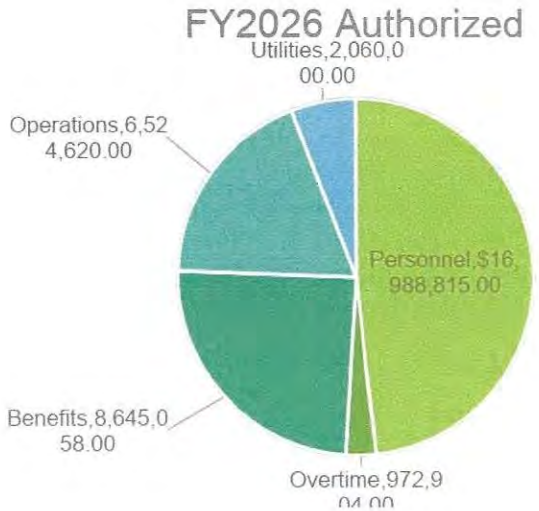




Fund Source		FY2027 Request	FY2026 Authorized	Variance
General Fund	$	**38,187,127.00**	$ 34,234,475.00	$ 3,952,652.00
Corrections Revolving Fund	$	**1,121,084.00**	$ 936,927.00	$ 184,157.00
Safe Streets Fund	$	**11,880.00**	$ 19,995.00	$ (8,115.00)
	TOTAL $	**39,320,091.00**	$ 35,191,397.00	$ 4,128,694.00

FY 2027 Budget Request Breakdown

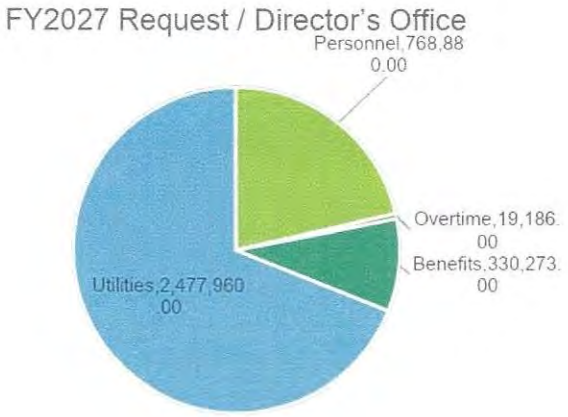




Overall Budget Request

Budget Category		FY2027 Request		FY2026 Authorized		Variance
Personnel	$	**18,570,574.00**	$	16,988,815.00	$	1,581,759.00
Overtime	$	**2,924,714.00**	$	972,904.00	$	1,951,810.00
Benefits	$	**9,013,879.00**	$	8,645,058.00	$	368,821.00
Operations	$	**6,332,964.00**	$	6,524,620.00	$	(191,656.00)
Utilities	$	**2,477,960.00**	$	2,060,000.00	$	417,960.00
TOTAL	$	**39,320,091.00**	$	35,191,397.00	$	4,128,694.00

FY 2027 Budget Request: **DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**





BUDGET – DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Budget Category		FY2027 Request		FY2026 Authorized		Variance
Personnel	$	**768,880.00**	$	759,565.00	$	9,315.00
Overtime	$	**19,186.00**	$	18,853.00	$	333.00
Benefits	$	**330,273.00**	$	377,606.00	$	(47,333.00)
Operations	$	**-**	$	367,698.00	$	(367,698.00)
Utilities	$	**2,477,960.00**	$	2,060,000.00	$	417,960.00
Capital Outlay	$	**-**	$	-	$	-
TOTAL	$	**3,596,299.00**	$	3,583,722.00	$	12,577.00

Staffing Needs

- Director's Office / Administration Division

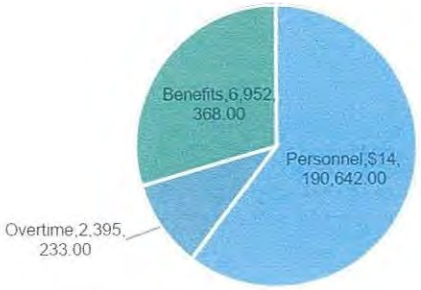
Position Title	Grade / Step	Total Salaries	Total Benefits	TOTAL
Property & Supply Management Officer	MX-01	$ 49,731.00	$ 48,705.00	$ 98,436.00
	TOTAL	$ 49,731.00	$ 48,705.00	$ 98,436.00

FY 2027 Budget Request: **SECURITY (Adult Corr. Facility & Rosario Det. Center)**

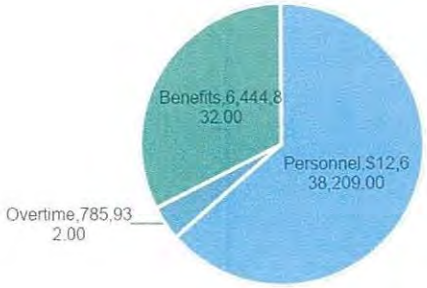
BUDGET – ADULT CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Budget Category	FY2027 Request	FY2026 Authorized	Variance
Personnel	**$ 14,190,642.00**	$ 12,638,209.00	$ 1,552,433.00
Overtime	**$ 2,395,233.00**	$ 785,932.00	$ 1,609,301.00
Benefits	**$ 6,952,368.00**	$ 6,444,832.00	$ 507,536.00
TOTAL	**$ 23,538,243.00**	$ 19,868,973.00	$ 3,669,270.00

FY2027 Request / Adult Correctional Facility



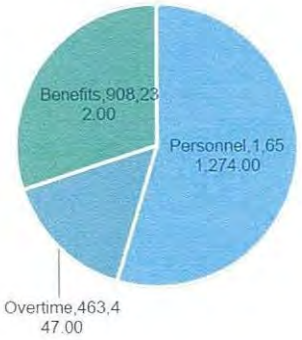
FY2026 Authorized / Adult Correctional Facility



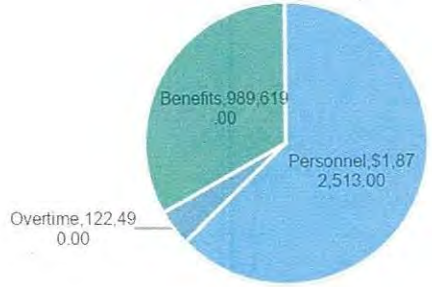
BUDGET – HAGATNA DETENTION FACILITY

Budget Category	FY2027 Request	FY2026 Authorized	Variance
Personnel	**$ 1,651,274.00**	$ 1,872,513.00	$ (221,239.00)
Overtime	**$ 463,447.00**	$ 122,490.00	$ 340,957.00
Benefits	**$ 908,232.00**	$ 989,619.00	$ (81,387.00)
TOTAL:	**$ 3,022,953.00**	$ 2,984,622.00	$ 38,331.00

FY2027 Request / Rosario Detention Center



FY2026 Authorized / Rosario Detention Center



Staffing Needs

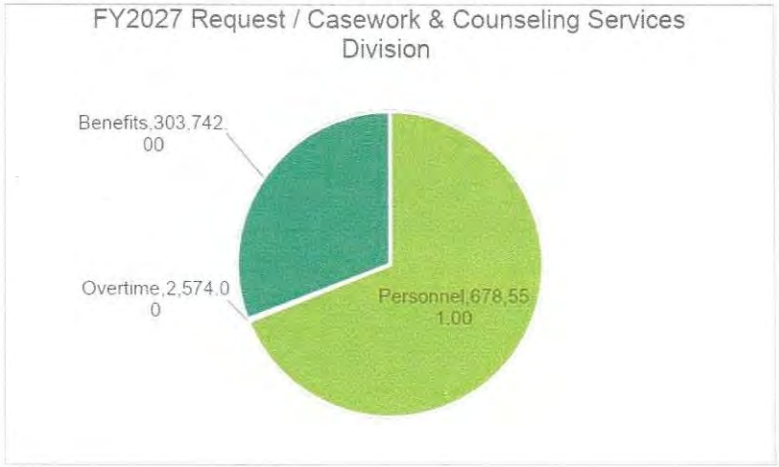
Position Title	Status	# Positions	Grade / Step	Total Salaries	Total Benefits	TOTAL	Extended Total	Comments
Corrections Officer Supervisor I	Recruitment in Progress	3	KL21	$ 75,105.00	$ 103,983.00	$ 179,088.00	$ 537,264.00	Promotion
Corrections Officer II	Recruitment in Progress	3	IL21	$ 63,708.00	$ 91,321.00	$ 156,473.00	$ 469,419.00	Promotion
Corrections Officer I	Recruitment in Progress	36	HL21	$ 32,997.00	$ 53,474.00	$ 86,471.00	$ 3,003,084.00	

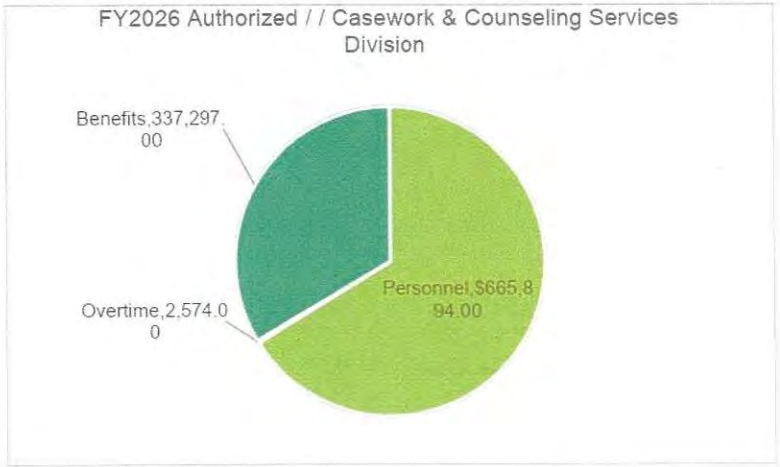
Staffing Challenges and Attrition	**FISCAL YEAR 2024 OCT 2023 -SEPT 2024**	**FISCAL YEAR 2025 OCT 2024 -SEPT 2025**	**FISCAL YEAR 2026 OCT 2025 -SEPT 2026**	**TOTAL**
No. OF PERSONNEL RETIRED/RESIGN/SEPARATED	7	18	5	30
RECRUITMENT	13	25	10	48
NET GAIN	6	7	5	18

Summary of Officers Distribution Manning Requirements

MANNING REQUIREMENT SUMMARY				
	Current Staffing	Current Operation	Optimal Staffing	
ACF Alpha Plt.	49	26%	60	24%
ACF Bravo Plt.	49	26%	60	24%
ACF Operations	2	1%	2	1%
Post#24 (Min In)	2	1%	3	1%
Post#9 (Min Out)	0	0%	10	4%
Post#28 (R.S.A.T.)	4	2%	4	2%
Transport / VPC	9	5%	13	5%
Intake/Property	1	1%	1	0%
Service Gate	1	1%	2	1%
V.R.S.	6	3%	7	3%
PayTel / S.T.I.U	1	1%	1	0%
Special Operations	14	7%	16	6%
K-9	3	2%	4	2%
Supply	1	1%	1	0%
Recreaction	0	0%	1	0%
Library	1	1%	1	0%
Galley	1	1%	2	1%
Guard Towers	2	1%	5	2%
Internal Affairs	4	2%	4	2%
T.D.Y. - Homeland	1	1%	1	0%
Training	2	1%	2	1%
HDF Alpha Plt.	13	7%	20	8%
HDF Bravo Plt.	12	6%	20	8%
HDF Operations	2	1%	2	1%
HDF Processing Center	5	3%	6	2%
HDF Visitation	2	1%	2	1%
Military Leave	3	2%	0	
Total Corrections Officer	190	100%	250	100%

FY 2027 Budget Request: **CASEWORK & COUNSELING SERVICES DIVISION**





BUDGET – CASEWORK & COUNSELING

Budget Category		**FY2027 Request**		FY2026 Authorized		Variance
Personnel	**$**	**678,551.00**	$	665,894.00	$	12,657.00
Overtime	**$**	**2,574.00**	$	2,574.00	$	-
Benefits	**$**	**303,742.00**	$	337,297.00	$	(33,555.00)
TOTAL	**$**	**984,867.00**	$	1,005,765.00	$	(20,898.00)

Summary of Staffing Needs

- Casework & Counseling Services Division

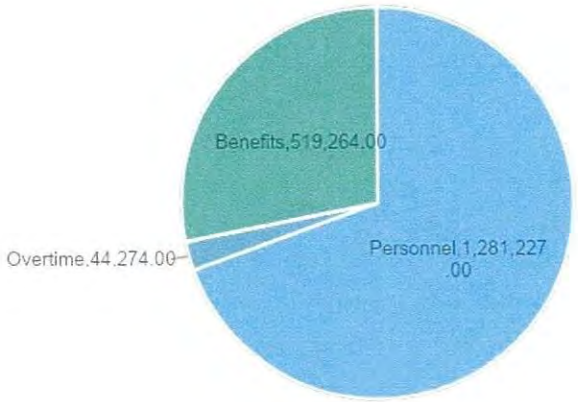
Position Title	Grade / Step	Total Salaries	Total Benefits	TOTAL	Comments
Clerk III	EX-01	$ 25,736.00	$ 29,285.00	$ 55,021.00	

Additional UNFUNDED Requests

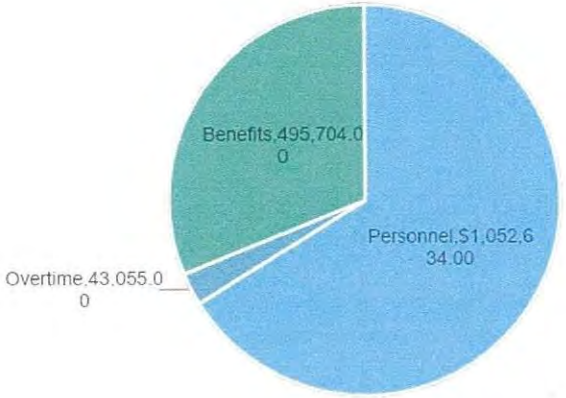
Corrections Social Worker II	MX-01	$ 49,731.00
Corrections Social Worker I	LX-01	$ 45,262.00

FY 2027 Budget Request: **PAROLE SERVICES DIVISION**

FY2027 Request / Parole Service Division



FY2026 Authorized / Parole Services Division



BUDGET – PAROLE SERVICES DIVISION

Budget Category		FY2027 Request		FY2026 Authorized		Variance
Personnel	$	**1,281,227.00**	$	1,052,634.00	$	228,593.00
Overtime	$	**44,274.00**	$	43,055.00	$	1,219.00
Benefits	$	**519,264.00**	$	495,704.00	$	23,560.00
TOTAL	$	**1,844,765.00**	$	1,591,393.00	$	253,372.00

Summary of Staffing Needs

- Parole Services Division

Position Title	Grade / Step	Total Salaries	Total Benefits	TOTAL	Comments
Secretary I (Typist)	GX-01	$ 30,169.00	$ 32,872.00	$ 63,041.00	
Additional UNFUNDED Requests					
Parole Officer I	LL21-01	$ 43,811.00			Two positions requested.

Contractual Services

- **DOC-GMHA Consolidated Cooperative Agreement**
  - Direct funding allocation to the Agency
- **Food Services**
  - Funding to be covered under the General Fund
- **IT&E Radios**
  - Funding to be covered under the Revolving Fund

FY 2026 Pending Projects

- HVAC System for HDF & FDF
- Generators
- Master Plan (New Prison)
- Internet
- Open Additional Dome
- Renovation of Dome restrooms
- 84 application reviews for Corrections Officer I positions
- Computer
- 100% Staff Drug testing
- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Audit

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

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

In accordance with Section 6.04(c)(1) of the Standing Rules of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, this committee digest provides a *summary* of the public hearing detailed below. To assist the general public in navigating this report, please note that all blue-highlighted text contains hyperlinks. Clicking on these links will direct you to the corresponding referenced sections/documents. For any questions or assistance regarding this digest, please contact our office at (671) 989-9554 or email us at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov.

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) – COMMITTEE ON RULES BY REQUEST OF I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN, THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

I. OVERVIEW

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) was introduced on **February 2, 2026** by **Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam** and was subsequently referred by the Committee on Rules to the **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** on **February 3, 2026.**

The **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** convened a Public Hearing on Bill No. 266-38 (COR) on **[May 4th, 2026]** at **[09:01 a.m.]** in the Guam Congress Building's Public Hearing Room.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Public Hearing Notices were posted to the Government Public Notices Portal and disseminated via electronic mail to all senators and all main media

broadcasting outlets on **[April 27, 2026]** (5-Day Notice), and again on **[April 30, 2026]** (48-Hour Notice).

SENATORS PRESENT

Chairman Christopher M Duenas
Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada
Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao
Senator Telo T Taitague

ORAL TESTIMONY:

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections
Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections
Roma Okada, ASO, Department of Corrections
Michael Quinata, Chief Parole Officer, Department of Corrections
Colonel Alan Borja, Warden, Department of Corrections
Theresa Tayama, Correctional Social Worker Administrator, Department of Corrections
Ronald "Ron" Santos, Deputy Director, Department of Corrections

WRITTEN TESTIMONY:

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The public hearing for **Bill Number 266-38 (COR)** was called to order at **[09:00 a.m.]**

[Questions and Discussion] [*Begins at 00:25:41and ends at 01:30:51*]

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: *Manana Si Yu'os Good morning* welcome to the 38th Guam Legislature Guam Congress building the People's House Thank you for being here this morning we are here to hear the budget request of the Department of Corrections once again good morning This hearing is conducted by the Committee on Finance and Government Operations and is called to order at 09:01 this Monday, May 4th 2026.

First notice of this public hearing was disseminated to all senators and media outlets on April 27,2026 with its second notice disseminated on April 30, 2026 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 that's on the agenda Bill nber 266-38 (COR) Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* the Governor of Guam **AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER THIRTY TWENTY TWENTY-SEVEN MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

The focus for this session once again is the fiscal year 2027 budget request of the Department of Corrections. At this time I'd like to welcome my colleagues who have joined me Of course the chairman on public safety Senator Shawn Gataotao the vice speaker Vice Speaker Ada who is also the chairman vice chair of this Committee on Finance and Government Operations and Senator Telo Taitague.

Thank you senators for joining us this morning before we begin I'd like to remind everyone in attendance of *I Liheslåturan 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 and nature of the bill that's on the agenda Personal inferences as to the character or motive of any senator or individual testifying is not permitted The chairperson of the committee may order the removal from this hearing of any member of *I Liheslåturan Guåhan* or the public audience who fails to observe proper decor pursuant to the 38th Guam Legislature's standing rules.

Any violation of this general rule conduct will result in immediate removal from this public hearing room with that we'll now proceed to hear testimony on Bill 266-38 I want to recognize now and have Mr Chief Carbullido to come up and also bring his team forward remain standing please and we'll have you sworn in and then you'll introduce your team and proceed with your presentation for us Sergeant Arms will swear you in this is customary during any budget hearing as we discuss financial matters Sarge please.

Ed Pocaigue, Sergeant at arms, Guam Legislature: Please raise your right hand Under penalty of perjury do you affirm that any and all information you provide

today whether it be verbally electronically and in writing be the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth Mr Chair they are under oath you may proceed.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Sarge Good morning once again to the team from Department of Corrections Chief Carbullido acting director you're recognized please introduce your team and I understand you have a presentation for us and you can proceed right after that.

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: That's correct Good morning Mr Chair I'm Acting Director Joe Carbullido to my right is the Acting Deputy Director Ron Santos to his right is Warden Alan Bora and to his right is Chief Parole Officer Quinata to my left is Roma Okada the ASO for Department of Corrections To her left is Major Anton Aguon He's the administration division chief And to his left is Ms Tayama who's the case and counseling administrator.

Bueñas and Håfa Ådai Chairman Duenas and members of the Committee of Finance Government Operations thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of Corrections fiscal year 2027 budget requests Pursuant to Title 9 Guam Code Annotated Chapter 90 Article 1 Section 9015 the Department of Corrections is mandated to protect the public from the destructive actions of law offenders through control and rehabilitation provide staff services for the judiciary the parole board probation officers and other interested agencies of the executive branch.

The DOC's mission is to protect the public by preventing escapes maintaining order and ensuring safe-- a safe secure and humane environment for all individuals lawfully committed to its custody This mission is achieved through strict adherence to established rules and regulations effective supervision and the provision of essential services necessary to safely manage the prison population

Maintaining a safe and orderly correctional institution requires sufficient funding to support daily operations and to improve critical resources including a strong and properly staffed workforce adequate equipment and facilities The Department of Corrections is requesting a total FY twenty twenty-seven appropriation of 39,320,091 to support its overall operations of this amount 38,187,127 is requested from the general fund and 1,132,964 is requested from the Corrections Revolving Fund and Safe Streets Fund

Personnel costs comprise the largest portion of the budget totaling approximately twenty-seven million five eighty-four four fifty-three which reflects the staffing levels necessary to maintain the mission and mandated services in addition-- An additional two million nine twenty-four seven fourteen is requested for overtime expenditures driven by staffing shortages and operational demands inherent to correctional facilities. Operational costs and utilities are projected at eight million eight ten nine twenty-four within this amount it is estimated that twenty percent of the operational costs funded through the corrections revolving fund will be allocated to dialysis and dental services for prisoners These medical services are essential to meet constitutional standards of care and address rising healthcare needs within the prison population.

The remaining operational funds will support contractual services supplies and equipment which are critical to maintaining facility operations ensuring regulatory compliance and enabling DOC to effectively carry out its core duties and responsibilities These expenditures support institutional security inmate programs maintenance utilities and other essential functions required f-for the safe and efficient operation of the department The Guam Police correction the Guam Department of Corrections is organized into four primary divisions The administration's division which falls under the director's office prison security division casework and counseling services division and parole services division each responsible for specific aspects of institutional custody community su-supervision and rehabilitative services.

A total of three three million five ninety-six two ninety-nine is requested from the general fund to support the FY twenty-seven operations of the director's office of the Department of Corrections This appropriation will fund salaries benefits and overtime for a total of eleven authorized positions consisting of two unclassified positions and nine classified positions these positions are essential to providing executive leadership administrative oversight fiscal management personal administration payroll processing procurement and prop-- and property control functions that support the department's operational and institutional mandates.

Additionally two million four seventy-seven nine sixty is requested for utilities including costs for the department's telephone power and water services these utility expenditures are are critical to sustaining uninterrupted communications facility operations security systems and overall institutional functionality all of which are necessary for the safe and effective management of inmates and detainees Staffing needs The admin- the administration section of the Department of Correction is in

need to fill the property and supply management officer position currently handled by one corrections officer and two clerk three staff who all perform their primary duties filling this position will allow the department of-- the department to reassign civilian administrative staff and sworn security personnel back to their core functions thereby improving operational efficiency and strengthening institutional security the establishment of a dedicated property supply management officer will enhance accountability inventory control procurement coordination and compliance with property and supply management requirements.

The Adult Correctional Facility and the Agana Detention Facility are all responsible for administration of security control custody and care of prisoners in accordance with established policies and regulatory standards These facilities operate on a continuous twenty-four-hour basis to ensure the safety of staff prisoners and the general public A total of twenty-six million five sixty-one one ninety-six is requested from the general fund to support FY twenty twenty-seven operations for the adult correctional facility and the Garden Detention Facility

This funding will support salaries benefits and overtime for a total of one hundred and ninety uniformed corrections officers including the warden majors captains lieutenants sergeants corporals detention facility guards and an armed security guard These sworn personnel are essential to maintaining twenty-four security-- twenty-four-hour security coverage ensuring the safe custody and control of prisoners preventing escapes and disturbances and protecting the safety of DOC staff and the general public included in this request is approximately two million eight fifty-eight six eighty for overtime While this amount is projected based on current staffing levels and operational needs it may not be sufficient for FY twenty twenty-seven if manpower shortages occur due to military deployments weekend weekend reserve drills approved leave training requirements or other unanticipated absence with-- Notwithstanding these challenges the Department of Corrections will continue to exercise due diligence in managing staffing resources and will make every effort to minimize overtime expenditures while maintaining required security staffing and operational readiness.

The staffing needs for the security division is in need of three corrections supervisor one three corrections officer two and 36 corrections officer one positions. The department has experienced ongoing losses due to resignations retirements deaths and lateral transfers Active recruitment for eighty-four corrections officers one applications are currently under review given the inmate population size and twenty-four/seven operational mandate officer to inmate ratios remain strained Heavy

overtime reliance to maintain minim post coverage and an increased risk of burnout safety incidents and reduced supervision effectiveness The security division currently operates with one hundred and ninety uniformed personnel to manage approximately nine hundred and fifteen to nine hundred and fifty inmates continuously twenty-four/seven while recruitment is underway sustained attrition and staffing delays particularly at the corrections officer one and lieutenant levels continue to challenge operational efficiency safety and compliance Immediate hiring and workforce expansion are essential to maintaining secure and effective correctional operations.

The chart above illustrates the distribution of corrections officers throughout the department highlighting how personnel are allocated scheduled and deployed across various shifts sections and facility locations This distribution demonstrates how staffing resources are structured to support continuous operations maintain institutional safety and meet delay-- daily operational requirements.

Optimal staffing refers to staffing levels that are specifically aligned with the facility's physical design security classification and the risk profile of the inmate population This approach balance-- balances the critical needs of security inmate supervision and rehabilitation and staff safety while remaining mindful of budgetary constraints effective staffing ensures officers are positioned in the right locations at the right times to manage inmate movement reduce incidents of violence and respond promptly to emergencies When staffing is properly optimized the facility achieves sufficient operational coverage without overstaffing excessive overtime or staff burnout thereby supporting both organizational effectiveness and employee well-being. Casework division The mission of the Casework and Counseling Services Division is to reduce recidivism by delivering comprehensive evidence-based management and counseling services to incarcerated individuals Through structured intervention and reentry planning casework works to ensure the inmates upon release do not return to criminal behavior and instead become productive law-abiding members of society. This mission is accomplished through effective case management supportive counseling and treatment and release planning and community reintegration A total of nine hundred and eighty-four eight sixty-seven from the general fund is requested for the fiscal year twenty twenty-seven operations of the Casework and Counseling Services Division.

This funding supports seven correctional correction social worker positions essential to delivering comprehensive case management and rehabilitative services follows One correction social worker administrator one correction social worker supervisor

three correction social worker threes one correction social worker two and one correction social worker one staffing needs The staffing needs for CCSD is cler-- one clerk three one correction social worker two and one correction social worker one Proposed casework and counseling services division restructuring The casework and counseling services division seeks to restructure its operations into three functional s- sections each to be led by a correction social social worker three.This restructuring is essential to strengthen evidence-based practices improve service delivery and enhance re-entry outcomes for incarcerated individuals.

Parole Services Division The mission of the Parole Services Division is to protect the public by supervising and monitoring conditionally released adult criminal offenders thereby safeguarding life and property on the island of Guam The Parole Services Division is responsible for the enforcement and administration of parole laws as well as the government of Guam Department of Corrections rules and regulations in accordance with Title nine Guam Code Annotated chapters eighty eighty-five and ninety and all other applicable laws governing parole matters. The division provides supervision and oversight of adult offenders who are paroled by the Guam Parole Board released under mandatory release provisions subject to courtesy off-island super-supervision and release by the courts of Guam under parole or conditional release re- orders. The Parole Services Di-Division respectfully requests one million eight forty-four seven sixty-five from the General Fund for FY twenty twenty-seven operations to support staffing supervision and administrative functions essential to public safety and effective management of parolees under the jurisdiction of the Guam Parole Board. The requested funding will support the following ten personnel positions: one chief parole officer three parole officer threes three parole officer twos and three parole officer ones Staffing needs The Parole Services Division needs one secretary one typist and one parole officer or I'm sorry two parole officer positions the addition of clerical support position is critical to the efficient operations of the Parole Division This position will provide essential administrative and organizational support to parole officers in the Guam Parole Board and the Guam Pardon Review Board To effectively accomplish its mission and to meet public safety demands the Parole Services Division has identified the need to add additional parole officer positions. Increased staffing is critical to improve the s- the frequency and quality of parole contracts enhance I'm sorry contacts Enhance supervision coverage and risk management strengthen compliance monitoring and enforcement achieve measurable reductions in recidivism rates The requested FY 2027 funding will ensure the Parole Services Division maintains adequate staffing levels to meet increasing operational demands enhance public safety ensure sa- ensure effective parole supervision and provide critical administrative support to the Guam Parole Board and Guam Pardon Review Board

approval of this request will strengthen accountability improve services delivery and sustain lawful parole operations throughout through out Guam.

Contractual services the DOC has three contractual services as indicated Direct funding goes to GMHA for the consolidated agreement F-five million two hundred will come from the general fund for food services and fifty-four thousand will come from the revolving funds for IT and radios communications systems.

The budget variance explanation In FY27 budget reflects a four point one million variance increase primarily driven by personnel costs and expanded operations and maintenance requirements Personnel related expenses account for a significant portion of this variance due to salary adjustments increased benefit obligations overtime requirements staffing needs to support critical operational functions and increased prisoner population. Additionally escalating operational costs include utilities fuel and contracted services combined with increased maintenance dema- demands associated with aging infrastructure and increasing prison population which have further contributed to the overall budget increase While mitigation strategies have been im-implemented to minimize fiscal impact such enhanced overtime management staffing realignments and cost containment measures within operations and maintenance the remaining variance is unavoidable. This funding increase essential is essential to ensure continuity of vital services sustain compliance and operational standards and maintain overall readiness to meet mission-critical responsibilities.

The presentation reflects the FY 26 accomplishments for Department of Corrections as seen above. The pending projects we have the installation of the HVAC system at the *Hågatna* Detention Facility and f-the facility detention facility The *Hågatna* Detention Facility I'm sorry the f-the Federal Detention Facility MOU of GHURA is has been signed and the next meeting is today at two PM The acquisition and installation of backup generators implementation of internet connectivity throughout the Mangilao facility. The opening of an additional housing dome We're opening the last dome that hasn't been opened for a while renovation of the dome restroom facilities Review of eighty-four applicants for the corrections officer posi- - one position Procurement of computers and information technology equipment the new prison task force updated corrections officer series position descriptions One hundred percent staff drug testing Currently pending with DOA The Prison Rape Elimination Act also known as PREA currently scheduled for July 2026 which is funded In closing my staff and I remain fully available and welcome any questions

from the committee regarding the department's FY 2027 budget request as presented Thank you

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse Acting* Director Chief Carballido before I say a few things and then move on to my colleagues for their questions will we be receiving a confirmation packet related to your current appointment

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: Mr Chair thank you for that question I I am currently just detailed to the Department of Corrections and I serve under under the pleasure of the Governor of Guam when as needed.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Thank you well you always do a good job whenever you asse the helm so just wanted to get that question out and also before we proceed I'd like to ask AV to please pan to the audience please People of Guam once again and I wanna be especially proud of all the law enforcement agencies for continuing to increase their manpower and meet the needs of all of your operations and so what we're seeing now is the current cycle for Department of Corrections attending this very vital hearing so that they can get a better knowledge of how the system operates for which they'll be working under s- upon graduation and also you know to show their their support for their future full-time job keeping the people of Guam safe. Thank you all for being here and we appreciate your attendance in this very critical hearing to learn more and see how your budget process works within the Department of Corrections Thank you AV So I just have a few comments before going to my colleagues First of all to my chairman Senator Gumataotao I want to thank him and I want to thank you for t- participating consistently in the oversight hearings he's conducted to get a thorough review of everything that's going on within the Department of Corrections although it may be testy from time to time on a back-and-forth exchange we do this to ensure that we know and the public knows exactly what's going on and how we can help that's the purpose of why we do this and so once again we thank you for your participation particularly the classified staff and those who have the day-to-day operations really under their full management to inclu- to include our acting deputy now who also I'm sure many of you recruits have seen on a on a very regular basis he's known for making sure that

the cycles go through well and that all of you are prepared for what you're gonna do going forward I always premise this particularly for the committees that have done very very good work with regard to oversights because we're here today on your budget and I I do set a strict clock because I wanna make sure that what we're doing is we're focusing on your budget Thank you for participating in the pre-budget meetings that was very helpful to us to understand what you were gonna present today As a matter of fact we had a lot of questions and we're glad that you incorporated some of the things that weren't incorporated in your budget when you first came to see us and then also for the description in the notes that we made on things that are in miscellaneous appropriations versus outright appropriations for Department of Corrections so the committee can consider that so that's why we're we're we're having these hearings very focused on the budget matters and I'm sure our chairman will continue to have oversight hearings even after we pass the budget to see how you're doing and to make sure we have a more lengthy discussion as needed on any of the operational needs So with that I'm gonna recognize Senator Telo Taitague for her questions Please proceed Yes the chairman has requested to go last and so in order you were the other person that senator that showed up - And that's how we defer to that Thank you.

Senator Telo T Taitague: When it comes to DOE I mean DOC and I try to make sure I'm here because I've know I've followed DOC for many years as a senator knowing the trials and tribulations that you face but you know we have only a short time So first just let me say thank you everybody for your hard work and your sacrifices you make in this position because your position is is so very difficult I I just I don't know how you guys do it but kudos to all you guys Appreciate it And don't give up please even if you're offered more money from the federal side to take you on can you please stick around like because that's that's what I wanted to ask I mean based on FY '26 we appropriated what how many individuals to DOC we for recruitment Do you know how much total
First before FY 26 how many officers should you have working just officers

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: We have 190-

Senator Telo T Taitague: Okay

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: Uniform officers currently

Senator Telo T Taitague: And you were appropriated 190 in FY '26 correct

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: That's correct Senator.

Senator Telo T Taitague: Okay and of that 190 how many officers do you have on hand now

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: I hope all 190 are still here all.

Senator Telo T Taitague: How many officers have you lost in the last since FY '26 started?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: So, in FY '26 Senator we've to retirement resignation and separation we lost five We recruited 10 and the net gain of course if you do the math is five.

Senator Telo T Taitague: Excellent Well that's good news

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: Yeah

Senator Telo T Taitague: But we still need what 230-some officers really to be able to man an overpopulated prison where it's only what I think it's you only have the ability to hold 700 but you have Well how many are is the DOC able to hold right now as far as any inmates prisoners What's the population to hold.

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: You want to go ahead and answer I'll have the warden answer that question.

Colonel Alan Borja, Warden, Department of Corrections: Good morning Senator .

Senator Telo T Taitague: Just state your name for the record so we know who did.

Colonel Alan Borja, Warden, Department of Corrections: Okay Well right now currently we have 905 inmate and detainees 700 up at ACF and 200 do- or 195 down at *Hagåtña* our facility is designed to hold 3 to 3 to 400 prisoners up at the main facility *Hagåtña* 135.

Senator Telo T Taitague: What's the what's the capacity for the one in Hagåtña?

Colonel Alan Borja, Warden, Department of Corrections: Say again?

Senator Telo T Taitague: The capacity

Colonel Alan Borja, Warden, Department of Corrections: Again (inaudible) between 3 to 400. The main facility

Senator Telo T Taitague: No, I'm talking about Hagåtña

Colonel Alan Borja, Warden, Department of Corrections: In the- *Hagåtña* 135 comfortably

Senator Telo T Taitague: That and that's how the capacity is for-

Colonel Alan Borja, Warden, Department of Corrections: Yes

Senator Telo T Taitague: 135 right?

Colonel Alan Borja, Warden, Department of Corrections: And we have 195 down there

Senator Telo T Taitague: Oh, So what do you guys do when you're over you know?

Colonel Alan Borja, Warden, Department of Corrections: We transfer clients up to the main facility to alleviate the overcrowding but again our doors are open

24/7 It never closes So the old saying build it and they shall come- kind of thing Make room and they shall come

Senator Telo T Taitague: Make room and they shall come

Colonel Alan Borja, Warden, Department of Corrections: So that's why as stated in his presentation we're looking at opening up another dome It hasn't been available for quite some time due to the manpower

Senator Telo T Taitague: Do you have the funding for that to open up the another-

Colonel Alan Borja, Warden, Department of Corrections: Yes we do actually

Senator Telo T Taitague: Okay That's good go ahead director You were gonna say something.

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: I was just about to s- say the same thing that the warden just mentioned The We're-- When I got up there the one of the solutions was to open up that extra dome that hasn't been you know st- stood up in a while So that that's one of the the solutions to the overcrowding down in the Hagåtña Detention Facility- is moving detainees up to the fourth dome that we're opening.

Senator Telo T Taitague: Okay, overtime Can you give me a little more detail on the overtime because you know we try not to have overtime because it's a safety issue for your officers you know I mean I'm sure everybody would like that overtime but really it's such a concern that I have because you know they're working 12 hours sometimes and come back take you know a few hours sleeping So what is the status now Are you addressing that cause I noticed your increase was basically for overtime right?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: That's correct Senator i- it's unavoidable right now because we're working You know of course we have to work 24/7 right and we have two shifts 12-hour shifts and the schedule is five days a week for with the 12 shifts two two days off But because we're are short staffing we ask officers to come in one day out of those two days that they're

off so you know we're just in that predicament with the ma- the staffing issues and that's why overtime accumulates we're trying to mitigate that and we're trying to look at different ways to and of course recruitment is one of them but it's a slow process.

Senator Telo T Taitague: What kind of funding are you asking for with regards to technology to try and help alleviate some of the the labor shortage that you have at DOC as far as technologies to assist?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: So Major you wanna go ahead and talk about the one that's pending right now our internet –

Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections: Good morning Senator Major Anton Aguon So we do have a federal grant to put internet throughout our facility We're working on the RFP process right now hopefully that'll be going out in a few weeks for bid the internet once the internet gets online we'll be able to add camera systems through the internet also move into commissary and some other things
but we need The first baseline is I have to get the internet throughout the compound And so hopefully before the end of this year or however the RFP process takes we can start getting internet through the various housing units There's like 19 housing units that need internet and then we can again move to camera systems I have three units with cameras right now post six seven and seventeen well seven is gonna be repaired shortly but those are stand alone. They're IP-based but they're standalone because there's no internet in the housing unit and once internet gets in now I can start connecting them and we can have staff monitoring it. We also have a grant for a hundred thousand dollars to put cameras on the perimeter but again it won't go nowhere unless I get my internet first 'cause you know they need internet to work properly.

Senator Telo T Taitague: So what has been the delay on getting that?

Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections: Well we just got a a The RFP itself has been under review at the AG's office We just got a letter Friday that it is-- the the contract and the draft RFP is-- been approved to form And so now we're gonna pick it up today There's some tweaking we need to do to it and then

hopefully we can put that out for bid shortly But I got a email Friday that it's ready for pickup the RFP itself.

Senator Telo T Taitague: I always thought you guys had internet all over at DOC I mean that's one of the basics necessities you know So what happened?

Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections: No-

Senator Telo T Taitague: Did you lose it during Marwar or

Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections: No internet is only through the operations area the women's facility have internet But through all the other housing units post six post five post seven seventeen the domes and sixteen and eighteen none of those units were ever-- They don't have internet They have no internet Inter-- Never had internet Okay And that's one issue I'm trying to address we're trying to address.

Senator Telo T Taitague: Thank you Ma- Major Anton I know that you have your hands a lot on with the new new technology to assist you everything from drones as- assistance to gosh every-- not just cameras but there are other options that AI technology can actually assist you and I think you need to push Do you need any federal funding matching or anything like that for any of these grants that you're asking for?

Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections: No, the grant that we have now there's no federal-- there's no local- Matching matching requirement or anything

Senator Telo T Taitague: Okay

Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections: It's all it's all federal I think the grant is-- there's two different grants totaling about two hundred and thirty thousand dollars for the internet that we're working on give or take I- it's-- I don't have the exact number but it's a little over two hundred thousand for that So we'll see how it goes once the RFP process Now if it costs more than we anticipated then of course that's when I will be coming back to say you know "We need a little extra money to complete the process" or do it in phases so that we could you know whatever money we can get you know have a phased approach to the internet so that

we're cost-effective but I won't know really much anything until after the RFP process.

Senator Telo T Taitague: Well please let me know if there's any issues on the attorney general's side You know maybe I can make a call as the oversight chair you know to try and get that RFP out right away I mean they're very short-handed as well and that's why a lot of the delays are happening with these RFPs you know from his office So you know the-- it- it's really I'm hoping that you guys just really look into making sure that technology is to your benefit because it is It's out there I mean sometimes we won't even have a choice You know that's the direction it's going going to So I have about a minute Good Okay I wanted to ask as well I kinda heard something in the wings about the DOC facility you know the phase one phase two the building of a new d- correctional facility and I'm anxious that that happens I mean we've been doing this for over ten years trying to get that facility up ten years and it hasn't moved So what are the possibility I mean are you looking for any funding to address this build of the new facility or are you just banking on a borrowing that is probably ongoing right now so any funding for that in this budget bill?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: The only funding that that I'm aware of Senator is the one from the Modernization Act the 2021 Modernization Act And I think the main funding that that that's providing is through GITA the EITC But that's long-term It's a leaseback funding source That's what I'm that I'm aware of 'cause I I initiated when I was in my first time around that that Modernization Act but I I'm hearing that there's other plans for building four new buildings where the domes are located which is referred to as the North Prison new facilities where that that meeting with the stakeholders which is DPW GEDA and the front office is still ongoing I know that there's a there's a prison task force that's been developed that is in existence right now and they've been having continuous discussions meetings on a weekly basis.

Senator Telo T Taitague: Can you tell me why the Okay thank you for that So there is no money or Do you request for any kind of maintenance of your buildings here You know when you do you submit your budget bill that you have a set aside not just for capital improvement but maintenance?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: Yeah So we just use the monies appropriate and corrections revolving fund

Senator Telo T Taitague: And how much is that?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: Currently how much is it that we have How much are we giving this One point 1.2 1.1 1.1 right now for this budget –

Senator Telo T Taitague: So far 1.1 for FY '26?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: That's for '27

Senator Telo T Taitague: Okay what about '26 What did you get?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: 936,000

Senator Telo T Taitague: So, there's an increase What about FY '25?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: 1.2 million

Senator Telo T Taitague: And has all this money every year been expended There's no lapses in this area?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: We have no lapses in that area

Senator Telo T Taitague: Okay Do you have any lapses at all?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: We did we had a lapse from last fiscal year and that's mainly the recruitment which is attributed to the delays on recruitment.

Senator Telo T Taitague: Right Do you anticipate any lapses this end of FY '26?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: Un- unfortunately Senator I you know we can't We don't have control on how the recruitment process wor- Right you know how fast it goes We try to use the money as much as we can We we wanna hire as fast as we can but we we don't control the the process itself and that's why we had that lapse Thank you

Senator Telo T Taitague: Okay what was that one question I was gonna ask Oh the counseling why is there a decrease in the cost for caseload what is it casework and counseling?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: We have a decrease Is there a decrease Is there a decrease from last year Do we have a decrease from last year I'm being told by my ASO it's because we lost a clerk position that's why we're trying to hire again an a clerk staff.

Senator Telo T Taitague: But you need the money in order to hire anybody so why wouldn't you include that? Okay so you do have the funding for it Okay Yeah you always need the money in order to hire someone so it's not like you come back later on and ask for it last question that I have was regarding the Oh gosh Okay actually I'll I'll just I'll I'll let it go 'cause my time is up but I'm-- if I remember I'll I'll I'll ask you later but again I appreciate everybody and all your hard work Oh greatly appreciate the things that you do for our community keep us safe My door's always open if the-- anybody wants to call and I know a couple people have called here so still feel free to call if you have any concerns that I can help okay.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Thank you Senator Taitague. Vice Speaker Ada and Vice Chair of the Committee.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Thank you Mr Chair Good morning everyone and thank you for being here and all the hard work that the men and women do up at the Department of Corrections Colonel perhaps maybe what is your anticipated lapses for this FY? This fiscal year what's your anticipated lapses?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: Again it w- it would probably be recruitment because we don't control that process.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Yes I know but the the amount what you anticipated of?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: The other one that we anticipate is the Modernization Act funding which is 5 million.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: 5 million?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: Yes

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: And when was the last time the department rec- put out a recruitment got with DOA for recruitment?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: I think I believe we have 84 applicants a- applications that are still being reviewed right now senator.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: and when was that when was that - When was that 84 sent in?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: I think it goes back to 2025 we had 200 applicants and only 84 are remaining in that 200.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: and that's since 2025?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: Right That's correct Senator

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Has any update been given to you by DOA as to why the recruitment process is taking so long in order for you guys to get some folks on board?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: Senator I think it's because it at least to my understanding all the other law enforcement agencies also have applic- you know followed the same you know process.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Yeah I understand but the folks from DOC have you guys actually asked I I mean GPD everybody else will probably be in the same boat but as to why your process is taking so long or what is what is the the holdup Is it and I think we need to understand if it's on your end or if it's on DO's Department of Administration's end Because what we don't wanna do is we don't wanna asse that you guys are not actively trying to get folks on board into DOC and this is a Department of Administration problem that perhaps has not been brought up to our

attention so that we can help DOA so that they can in turn help DOC. So, that's why I'm trying to figure out where's the where's the the roadblock at Is it at DOA or is it at DOC?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: I can honestly tell you that it's not at DOC Senator

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Okay So without saying it's at DOA?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: Yes Correct Senator

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Okay no problem and does - do you guys owe GMH any funding?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: No we don't the e-everything that we work with in the MOU with GMH it's now a direct funding from DOA to GMH which is an average of about three point six million that we pay them yeah yearly.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: So you guys have zero amount that you owe DO- that you owe GMH?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: That's correct Senator

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Okay and then I know Major Anton was m- you were mentioning about upgrading and getting federal funding for the internet going into DOC

Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections: Yes, We have a grant We applied for it like but working with Lola from BSP and their team over there this was like a three year three years ago three years ago I guess we applied for it and we're going through the RFP process now

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Alright but in your budget here did you guys anticipate any monthly reoccurrence fees for internet and things like that or will you be placing it in or does this grant take care of that funding for a certain amount of years?

Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections: Not- no no Senator we did not do that again this RFP that would go out working with OTech OTech help us design it and stuff and so we're actually gonna go out and and the b- the the vendors will give us the best case scenario and we're hoping you know a combination of certain things to get internet throughout so as of this time we don't know what fees or anything would be I mean I would prefer hardwired There's no fees on that one but it could be a combination just because of the layout of the facility So I'm gonna leave that up to the the vendors to come up with the best case for the facility on based on how we operate and the layout of the facility

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Alright and was your internet or your website or anything hacked this past weekend?

Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections: Yes I went into the website over the weekend and it's it's up and running now this morning I went in there and it's running but yeah it was temporarily shut down over the weekend.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: So was any information compromised from the Department of Corrections?

Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections: I didn't go through the whole everything but I did go through several and I didn't see anything out of out of place but I need to go back and go through every single page and double-check But I still see our visitation schedule and all the other stuff that we had up there It's still there

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Alright And then also on drug testing I know you you said it in your presentation here when was the last time DOC had a one hundred percent drug testing?

Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections: 2023 we did 100% I think it was around September to almost towards the end of the fiscal year but we do have a request pending at DOA but throughout those years in '24 and '25 we've done several random drug testing of employees but we do have another request for 100.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: So, you have another request for 100% drug testing and when's that gonna take place right now?

Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections: Sir the senator that's- Well before the end

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: before the end of the

Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections: Right¸that's with DOA They they'll surprise us They don't really tell us either when it's gonna happen They just say "Okay we're doing it now" so for security reasons probably but it's the request has been made.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: So for '24 and '25 you had random or

Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections: We've had several employees tested random basis and some you know due to attendance issues and some other work-related issues that we've tested you know as part of the the employee process like when they get into an accident or something happens

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Right and did you request for 100% during those fiscal years, no?

Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections: Ye- yes we did sir Yes we did

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: You did and they didn't provide 100% obviously right?

Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections: Yeah we did make the request It's not our first time.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Alright Thank you Mr Chair that's the only questions I had sir Thank you for the opportunity.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* Vice Speaker Ada Senator Shawn Gumataotao chairman you're recognized.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Thank you Mr Chair and thank you DOC for being with us this morning and let me thank you one more time for meeting with us in the pre-budget meeting it was super appreciative to help get ready for this particular budget hearing I only have a few questions I actually got quite quite a number of them but I'll just jp in right now Let's talk a little bit about your

overexpenditure for FY twenty twenty-five What information is available regarding DOC's expenditure of thirty-six point two million dollars by the end of FY 2025 or two million two hundred eighty-five thousand two sixty-four above its appropriation of thirty-three point five million dollars.

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: That's due to medical costs Senator.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Medical costs as in running the actual the GMH side of the house right Or public health-

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: No those-

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: What where where was the medical cost

Roma Okada, ASO, Department of Corrections: Good morning Senator Roma Okada ASO So that's coming from the medical prior year obligations and current obligations.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Alright thanks Roma specific to DOC's request for $2.9 million for overtime payment in FY 2027 which is 19 million above its authorized level in FY 2026 how much did the department pay out in overtime costs by the end of fiscal year 2026 and are there officers who are still waiting on unpaid overtime for FY 2025 and prior fiscal years.

Roma Okada, ASO, Department of Corrections: So currently for overtime fiscal year 2026 we're estimating already at 2.9 million and I'm sorry what was your other question

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: So my my question was how much did you pay at the end of the fiscal year and are there officers still waiting to get paid for overtime for prior fiscal years

Roma Okada, ASO, Department of Corrections: Okay so for prior fiscal years it's at 4.4 million but there are no pending overtime payout.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Alright Thank you Let's talk a little bit about your allotment reserve How is the reservation of the $11.5 million from DOC's FY 2026 appropriations across the general fund corrections inmate revolving fund and the State Safe Streets Fund as of December 31st 2025 how is it impacting the Department of Corrections' ability to plan and pay for personnel equipment contracts utilities and other obligations?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: Senator in discussions with the ASO I I It doesn't impact the department at all because when we do ask for the reserves to be released it's released on a timely basis.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Interesting how the allotments are released but we can't get people hired So I'm just trying to follow the the distinction between the two Yeah So so- recognizing that the reserve report the allotment reserve report from June 30 reported nine million of DOC's FY 2025 budget was withheld including nine million in general fund appropriations how much of its allotment reserve was DOC able to access between July of 20-- July 1st of 2025 and September 30 2025 acknowledging that it was reported that DOC had 11 million available from the corrections officer recruit funding and another four million in unexpended funds appropriated for the new DOC facility at the end of the fiscal year? Were you able to access any of those funds?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: So the four million that you speak about is the Modernization Act monies and then the one point or one million plus is from the recruitment funding source right so again those are dedicated specifically to those accounts
So we're limited in how we use the money That's why it you know sometimes it it lapses.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Okay Thank you for that Let's talk a little bit about the overtime costs recognizing that you were only able to expend one hundred and ninety-eight thousand two hundred and seven of your one point three

million dollar in- appropriation in FY twenty twenty-five for recruits. What recommendations are available to help expedite onboarding challenges if any And has DOC considered alternative strategies in addressing perennial staffing shortages such as relying on private security services for checkpoints DOC's perimeter and other areas of the prison without compromising security requirements.

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: The you know bringing recruits or new officers on board again it it's a systemic issue Senator and it's out of our control that's why the monies remain r- the the monies that are dedicated for that particular reason remain you know and sometimes i- it lapses but to bring to bring up some of the other solutions I think the my predecessor had moved into trying to get detention facility officer positions which doesn't have the the it the the more stricter requirements like hiring for corrections officers and so on by law the mandates that it requires I He went in the at that that type of route you know in trying to bring in more people So that's actually an ongoing recruit- recruitment right now

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: And even in our pre-budget discussions we're talking about when to begin the buying for the for DOC to begin the recruitment it's almost I mean I And I want- We won't go into detail here but it's absolutely important that when we think about when we start those processes starting at the start of the fiscal year versus try to start midway or at the end I mean I think across all the public safety agencies we're finding these are big- some of the bigger challenges of just when to actually start the process w- whether it be recruitment whether it be buying a camera whatever the case might be We just probably need to start looking at different strategies to begin at the beginning and then let this issue become another problem for another agency that has to actually press the button and I hope that you guys can take that back as we go into the new fiscal year And and I know Joe you're probably bringing that back to your other job.

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: Yeah I I agree with you Senator it needs to start early in the in the fiscal year and you know to give the time you know for the process to work I'm not sure for the last recruitment openings that w- and and are s- that are still pending when it started but I know we brought in nine or 10 NineWe brought in nine already currently that are on board and are running around the facilities right now on on training but we still have 36 and I'm not sure where we're at on that I just know that the latest update that we get and we do push I I do ask my administrative staff to to get frequent updates with DOA on where those applications are at like I said we started out with 200 we're we

we're down to 84 that that need to be vetted and then you know get them tested and get them go through-- going through the process.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Thanks Joe let me switch gears a bit to the agreement that you have with the Guam Memorial Hospital The governor through her FY 2027 budget request proposed to appropriate four point two million dollars from the general fund to GMHA for providing health services to inmates regarding those medical services that are provided to them through the GMHA and the DOC agreement to what extent are both entities engaging in developing activities more like maybe requirements maybe that I would suggest for inmates with the intention of keeping them physically active and avoiding the costly medical treatment including dialysis which together with dental services cost taxpayers one hundred and sixty-four thousand dollars annually I know there's a vacancy You mentioned it in your in your presentation on the recreation side But is there anything that we can do to help bring that cost down.

Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections: Yeah Good good morning senators Major Elgin The problem we have with our prison is our prison population is sick They're sick As of this morning we have six people in the hospital between SNU GRMC and GMH six Each one requires one officer per shift So right now I got six officers A lot of our prisoners most of it is on the detainee side

They're they're coming into our facility really really sick and they're sometimes with us less than twenty-four hours and they're getting admitted to GMH We have tried -- We do work with GMH as much as possible to address their medical issues but it goes deeper than just physical activity I mean years of drug use and other things some of them for years have never even seen a doctor until they c-come into our facility we're getting quite a few homeless that are coming in and again they're sick and we have to provide that reasonable care even on their mental health side we're seeing an increase in inmates coming in with mental health issues that's really affecting especially our female unit They're getting hit a lot with females coming in with some mental health challenges So we do the best we can We do have meetings with GMH last week I attended a a tri-agency meeting of GMH and Guam Behavioral to try to address some of this we have explored Medicaid or or Medicare for the prisoners We've also got their part of the GovGuam insurance when it was put out for bid to help cover the costs some of the costs associated with them like while they're in the hospital so- And and

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Thank you for mentioning that tri meeting because it was mentioned in the GMH presentation in their budget this week and do appreciate talking about that of course here with us today now let me just move on because DOC reported through the FY twenty-six budget request a total of seven million in prior year obligations which were all for medical expenses How were you all able to settle a multimillion-dollar debt recognizing DOC did not include any prior year obligations in its FY twenty-seven budget request?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: So according to my ASO here all the the prior year obligations were paid off in twenty twenty-five by DOA even though it wasn't appropriated.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: It's amazing how the governor of Guam can work when asked just the reporting side We're hoping that that can continue across the other public safety agencies which have come to my office have come to this committee come to the finance committee seeking this kind of support and it's just sim- it seems more simple but we have to ask because we're-- we get baffled when we l- come up and look at some of these budgets and and this process becomes very challenging when that is not done and not reported as per public law Let me just spend-- I'm gonna just gonna wrap up Mr Chair 'cause I know I know we talked about lapses I know the CRER talked about you know there were some shortages I know four point seven in FY twenty-five for the new prison but let's talk about that prison for a second You know through the December seventeenth oversight hearing regarding DOC we learned that based on the DOC director's presentation that only three hundred of that one million dollars that was authorized by Public Law thirty-seven one forty-four for immediate repairs has been spent The director at the time appeared to suggest that the balance of that seven hundred thousand might no longer be available to DOC for the purposes outlined in that law He also alluded to the possibility that it is not covered by a continuing appropriation as a as a as we were given in the Public Law thirty-eight sixty the General Appropriations Act of twenty twenty-six Now the Public Safety Committee finds that contrary to the DOC director's understanding section-- the former DOC director's understanding just put it on the record Section one n seven of Chapter Five Public Law thirty-eight dash sixty this is the budget law for twenty twenty-six It provides that the appropriated but unexpended balance from fiscal year twenty twenty-five and prior fiscal years for DOC shall not lapse and shall continue to be available in fiscal year twenty

twenty-six to DOC and shall not be subject to the transfer authority of the *I Maga'låhen* or *I Maga'hågen Guåhan* Importantly the lack of forward movement on the development of a new prison impacts most if not all aspects of DOC operations and continued delays create risk to the folks in this room the folks that are working there the inmates and visitors to our adult correctional facility and to the Hågatña facility. It leads to what we've-- we're hearing today the overtime costs employee burnout which I-- we did not talk about movement of contraband and other things But we've seen a lot of band-aid fixes We need a more permanent fix to the situation affecting our prison But if you can for the record what is the status of the A&E RFP for a new DOC facility which to my understanding was submitted to DPW or yes submitted by DPW to the Attorney General of Guam in October twenty twenty-five. Does anyone at this table have a a status of that RFP?

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: So I know that I spoke with DPW recently and the bidding was canceled for the last RF biddings that that were put out because of the money that was required to my understanding you know how construction costs go up as time goes by initially it looked like the five million was was okay when I first assumed that role you know with DOC and we had the Modernization Act going. It was approved The law was you know going smoothly five million was okay at the time to get the A&E started but now it's built up to like 16 million that would get the the A&E you know ongoing So that's where we're at the money is not available right now for the A&E and it's costly so we're trying to work on that I have meetings continuously scheduled in in and continuous discussions with that As a matter of fact I have another meeting tomorrow so that we know where we're at on that.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: You know and and Joe this is not on you but when we think about where we've been from last summer and the amount of meetings and effort was put in if the button was pressed we would not have a now a $16 million design At the time the f- the five million was enough to move forward for a prison And I'll work with the with the And and we-- the finance chair and I have had numerous discussions about this and we're This as we look forward and moving forward when we're we're given a mandate to do something I'm not saying it's on you Joe that's not what I'm saying but across the government these mandates are important for us to follow and when we wait one month six months four years ten years this makes it even harder for us to pull off what we think w- w- is a priority So I mean what it shows to me as a policymaker as the committee chair that it wasn't a priority to have a new-- to hear about news of a new prison task force shares that

the effort that my committee did was absolutely well I'll just publicly say a waste of time If you want us to help how the hell is it possible The g- the executive branch can do everything I know it's on-- you're not here permanently but the executive branch is not here for much longer either and this branch is committed and has remained committed

We-- you've seen the policies already and Mr. Chairman I don't mean to go down this road and beat this up but in the budget there's gonna be folks that are gonna say "We need to build a new prison" Well it it takes both of us to work together I and I did it in good faith The Committee on Public Safety did it in good faith

I'm hoping that the administration is listening this morning and they can in good faith work with this branch of government to build a prison I I'm at a loss this morning on this but again I I appreciate the presentation today we'll look for ways to do it and I know the finance chair and I and to include the vice speakers also on the public safety committee when we hear this it's-- it gets a little frustrating

But I'm hoping that we can work together and at least try to solve some of these problems that face Department of Corrections now and into the foreseeable future But thank you Mr Chair for the time and again thank you for your leadership in support of the budget effort for all of our public safety agencies.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas:
Si' Yu'os Ma'ase Chairman Senator Shawn Gumataotao Yeah I also concur I just think and I'm just gonna put it on the table as well I mean obviously there's a lot of CIP projects that we want to do out there You know I I've said this before and I'll say it again I I know that it's not the sexiest thing in the public to go out and talk about how we're going to build a new prison but that's not what it's about

It's about the safety and security of our community our officers that really right now it's not a far-fetched thing to say are putting their lives on the line downrange you know in managing a population that is three times and more you know what your capacity is and you know I'm gonna just ask this question again

Anton if you don't wanna answer it fine If you don't fine too but you know the the work that DOC has done and I've I've said this in so many different venues to come forward with a plan that is s- so well-researched well put together and a phased plan that's so s- really user-friendly for the government of Guam to do it baffles me that that that that we're not that we haven't turned dirt yet but when we talk about this

A&E I wanna just make it clear again the balloon not only because of inflation costs and other things is is for the entire plan to have the A&E done Is that correct Anton?

Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections:

Yes yes the facility master plan was submitted in August of 2021 when Mr Carballido was our acting director it went before the legislature They created the Modernization Act right And at the time we-- our goal was to try to do phase one through four which would give us about eleven hundred But due to funding and money we actually scaled it down to just phase one So we went through the whole RFP process We put it out there just for phase one which will be just a little under five hundred beds and then it came in and then there-- the cost of it was I think sixteen million dollars and all we had was five million dollars I think in the future one of the things they can do is when they do the RFP is maybe put a phased approach to the architect itself so that we're maybe able to use that five million in the course of two to three years we'll have a design and then once you get that design the next phase of course you'll have a better idea of the cost of that design and you can work on there But right now again we're still in the early discussion like I said the new prison task force having meetings to decide what route would be the best way to go.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas:

Yeah I hope we can come to a resolution 'cause I think that we're I'm just once again I'm gonna call it I think that we're moving at this pace because there are other projects that are you know much more attractive to go out there and do But the fact is that that's not what this is about Our government has to serve and provide services and get critical needs moving forward based on the critical needs of our people and our public safety and you know to not reward the work that you've done that is ready for primetime I'll continue to work with the chairman and we're we're not gonna involve you in this We'll we'll do our part of the political process But go ahead Acting Director.

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: Senator if I may say you know in defense of the governor of Guam she is passionate about getting this project moving forward the last public safety meeting that I had that's all she could you know say was ask what is going on with the with the prison project right and of course me coming in right I'm just you know taking over again right So I'm doing all the the research on you know what happened you know where we're at So I'm optimistic that we can get this thing going and I I wanna give results to the governor of Guam also because she has the you know the the drive and she she has

the passion She's been asking and she's been pounding you know her fists on the table and asking me where we're at and what do we need to do so I'm gonna give her answers.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: That that's fine Thank you And that's that's what we wanna hear And also we also wanna just make sure that it's fully clear We cannot appropriate on speculation we have to appropriate on the fact that DPW comes forward and said "This is ready for prime time Here's what we need to do" and we can't-- We can only make suggestions in terms of how it gets brought to the table and how we get over this hp of phase one put in so that we can get this thing under construction Because I'm telling you and you guys know this I don't have to tell you what you already know 'cause you've told me this is why I'm passionate about it that phase one will really-- it it'll be a a a sea change in terms of your management of your population your staffing requirements and it will downstream take care of the other fundamentals that you have that you're really crippled with And that's why you know I don't I don't expect phase one you know to turn dirt and oh boy you know watch out because in five years you know we're gonna have a you know a capacity for sixteen hundred prisoners I know that's not reality But I do know that once the first phase is done and that five hundred you know capacity is there and you have all the modern controls of a of a modern-day prison for safety security movement everything else everything downstream of that is gonna improve And so with that I wanted to go to my next question and maybe maybe parole can have something to say about this as well

I wanna-- 'cause I know this has been discussed before on the medical expenses are the are the inmates able to avail of whatever medical benefits they may have in order to handle that or do they need to be released or in civilian situation in order to be able to do that anybody have the answer to that one If they potentially have you know medical benefits that they're that they're eligible for?

Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections: Again we provide -- So our our mo- our most of our population are our detainees We're at five hundred and some of detainees right And so w- but we do provide their medical care We have a few aging out inmates that are b- but their sentence are pretty steep sentence life with parole life without parole they're aging out in the facility And so that's some of our challenge too is dealing with the prisoners with those kind of sentences not to go too into medical of the inmates but we have one that he's life with parole but his full time isn't till twenty thirty or something but he is also taking up a lot of our medical

nee- resources but our hands are pretty much tied on what we can do because of the charges involved right And so we just try to continue with that reasonable medical care and you know try to take care of them as we're required to do It's not because it's you know we're required by the law to provide them reasonable access So that's one of our challenges

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: On the federal facility in our pre-budget meeting we discussed we believe that probably because of the agreement and also of course conditions presently in in in the Northern Marianas have we brought back our federal detainees and is our facility at a level to where it's acceptable at this point?

Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections: So Senator we did we did temporarily put some air cons split units in Alpha block That's where the problem is but the whole building of the federal detention requires a new air con system right And that's where we're doing the MOU with GHURA for their procurement and their expertise 'cause you know within our department we don't have that expertise to help develop the scope of work you know just correction officers and-- But we're going with DP GHURA Sorry GHURA We have a meeting today at two o'clock The MOU between GHURA and DOC was signed last week by the attorney general right Due to the director and I we kept reaching out to him and he finally got it signed and so I have a meeting at two o'clock today to discuss the process and how that's gonna work Now once we fix all those air cons then the federals would more likely return back to our facility from Saipan.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay which produces revenue for the Department of Corrections correct

Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections: Yes yes

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay So how- and- You go ahead Chief

Joseph Carbullido, Acting Director, Department of Corrections: Senator so in addition to that I had a meeting also with the marshall or district court of Guam and he also expressed the same concern of course they they're-- they wanna bring back the detainees that were shipped out because of the HVAC issue So in that meeting I told him that I was gonna you know that would be my-- one of my first priorities was to try and get that HVAC so that's where we're at today We're we're moving along with that and I'm hoping to get that you know going in in several weeks to a

month timeframe hopefully we we get that HVAC fixed but it's a little bit more complicated because there's an electrical issue also down there that's involved with the HVAC So that's why we need the electrical engineering from GURA That's why we decided to go that route.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Sounds good just in closing and two things one is of course that the committee will continue to work with you on this This is this is one of the more dynamic budgets where you know in the pre-budget we've had some back and forth in terms of how you know things are funded and to ensure that the general fund straightaway is recognized for your critical areas So we'll continue to fine-tune this as we go forward we know your needs are great and we wanna make sure-- We also wanna make sure that we revisit once again funding sources that we have appropriated and we believe that are available And you know I'm gonna continue to work with the chairman as well and I'm gonna continue to you know sound the clarion call that really there are a number of projects that consistently within the last five fiscal years because of the revenue tracking and the excess revenue that have been funded through transfer authority and there's no reason why not to do this as we approach now the the final quarters of the fiscal year and we go into this deliberation I'm gonna be asking that question too during the deliberation in the budget We are now in the timeframe to where we are winding down and we can fund these projects and that's the thing you know we can fund these projects because if the funding is there the cash is tracking the lapses are tracking there's no need to play games with appropriation for the next fiscal year when the money's already here. You know let's get that money there Let's get it encumbered because the agency's already done the work to make sure that they're ready to go They got their RFPs in place They've got all their paperwork all they're waiting for is the funding source to be identified So that is one thing I want to assure you We're trying to get as much off the books as possible with the current tracking and do it you know when we already know the way the fiscal year is going that it will not affect in terms of the fund balances going forward and those you know those transfers can be made and then recognized as those appropriations So we want to just let you know we'll continue to work on that with you as well to make sure that all available funding sources are available to make sure that we can get whatever we can done within this fiscal year and then as we contemplate the fiscal year coming in Once again I know on behalf of the committee

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Mr. Chair

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Vice Speaker

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Can I

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Yeah

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Thank you Mr Chair and it was just when Colonel Carbullido brought up about you know in defense of the governor and I truly appreciate that how much ARPA money did DOC receive ARPA funding?

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Yeah your ASO can go on the record It's it's easier with that sometimes.

Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections:
Ms. Roma wasn't here at the time but I don't have those exact numbers I don't wanna give a number and it's wrong but I don't recall right offhand how much But I know we-

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Okay ballpark figure Ballpark

Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections:
I believe it might have been around 2 million or so Give or take

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Did you guys return any of the ARPA funding?

Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections: No - I think around 70 about 70,000 I believe at the end went back.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: 70,000 went back about.

Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections: 70,000 Yeah and the rest were spent on stuff for the prison Yeah Yeah.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Why weren't you guys able to expend the entire 2 million?

Antone Aguon, Major, Department of Corrections: Most of it I believe was in just in supplies and materials for the prison and stuff but I would have to go back and look at my records Senator because I don't recall everything and we had a

different ASO at the time too and a different leadership So I would need to look at my notes and stuff.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Yeah And definitely and the only reason why I bring it up Colonel is that you know in these past years five years six years Guam had so much federal funding over $2 billion in federal funding that could have perhaps we could have seen the groundbreaking of a new prison and this 38th Guam Legislature has worked diligently with every agency that's come before us to ensure that we can at least provide them with the funding that they need and look for additional funding on projects that you know is in is in advance that especially at DOC and you know I I appreciate the governor you know being very passionate about it but it was within her hands that she could have actually done something years ago to ensure that this project at least got off the ground and then we could have turned around and looked for the funding to continue the debt service for I but you know to to say that you know we're here all these years later still trying to turn dirt on it is really unacceptable This is something that especially in this Republican-led 38th Guam Legislature we have really tried diligently even with the even with our hands being tied at times and even last year when we came before the budget for the budget hearing with DOC you know we were you should have seen my text messages as to why we don't support funding for DOC which is wasn't the truth at all and I want the men and women at DOC to know that we worked hard and it wasn't about the budget chairman trying to take away any funding It was ensuring that we had the funding to give to begin with because the 37th and the 36th and the 35th and the 34th all controlled by the Democrats who had the opportunity to give the governor what she needed to ensure that this prison gets built they couldn't come to any agreement and it's unfortunate because it's the men and women at the department who are suffering today because of that lack of you know I mean it it's I just don't get it I really don't So I hope that the passion that she has to to build this this facility you know her term is coming up to an end and that's what that's what it is but I think in the last seven eight months of this term of this administration that they work hard every day to ensure that at least we can turn dirt before the end of the term And for her to at least find that funding to do that It's unfortunate that there's still $104 million that is sitting and perhaps may be lost 104 million Can you imagine if you just had 25 million of that 50 million of that money could have solved the facilities issue up at the Department of Corrections So I just I just wanted to put that out only because

it just it's just concerning to know that we had billions of dollars we had opportunity the past five years and nothing was done So thank you Mr Chair.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* Vice Speaker Ada and vice Chair of the committee and so yeah in closing and the demonstration right now is if you look at GMH. GMH has got-- They came here and they put out their list of projects that we funded We made sure they had the funding source for it close to a hundred million dollars of improvements will be done in GMH within the next by the by the close of this fiscal year really because finally we were able to break through and and and get them moving on their procurements and and identify the funding sources that's what we're here for So with that we wanna just say that we'll continue to be here and ensure that as we track right now of course you saw the CRER fifty-eight million dollars additional revenue So our plan is working Our plan's going forward as we set it out in this fiscal year and so you are certainly on the top of the list in terms of being recognized for movement going forward With that for being here to all the men and women of their DOC that took the time to come out the recruits Awesome work in terms of everything you're doing to try to keep the ship moving forward and so with that Department of Corrections budget hearing this morning is hereby adjourned God bless.

The Budget Hearing was adjourned at [10:31 a.m.].

COMMITTEE REPORT

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) -

INTRODUCED BY

Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam

AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 2:00 P.M.

Guam Fire Department

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 28, 2026

1 message

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Tue, Apr 21, 2026 at 9:54 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com" <stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com>, michaella.ofbguam@gmail.com, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 21, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 28, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Tuesday, April 28, 2026,** beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

2:00 pm

- Guam Fire Department (GFD)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

FIRST NOTICE - GFD.pdf
696K

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 21, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 28, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Tuesday, April 28, 2026,** beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

2:00 pm
- Guam Fire Department (GFD)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 28, 2026

PRINT

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 28, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 04/21/2026 09:53 AM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 21, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 28, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Tuesday, April 28, 2026,** beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** **(https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

2:00 pm
· Guam Fire Department (GFD)

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 budget hearing, please contact the Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas for further assistance via email***

Christopher M. Duenas for further assistance via email at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov (mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov) or by phone at (671) 989-9554.

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Notice of Budget Hearing

Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 2:00 P.M.

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Tuesday, April 28, 2026,** beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

2:00 pm

- Guam Fire Department (GFD)

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

GUAM LEGISLATURE
AUDIO VISUAL DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Office Submitting Request: Senator Chris Dueñas

Date of Request: 4/17/26

POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Ashley Shinohara Contact #: 671-989-9554

Email: senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS

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

☐ Oversight Hearing ☐ Committee Meeting ☒ Other: Budget Hearing

Notice Title / Bill(s) / Resolution(s) / Appointment:
Bill 266-38 (COR) - Guam Fire Dept.

Date of Event: 4/28/2026 Start Time: 2:00 PM AM/PM

End Time: 5:00 PM AM/PM

Location: Public Hearing Room

MEDIA HANDLING

Recording Format: ☒ MP4 ☐ MP3 ☐ Other: _____

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

CERTIFIED BY AV:

Name: Russ Pore Signature: _____

Posted on/Air Date: 4/21/26 – 4/28/26

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 28, 2026

1 message

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Fri, Apr 24, 2026 at 2:53 PM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com" <stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com>, michaella.ofbguam@gmail.com, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 24, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 28, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Tuesday, April 28, 2026,** beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

2:00 pm

- Guam Fire Department (GFD)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

SECOND NOTICE - GFD.pdf
697K

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 24, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 28, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Tuesday, April 28, 2026,** beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

2:00 pm
- Guam Fire Department (GFD)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 28, 2026

PRINT

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 28, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 04/24/2026 02:53 PM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 24, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 28, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Tuesday, April 28, 2026,** beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** (https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

2:00 pm
- Guam Fire Department (GFD)

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 budget hearing, 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.*

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

BUDGET HEARING AGENDA

Tuesday, April 28, 2026 – Guam Congress Building

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam – AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

2:00 pm:

- Guam Fire Department (GFD)

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahån

Date: April 28, 2026 | **Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas** | **Time: 2:00 p.m.**

Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS. Relative to Guam Fire Dept. (GFD)

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Michael Uncangco	GFD	671649-8805	michael.uncangco@gfd.guam.gov			✓	
2	Edward Chaco	GFD		edward.chaco@gfd.guam.gov			✓	
3	Joey San Nicolas	GFD		joey.sannicolas@gfd.guam.gov			✓	
4	Daran Burrier	GFD	671 642 3454	daran.burrier@gfd.guam.gov			✓	
5	Ronnie Chiguina	GFD	"	ronnie.chiguina@gfd.guam.gov			✓	
6	Joseph Tedtaotao	GFD	"	joseph.tedtaotao@gfd.guam.gov			✓	
7	brandon.sanea	GFD	"	brandon.sanea@gfd.guam.gov			✓	
8	Eric Castro	GFD	"	eric.castro@gfd.guam.gov			✓	
9								
10								
11								
12								

FY - 2027 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Budget Guidance

- Meet mission mandates
- Ensure staff are lead, trained, equipped and paid
- Increase efficiency
- Increase capability
- Exercise budgetary & fiscal discipline
- Seek revenue enhancement



Mission



"The mission of the Guam Fire Department is to mitigate threats of Life, Property, and the Environment, through Education, Prevention, and effective response to Fire, Medical and Environmental Emergencies by promoting safety and maintaining a well-equipped, highly trained, and motivated force of professional Firefighters, EMTs, Rescuers, EMDs and non-uniform personnel; and promoting Fire Prevention and other Public Safety Education Programs."

Goals/Objectives

- Timely, effective & quality Fire and Medical Responses
- Continue with National Registered EMT & ProBoard Certification
- Continue to expand GFD's Paramedic Program
- Maintaining Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD) certification and adding Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) certification for E911 Personnel
- Continue Public Safety Education and Life Safety Programs with the Community
- Grow the Self Inspection Program with businesses in the community
- Conduct multi-agency response exercise to assess capabilities

Goals/Objectives (cont.)

- Train and equip the Emergency Hazardous Materials Response Team to prepare against any type of hazardous situation which may become a threat to the island and our community.
- Procure more Emergency response vehicles and equipment.
- Acquire / Construct a maintenance facility for the GFD Fleet Maintenance and Repair Section.
- Increase community outreach programs such as child car seat inspections, station tours, and public education events etc., to strengthen community relations.
- Continue to pursue financial avenues or partnerships to build a GFD Headquarters, GFD Training Facility, GFD Maintenance Facility and a NexGen 911 Center
- Renovate, Repair, and/or Reconstruct dilapidated Fire Stations

Challenges

- High Attrition Rate - Retirements
- Military deployments, medical profiles
- Meet NFPA/OSHA Standards (Two in/Two out rule)
- Increased overtime expenditures

SEPARATION FROM SERVICE/RECRUITMENT COMPARISON

	FISCAL YEAR 2021	FISCAL YEAR 2022	FISCAL YEAR 2023	FISCAL YEAR 2024	FISCAL YEAR 2025	FISCAL YEAR 2026	TOTAL
NO. OF PERSONNEL RETIRE/RESIGN/ SEPARATED	-18	-13	-9	-24	-22	-6	-92
RECRUITMENT	0	33	0	32	15	25	105
NET GAIN/LOSS	-18	20	-9	8	-7	19	13

Note: During this current fiscal year, a total of six (6)have either retired, resigned or separated from government service. Two (2) others have notified GFD of their intent to retire by 9/30/26.

VACANCY REPORT

UNIFORMED PERSONNEL			
POSITION	**FILLED**	**VACANT**	**TOTAL**
FIRE CHIEF	1	0	1
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF	1	0	1
ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF	5	0	5
BATTALION FIRE CHIEF	11	0	11
FIRE CAPTAIN	38	6	44
FIRE LIEUTENANT (FSS)	39	10	49
FIREFIGHTER II	19	15	34
FIREFIGHTER I	104	0	104
FIRE RECRUIT	25	20	45
SUBTOTAL	**243**	**51**	**294**

VACANCY REPORT

CIVILIAN PERSONNEL			
POSITION	**FILLED**	**VACANT**	**TOTAL**
E911 ADMINISTRATOR	0	1	1
EMD SUPERVISOR	4	0	4
EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCHER	17	4	21
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES OFFICER	1	0	1
PERSONNEL OFFICER	0	1	1
SECRETARY II (TYPIST)	1	0	1
SECRETARY I (TYPIST)	1	0	1
PRIVATE SECRETARY	0	1	1
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	0	2	2
DATA ENTRY CLERK / STATISTICIAN	0	1	1
PAYROLL CLERK III	0	1	1
PAYROLL CLERK II	0	1	1
SUBTOTAL	**24**	**12**	**36**

VACANCY REPORT

CIVILIAN PERSONNEL CONTINUED			
POSITION	**FILLED**	**VACANT**	**TOTAL**
HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC SUPERVISOR	0	1	1
HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC II	3	0	3
AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC II	1	0	1
PROPERTY CONTROL OFFICER	0	1	1
PROGRAM COORDINATOR IV	0	1	1
PROGRAM COORDINATOR II	0	1	1
MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST	0	1	1
SUBTOTAL	**4**	**5**	**9**
GRAND TOTAL	**271**	**68**	**339**

Highlights

- Groundbreaking and Construction of the Sinajana Fire Station
- 2nd Paramedic course with (14/25) - completed, (11) - Pending NREMT Testing and Onboarding
- Promotions of (14) Fire Lieutenants (FSS)
- Recruitment of (1) Heavy Equipment Mechanic
- Graduation of (15) Fire Recruits of the 24th Fire Cycle.
- Recruitment and Training of (25) Fire Recruits of the 25th Fire Cycle



Federal Grant Awards

- **Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) FY 26**
  - 153 Sets - Firefighter Turnout Gear - Pending Account Establishment
  - 213 – SCBA Masks - Pending Account Establishment

- **DOI / OIA FY 26 Grants:**
  - EICP – ($4.32M) Fuel Efficient Fire Pumpers – Requisition with GSA
  - TAP – ($400K) Rescue and Response Mobility – Requisition with GSA
  - MAP – ($350) Maintenance and Modernization

- **CPF Grant:**
  - ($113K) – FY 25 Emergency Response Vehicle and Equipment – Pending Account Establishment with USDA
  - ($473K) – FY 24 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses – Requisition with GSA
  - ($450K) – FY 24 Inter-phase pumper truck – Requisition with GSA
  - ($281K) – FY 24 Wildland Firefighting Gear – Requisition with GSA

Ongoing/Future Projects

Grantor	ITEM	QTY	TOTAL COST	STATUS
ARPA	Sinajana	1	10.3M	Construction Phase
Homeland Security	Typhoon Shutters Phase 3 Generators	3 Stations 11 Stations	112K 1.5M	Submitted-In Review Submitted-In Review
USDA	Wildland Fire Gear Pumper Truck SCBA Vehicle and Equipment	199 1 30 1	281K 450K 473K 113K	Requisition with GSA Requisition with GSA Sole Source Submitted to GSA Pending Establishment of Account
DOI / OIA	Wildland Fire Gear Fuel Efficient Pumpers Rescue Apparatus Maintenance Modernization	127 4 1 1	185K 4.32M 400K 350K	IFB Complete/Awaiting Vendor Requisition with GSA Requisition with GSA Market Research / Bid Specifications
BSP	Drone	1	25K	Requisition with GSA

Ongoing / Future Projects



- Full implementation of Paramedic Initiative
- Building of a Rescue Base in Tumon
- Procurement Structural and Wildland Fire PPE
- Procurement of Back-Up Generators for all Fire Stations and Rescue Bases
- Procurement of Fire Pumpers and Ambulances
- Procurement of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)
- Drone Mobile Command Post and Auxiliary Viewing Station

Revenue Enhancement Initiatives

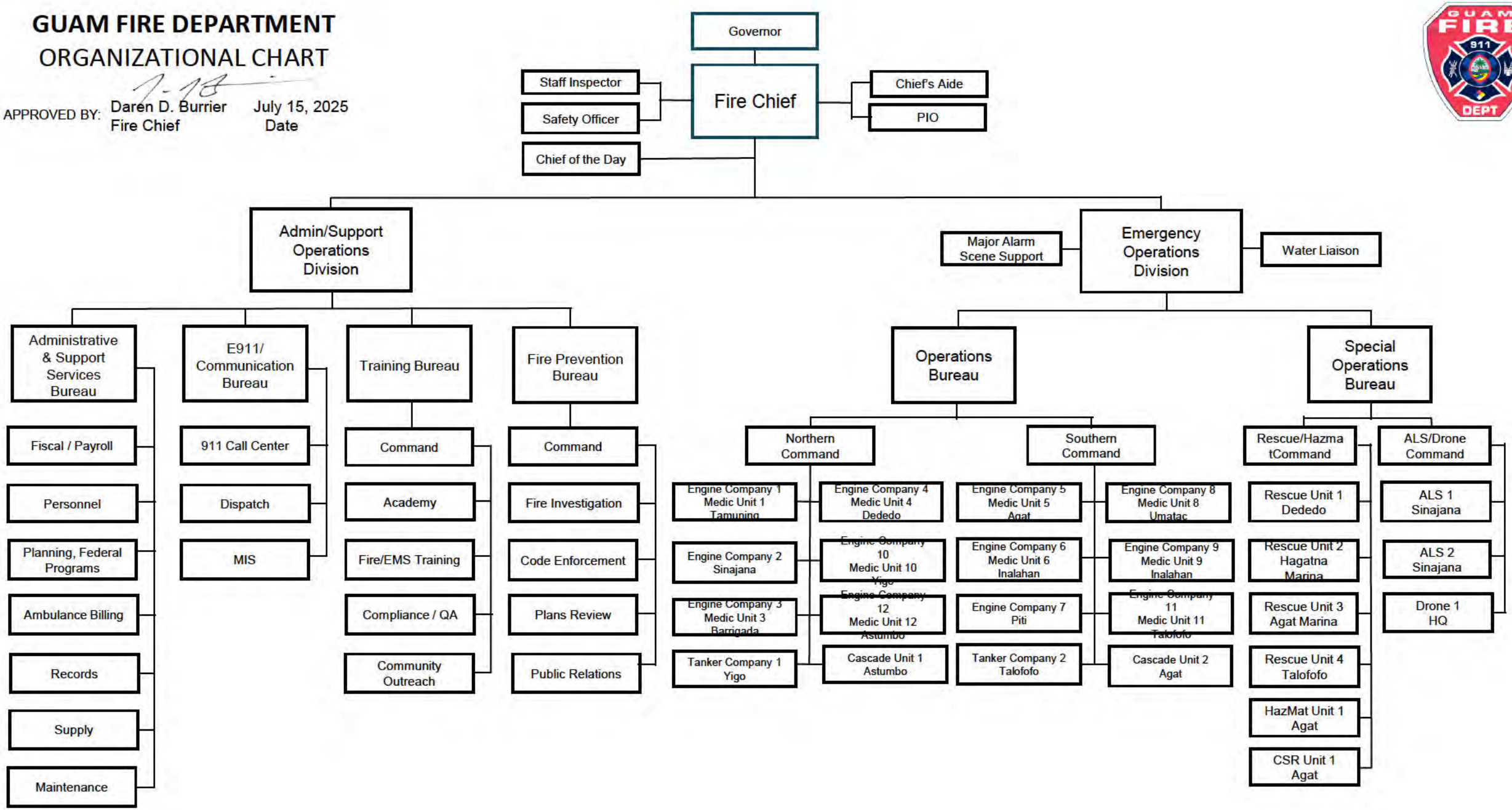
- Fire Prevention Fees and Fines Update (FY 26)
  - Code Enforcement/Inspections
  - Plans and Review
  - Fire Permits
  - Arson Investigation
- Emergency Medical Services Fees (FY 26)
  - Ambulance
  - Advance Life Support
- Rescue Operations Fees (FY 26)
- Fire Suppression
  - Non-Emergency Response
- 911 Surcharge (FY 27)



GUAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

APPROVED BY: Daren D. Burrier, Fire Chief — July 15, 2025, Date





FY-27 Proposed Budget Overview

Executive Summary

FUNDING SOURCE	FY-2027 PROPOSED	FY-2026 AUTHORIZED	DECREASE/ INCREASE	%
General Fund	$41,078,418	$39,906,992	$1,171,426	2.94%
Special Fund (E911)	$1,850,622	$1,905,164	-$54,542	-2.86%
Special Fund (F.L.A.M.E.)	$733,466	$823,578	-$90,112	-10.94%
TOTAL	**$43,662,506**	**$42,635,734**	**$1,026,772**	**2.41%**

FY-2027 PROPOSED BUDGET BY CATEGORY

CATEGORY	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL FUND E911	SPECIAL FUND F.L.A.M.E.
Personnel Services	**$36,840,632**	**$1,846,293**	**$0**
Regular Salaries/Increment/Special Pay	$21,791,993	$1,158,173	$0
Overtime	$4,484,125	$66,171	$0
Benefits	$10,564,514	$621,949	$0
Operations	**$3,544,786**	**$4,329**	**$483,466**
Utilities	**$591,000**	**$0**	**$0**
Capital Outlay	**$102,000**	**$0**	**$250,000**
TOTAL	**$41,078,418**	**$1,850,622**	**$733,466**



THANK YOU

DIPÅTTAMENTON GUÅFI GUÅHAN
GUAM FIRE DEPARTMENT
*Professionalism * Respect * Integrity * Dedication * Empathy*

April 28, 2026

The Honorable Christopher M. Duenas
Chairperson, Committee on Finance and Government Operations
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Thirty-Eighth Guam Legislature
Calvo Arriola Building, Suite 101-B
259 Martyr Street
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

RE: TESTIMONY FOR THE GUAM FIRE DEPARTMENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2027 PROPOSED BUDGET

Håfa Adai, Senator Duenas and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present the Guam Fire Department's Fiscal Year 2027 Proposed Budget.
Before presenting our FY-2027 request, I would like to provide the Committee with the context of this testimony our strategic direction, challenges, accomplishments, and ongoing initiatives. This overview reflects the work of our dedicated Firefighters, EMTs, Paramedics, Emergency Medical Dispatchers, and civilian support staff who serve our island community every hour of every day.
Our guidance remains consistent and mission-focused:

- Meet all statutory and operational mandates
- Ensure our personnel are effectively led, well-trained, properly equipped, and fairly compensated
- Increase efficiency and capability while exercising fiscal discipline
- Pursue revenue enhancement and cost-recovery opportunities
- Leverage federal grants and partnerships to modernize our department

Mission
"The mission of the Guam Fire Department is to mitigate threats to life, property, and the environment through education, prevention, and effective response to fire, medical, and environmental emergencies by promoting safety and maintaining a well-equipped, highly trained, and motivated force of professional Firefighters, EMTs, Rescuers, EMDs, and non-uniform personnel; and promoting Fire Prevention and other Public Safety Education Programs."

GFD remains responsible for Fire Protection, Fire Prevention, Fire Suppression, EMS/Ambulance operations, Wildland Firefighting, Hazardous Materials Response, Search and Rescue, Fire Investigations, International Fire Code enforcement, and the operation of the Enhanced 911 Communications System.

Suite 1001 DNA Building • 238 Archbishop Flores Street • Hagåtña, Guam 96910
Phone: (671) 642-3454 • Fax: (671) 642-2012
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2950, Hagåtña, Guam 96932

Goals & Objectives

Our FY-2027 goals continue to advance the department's modernization and readiness:

- Maintain timely, effective, and high-quality fire and medical responses
- Continue National Registry EMT and ProBoard Fire Service certification
- Expand and fully implement the Paramedic Program
- Add Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) certification for E911 personnel
- Strengthen Public Safety Education and Life Safety Programs
- Grow the Self-Inspection Program for small businesses
- Conduct multi-agency response exercises with local and federal partners
- Train and equip the Hazardous Materials Response Team
- Procure additional emergency response vehicles and equipment
- Acquire a dedicated Fleet Maintenance Facility
- Increase community outreach and public education initiatives
- Pursue partnerships to build a GFD Headquarters, Training Facility, Maintenance Facility, and NexGen 911 Center
- Renovate, repair, or reconstruct aging fire stations

Challenges

GFD continues to face significant operational challenges:

- High attrition due to retirements and resignations
- Military deployments and medical profiles affecting staffing
- NFPA/OSHA compliance, particularly the Two-In/Two-Out rule
- Increased overtime expenditures to maintain minimum manning

From FY-2021 to FY-2026, GFD experienced 92 separations and 105 recruitments, resulting in a net gain of only 13 personnel.

VACANCIES

As of April 27, 2026, GFD has 68 vacancies across uniformed and civilian positions, including critical roles in E911, maintenance, and administrative support. We continue to work towards promoting and recruiting to fill the 51 uniformed vacancies and hope to stabilize our shortages within the next few years.

In regards to the 17 civilian vacancies, GFD continues to search for solutions in recruiting and filling these critical vacancies. We are looking to announce a couple of those positions over the summer.

Filling these vacancies continues to challenge GFD, and I am extremely grateful to the personnel that have taken on additional responsibilities to ensure continuity of operations and the uniformed and civilian members on the frontlines meeting our mission mandates.

Highlights & Accomplishments

Despite these challenges, GFD continues to advance major initiatives:

- Groundbreaking and construction of the Sinajana Fire Station

- Completion of the 2nd Paramedic Course (14 completed; 11 pending NREMT testing/onboarding)
- Promotion of 14 Fire Service Specialists
- Recruitment of a Heavy Equipment Mechanic
- Graduation of 15 Fire Recruits (24th Fire Cycle)
- Recruitment and training of 25 Fire Recruits (25th Fire Cycle)

Federal Grant Awards

GFD continues to aggressively pursue federal funding to modernize equipment and infrastructure:

- **AFG FY-26:** 153 sets of turnout gear; 213 SCBA masks
- **DOI/OIA:** $4.32M for fuel-efficient pumpers; $400K for rescue mobility; $350K for modernization
- **CPF Grants:**
  - $113K for emergency response vehicle/equipment
  - $473K for SCBAs
  - $450K for inter-phase pumper
  - $281K for wildland firefighting gear

These grants significantly reduce the burden on the General Fund and accelerate modernization.

Ongoing & Future Projects

- Full implementation of the Paramedic Initiative
- Construction of a Rescue Base in Tumon
- Procurement of structural and wildland PPE
- Procurement of backup generators for all stations
- Procurement of fire pumpers, ambulances, and SCBAs
- Deployment of a Drone Mobile Command Post and auxiliary viewing station
- Continued pursuit of a GFD Headquarters, Training Facility, Maintenance Facility, and NexGen 911 Center

Revenue Enhancement Initiatives

To reduce reliance on the General Fund, GFD is advancing:

- Updated Fire Prevention fees and fines
- Enhanced code enforcement and plan review fees
- Updated EMS fees (ambulance, ALS)
- Updated rescue operations fees
- Proposed E911 surcharge increase (FY-2027)

These initiatives aim to align Guam with industry standards and support cost recovery.

FY-2027 Budget Request
The Guam Fire Department respectfully requests a total of:
$43,662,506
An increase of $1,026,772 (2.41%) over FY-2026 Authorized Levels

Funding Source	**FY-2027 Proposed**	**FY-2026 Authorized**	**Increase/Decrease**	**%**
General Fund	$41,078,418	$39,906,992	+$1,171,426	+2.9%
Special Fund (E911)	$1,850,622	$1,905,164	-$74,542	-2.8%
Special Fund (F.L.A.M.E.)	$733,466	$823,578	-$90,112	-10.9%
TOTAL	**$43,662,506**	**$42,635,734**	**+$1,026,772**	**2.4%**

General Fund
Supports personnel services, hiring of Fire Recruits, and procurement of emergency vehicles.
E911 Special Fund
Covers personnel services only; does not cover the $2.7M annual NG911 maintenance cost.
F.L.A.M.E. Fund
Supports contractual services, supplies, equipment, and capital outlay for ambulances; does not cover station repairs.

Conclusion
This concludes our presentation. GFD's FY-2027 Proposed Budget sustains our progress, strengthens public safety, and supports the modernization required to meet the expectations of our island community.
The men and women of the Guam Fire Department remain committed to professionalism, readiness, and service. I look forward to working with this Committee to ensure that Guam's emergency response capabilities continue to advance.

The Guam Fire Department sincerely thanks you for your time and continued support.

Very respectfully,
Daren D. Burrier
Fire Chief
Guam Fire Department

Suite 1001 DNA Building • 238 Archbishop Flores Street • Hagåtña, Guam 96910
Phone: (671) 642-3454 • Fax: (671) 642-2012
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2950, Hagåtña, Guam 96932

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

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

In accordance with Section 6.04(c)(1) of the Standing Rules of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, this committee digest provides a *summary* of the public hearing detailed below. To assist the general public in navigating this report, please note that all blue-highlighted text contains hyperlinks. Clicking on these links will direct you to the corresponding referenced sections/documents. For any questions or assistance regarding this digest, please contact our office at (671) 989-9554 or email us at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov.

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) – COMMITTEE ON RULES BY REQUEST OF I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN, THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

I. OVERVIEW

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) was introduced on **February 2, 2026** by **Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam** and was subsequently referred by the Committee on Rules to the **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** on **February 3, 2026.**

The **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** convened a Public Hearing on Bill No. 266-38 (COR) on **April 28, 2026** at **2:00 p.m.** in the Guam Congress Building's Public Hearing Room.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Public Hearing Notices were posted to the Government Public Notices Portal and disseminated via electronic mail to all senators and all main media

broadcasting outlets on **April 21, 2026** (5-Day Notice), and again on **April 24, 2026** (48-Hour Notice).

SENATORS PRESENT

Chairman Christopher M Duenas
Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada
Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao
Senator Jesse A Lujan

ORAL TESTIMONY:

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department
Michael Uncancgo, Asst. Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department

WRITTEN TESTIMONY:

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The public hearing for **Bill Number 266-38 (COR)** was called to order at **2:01 p.m.**

[Questions and Discussion] [*Begins at 0:35:28 and ends at 00:50:00*]

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Bueñas tåtdes, håmyo todos Good afternoon, everyone, and thank you for being here Welcome to the Guam Congress Building, the 38th Guam Legislature, the People's House and this afternoon we will be hearing the budget request of the Guam Fire Department so we'll get started This afternoon's budget hearing is conducted by the Committee on Finance and Government Operations and is called to order now at 14:01 and it's Tuesday, April 28th, 2026 First notice of this public hearing was disseminated to all senators and media outlets on April 21, 2026, with its second notice disseminated on April 24, 2026 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 now hear testimony on the following bill on the agenda: Bill number 266-38, Committee on Rules by the request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the

Governor of Guam, AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS.

This time once again, the focus will be on the fiscal year 2027 budget request for the Guam Fire Department I'd like to recognize my colleagues that have joined us, of course, your chairman Senator Shawn Gumataotao thank you, Mr Chair Yeah and also my colleague here and member of the committee, Senator Jesse Lujan.

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Good afternoon, Mr Chair.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Thank you I would like to welcome my colleagues, and 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 and the nature of the bill that's on the agenda Personal inferences to, as to character or motive of, of any senator in, or individual testifying is not permitted The chairperson of the committee may order the removal from this hearing of any member of *of I Liheslaturan Guåhan* or the public audience who fails to observe proper decorum. This is pursuant to the 38th Guam Legislature's standing rules Any violation of this general rule of conduct will result in immediate removal from the hearing room With that, we will now proceed to the bill 266-38 and the Guam Fire Department who has, had, all of their command staff and others join them, at the table hereand now, gentlemen, could you please, rise to be sworn in, as is, our policy here in the legislature whenever we're, discussing financial matters? And the sergeant at arms will do that, and then we'll get to the testimony Sarge?

Ed Pocaigue, Sergeant at arms, Guam Legislature: Please raise your right hand Under penalty of perjury, do you affirm that any and all information you provide today, whether it be verbally, electronically, and in writing, be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? Mr Chair, you may proceed.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Thank you Chief Burrier, your discretion, either introduce your colleagues or, they can introduce themself and the floor is yours for testimony, Vice Speaker and Vice Chairman of this committee, Tony Ada, thank you for, showing up to this hearing this afternoon Chief, floor is yours

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: *Håfa Adai* Good afternoon, Senator Duenas and committee members I'd like to introduce my command staff that I have with me to my right is Deputy Chief Joey San Nicolas Next to him is, Assistant Chief, Joe Tedtaotao He's in charge of our training bureau and we have Operations, Bureau Chief Ron Chiguina, Assistant Chief Ron Chiguina to my left is Assistant Chief Mike Uncangco, who's in charge of our finance administration, and next to him is Assistant Chief, Edward Chaco, who's in charge of our special operations bureau. Again, *Håfa Adai*

[PLEASE SEE ATTACHED TESTIMONY]

and for any questions, we're here to answer.Thank you

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: *Si Yu'os ma'åse,* Chief Burrier, and I can see that, Chief Uncangco who was able to make our pre-budget meeting, took the message back- Yeah with a nice, very great overview of all of your operational needs and what you're up to because I've, I set the tone for this fiscal year that it's really important for us to concentrate on the budget

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yes, sir

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Your chairman, and, and, and the rest of the 38, I think have done a really good job in, in asking you to come forward, during oversight hearings, to get an update on, everything that your command staff, along with yourself, have been doing we actually noted that, in starting performance-based budgeting, the fire department, measured up against national standards, obviously made a great presentation and, basically had kinda set the tone that, this is what performance, alongside budgeting looks like and, I commend all of this, of, of your staff and, the, the whole operation and, and things that in the past that have led to where we are today and once again, we're very proud of the fire department So with that, I'm gonna ask my, fellow colleagues here today to concentrate on the budget We will set up our five-minute clock and that, the questions will be, they can use their time any way they want, but, this is designed to make sure that, we go over, what the budgetary needs are and so with that, I'm gonna defer to your chairman here, to be able to start, the questions and answers.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Thank you so much, Mr Chair, and thank you to the Guam Fire Department for being with us this afternoon And as, the chairman mentioned, we appreciate Chief Uncangco his discussion with us in the

pre-budget meeting it really is, kind of setting the tone for what we are gonna be doing down the road, and I really do appreciate our, our good chairman for keeping us close to just the budget And if we have to do oversights later, we always can come back, but I think we're focused today is the budget Let me just talk, if I can start with about the, this issue of the allotment reserve as of December, 31st, 2025, how is the reservation of $10 million from GFD's FY2026 appropriations across the general fund, E911, and Flame Fund as of December 31, 2025 impacting your department's ability to plan, pay for personnel, equipment, contracts, utilities, and other obligations?

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: I defer to, Chief Uncangco He's-

Michael Uncancgo, Asst. Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department: Assistant Fire Chief Michael Uncangco you're talking about funds being held in reserve, correct?

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Yes Yes, Chief.

Michael Uncancgo, Asst. Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yes, it has no impact whatsoever funds are released basis-- based on our needs, and BBMR is always quick to release them once we submit a request to them.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Thank, thank you, Chief Let's talk about the firefighter recruits now The FY 2025 budget law, Public Law thirty-seven dash one twenty-five, it appropriated seven hundred and ninety-four thousand and sixty-one dollars from the general fund for firefighter recruits The department had an unexpended balance of one hundred and eighty-one thousand four hundred and sixty-seven dollars from this particular appropriation as of September 30, 2025.

GFD then received an additional seven hundred and ninety-four thousand and sixty-one dollars for firefighter recruits through Public Law 37-35 And the department, according to our records, did not use one penny of the supplemental funding Did GFD spend any of the available funds beyond September 30 twenty yeah, be-beyond September thirty? And if the appropriations were more than what the department required for firefighter recruits in FY2025 , did GFD attempt to access these funds to support other critical needs to include emergency vehicles, equipment, or supplies?

Michael Uncancgo, Asst. Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department: You know, well, basically, sir, yes, we did have access to the funds the reason you see a, a huge

amount of lapses is because of the delay in recruitment in itself That created a lapses So in reality, the supplemental funding that was provided of seven hundred and ninety-four thousand was never needed to begin with.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Alright Thank you, Chief Moving on now, let's talk about the nine one one system, if we can, or the NexGen, because you requested GFD last May for a supplemental two point two million dollar budget for fiscal year twenty twenty-five to cover costs that were associated with the NexGen 911 system updates and continuation of services. How did GFD address this funding requirement, recognizing that E nine one one fund collections during FY2025 was one million seven hundred thirty-nine thousand nine hundred ninety, or one hundred sixty-five thousand one seventy-four less than the adopted FY2025 level of one point nine million dollars? So how did you address that gap?

Michael Uncancgo, Asst. Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department: You're asking how did we come up-

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: How did you, how did you make that payment?

Michael Uncancgo, Asst. Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department: Pardon?

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: How did you make that payment?

Michael Uncancgo, Asst. Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department: We used general funds, sir.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Did you have the authority to spend that?

Michael Uncancgo, Asst. Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department: Which one? The general fund or the 911?

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Did you have the authority to spend that money for the 911 system?

Michael Uncancgo, Asst. Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yes We exceeded the general fund in, the special fund in itself in terms of our expenditures that was basically on the projections we had made But we needed to pay Tito, which is the

contractor for 911, prior to the ending of this, fiscal year So we had to, arrange funding and everything and use, general fund under contractual services.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: So for the record, you're saying you had the authority to spend general fund money to pay for the E nine one one system?

Michael Uncancgo, Asst. Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yes, sir We did have the authority.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Now, acknowledging the collaboration between m-my committee, the Public Safety Committee, and GFD to identify funding for a 911 rate study through the Public Utilities Commission, has the department attempted to engage the PUC on this particular matter, knowing that 12 GCA Section 1232 authorizes the entity on its own initiative to examine the adequacy of the surcharge at any time?

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: I, I had contacted them, after the last time we had the discussion, and it was the same thing that they informed, is that they would need to do a consultant to do a study And so that's what we're preparing now, um, with the next fiscal years to be able to allocate that funding to be able to, to pay for that consulting

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Alright Thank you, Chief I'm, I'm just gonna just go, if I can, in my time remaining to talk about prior year obligations You notified the Guam Legislature, GFD did, of its settlement of prior year obligations, including but not limited to a November 2025 payment to a local car dealership amounting to $41,000, $7,600 to a local telecommunications company in September 2025, $1,300 to a local car dealership in September of 2025, $3,000 to a local garbage collection company in September '25, and $5,700 to a local telecommunications company in June 2025. Has GFD coordinated with the Guam Recovery Office? I'm, I'm certain these must be storm-related Have you-- can you confirm whether you, the prior year, I guess, obligations, if you will, related to these storm costs are reimbursable by FEMA? And if so, what is the status of any pending payments to GFD personnel who, which could include some interest relative to any payments, um, attached to the typhoon? I, I'm, I'll just say the Typhoon Mawar response

Michael Uncancgo, Asst. Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department: I don't really understand your question, sir You brought up something about payments made, use-- under prior authorization or prior year's obligation.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Yeah, I can- No go through my, I can go through my letters from the chief-

Michael Uncancgo, Asst. Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yes Okay

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: On these obligations Monster Auto Corp, DoCoMo Pacific, Triple J Motors, Lagu LLC Yeah, those and DoCoMo, those are those, those are the payments I'm asking about.

Michael Uncancgo, Asst. Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yes, we did pay all those, prior year obligations However, the only, pending issue is the compensation for previous storms that in itself was not, approved by FEMA for reimbursement, so we were basically trying to find within our budget to, compensate individuals Mind you now, about 80% of the personnel that are involved in this are no longer w- with the fire department.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Got it And my last question, Mr Chair, regarding the $12,000 prior year obligation for communication maintenance services, has the vendor filed or attempted to file a claim, a Government Claims Act against the government of Guam for this debt which has been due since FY 2016? This is not a storm related one, but it goes farther back than that

Michael Uncancgo, Asst. Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department: No, those have been paid Everything you see on the No, actually, sir, I'm sorry What I'm looking at is what we submitted for this fiscal year, but we're working on paying more of that The problem here is not compensate- not the availability of funds, but us receiving the invoices from the vendors So we've reached out to the vendors If they claim that they haven't, have not been paid, then we ask, reach out to them and ask them to submit the invoices to us Some of the invoices may be questionable, so that's why there may be a, that may have caused the delay in paying them.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: No, no, thank you for the explanation and when I think about the use of, and I'll wrap it up with this, Mr Chair, when I think about other agencies that they come here, and to be able to spend above their authorization, I mean, the policy is the policy I'm still a little, puzzled at times, in

my new role how people can still pay back some, for some services that were delivered without the authorization my concern is that, if, if there's an issue, and I think it's, it's pretty clear, you just go to the office of the governor, ask for the, you know, to, to use her transfer authority She's got plenty of it And if you have those obligations, I'm hoping that you engage them and I mean, you can come here all day and you can ask for money, but really, the governor of Guam has the authority to make these particular types of payments moving forward, Chief, and I would tell you, for the balance of this fiscal year, if those come to your, your way, that you do not hesitate you go to the office of the governor and ask for that help because quite frankly, we are seeing it We just pe- need people to report That it's actually happening So it doesn't impact your operations, and it doesn't affect the ability of the firefighters in your department from doing their job And at least the governor can stand in the gap for you all, and then very honestly can say, "Hey, this is what I paid for, and I document it back to this body and to the people of Guam" So I just wanted to say that, and thank you again for your support Thank you for all the work that you've done, in this budget, and we appreciate you guys coming down and talking with us today Mr Chair, that's all the questions that I have, and I appreciate, again, your time today.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse*, Senator Gumataotao Senator Lujan, you're recognized.

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Thank you very much, Mr Chair, and, good afternoon, Chief, and, and to your team as well Chief, what is the, the, the average age of your, your fleet, and how many of the frontline apparatus exceed replacement, standards you have?

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: As far as the fleet, when you look at our, ambulances, we have four ambulances that were purchased within the last, year and a half, when I first took office Otherwise, the other ones we've got, we just got a couple that were, we acquired after the Navy released them, and they're, they're of, within, like, a, the first 20,000, 25,000 miles, but they also have some hours on their engines and we're working with those now, and we're working also on acquiring new ones as far as the firetrucks, I believe the, the average age of our firetrucks is 15, 15 to 20 years, but we got two that are two years old So, and with these new grants that we have, we'll be able to replace those, and then take the older ones and actually, service them and keep them for backups, for when we need them.

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Okay So your, your, your, your, um, equipment is being regularly serviced then at, at this point? You don't have any maintenance gaps at, at, at this point that maybe some of your units may be out on a daily because of, maintenance gaps because maybe- Well- you don't have enough money to, to, to get that done or?

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: We- yeah, we're, we're meeting our, our maintenance, gaps for the most part of course, we do have our challenges Mm-hmm we do have unexpected downages- Sure of units Like currently, right now we have seven ambulances operating on the island, and but we do have problems with that where one can go down for electrical, but at least we have, ones in reserve, at least one in reserve at all times in order to make operational the engine units, it's takes a little bit more specialty care when certain things go down, so they can be down But we've addressed a lot of those in the last year, in order to bring them back up into service, and that's why we have nine fire trucks operating right now And so what will really benefit us is when we get these, new trucks in, we'll be able to m- we'll be able to, put our older fleet into a, a thorough maintenance, overhaul, and then, either decide to, DROMO them or be able to keep them as a backup unit or keep them at a lower, response station.

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Okay Um, I'll be remiss if I didn't ask this question, too, as the chair of, of, of tourism Um, what is your coordination like, with the Guam Visitors Bureau or, um, or GHRA or, or major hotels actually, during emergency, and what does your emergency protocols look like, and, and are they in place, um, with the, with, with GVB, GHRA, and the major hotels in regards to major emergencies?

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yes well, one is our fire marshal is on the, Guam Restaurant, Board, and he takes part in, in interacting with, hotels And we are in, good communication with GVB as far as the need for emergency response within our tourism area In fact, we have been in talks with them about, creating a rescue base and, Senator Gumataotao has also been involved with us in, in building a rescue base in *Matapang* Beach area, and that would reduce our response time for emergencies into Tumon area by at least, 20 minutes, 15 to 20 minutes at the minimum, if not more we'll have rescue units there be able to get into the water within the first five, 10 minutes, which is crucial.

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Okay A- and likewise, have you modeled, incident loads, tied to visitor arrivals, when, when there is a surge? Of course, what surge or, or plan activates a, a spike in, in, in arrivals?

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Well, mainly it, it is a lot of, making sure that we do in- that there's an increase in visitor awareness of, of the dangers of the ocean, you know? And then being able to-- because when we do have a spike, then we have a more of a probability that there's gonna be a distressed swimmer or a kayaker, whoever, whenever they go over the reef or, whatever we have but for the most part, we maintain our readiness level at all times, and, we just I- if we need to, we'll posture, like if it's like Golden Week and we know there's gonna be a lot, we can pre-position our rescue units down at *Matapang* Beach, area for a certain period of time to make sure we're covering there So we do have response, response possi- policies that we would be able to, captivate in case of a higher risk.

Senator Jesse A Lujan: And, and the reason why I ask this is because I, you know, I, I know that, Parks and Recreation are really-- are challenged Their, their manpower is really challenged And, I know their, um, their lifeguards are, um, are pilfered by, A lot of them go to the, the, on, on the federal side, you know- to be lifeguards over there and stuff like So they have the challenge maintaining their, their lifeguards So do you augment their, their guards, and, and, and how do you-- how is that done if there's augmentation to, to, to that 'Cause I know they I mean, you know, looking at this is, you know, is You know, should we recon- should we consider, lifeguards being placed somewhere else a- and all that? I mean, to be able to have, you know, the cross-training and, and, and the manpower to be able to augment that So what, what are your thoughts on, on, on that?

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: I know that, that, that discussion, I, I know I've had that discussion in, in the past- Mm-hmm um, in my different capacities there was discussion where the lifeguards would want to be part of GFD, part of our rescue unit And that creates a whole different situation-

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Sure

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: 'cause our training is, is different

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Sure

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: I'd be open to discuss with Parks and Rec about any kind of cross-training to help, bring their lifeguards up to a different level that could work better with our, our rescue personnel, and that way, working in concert Because I do know when their lifeguards are responding, and they're there, they do a very capable job I know they've had a-

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Sure

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Few good saves.

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Yeah, yeah

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: But it would enhance our ability in our responses with them So a conversation with Parks and Rec and their lifeguards, and then determining, how to best, utilize them and maybe im- increase their, their capabilities would be-

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Yeah

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: would be something,

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Yeah No, no, yeah,

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: by no means

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Am I saying that, that their lifeguards are not, uh- Yeah are, are, are not up to par of d- I mean, to, you know, to the-

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Oh, yeah It, it's just that- They do a very valuable job,

Senator Jesse A Lujan: though at, at times they're overwhelmed

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yes

Senator Jesse A Lujan: You know?

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Very much yeah Yeah

Senator Jesse A Lujan: And so I'm just wondering, you know, how can we, how can we augment, you know, their services, knowing that there's, just limited amount and, and then maybe on the daily you may have some sick, sick calls and all that And, and so, you know, during a spike, I mean, we're, we're looking to inc- increase tourism, right?

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yeah

Senator Jesse A Lujan: And so with, with that being said, we, we, we also need to keep our water safe and, and provide the, the, you know, the, the manpower to be able to do that Right So how, how do we best, do that to augment, you know, the, the shortage that they have?

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yeah I, I guess, that would, have to engage in conversations-

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Sure

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: And, and discuss it 'Cause I do know even on a spike in ours, in order to augment them or like, say, have one of our rescue personnel, watch the beach if they're not available, that creates then a burden on us when we're responding to-

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Sure

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: both hikers- Sure boaters And so we- it'd be a discussion that would probably be very valuable to have, and then maybe they would come up, come up with some kind of solution to help each other out.

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Okay A- a- and, and my last question basically, are your men and women, um, pilfered by the, by the federal government too as well? I mean, because I have that challenge-

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: No

Senator Jesse A Lujan: with, with CQA

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yeah, we don't, we don't, have a, a prolific, uh-

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Okay

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: exodus of people Our exodus is through retirement-

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Okay

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: or relocation But, for the most part, they're very happy And from what I've been informed, you know, talking to them, they're very happy with their service that they're providing to the people of Guam They're very professional about it

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Sure Sure

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: And, you know, very dependable And we do have a younger department these days with our, our increase in recruits that we've- Yeah graduated.

Senator Jesse A Lujan: And thank you for that, 'cause, you know, again, you guys are our front liners and, and all that, and we need to make sure that we give you, again, all the, the mechanism, the tools you need to be able to, to retain your, your folks And I just wanna make sure 'cause, you know, one of my agencies is greatly challenged with that And-

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yes

Senator Jesse A Lujan: you know, when, when a valedictorian, in a class, you know, a week after graduation is- moves to, to the federal side-

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yeah

Senator Jesse A Lujan: that's a wake-up call for us, right?

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yeah Definitely A- and I would have to attribute my, my leadership here at the table that provide really outstanding

leadership and, for those, for the firefighters out there in the field that allows them to have that positive, mor- morale that's happening and and their willingness to wanna come into work 'Cause it, it reflects directly on the leadership that's in place.

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Yeah

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: And then them doing what they do, it reflects directly on us wanting to be there to help them.

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Yeah Well, I think in, in, in their, in their, in their position, there is, is I think it's the pay equity-

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yeah

Senator Jesse A Lujan: with, with that I think, um, yeah, that, that's one of the main things at, at, at this point And, you know, they're not to be blamed, right? They got, they got mortgages to, to pay and, and-

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yeah

Senator Jesse A Lujan: You know, bills and ha- and ha- and kids to put to school

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yeah

Senator Jesse A Lujan: So it's that-

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yeah, I think our, our pay of our firefighters is equitable

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Yeah Yeah Well, thank you very much, Chief, and, and to your team Thank you very much for job well done

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Thank you

Senator Jesse A Lujan: And, and, again, for, I mean, just getting us through this, this storm and, and hopefully, you know, prayers that this, this, this brewing again doesn't, you know, just dissipates, right? Just-

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yes

Senator Jesse A Lujan: goes away But thank you again for-

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Thank you

Senator Jesse A Lujan: All you guys do Thank you very much Mr Chair

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Thank you,

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse*, Senator Lujan Vice Speaker Ada, you're recognized.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Thank you, Mr Chair Before I start, can we set the clock to 30 minutes instead of five? I want 30 minutes- with these guys.

Unknown Speaker: He said three minutes.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Three minutes instead of five No It's fine Thank you Chief, thank you for you and your, your team coming down for your budget hearing this morn- this afternoon Just perhaps a couple of questions I may ask you mentioned that you acquired four new ambulances in the past year and a half or so?

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yes Since I came in, we were able to acquire four ambulances.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Did those come with maintenance contracts?

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yes, they did.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: They did? All right And you said there's total of seven operating currently on-

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Correct

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: On the streets How many ambulances are down?

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: So the, of the ones when we first got the four ambulances, we were running on old ambulances that were going down daily So one of those are still operational, and that would be another five that are needing r- repairs, and they're not operational we have one that's, that should be a backup right now And then we have two that we, are operational that we just acquired from, DNR through the Navy.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: I see Okay the other, the other, question I had is currently your *Sinajana* station is being constructed, and I see that Homeland Security, you put in for generators Is the new station gonna have generate, a generator, and water tank there for, on the construction phase? Did you guys request, request for that or-

Joey San Nicolas, Deputy Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department: So because of the, the grant award Senator, *Sinajana* Fire Station did not exist as far as that new station Right Um, it wasn't, it wasn't accounted for in the generators for that particular grant But it is on the list for future, procurement.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Okay So are you requesting, um, also for, water storage tanks at every fire station?

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: well, right now we're planning on getting at least the power to go At least the power?

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: At least the power? Yeah

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yeah A- and we will incorporate, all the other, independent, operational things that we, we're able to maintain ourselves

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Yeah, I think, you know, only because of the fact, right, a lot of times when power goes out, our water goes out and- you know, wanna make sure everyone at the station is, uh- nice and healthy to, respond to emergencies when they can And, you know, water is essential as much as it is power, right?

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yeah It would be, it would probably be the most advantageous thing to have enough water to fill the truck a few times- Yeah and also for the station Yeah But, yeah, those are challenges that we'd have to look at and see exactly how we'd wanna have for a water tank.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Okay And then also on your *Sinajana* station with the, um, personnel that you currently have, will you be able to man that station as well, or is that where you're looking to get new recruits and new personnel on board so that once that station comes on board, then online, then you'll be able to have-

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yeah

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: new personnel?

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Well, by the time the, the station is completed in December, these, our recruits that we have now will be close to re, to, um, graduation, and we should be able to man our station with the engine unit and, ALS units that will be there.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Oh, that's great to hear And then ALS, how many A- ALS, vehicles do you have?

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: We have two ALS units right now.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: And they're both operational?

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: yes, they are

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Okay The only You know, I, I've noticed, do you guys have a, a ladder truck or, uh-

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: No

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: I, I remember back in the day they used to have a ladder truck

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yeah

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Do we respond to emergencies like in the hotel district or-

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Our, our, engine units that, would respond to that, they have what's called high-rise packs So the firefighter would then grab the high-rise pack, and they would go through the stairwell, the fire es- escape areas, carrying the high-rise pack So if there's a fire, let's say, on the 15th floor, they would go to the 16th floor, hook up, and then come down and, and fight the fire

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Oh, okay That's good to hear the last question I have is, did you hire any personnel under ARP funds? And have those personnel What happened to them if they were transferred over to general fund?

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: No, we didn't hire anybody through ARP funds.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Good to hear That's great to hear Okay That's the only questions I have Mr Chair, thank you I don't need the remaining, 27 minutes and 28 seconds.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* Vice Speaker, and thank you so for perspective, what I like to do is go through your three year, your prior year expense and encumbrances, your current year, and then of course your request, just for, to understand how we've supported and what your expenditure levels were So in fiscal year 2025, um, expenditure and encumbrances, we have a grand total of 38,897,000 So, fiscal year '26, your, your authorized level is, 42,635,734 Your current request for 2027 is 43,662,506, same as the governor's request And as you mentioned the variance being, a little bit over a million dollars, 1,026,722 so when I look at this, I really look at the variance between the 2025, what you actually spent and encumbered during that time, and the authorized level and the variance of course, on the request, for 2027 is, is about 47 million so we're gonna work, to get there I wanted to go through Where you are on your footnotes Chief Uncangco, during our meeting, you mentioned, that you wanted to ensure that you had appropriated, was it prior year or the Flame Fund? have you included that in this, spreadsheet so that you can use that, during fiscal year '27?

Michael Uncancgo, Asst. Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department: No, sir When I mentioned, a request to grant us authorization to use the unexpended, unappropriated fund balance, that wasn't included this, it's not included in that spreadsheet I provided.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay So, uh-

Michael Uncancgo, Asst. Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department: But I do have the fund balance-

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay

Michael Uncancgo, Asst. Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department: today if you, if you would need that

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay So we'll work with OFB to see whether or not just, we're gonna make sure they note that so that whether or not that's in miscellaneous appropriations or if it's, included, in the final, chapter, of, of the budget with the bill that we'll be reporting out

Michael Uncancgo, Asst. Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yes

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: we have noted that for the record then, as your testimony here today to make sure you guys have that money available for expenditure.

Michael Uncancgo, Asst. Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yes, sir

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: So going back to your footnotes again, just for purposes of understanding, where we're at, it looks like inclusive of fiscal year '24 and '25, fire cycle, '24 fire cycle started in September 2024, and it used 2022, general fund surplus one point seven million So you were able to exhaust that for that recruitment, correct? Yeah, I just wanna make sure that that's, that's what happened So that one, that general fund surplus of one point seven, that was how you did the, um, 2024 fire cycle? Yes Okay Um-

Michael Uncancgo, Asst. Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yes, sir

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: So going forward now, just to make sure that you understand, and I know you've represented it, but we wanna make sure it's on the record right now we're looking at inclusive of this budget, one point one million, for FY twenty-seven, twenty firefighter recruits, correct?

Michael Uncancgo, Asst. Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department: Correct

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Correct

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay Okay, so that will take care of your cycle for twenty-seven Um, also includes, in progress, four admin and support services Is that correct?

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Correct

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: And the reason why I'm doing this is because it was part of your presentation in terms of your requests on making sure that you get your fire cycles and also that you backfill, your civilians I wanted to make sure that we were on the record of has-- having supported that, and it's built in, to your budget Okay, and this is something that we wanna also make sure always happens The-- Un-under item six on footnotes is includes twelve promotions, one fire captain, four fire specialists, and seven firefighter twos, correct? Is that all the promotions?

Michael Uncancgo, Asst. Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department: Where is that at?

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: That's what we have in our notes, is that, uh- Those are discussed your plan, um- One captain.

Michael Uncancgo, Asst. Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yes, sir, and that's for-- that's on the projections I submitted to OFB.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay Yeah As-

Michael Uncancgo, Asst. Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yes,

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: So, you got promotions, later-

Michael Uncancgo, Asst. Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yes, those are ongoing right now

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay And then we also got eighteen promotions, again, five fire captains, five fire service specialists, and seven firefighter twos

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yes

Michael Uncancgo, Asst. Fire Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yes, sir

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Yeah, sorry, six fire service specialists, okay?

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Okay

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: And that always helps so that the guys in the lower ranks can be looking forward to promotion as al- and also clearing out for additional recruits under firefighter one, correct?

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Correct

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Good And then we also include, because we have, retirement in or, or recruitment in progress for two emergency medical dispatcher, correct?

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Correct

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: And Well, two

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: So on your fire 2026, or on your FY 2026, you currently have 13 million, which is your firefighter recruits, the 20 recruits currently, right?

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yeah, 25 recruits currently

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Good Yeah All right So you know, for me, the only other major question I have when we handled the Flame Fund, I think I know the answer, but I gotta put it on the record 'cause we gotta introduce some, entertain some legislation going forward do you have, throughout your, all of your operations and all of your manpower, do you have those who are over 320 hours in terms of annual leave, accrued?

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yes I have Believe I just got the list, and if I recall the number, it's about 142 that are above the 320 I just had our, um, HR person put together the listing-

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay, good

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: As requested by Senator Gumataotao in an email So I'm just getting the other information that he requested to give him But yeah, we have people ranging in between, like, four or five hundred hours all the way up to 1,800 hour.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay I've been hearing from, and I don't, I, this is why I, I need to get a clarification on the attorney general's o- opinion, but was, were you under the impression, 'cause I'm trying to figure out how we got here were you under the impression that there was an exemption on, on law enforcement, um-

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yes

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: is, is, is that, so is that? 'Cause I'm, I, I'm, I'm still trying to figure out how- Yeah the, how the allo- how it was allowed to be approved.

Daren Burrier, Chief, Guam Fire Department: Yeah I was, I was under the impression there was an exemption Um, I'm not sure the whole history on it because I do know there's a point where, we always reverted back to 320 then there was a point where they allowed us to put 100 to sick leave, and then there was another point to where all of a sudden, we just, it was all banked Uh-

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay And that's great 'cause that's gonna allow us to figure out what to do, at least for the first iteration of the legislation We're not gonna let you lose that of course, it can't happen Mm-hmm We're, we're gonna take care of you guys But what we wanna do is we gotta make sure kinda when we hear that bill, what we got right now in front of us, the possibility is, just forwarding it a year so that we can evaluate what we need to do So just- Yeah make sure that the first thing we do is pass it so that there's another year to exhaust it And then, you know, as, as, as you say, when we use the historical you know, data on what happened in the past, you know, possibly we'll hybrid that with the ability to, contribute to sick or, you know, a, or, or, or figure out how to do that and then set where we're actually at and how we're gonna do this going forward So thanks for letting us know, and thank you for responding to the chairman in terms of, um, you know, that, that you'll get us that listing so when we contemplate the bill, we'll know exactly what we're looking at government-wide Other than that, guys, we wanna

once again ex- express our appreciation to all that you do we, as we go, we certainly have a number of different, premier law enforcement and, and as well as, you know, the firefighters and the medics and everything that you guys do, and we're s- we're certainly proud of all the work that you're doing And, we shouldn't have any major issues with your budget request as I said, we've been supportive going forward, and, and we look forward to continuing that So with that, this budget hearing for the Guam Fire Department, has been conducted and completed for fiscal year 2027 without any other questions from the committee, we'll consider this, budget hearing having been heard and adjourned at 2:49. *Si Yu'os Ma'åse.* We're adjourned.

The Budget Hearing was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORT

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) -

INTRODUCED BY

Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam

AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

Monday, April 27, 2026, at 9:00 A.M.

Guam Police Department

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 27, 2026

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Mon, Apr 20, 2026 at 8:57 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com" <stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com>, michaella.ofbguam@gmail.com, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 20, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 27, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, April 27, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Guam Police Department (GPD)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

2 attachments



38 GL LOGO.jpg
262K

FIRST NOTICE - GPD.pdf
692K

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 20, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 27, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, April 27, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
- Guam Police Department (GPD)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 27, 2026

PRINT

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 27, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 04/20/2026 10:51 AM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 20, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 27, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, April 27, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** **(https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
· Guam Police Department (GPD)

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 budget hearing, 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.

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Notice of Budget Hearings

Monday, April 27, 2026, 9:00 A.M.

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, April 27, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Guam Police Department (GPD)

2:00 pm

- Customs & Quarantine Agency (CQA)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

GUAM LEGISLATURE
AUDIO VISUAL DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Office Submitting Request: Senator Chris Dueñas

Date of Request: 4/17/26

POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Ashley Shinohara Contact #: 671-989-9554

Email: senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS

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

☐ Oversight Hearing ☐ Committee Meeting ☒ Other: Budget Hearing

Notice Title / Bill(s) / Resolution(s) / Appointment:
Bill 266-38 (COR) - Guam Police Dept. & Customs & Quarantine

Date of Event: 4/27/2026 Start Time: 9:00 AM AM/PM

End Time: 5:00 PM AM/PM

Location: Public Hearing Room

MEDIA HANDLING

Recording Format: ☒ MP4 ☐ MP3 ☐ Other: _____

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

CERTIFIED BY AV:

Name: [illegible] Signature: [illegible]

Posted on Air Date: 4/20/24 — 4/27/24

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 27, 2026

1 message

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Thu, Apr 23, 2026 at 8:55 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com" <stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com>, michaella.ofbguam@gmail.com, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 23, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 27, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, April 27, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Guam Police Department (GPD)

2:00 pm

- Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--
Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

---

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

SECOND NOTICE - GPD-CQA.pdf
350K

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 23, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 27, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, April 27, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
- Guam Police Department (GPD)

2:00 pm
- Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 27, 2026

PRINT

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 27, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 04/23/2026 08:56 AM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 23, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on April 27, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Monday, April 27, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR) (https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
· Guam Police Department (GPD)

2:00 pm
· Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA)

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***

accessible to individuals with disabilities. If you or anyone you know requires assistance or special accommodations to participate in the budget hearing, 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.

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

BUDGET HEARING AGENDA

Monday, April 27, 2026 – Guam Congress Building

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam – AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

9:00 am:

- Guam Police Department (GPD)

2:00 pm:

- Customs & Quarantine Agency (CQA)

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahån

Date: April 27, 2026 | **Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas** | **Time: 9:00 a.m.**

Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS. Relative to Guam Police Dept. (GPD)

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Paul V. Sayama	GPD		paul.sayama@gpd.guam.gov	✓		✓	
2	Maggie Naputi	GPD		magdalena.naputi@gpd.guam.gov			✓	
3	Barbara Castro	GPD		barbara.castro@gpd.guam.gov				
4	LeRoy Pleum Guerrero	GPD		leroy.leonguerrero@gpd.guam.gov				
5	Shirley Ael Rosario	GPD		shirley.aelrosario@gpd			✓	
6	Nellie Asanuma	GPD		nellie.asanuma@gpd.guam.gov ✓			✓	
7	David Flickinger	GPD					✓	
8	Felix M. Camacho J.	"		Alix.camacho@gpd.guam.gov			✓	
9	Capt. Castro	"		cristobal.castro@gpd.guam.gov			✓	
10	Troy B Lizama	GPD		troy.lizama@gpd.guam.gov ✓			✓	
11	Tim Sanchez	GPD		timothy.sanchez@gpd.guam.gov ✓			✓	
12	Jason Aguon	GPD		jason.aguon@gpd.guam.gov			✓	

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahån

Date: April 27, 2026 | **Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas** | **Time: 9:00 a.m.**

Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS. Relative to Guam Police Dept. (GPD)

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Anthony Chaco	GPD	671 635-0041	anthony.chaco@gpd.guam.gov			✓	
2	Edward Chaffeuns	GPD		edward.chaffeuns@gpd.guam.gov			✓	
3	[illegible]	~~GPD~~	[illegible]	[illegible]			✓	
4	Darren T. Caldwell	" "	[redacted]	darren.caldwell@gpd.guam.gov			✓	
5	Troy B Uzamer	GPD	[redacted]	troy.uzamer@gpd.guam.gov			✓	
6	Kim Santos	GPD		kim.santos@gpd.guam.gov	✓		✓	
7	First Chaguelaf	GPD		first.chaguelaf@gpd.guam.gov	✓		✓	
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								

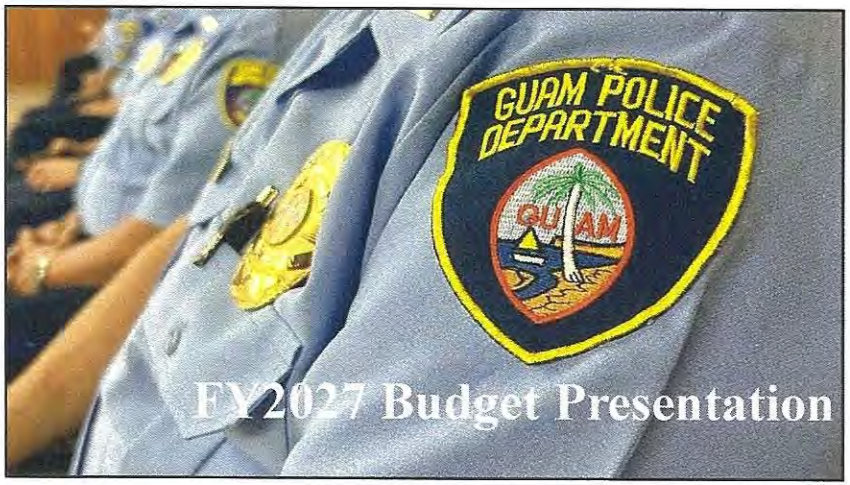
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahån

Date: April 27, 2026 | **Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas** | **Time: 9:00 a.m.**

Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

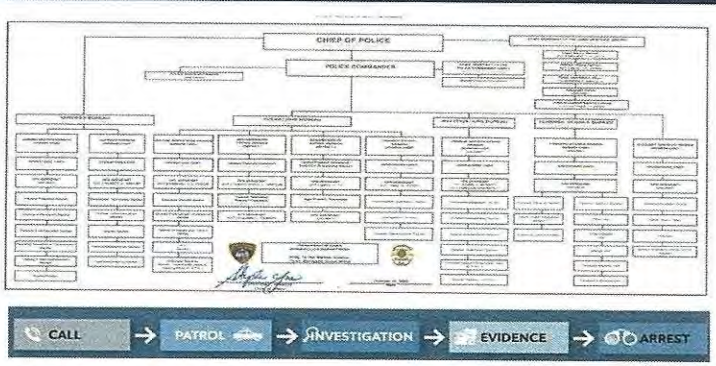
Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS. Relative to Guam Police Dept. (GPD)

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Ann Marie Cruz	GPD	475 8448/9					
2	JENNY SANCHEZ	GPD	475-8439					
3	Monica Salas	GPD	734-8402					
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								



1

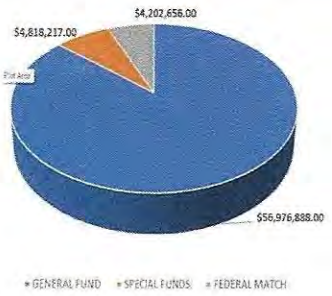
Guam Police Department Workflow



2

FY 2027 BUDGET REQUEST

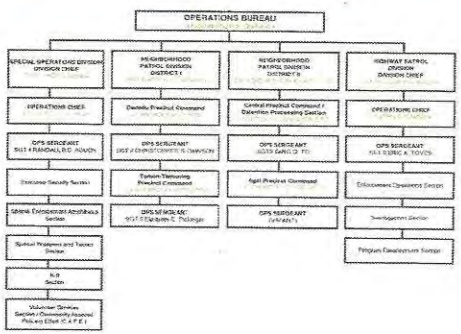
CLASSIFICATION	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL FUNDS	FEDERAL MATCH
Personnel Services	$ 48,529,908.00	$ 4,285,097.00	$ -
Operations	$ 7,395,930.00	$ 533,120.00	$ 4,202,656.00
Utilities	$ 1,051,050.00		$ -
TOTAL	$ 56,976,888.00	$ 4,818,217.00	$ 4,202,656.00
	$		65,997,761.00



3

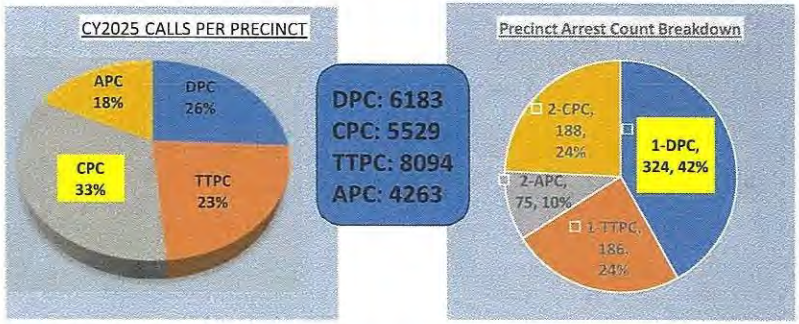
Operations Bureau





4

Workload Demand (CY25)



5

K-9 Drako



- 76 total arrests
- 172.39 grams of methamphetamine
- 5 grams of cocaine
- 2 full syringes of liquid meth
- Removed Street Value of + $51,600
- 62 articles of paraphernalia (pipes)
- $20,000 in cash
- Drako featured in K-9 Cop Magazine

K-9 Lobo

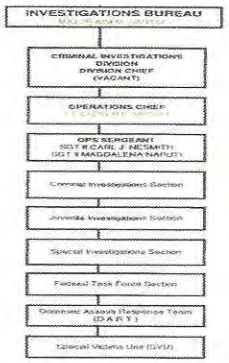


The bonds that protect: Guam Police Department's K-9 unit and their critical role

6

Investigations Bureau

CALL → PATROL → INVESTIGATION → EVIDENCE → ARREST



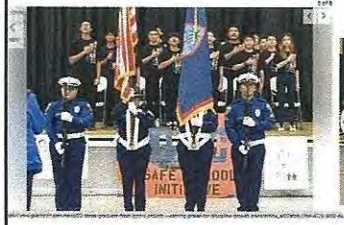
2025 - IB CASES	2025 STATS	COMMENTS
Open/Active Criminal Investigations	2,079	N/A
Homicide Cases	7	N/A
Homicide Closures	5	71 % Homicide Clearance Rate compared to the 61.4% national benchmark reported in the August 2025 FBI Reported Crimes in the Nation Statistics.
Firearms Seized	18	N/A
Crystal Methamphetamine Seized	141,982.06 *wt. grams*	N/A
Search Warrants Executed	95	N/A
Case Investigation Reports Generated	1,947	N/A
Arrests	481	N/A
Robbery Cases	55	Cases have decreased by 60% in 2025 compared to 60 cases in 2024 and 94 cases in 2023

7

Project U Summer Camps

22 teens graduate from GPD's Project U, earning praise for discipline, growth, plans





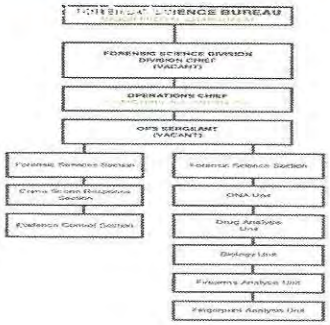




8

Forensic Science Bureau

CALL → PATROL → INVESTIGATION ✓ → EVIDENCE ✓ → ARREST



The Three Pillars of Service

Crime Scene Response 24/7 specialized processing for major incidents

Evidence Control Centralized intake and lifecycle of all property

Laboratory Services Specialized limits for Drugs, Biology/DNA, Fingerprints, and Firearms

9

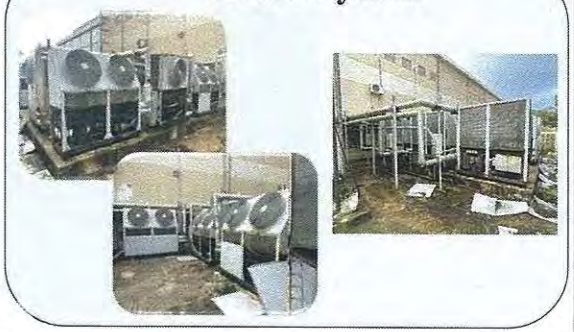
Forensic Science Bureau

CALL → PATROL → INVESTIGATION ✓ → EVIDENCE ✓ → ARREST

DNA LAB



HVAC System



10

Forensic Science Bureau

CALL → PATROL → INVESTIGATION ✓ → EVIDENCE ✓ → ARREST

Forensic Science Camp



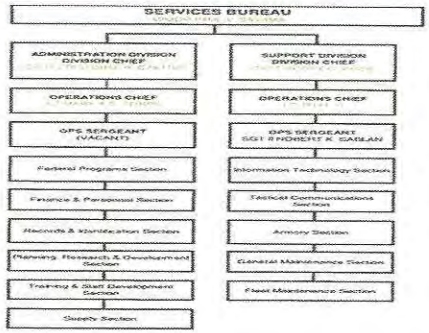




11

Services Bureau

CALL ✓ → PATROL → INVESTIGATION → EVIDENCE → ARREST



12

PERSONNEL STATISTICS

UNIFORM COUNT	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
UNIFORM	277	304	265	269	258	260	273	260
SEPERATIONS	8	9	19	9	17	20	8	3
RETIREMENT	9	4	6	12	2	7	5	1
TOTAL	260	291	240	248	239	233	260	256
ATTRITION	17	13	25	21	19	27	13	4

POLICE OFFICER TRAINEE	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 15th	2025 16th	2026
HIRED	29	24	7	17	30	13	13	11	0
SEPERATIONS	3	4	3	3	2	3	1	0	0
GPD GAIN or LOSS	26	20	4	14	28	10	12	11	0
									PENDING
GPD GAIN or LOSS (POT Total - Uniform Loss)	9	7	-21	-7	9	-17	-1	11	

13

Community Engagement

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.)



Neighborhood Watch Program



Fade Away from Violence, Drug, & Alcohol-Free Kickball Tournament



School Resource Officer



14

Capitol Projects and Equipment Acquisition



Eastern



LMR System



Vehicles



Lifejacket Loaner Station



Police Memorial



Body Worn Camera



Crime Scene Response Vehicles (FSB)



Armored Vehicle



ECS

15



16

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
Governor

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor

GUAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

DIPÅTTAMENTON POLISIAN GUAHAN

Government of Guam

Bldg. 13-16A Mariner Avenue, Tiyan
Barrigada, Guam 96913-1616
P.O. Box 23909 Guam Main Facility 96921-3909
Telephone: (671) 475-8473 (Switchboard); (671) 475-8508 / 8509 / 8512
Fax: (671) 475-3222

STEPHEN C. IGNACIO
Chief of Police

COL. JOSEPH S. CARBULLIDO
Police Commander

April 27, 2026

The Honorable Senator Christopher M. Duenas
Chairperson, Committee on Government Finance and Operations
I Mina' Trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guahhan
Guam Congress Building
259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910
Email: senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

Subject: **Written Testimony**
RE: FY2027 Budget Presentation

Dear Senator Duenas and Committee Members:

Buenas yan Hafa Adai!

I am Chief of Police Stephen C. Ignacio for the Guam Police Department. I respectfully submit this written testimony, together with my oral testimony, in my official capacity and alongside key members of the Guam Police Department budget request for FY2027.

At the outset, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Committee for your continued support and collaboration. Your partnership remains vital to sustaining the level of public safety services our island community expects and deserves, while also promoting operational efficiency, accountability, and responsible fiscal stewardship.

Today's testimony outlines the FY2027 budget that will sustain essential police operations. The Guam Police Department is requesting funding through the General Fund, Special Funds, and Federal Fund Match categories.

GPD's mission is executed through four specialized Bureaus: Operations, Investigations, and Forensic Science, and Services. This strategic and streamlined operational workflow provides the rigorous oversight and specialized expertise necessary to guarantee total accountability at every stage of the mission.

The GPD operational workflow is a continuous chain: it starts with the initial call, moves through patrol response and investigation, and concludes with forensic evidence collection

and a successful arrest. By specializing resources within these core areas, we ensure the dedicated oversight and manpower needed to move cases seamlessly from dispatch to custody.

GPD's mission is executed through four specialized Bureaus: Operations, Investigations, and Forensic Science, and Services. This strategic and streamlined operational workflow provides the rigorous oversight and specialized expertise necessary to guarantee total accountability at every stage of the mission.

The GPD operational workflow is a continuous chain: it starts with the initial call, moves through patrol response and investigation, and concludes with forensic evidence collection and a successful arrest. By specializing resources within these core areas, we ensure the dedicated oversight and manpower needed to move cases seamlessly from dispatch to custody.

GPD's budget request for FY2027 of *Sixty-five million, nine hundred ninety-seven thousand, seven hundred sixty-one dollars* **($65,997,761).**

Within the General Fund *Fifty-six million, nine hundred seventy-six thousand, eight hundred eighty-eight dollars* **($56,976,888)** is allocated for law enforcement officers and civilian staff, as well as the recruitment of Police Officer Trainees and civilian employees. The Operations budget of *Seven million, three hundred nighty-five thousand, nine hundred thirty dollars* **($7,395,930)** is applied toward contractual services for – copier machines, software maintenance for Automated Fingerprint Information System (AFIS), postal meter/mail express services, leased vehicle, generator and air condition maintenance, fire alarm maintenance, K-9 medical services, office leases, supplies, workman's compensation, drug testing, and miscellaneous. Miscellaneous costs support – local match for federal grants, annual membership fees, clothing allowances, tri-annual bonuses for uniform personnel, CVPR stipends and crime stoppers. While utilities costs *One million, fifty-one thousand, fifty dollars* **($1,051,050)** of the General Fund.

The Special Fund allocation totals *Four million, two hundred eighty-five thousand, ninety-seven dollars* **($4,285,097)**, designated for personnel costs associated with the Police Services Fund (PSF) and Tourist Attraction Fund (TAF). The Special Fund Operations budget of *Five hundred thirty-three thousand, one hundred twenty dollars* **($533,120)**, is applied toward contractual services and supplies.

With an anticipated Federal Grant application of *Four million, two hundred two thousand, six hundred fifty-six dollars* ***($4,202,656).***

OPERATIONS BUREAU

The Operations Bureau consists of a total of 186 personnel (equal to 69% of the uniform officers) assigned to the Neighborhood Patrol Division, the Special Operations Division (SOD) and the Highway Patrol Division (HPD).

The Neighborhood Patrol Division (NHPD) consists of two (2) Districts: District I is led by a Police Captain who is responsible for the Dededo Precinct and the Tamuning-Tumon Precinct, and; District II also led by a Police Captain responsible for the Central and Agat Precincts'. NHPD is the main effort in the Operations Bureau responding to the initial Calls for Service throughout the island.

Currently the NHPD is operating on two (2) twelve-hour shifts, which requires the least number of officers to cover areas of responsibility in each of the precincts.

Including staff the NHPD consists of (139) officers covering twenty-eight (28) beats throughout the island structured in shifts that require the least amount of personnel. The NHPD is in need of sixty-one (61) officers to fully cover beats on a twelve-hour shift roster.

The Special Operations Division (SOD) current operates with twenty-nine (29) officers across five sections: Special Enforcement Amphibious Section (SEAS), Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), the K9 Section, the Executive Security Section (ESS), and the Civilian Volunteer Police Reserve (CVPR) Section.

The Highway Patrol Division (HPD) consists of sixteen (16) officers across three section: Enforcement Operations Section, Investigations Section, and the Program Development Section. The HPD should be operating with a total of thirty (30) officers to be in compliance with Article 2, Chapter 77, Title 10 GCA; based on the 16 officers in HPD is short fourteen (14).

Before you is GPD's Workload Demand for 2025, you will see that this small force is being asked to shoulder a massive operational load.

Please take a look at the chart CALLS per Precinct (left) and Precinct ARREST (right). Central Precinct Command (CPC) handles the highest volume of activity, handling 33% of all service calls, while Dededo Precinct Command (DPC) leads in enforcement results; despite fewer calls, it accounts for 42% of island-wide arrests (324 total).

We are delivering elite enforcement results, but we are doing so by overextending our personnel. The extreme call volumes in CPC and DPC have created an unsustainable tempo that threatens to compromise our long-term effectiveness and officer safety.

The critical takeaway, however, is how this high call volume directly translates into enforcement.

The Operations Bureau has achieved a major tactical win by integrating our specialized K-9 units directly into our Patrol routes. Rather than keeping these teams siloed, we are now deploying K-9s Drako and Lobo right on the front lines. This shift allows our patrol officers to work alongside Drako and Lobo, leveraging his specialized detection skills during routine stops and field interviews.

This partnership has been an undeniable success for the agency. Since July, proactive work has led to 76+ total arrests and the seizure of 175.76 grams of methamphetamine, 5 grams of cocaine, and 2 full syringes of liquid meth. By utilizing the K-9 units as a force multiplier the team has effectively removed over $51,600+/- in narcotics street value from the community, along with 62 articles of paraphernalia and $20,000 in cash. When our K-9 teams and patrol units work in tandem, we maximize our impact on the street. It is a model of efficiency that turns standard operations into significant criminal interdictions, powered by the vital role our K-9 partners play in keeping the community safe.

I am happy to report that K-9 Drako was featured in K-9 COP Magazine for January 2025. K-9 COP Magazine is the trusted voice of the law enforcement and military K-9 community. Published quarterly, each issue is packed with mission-driven content tailored for K-9 handlers, trainers, supervisors, and decision-makers across the country.

The magazine covers real-world deployments, training strategies, handler tips, gear reviews, and expert insight from professionals working the front lines. With both print and digital editions, subscribers receive unmatched access to practical knowledge and the latest developments in the K-9 field.

The Investigation Bureau or IB is the primary lead for all felony and complex cases not resolved by patrol. IB includes the Criminal Investigations Section (CIS), Juvenile Investigations Section (JIS), Federal Task Force Section (FTFS), Domestic Assault Response Team (DART), Special Investigations Section (SIS) and recently added Special Victims Unit (SVU). Tasks associated are as follows: follow-up investigations on initial crime reported, evidence handling, interview and interrogation, intelligence gathering, obtain and execute search warrants, etc.

Uniform Needs

Based on the current operational work hours and workload

IB is currently operating with only 24 uniformed officers to cover a requirement of 63, we are faced with a critical shortfall of 39 officers.

IB Accomplishments

- ❖ GPD's clearance rate for homicides in 2025 has significantly outpaced the U.S. national average. Our 71% homicide closure rate stands in stark contrast to the 61.4% national benchmark reported in the August 2025 FBI 'Reported Crimes in the Nation Statistics.
- ❖ Please note that in 2021 (9) and 2023 (7) GPD had 100% homicide closure rate. In 2025, a total of 5 out of 7 cases were closed;
- ❖ In addition, GPD has achieved a significant 43.6% reduction in total robbery offenses over the last three years, dropping from 94 incidents in 2023 to just 53 in 2025.
- ❖ Ninety-two (92) officers were trained and received certificates from the International Homicide Investigations Association (IHIA) Training.
- ❖ The expansion of PROJECT U (Youth Outreach) and Safe Schools Partner Network.

The successful hiring of three (3) Victim Advocates that ensures specialized care for victims of traumatic crime under the DART and Special Victims Unit (SVU) units.

PROJECT U emphasizes youth participation in community projects that impact our community's safety. Youth engage with mentors from our network of Safe Schools Partners to restore a sense of community in much needed areas. They are given an opportunity to experience the value of serving our community. Notable community service projects executed by program participants include:

- Restoration of a derelict bus stop in Tiyan near several school campuses;
- Guma Mina'ase Donation Drives; Famalao'an Donation Drive for Feminine Essentials;
- Dededo Sports Complex and Swimming Pool Parking Lot Revitalization; and
- Paseo Playground Beautification and Repair

GPD's Safe School Partner Network includes Government and Non-Government Organizations:

- Guam Department of Education; Department of Youth Affairs; Department of Parks & Recreation Park Police; Guam Behavioral Health & Wellness Center; Judiciary of Guam's Juvenile Probation Office; Office of the Attorney General of Guam; Guam International Airport Authority Police; Piti Mayor's Office; Mangilao Mayor's Office; GCA Trades Academy; Westcare Pacific Islands; Thrive Coalition; Mane'lu; Micronesian Resource Center One Stop Shop.

Project U's – CY2026 projected camps are summer (4 weeks) and Christmas (10 days);

The Forensic Science Bureau (FSB) serves as the scientific backbone of GPD, delivering objective, defensible analysis and secure evidence management through three primary pillars. The Crime Scene Response Section provides 24/7 on-call specialized processing for major incidents, while the Evidence Control Section manages the centralized intake and lifecycle of all property. Our specialized Laboratory Services include dedicated units for Drugs, Biology/DNA, Fingerprints, and Firearms.

To ensure operational excellence, we monitor Key Performance Indicators such as Response Readiness targeting a 60-minute arrival at scenes to prevent evidence degradation and storage saturation levels to manage the capacity of our evidence bins.

Despite meeting all judicial deadlines, the Bureau's current staffing of 15 personnel creates a significant performance bottleneck. This limited capacity forces a reactive operational model, prioritizing mandated court requirements over proactive evidence examinations. Without additional resources, the department cannot capitalize on the high-level analysis that generates new investigative leads, leaving critical intelligence untapped and slowing the overall pace of criminal investigations.

The Forensic Services Bureau (FSB) has reached a pivotal milestone by securing International Accreditation across multiple disciplines, including Drug Analysis, Fingerprints, and Firearms. This achievement validates that our laboratory performance consistently meets the highest global benchmarks for objective, defensible, and reproducible science. By aligning with these rigorous standards, the department ensures maximum accuracy and integrity in every piece of evidence processed.

FSB CRITICAL FACILITIES

DNA Lab

Basic Instrumentation, equipment, and supplies have been procured and validated. Waiting on additional funding to address issues with the Testing, Balancing, and Commissioning of the Laboratory Environmental Control System & HVAC, preventing the issuance of the occupancy permit. Following occupancy, the next phase will be the procurement of reagents and kits to initiate DNA analysis and preparation for accreditation.

HVAC Systems

The Forensic Science Bureau requires Two million dollars ($2 million) in capital funding to replace the defunct HVAC system and failing exhaust infrastructure at the Forensic Science Division laboratory. Environmental control systems are critical to meeting both forensic accreditation requirements and OSHA safety standards. These systems regulate

temperature, humidity, and air quality—factors that directly impact the stability of chemicals, the functionality of equipment, and the integrity of forensic evidence. Currently, the Division relies on temporary solutions that are not sustainable and leave the laboratory vulnerable to noncompliance and operational disruption. Replacing the HVAC and exhaust systems is essential not only to maintain current accreditation but also to ensure readiness for evolving standards and continued safe, high-quality forensic work.

At this time GPD has submitted an application for the 2026 Community Project Fund (CPF) for $2 million dollars for the replacement of the HVAC system.

Forensic Science Camp

Purpose: This one-week CSI camp introduces incoming 10th through 12th graders to the scientific principles and real-world application of forensic science and crime scene management in science or criminal justice.

2025 Forensic Science Camps had a total of forty (40) participants and was held on June 2025 and December 2025.

2026 Camp Dates in June or July will be selected soon

- Two (2) one-week sessions back-to-back,
- 20 participants, 10 per session,

Services Bureau (SB) is the civilian component of the department that provides the administrative and logistical support to ensure the department is able to achieve its mission of serving and protecting. SB consists of both the Administrative Division (AD) and Support Divisions (SD).

The function of the AD is to provide guidance in human resources, training, payroll, research, procurement, managing of all local and federal grants to include public service.

The function of the SD is to provide motor vehicle support, building maintenance, information technology and communications to include armorer services

Before moving on, I want to highlight our Law Enforcement Dispatchers, who are the initial point of contact for the public. LED's are the first link in the chain of survival, transforming raw crisis into coordinated action, so by the time an officer arrives on the scene, the LED has already set the entire department in motion. Their ability to process high-stress information and deploy resources with precision is what allows every other bureau from Operations to Investigations to function effectively. Considering the higher call volume that our LED's receive, as a department we wanted to provide professional training. Per our research APCO certification is a gold standard for emergency dispatchers and public safety

agencies. Therefore, it is with great pride to announce that ten (10) of our LED's received Association of Police Communication Organization (APCO) certification.

Recruitment and Retentions Incentives for POT's and UNIFORM

- 2022 LEO Pay Adjustment of 18% with Retention Incentive Pay
    - A 10% retention incentive for recruited Police Officer Trainees (POT) through Sergeant II positions;
    - A 15% retention incentive for Police Lieutenants, Police Captains, Police Majors and Police Colonel;
- June 2024 Pay Adjustment
    - 25.59 % adjustment to the Law Enforcement Pay Plan;
    - POT increase of hourly wage from $14.01 ($29,140.80) to $17.59 ($36,580 per annum);
- Retention Bonus – per Public Law 236-37 approved a bonus of $10,000 for uniformed personnel on the condition of 3 consecutive Satisfactory Performance Evaluation Ratings. This retention strategy will be implemented for the first time in FY2027 and has been included in our FY2027 Budget request.
- In 2025, GPD alongside the Department of Administration Human Resource Division finalized the implementation of the Known Promotional Potential (KPP) for non-competitive positions (i.e. Police Officer I, Police Officer II, and Police Officer III positions respectively)
    - On December 2025 GPD promoted 22 Police Officer II's and 31 Police Officer III's.

Payback Provision Agreement has been developed and started with the current 15th POT cycle. The retention agreement obligates the officer to maintain employment for at least four (4) years. If the POT decides to resign from GPD an obligation to reimburse the GCC the total cost of the Apprentice program.

The information on the chart above focuses on Uniform and Police Officer Trainees.

The top worksheet is the ***UNIFORM*** count. The lower worksheet is the ***POLICE OFFICER TRAINEE (POT).***

From 2019 to 2025 GPD loss through separations and retirement a total of 139 uniform.

From 2019 to 2025 GPD recruited and graduated 125 Police Officer Trainees.

As you can see despite the intensive recruitment efforts, GPD ended the seven-year period with a net deficit of 14 officers, meaning the rate of attrition effectively outpaced new officer production.

Despite this, our department remains in a phase of aggressive growth. We are actively seeking dedicated recruits to join our ranks and fill critical roles within our evolving force.

The department is currently working with a DOA Cert listing of 75 eligible applicants. With 16 pending to be interviewed and 36 background investigation being conducted.

The following is a list of Community Engagement Projects with detail listed in the written testimony

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.)

The D.A.R.E program has been dormant 20 years. However, in 2023 GPD recognized the critical need to reconnect with our youth. We reignited the program with a small but mighty pilot at Talofofo Elementary School. After a rigorous 10-week curriculum, we celebrated our first 40 graduates, proving that the desire for this partnership was stronger than ever.

The DARE program momentum has been explosive as we now have thirteen (13) Guam Department of Education and one (1) Charter school and over 1,600 graduates. To keep up with this demand, we've also successfully added a new certified D.A.R.E. instructor to our ranks. In SY2026/2027 GPD is on track to expand into two middle schools and one high school, ensuring that as our children grow, their relationship with the GPD and their commitment to safe choices grows with them.

The D.A.R.E goal is simple: to build a bridge of trust. By using an evidence-based curriculum, we aren't just teaching kids to say 'no'; we are empowering them to be critical thinkers and safe decision-makers.

Fade Away from Violence, Drug & Alcohol Free Kickball Tournament

Next, lets talk about one of our most successful community outreach initiatives – the GPD Fade Away Tournament.

For the past eight years, GPD has used the spirit of competition to connect with our island's youngest residents. Every year, we see an average of 20 elementary schools bring over 400 students to the court and field. This high level of participation shows just how much our families value this safe, competitive outlet.

Why do we do it? Because it's at the heart of our Community Oriented Policing strategy. By trading the patrol car for the coach's whistle, our officers are building trust and fostering positive relationships with students that last long after the final buzzer.

Our message with this event is to think beyond the game, we are teaching these student-athletes to 'fade away' from negative influences. We provide a safe environment that encourages healthy lifestyle choices and empowers them to stay drug- and alcohol-free. We're not just building athletes; we're building resilient citizens.

School Resource Officer (SRO)

The School Resource Officers (SRO) program implemented by GPD in FY2025. The purpose of SRO's in the schools extends beyond traditional law enforcement duties in community policing. The presence of law enforcement officer (from this point on referred to as SRO's) in the school promotes and increase in school safety, assists in building trust with students and school employees, can provide education and guidance, and quick response for crisis intervention and preparedness.

GPD hopes to build a well-implemented SRO program that will continue to address gaps between law enforcement and education, promote community involvement, and develop a more proactive crime prevention for all involved. There already has been some conversation on the expansion of the SRO program to include middle schools.

Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP)

The NWP is an active program established across all 19 municipalities on Guam. This island-wide network ensures that GPD's safety initiatives are felt in every corner of the community, from northern urban centers to southern villages.

NWP is a force multiplier for GPD, in which GPD works with the "eyes and ears" of residents on village crimes that affect the village and community at large. The program provides GPD with real-time intelligence alloying for strategic deployment of resources where they are needed the most. NWP also fosters a culture of collective responsibility, making Guam's neighborhoods less hospitable to criminal activity and safer for families.

Tiyan High School & GPD Law Enforcement Academy

The mission of the Guam Police Department's Tiyan High School Law Enforcement Academy is to prepare students for future careers in law enforcement and public service by providing a structured, academically rigorous, and professionally grounded learning environment. As a career pathway under the Health and Safety Services, the Academy builds upon the foundational principles of Criminal Justice I, II, and III to deliver advanced instruction in law enforcement procedures, constitutional law and its impacts, criminal investigation techniques, and professional development. For CY 2026-2027 we have a class cohort of 18.

The following is a list of Capitol Improvement Projects and Equipment Acquisition with detail listed in the written testimony

EVIDENCE CONTROL SECTION (ECS) BUILDING

GPD secured Department of Interior funding of five million, fifty-two thousand, six hundred forty-two *dollars* ($5,052,642) to build the Evidence Control Building. Contractor selected was Mega United Corp. The build will occur in Yigo, 10,685 square-foot single story building with an anticipated completion date of December 2027. Ground breaking occurred on February 6, 2026 at 3pm.

TALOFOFO SUB-STATION

GPD applied and was awarded *Six Million dollars* ($6,000,000), from Ghura for the build of the Talofofo Substation. The selected vendor is Surface Solutions for the design and construction phase. The Talofofo Substation is a 6,552 square-foot facility, that will essentially cover the Eastern villages from Yona, Ipan, Inarajan, Talofofo, and Merizo (Eastern side only).

Ground breaking occurred February 2026.

PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL

The Peace Officers Memorial is a very meaningful project for the Guam Police Department and with Five Hundred Thousand dollars ($500,000) allocated from the FY2024 General Fund. Guma Architects' was selected to design the memorial; with BME and Sons awarded the contract in April 2025. Ground breaking for this event occurred on January 22, 2026, with an anticipated completion date of December 2026.

FUTURE CAPITOL PROJECTS

YIGO SUB-STATION

GPD submitted an application to Ghura for the build of the Yigo Substation is a 6,200 square-foot facility with an estimated Six million dollars ($6,000,000). The substations will essentially cover the village of Yigo and parts of Dededo.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION CENTER

The Emergency Communications Center will be a 24/7, 365 days a year operation that requires a positive working environment, updated equipment and trained personnel. With two agencies overseeing the dispatching of fire, EMS and law enforcement, it is imperative that the Guam Fire Department 911 dispatchers and the GPD Tactical Communications Center (TCC) dispatchers are co-located to create a functional and operationally effective hub. By doing so, minutes are spared in transferring calls where a minute can be the factor

between life and death situations. Past facilities where 911 and police dispatch were either located together or separate were small or leased facilities. For the GPD TCC, it has moved several times over the past 20 years being located at the former Hagatna Precinct, the GPD Headquarters at Pedro's Plaza to the building that is now known as SIFA to its current location at Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense system.

At this junction GPD was given Lot 15, Block F, Tract 9 in Barrigada Heights via legislation to develop a public safety emergency communications center and now will be trying to secure funding for this critical need.

CURRENT EQUIPMENT ACQUISITIONS

LAND MOBILE RADIO (LMR) UP-GRADE

Upgrading the Land Mobile Radio (LMR) system is essential to provide reliable, high-performance communications for public safety. The upgrade incorporates two decades of technological advancements to provide the island with more robust and advanced features.

On December 16, 2024, the Government of Guam awarded an Eleven million, five-hundred thousand, dollar ($11.5 million) contract to Motorola Solutions, Inc. to Design, Build, and Implement the P25 ASTRO25 LMR System. The project is funded by ARPA.

The project is 60% in completion as we enter the execution phase, focusing on equipment installation, fiber backhaul testing, and civil works. Over the coming months, programming mobile devices, portable radios, and base stations will begin while system training and drive coverage testing will take place around the August-September time frame. The final system cutover is scheduled for December 2026.

LIFEJACKET LOANER STATIONS (LJLS)

The lifejacket loaner stations are part of the objectives with the Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) program to educate, encourage, and promote safety on the water. The ribbon cutting of the initial LJLS at the Agat Marina was held in October 2025; with the 2nd LJLS installed Hagåtña Boat Basin; while the remaining 18 LJLS should be constructed and installed by close of 2026.

BODY-WORN CAMERA (BWC)

With grant and local match funding totaling One-hundred forty-one thousand, and twelve dollars ($141,012), GPD was able to procure Body-Worn Cameras, cloud storage, and training through Motorola, Inc. At this time GPD is conducting public hearings to obtain community input of the General Order as mandated by GARR. Public hearings are scheduled for February 12th (Sinajana Senior Citizen Center), 19th (Yigo Senior Citizen Center), and 26th (Merizo Senior Citizen Center) at 6pm.

POLICE PATROL VEHICLES & OTHER VEHICLES

In an effort to enhance law enforcement capabilities, a total of 47 police patrol vehicles was purchased and received from Cars Plus. This procurement was funded through a combination of ARPA funds totaling Two million, nine hundred thirty-one thousand, nine hundred twenty-three dollars ($2,931,923) and Highway grant funding of Two hundred forty-nine thousand, eight hundred ninety-seven dollars ($249,897), for a total investment of Three million, one hundred eighty-one thousand, eight hundred twenty dollars ($3,181,820). This acquisition has strengthened patrol operations and improve response times in the community. Other vehicles funded by the TAP grant: four (4) Dodge Ram Pro-Master vans, two (2) Ford Rangers; one (1) mini-van.

CRIME SCENE RESPONSE VEHICLES

The Guam Police Department (GPD) secured $240,500 through the FY2024 Technical Assistance Program (TAP) grant, awarded by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs. This funding is dedicated to the project "Enhancing Law Enforcement Capabilities for Safer Communities," specifically intended to bolster operational readiness and public safety. The department utilized this award to procure two (2) response vans and two (2) pickup trucks to replace aging fleet assets that lack specialized equipment. These vehicles function as mobile laboratory and utility platforms, providing a secure environment for on-site evidence processing, the handling of hazardous materials, and the transportation of evidence from scene.

DUI VAN

The Highway Patrol Division (HPD) is committed to reducing impaired driving incidents, crashes, injuries, and fatalities through a comprehensive DUI/Impaired Driving Enforcement program. GPD received grant funding from the Office of Highway Safety grant for procurement of the DUI van. The DUI/Impaired Van was purchased for One hundred ninety-eight thousand, eight hundred forty-five dollars ($198,845), which was received on March 31, 2026.

ARMORED VEHICLE

GPD purchased an armored vehicle to ensure the safety of personnel and assets in environments where threats from gunfire, explosives, or physical violence are present. The armored vehicle will provide both physical defense and psychological peace of mind. The vendor selected was Triple J at four hundred ninety-seven, six hundred twenty-five dollars ($497,625) with an anticipated delivery date of April 2026.

In conclusion, it is my goal to meet the Guam Police Department's goals and objectives by strengthening our workforce with both sworn and non-sworn personnel.

We are also committed to working with this committee and the entire 38th Guam Legislature to help the Guam Police Department achieve its objectives for a safer community.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse' for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPHEN C. IGNACIO
Chief of Police

SCI:amq

GFT, AFT Local 1581
Together We Win!

Timothy Fedenko, President
Corazon Mucho, Secretary
Sanjay Sharma, Vice President
Mary Jean Vigilante, Treasurer

1 May 2026

Fr: The Guam Federation of Teachers Union

To: The Honorable Senators of the Guam Legislature, and The Governor of Guam

Re: Urging your Favorable Vote and Approval to Release Budget Funding to GPD

Via: Hand Delivery

Hafa Adai and Greetings:

The Guam Federation of Teachers Union, urges your favorable vote and approval of the Guam Police Department's Current Budget Request wherein additional Funds are sought to allow the payment of the well deserved Retention Bonus.

The GFT Union represents Numerous Police Officers ,the very men and women who are exposed daily to the challenges and great responsibilities, as Law Enforcement, that they are charged with fulfilling by the People of Guam.

The Guam Police Department and the Guam Federation of Teachers Union, are working collaboratively on the very First Collective Bargaining Agreement; a paramount goal of which is the enhancement of Career Opportunities within Guam's Police Department.

Accordingly your favorable vote; together with the Governor's approval, will be appreciated and acknowledged by Guam's men and women serving our island in the Guam Police Force; as well as their Families, and their Union which acts now on their behalf in soliciting your support for this funding.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Del Priore

Dan Del Priore
GFT Adjunct Field Representative

Cc GPD Chief Ignacio

The Guam Legislature
Protocol Office
MAY 04 2026
Time: 9:50
Rec. by:
Fermina

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

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

In accordance with Section 6.04(c)(1) of the Standing Rules of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, this committee digest provides a *summary* of the public hearing detailed below. To assist the general public in navigating this report, please note that all blue-highlighted text contains hyperlinks. Clicking on these links will direct you to the corresponding referenced sections/documents. For any questions or assistance regarding this digest, please contact our office at (671) 989-9554 or email us at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov.

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) – COMMITTEE ON RULES BY REQUEST OF I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN, THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

I. OVERVIEW

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) was introduced on **February 2, 2026** by **Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam** and was subsequently referred by the Committee on Rules to the **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** on **February 3, 2026.**

The **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** convened a Public Hearing on Bill No. 266-38 (COR) on **April 27,2026** at **9:00 a.m.** in the Guam Congress Building's Public Hearing Room.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Public Hearing Notices were posted to the Government Public Notices Portal and disseminated via electronic mail to all senators and all main media

broadcasting outlets on **April 20,2026** (5-Day Notice), and again on **April 23,2026** (48-Hour Notice).

SENATORS PRESENT

Chairman Christopher M Duenas
Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao
Senator Jesse A Lujan
Senator Sabrina Salas-Matanane
Senator Christopher "Malafunkshun" Barnett
Senator Therese M. Terlaje

ORAL TESTIMONY:

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department
Nellie Asanuma, ASO, Guam Police Department

WRITTEN TESTIMONY:

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department
Dan Del Priore, Adjunct Field Representative, Guam Federation of Teachers

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The public hearing for **Bill Number 266-38 (COR)** was called to order at **9:00 a.m.**

[Questions and Discussion] [*Begins at 01:04:26 and ends at 01:50:07***]**

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: *Manana Si Yu'os* Good morning and welcome to the thirty-eighth Guam Legislature the People's House your legislature *Si Yu'os Ma'åse* for being here particularly to the Guam Police Department for their budget hearing This morning's hearing is conducted by the Committee on Finance and Government Operations and is called to order at this time 09:02 on Monday April 27 2026 First notice of this public hearing was disseminated to all senators and media outlets on April 20 2026 with its second notice disseminated on April 23rd 2026.

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 bill on the agenda: Bill number 266-38 (COR) Committee on Rules by request of the *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* the

Governor of Guam AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30 2027 MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The focus of this session hearing this morning is FY27 budget request for the Guam Police Department At this time I'd like to recognize my colleagues who have joined me Of course to my right the chairman on public safety Senator Shawn Gumataotao welcome to my left Senator Jesse Lujan as well as Senator Telo Taitague Thank you for being here today for this public hearing for GPD budget.

Before we begin I'd like to remind everyone in attendance of the Legislature of *Guåhan*'s general rules of conduct Individuals testifying shall first be recognized by the chairperson before speaking and shall state their full name for the record-keeping purposes Questions and testimony shall be confined to the substance and nature of the bill 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 the Legislature of *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 hear testimony on Bill 266-38 I will now recognize the representatives from the Guam Police Department for their presentation and opening statement And I also want to welcome the presence of Senator Sabrina Salas Mantanane Senator thank you for being here.

Chief Ignacio I'd like to recognize you and could you please have either yourself or your individuals from your command staff and anyone else joining you today administrative staff to identify themselves and then after that we'll swear them in with the Sergeant of arms.

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: *Håfa Adai* good morning Senators I am Stephen Ignacio the Chief of Police at the Guam Police Department To my far right is Major Paul Sayama from the Services Bureau to his left is Major Kim Santos she's the Investigations Bureau Chief Major Fred Chargualaf is to my immediate right he's the Bureau Chief for Forensic Science Bureau To my immediate left is Ms Nellie Asanuma she is my Administrative Services Officer and to her left is Ms AnnMarie Cruz from my Federal Programs Services Office.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Thank you Chief and you've already acknowledged yourself correct?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yes sir.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay, so please rise and we'll have the sergeant of arms swear you in as is customary for budget hearings

Ed Pocaigue Sergeant at arms Guam Legislature: Under penalty of perjury do you affirm that any and all information you provide today whether it be verbally electronically and in writing be the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth? Mr Chair they are under oath You may proceed.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase Sarge* I'd also like to welcome Senator Barnett Thank you for joining us this morning as well Chief I understand you have a presentation for the committee on your budget and so please proceed.

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yes sir Thank you very much Good morning Senator Chris Duenas Chair in the Committee on Finance our Public Safety Chair Senator Shawn Gumataotao Senator Sabrina Mantanane hope I got that right Senator Burnett Senator Lujan and Senator Taitague.

(PLEASE SEE ATTACHED TESTIMONY)

We're supposed to get it last week but of course the storm kinda pushed everything to the right

(PLEASE SEE ATTACHED TESTIMONY)

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on our budget proposal and at this point myself and my staff are ready to respond to any questions you may have.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* Chief just wanna start by thanking you and your command staff and other support staff for being here today and also for joining the committee on the pre-budget meeting prior to this oversight hearing. Chief your insight in more detail although although this was quite a bit of detail this morning that you've put forward as well was both insightful and gave the committee a lot of information to contemplate your budget other than what's on the spreadsheet. I want to thank the chairman on public safety for conducting several

oversight hearings with the Guam Police Department whereby we've been able to ascertain significant information over this year and also prior to be able to understand where the police department is both on its manpower and all the other things that you've enumerated in your presentation Chief I'm going to let the panel know as well as our senators that we are gonna be strict about these budget hearings We are here for the budget of the Guam Police Department and the government of Guam The oversight hearings have handled information outside of the budget process so we'll be running a strict clock of five minutes. Please questions should be asked on the budget and the budget strictly unless you wanna use your time otherwise. So, at this time I wanna recognize the oversight chair you have five minutes sir no exceptions even though you're the chair to ask your direct questions with regard to the fiscal year 2027 budget representation by the Guam Police Department. Chairman Gumataotao you're recognized.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Thank you so much Mr Chair and thanks to GPD and the command staff for being with us this morning I'll just jump right into it let's talk a little bit about the allotment reserve how is the reservation of $11.2 million from GPD's FY2026 appropriations across the general fund police services fund the TAF the police patrol vehicle and equipment revolving fund as of December 31st 2025 impacting GPD's ability to plan and pay for personnel equipment contracts utilities and other obligations?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: We do not see any impacts Senator Gomitano As a matter of fact as recently as a couple of weeks ago we have also-- we have already requested for release on those reserves to help pay down some of our costs So you know although although they're in reserve we have requested for the release of those reserves to ensure that we meet especially most importantly payroll.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: All right Thank you so much Chief let me talk a little bit about overtime if I could The request in-- for GPD's overtime includes a status quo request of $1,476,280 personnel overtime costs GPD submitted its FY2026 first quarter overtime report. Although the document indicates pay periods ending October 1, 2024 and at December 31, 2024. What portion of GPD's FY 2025 overtime allocation of $1.4 Million was expended and how much is GPD tracking in expenditures in overtime halfway through this current fiscal year?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: So although our request for overtime has not increased up or down or increased or decreased we find that we're

always spending either above what we projected But we also find that because there are other savings in other areas like if persons go on leave military long-term disability those salaries are then redirected to help pay down our overtime costs as we graduate more police officers and put them out on the street that also helps to drive down some of our overtime costs but we also recognize that there are things that occur. For example, this last pay period was very expensive because we had the typhoon and that incurred a lot of overtime and double pay for the typhoon.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: All right Thanks Chief Let's talk a little bit about your prior year obligations For your FY2027 budget request includes the same amount for prior year's obligations totaling $981,859.57 in prior year obligations which includes a principal amount of $329,953.19 and interest in the amount of $659,000 as of September 30,2024. For the record, is it accurate to conclude that GPD did not have any outstanding payments including but not limited to retirement contributions utilities and contract obligations specifically from FY2026?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Sir so a good bulk of that number that you rep- you presented represents retirement obligations. However we don't have an actual number of total because we deal with it on a employee-by-employee basis So when an employee wants to retire and he goes to retirement retirement will tell him "Sorry Officer Cruz you have unplay- unpaid retirement contributions for a certain period" And so retirement will make that that calculation and present it to Officer Cruz who presents it to us and then we now go in and make a lump sum payment to retirement.

So the-- that's an estimate on what we believe how we owe retirement and that's when during a period when the government of Guam was not paying the officers' retirement contributions primarily when the officers were on military leave.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Okay so let me just circle back in So how much of GPD's $989,000 in prior year obligations have been paid off based on payment notices that were submitted to the Guam Legislature this past year including but not limited to an estimated $27,000 covering debts from as far back as FY2014 $1000 from FY2020 and $19,200 for FY2023 and FY2024?

Nellie Asanuma, ASO, Guam Police Department: Hi my name is Nellie Asanuma I am the ASO for GPD. So, to respond to your question Senator for those that we have paid based on our prior year obligation through retirement is roughly between

I can say between 75,000 between 50 to 75,000. It only depends on someone who's retiring like Chief said and then they bring their you know what pay period were were not paid so we can proceed to pay. We have been working with retirement to try to get the list of those who still we still owe to pay but to this day we're still working on that list.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: So Nellie you're saying that the most of these past due are all retirement payments?

Nellie Asanuma, ASO, Guam Police Department: Correct.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: So, no other obligations for equipment no other contractual obligations?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yes So sometimes we'll find that some vendors have not invoiced us and so for example recently Cars Plus say "Chief you owe me X amount of dollars" and we went in and we checked our billing and we did find that we did pay them or and then we did find in the same set of billings that there may have been two or three invoices that were not submitted to us and so they become prior year obligations Yeah Same thing with sometimes we fall behind in processing payments for simple things like a telephone bill.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Yeah, right Yeah It's just that just trying to encourage the staff to continue to press them I mean y- just having those outstanding-

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yes sir

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: I mean we can process them much quicker if they're you know just taking a minute to pay attention to that.

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yeah, but we we're pretty good about trying to pay our bills on time.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Got it Gotcha Gotcha Well let me just stay on the interest payments then So what are you guys tracking in interest payments due as of September 30 2025?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Is that for retirement?

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Yes.

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yes believe so.

Nellie Asanuma, ASO, Guam Police Department: We don't know the exact amount of the interest or the fees that we owe only when retirement compiles let's say for Lieutenant Cruz and submit to us they'll include that penalty or the interest.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Yeah Nellie it's big It's I think it's somewhere around-

Nellie Asanuma, ASO, Guam Police Department: Correct.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: $329,000

Nellie Asanuma, ASO, Guam Police Department: Yes sir

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Okay thank you so much for that Mr Chair I only have a just a couple more questions If you can I just wanted to spend the just the last minute of my time is talking about the crime lab obviously for all of us the update today is important but I know you mentioned the the application with Congressman Moylan but any other attempts to look at prior year obligations other fund transfers? Perhaps asking the governor of Guam to transfer to get the crime sorry to get the HVAC at the crime lab up and running?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: So we because we don't have a dedicated funding source we haven't explored What we're trying to do is explore other funding sources outside of the GPD budget and so that's why we approached Congressman Moylan with the community project funding.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: No no but I mean but I'm also asking Chief is there ability to ask the governor of Guam? I mean this is a it's an absolute need Can she use her transfer authority today and then she'd have to report back to us that she spent $2 million on an HVAC system Have you been able to engage the governor on this particular issue on this?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yes She- the governor is aware that we do have a non-properly functioning air HVAC system however we

haven't crossed that road yet as to where the funding is gonna come from because none of the money has been appropriated to us.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Right and again I go back to that she does have quite a little bit of leeway to support this particular project as with her transfer authority Ms sorry Chief I only have one mean one more question and it has to do with the legal affairs I know you have an AG on on right now Can you for the for the committee is it going okay in terms of you have a lot of contracts you have other things you're trying to take care of I just want at least for the record for this budget how was your engagement with the attorney general of Guam going so far?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: You know Attorney General Doug Moylan has really tried his best to provide us a dedicated attorney but you know unfortunately that's been more miss than hit I probably in the past six months maybe since we had that conversation or that public hearing he has tried his best to give me an attorney but I've been through four or five attorneys already we come in we meet and then the next thing you know he's working at the public defender So it's been like I said it's been more hit than miss.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: So the last guy that we saw that during the body cams.

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Oh the last guy you saw?

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Yes Is he still there?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Has changed four four times over

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Oh geez

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: I've been through four or five attorneys already at the civil solicitors division

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Alright.

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: I meet somebody today two weeks later *taigui* he's gone somebody else new Yeah You know it's it's been really unfortunate And that's why you know I as much as he tri- General Moylan tries to

provide me that dedicated resource I really still wanna advocate you know for GPD's own in-house legal counsel.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Alright, thank you

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: that can work with the AG's office.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: And why Chief I ask a lot of this doesn't happen without an attorney general so that's why I'd ask I mean there was a lot of success but again I wanted to ask that on the record and I at least to the committee chair's visibility on this and Mr Chair I just wanna thank you again for the time and again thank GPD for all that you guys do for this community And again thanks again for meeting with us previously and throughout the fiscal year to this point Thanks again Chief.

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Thank you Senator Gumataotao.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* Chairman Gumataotao. Senator Lujan you're recognized.

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Thank you Mr Chair and good morning Chief and to your team.

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Morning sir

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: You know as the oversight chair for tourism and customs and quarantine I just wanna ask a few questions in the coordination of both agencies Okay So what is the current crime rate in Tumon and well what is that trend like or how is that trend like the past two years?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: I I don't have specifically crime for Tumon.

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Okay.

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: But I can get back to you on that.

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Okay Appreciate it.

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yes.

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Okay Like- likewise in regards to response times to the heavy visitor-heavy areas compared to the island-wide averages what is the response time to those areas compared to the.

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: So y- if you ever do a study on response times for crime there there is no like national standard. Response to incidences is incident-driven You know a burglary complaint right will take a backseat to a robbery in progress complaint So you know we respond to the call based on the factors that that are present and so with with regards to crime in Tumon and crimes against tourists I will say that we have imp-- done other things to improve our presence for example the beach patrol unit You know we reopened that Coban we ded-rededicated it We brought in two brand-new jet skis We have been involved with search and rescue operations down there We patrol the beaches what do you call that? frequently As a matter of fact if you do look at some of our newsletters our digital magazine we do a lot of outreach on the beaches We've gone around and given candy during you know what's it called? Is that the holiday in - Halloween there you go October They they go around and they do outreach I think we've I'll look at the the the statistics but I don't think there's been a robbery against a tourist in the Tumon area for quite some time You know the latest one occurred in the parking lot of GPO right? But that's away from the tourist district and we've been able to you know drive crime out of there with our presence.

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: So yeah ac-actually and that was you answered my next question basically in in regards to your coordination and your specific tourism policing unit working closely with the VSOs then down there?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yes sir We work closely with the VSO we're embedded with the safety and security committee with GVB and we're also very involved with the GHRA.

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Okay You know and I'll ask GVB this when when when they come in but you know those cars that they bought that for their VSOs that have

I guess police or something like that they're not they're not being used So I mean are they waiting for like lights or something for that?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: I don't know-

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Yeah

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: What that program is about.

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Okay and I'll ask GVB-

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yeah I'm not familiar with GVB's program.

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Yeah Oh okay likewise you know during your peak hours like events and things like that and and arrival arrival times at the airport and all that and I know the airport police of course they have they they patrol their corridors and all tha but are there coordinated efforts between the again the airport police and 'Cause we see a lot of you know these tourists now walking right from the airport corridors and then down now they go through the Marine Drive and lugging their their suitcases and stuff like that Are there coordinated staff plans be-between airport police and and GPD?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: None that I'm aware of but I do know what you're talking about I see that a lot too people actually- Towing their luggage behind them walking to and from the airport Yeah which yeah

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Yeah and I you see more of them too now going-

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yeah we can we can work with the airport police

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Marine and Marine Drive and ac- to their to their to their hotels and all that Yeah Okay likewise what's your operational coordination between the customs and quarantines and the port of entries with the with the CQA?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yeah So one of the task forces that we have is with the United States Postal Inspection Service and Guam Customs

and Quarantine Yeah and that's where our a majority of our drug seizures have been occurring We have a officer that's very actively involved.

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Yeah Okay Are there any intelligent gaps you know like watchlist contraband trends between say GPD and Customs? Are there any any gaps there?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: no we share a lot of intelligence and information sharing between Guam Police Department and Guam Customs All of our task force officers are embedded at multiple federal law enforcement agencies and so Customs is also present there in those TFOs is what we call them and so there's a lot of information sharing going on.

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: So in that information sharing you do you often have joint operations then or the task forces targeting trafficking and drugs and all that with CQA?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: not directly with CQA but again it's that i- interagency engagement that we have with the CQA and GPD who are embedded in the federal task forces.

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: You know as diving to in into into these budget hearings now what investments are needed to integrate of course your GPD da-data with customs and port authorities for predictive policing?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: I I don't know that we have any model of any software or-

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Okay

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: intelligence information sharing at this point but you know that that's something that definitely is worth looking into.

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Yeah 'cause you know we just have passed the their bill for the the Asycuda system right? And that's again to to capture you know you know lost basically goods and goods that are coming to the island And so I'm just wondering if there are cert- other um maybe programs out there that that can

integrate you you guys even even better and have more coordination and better coordination

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yes sir So you know just going back again and talking about our shortage I remember many many years ago at Pedro Plaza how we used to have a very dedicated intelligence information unit but you know unfortunately because of attrition and lack of personnel we used to have intel work very closely with narcotics section because they go out and gather information from various sources and share that information with the appropriate sections within the Guam Police Department It's something that we know we'd like to revisit but with the lack of personnel you know we just have to put our personnel where they're they're most needed.

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: What would it take to bring that back then? I mean funding-wise personal-

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: 60-

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Have you you you-

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: 63 personnel at CID but when the shortage is at patrol as well you know we gotta make sure that we cover our shortage on person- Mm-hmm of patrol first because that's the backbone of our Guam Police Department.

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Okay So 60 what what does that equate to in in regards to to funding approximately?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: A couple million dollars We usually estimate a a million dollars for every 20 police officer trainees Every 20.

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Okay So 60 that's at two four six 6 million?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: About About yeah Yeah yeah Yeah We're we're still short all the way around just like most other law enforcement agencies in Guam.

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Okay Thank you Chief Thank thank you.

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: You're welcome sir

Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Thank you Thank you

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* Senator Lujan, Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane are you recognized?

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Thanks Mr Chair and thank you to the officers and the management team that are with us today to answer some of our questions as we formulate the fiscal year 27 budget I just had some questions to follow up from the testimony that you provided today Chief and I'll begin with the budget.The 7.3M for contractual services you have a a list of different items on here but I did wanna ask specifically about leased vehicle Is GPD is leasing vehicles?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yeah The only leased vehicles we have are the four assigned to executive security Yeah

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Okay and how much are we paying for for that?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: I don't have the number offhand.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Okay And you're also leasing offices?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yes Like any government of Guam agency we have a lot of leased offices So we have a lease at Hagaboton that's for primarily our civilian side we have a lease at ITC that's primarily for where we have the customer-facing services- Okay police clearances traffic accident reports And then we're also leasing a warehouse for our recreational boating safety program we need a warehouse because of the our boats that we have and jet skis And then I'm still leasing Bello Road for the evidence control section Hopefully by next year we'll get rid of that lease when we move into the new building that we've-- we're constructing in Yigo And then lastly is Tiyan I'm actually leasing those two facilities from the airport Yeah And that that lease goes back decades.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: You mentioned your K-9 officers Draco and Lobo do you have any additional K-9s that you plan on putting out on patrol?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yeah So we have at least one or two more dogs in our Special Operations Division And they do deploy when the officers from SOD that are K-9 handlers are available We do in- infuse them into patrol operations So at least once or twice a week they're working out on patrol But K-9 and Draco Lobo specific I'm sorry Draco and Lobo specifically work full-time on patrol.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: I also wanted to follow up on the Investigations Bureau you mentioned that you're only operating with 24 uniformed officers and you're faced with a critical shortfall of 39 What are you doing to fill-

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: A-again you know we we try and move officers into Criminal Investigation section or Investigations Bureau when the opportunity arises So for example once we get this next batch of 10 police officers out in the street that that's the group that's was sworn in a couple weeks ago for OJT So they'll be out in OJ- for OJT next week because they have one more week of in-service training So once we get those guys out on patrol and they finish their OJT in two months then we look at the opportunity of how many police officers can we move after we infuse 10 into patrol how many more can we move? it's not 10 for 10 So if I put 10 officers that graduate on patrol because they're already short there may be an opportunity to move maybe three or four at the most to a specialized unit And those specialized units include not only Investigations Bureau but as you can see Highway Patrol is also short.They have a mandate of 30 and they're only at 16 So you know we we just have to look at the balance of who really needs officers now and who can wait their their turn in line which is why we have the next recruitment cycle going on as well.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: I wanted to follow up on a question from the oversight chair of public safety regarding the crime lab And in your testimony you talked about the DNA lab.

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yeah.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: So just to be clear this is the DNA lab is located in the crime lab?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: No

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: No?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: No They're two separate buildings.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Okay But it-

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: The the forensic science division it's what we call the old lab is a separate building from the DNA lab The DNA lab is to the left of it.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: So is the crime lab fully operational? Are there issues with-

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yes yes everything's fully operational.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Okay.

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Everything's still accredited we just finished our reaccreditation observation and surveillance in December and I'm glad to report that we maintained our accre- accreditation

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: So it's the DNA lab that's not operational?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: The DNA lab has not been fully commissioned yet As a matter of fact I met with Dr Tudela the interim president of GCC just last week and so they gave me an update So we're looking We're probably about two months out for them to finish off some construction work and then bring in the There's a team that they need to bring in from Hawaii to do the commissioning of the building.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: How how long has this DNA lab been under construction?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: I came in in 2019 and we've been talking about it since.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: All right Is there any particular reason why it's taking taken this long?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: th- there was just a lot of different things that affected the construction A lot of it is on the the DNA lab site And as you can see a lot of it has to do with the specialized equipment that's needed For example we spent almost six to eight months on something called a snorkel And I'll tell you right now I do not believe that one small piece which connects the fume hood to the top of the building to blow off all the exhaust could really cause us a lengthy delay the fume hood was another issue The one that was ordered couldn't fit could- couldn't get into the the lab area itself So we we've gone through multiple issues So we've had to order a new fume hood then we've had to order the right snorkel Now that's in and I think there's a couple other things that need to be tested before they bring in the commissioning team from Honolulu.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: And how much is this costing us?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: It's not costing us anything It's all part of the design build Yeah

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: So we're not paying?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: The Guam Police Department's not paying for anything The only thing I've ever put money out for that building is initially when it was started there was no funding for equipment tables desks chairs internet connection things like that and some of the specialized equipment And so I was able to get close to a million dollars with the assistance of the governor and lieutenant governor to outfit that that building.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Is it-- So this the construction of this building it's all federal grants?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: I'm not sure I believe so it is I believe it's it might be Department of Interior again but it's GCC ledAnd my job is just to occupy it once it's done.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: But you need two million dollars is that correct?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: No So that two million dollars is for the old building.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: For the crime lab.

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: The current lab Cur-

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Okay.

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yeah So that that HVAC system unfortunately since So if you go back about a decade a little over a decade ago that original HVAC system broke down There was mold there was mildew there was all kinds of problems with it brought a lot of spotlight and limelight into the Guam Police Department So they put it out for bid and it was awarded to the I guess for lack of a better term is what they call it the most responsible bidder. Unfortunately the most responsible bidder was the lowest bidder and since that time that HVAC system has not functioned properly And we've just been working on putting different band-aids and fixes to it to just make it function until we can look at getting a better system in place We had actually gone out and hired a consultant Mr Parish from GHURA and he came in and did an assessment of the entire HVAC system And the recommendation is you need to replace it.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Okay we're all still kind of reviewing this audit that came out from the Guam OPA on fiscal year 2024 federal grant compliance I haven't had a chance to thoroughly review the 200-page audit just yet but are there any concerns that we should be aware of as it relates to the Guam Police Department?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: None that I've been notified of and I hope my name's not mentioned.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane: Me too Thank you Mr Chair Thank you Chief.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: *Si Yu'os ma'åse* I'm gonna tag that as the best answer so far of the panel question Senator Barnett you're recognized.

Senator Chris "Malafunkshun" Barnett: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse* Mr Chair Don't worry Chief I didn't see your name there.

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Thank you sir.

Senator Chris "Malafunkshun" Barnett: Yeah *Manha na si Yu'os* –

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Manha na

Senator Chris "Malafunkshun" Barnett: Chief a- and also to your command staff *Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'os Ma'ase* for your very very lengthy and thorough presentation And also just wanna thank your hardworking officers for all of their efforts in the Super Typhoon *Sinlaku* recovery you know they're out there at the intersections Some of the the younger officers and it was good to see the camaraderie between GPD and then you know all the other different law enforcement entities to include Customs and Quarantine and the conservation officers So thank you very much for that Chief. I did have just a few things I wanted to follow up on And very pleased to see that you have included in your budget the triennial bonus retention program which was the my public law that was included in the budget process And so if you could just provide a little bit of background on when this triennial retention bonus program will start and then just kinda like the process of it being rolled out and and then if you could also just your thoughts on how it could help us increase retention in the Guam Police Department.

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Sure So the first payment the first $10,000 bonus for the first three years since passage and inception is September 30th of next year September 30th 2027 So that's why we budgeted close to $3 million for that incentive to be paid you know as far as what else can be done I think ooh gosh you know we've been talking about this for the past seven eight years that I've been chief You know what can we do? We've we've raised the pay We've gotten s- the $10,000 bonus y- you know just payback provisions recruitment You know we we're now we're doing this by bringing the program into the schools with Tiyan High the law enforcement program there So you know we we've I think we've done all that we can but i- it's a very competitive market I've talked about this a lot is um- Not not everybody can pass that test to become a police officer So at least with the the current list the seventy plus that we have I think there were probably over two hundred or close to two hundred applicants that went in to take the test and of that only seventy-six made made the cut So you know I don't know where the disconnect is I'm assuming maybe you know it's in the high schools or the schools that they don't have the competency to take this entry level exam But you know it's not unique to the Guam Police Department I've talked to Guam Fire and the the list that they were working on they had over four hundred applicants but they were only working with a small list I've talked to people in the military and even the ASVAB test seems to be a something hard that these young students graduating from high school just don't don't have the ability to to even pass the ASVAB test So I I don't know where the disconnect is I don't know if it's 'cause of COVID you know the learning loss that that occurred during that time I I'm not sure.

Senator Chris "Malafunkshun" Barnett: I think it's when they stopped teaching them cursive.

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: They don't use chalk anymore.

Senator Chris "Malafunkshun" Barnett: Yeah No no I can Chief I agree with you but I'm a little more optimistic in that you know I think we've tinkered a lot with the recruitment and the retention and all that's left for us to do is hopefully reap the benefits of you know you're in the high schools and so I think that's great to establish that pipeline from our high schools I'm hoping that in that that program that there is some kind of focus on what's on the test you know and I think that's gonna be key is if there are tutor opportunities but clearly I mean for the people who are watching you know when we we've listen to your budget presentation and we hear about these you know shortages which unfortunately are in the areas where the public is involved You know I mean we're not looking at shortages in other areas It's shortages at neighborhood patrol highway patrol division And I know people watching might just think "Oh well why can't they just do a police recruit cycle of 30 officers and just you know be done with it?" And that- that's why is because you can't get enough officers or trainees who can pass this and it's basically it's like a high school equivalency right?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Pre- pretty much According to DOA it's equivalent to about a 10th grade learning level Wow Yeah That's what I've been told Yeah Right I've actually seen the test It's don't look that difficult Yeah But you know unfortunately it's just based on the person taking the test.

Senator Chris "Malafunkshun" Barnett: Right

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: agencies in Guam and not to say that the others don't do work but the Guam Police Department is It's a hard job Not everybody's made for this job And I've ha- I've seen recruits come in especially during OJT I've had four of them two cycles ago Four of them came in to see me in one week and says "Chief I did the academics You put me out on OJT but this job's not for me I I can't do this" They can't do shift work They can't deal with victims of domestic violence sexual assault They they can't stand a dead body you know? And it's just this is a t- tough job you know? Where else are you gonna respond to over-3000 arrests 24000 calls for services a year Nowhere else but the Guam Police Department.

Senator Chris "Malafunkshun" Barnett: Yeah Thank thank you for that Chief And you know I've always said since getting elected GPD is the premier law enforcement agency I'm not really concerned about what law enforcement toes I step on when I say that but you're right I mean you guys are out there on the streets you know protecting our people as as best as you can you know Chief with the recruitment and retention I just hear from different officers that there's Is is there a large group of command staff and other officers who are eligible for retirement but just haven't retired because of the maybe the impact that it's gonna cause to the numbers that we have?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yeah There's this Everybody up here wearing a uniform this way all 30-plus years already A lot of them behind me in uniform at least 20 to 25 years a lot of them are 30 years I guess we love this job We don't wanna leave yet that or there's a lot of good incentive to stay.

Senator Chris "Malafunkshun" Barnett: Yeah and I I think Chief also with the promotions I mean that's always been a you know a big issue is the lack of consistent promotions from you know the PO1s on up and so it's encouraging to see that we are promoting more officers and I just-- I hope that it continues in the non-election years but like I said I think we've tinkered a lot and it's really just a matter of hoping that these different things that we've done are going to solve you know once and for all the recruitment and retention problem. Chief in your presentation you talked-- you gave an update on the body-worn cameras But I'm hoping there's been some kind of forward movement since you had the public hearings back in February and then i-if you could just respond to that and and tell us the process moving forward I know that we're gonna get involved But at the end of the day are-- is all the equipment that you need for the body-worn cameras good to go as soon as we pass the rules and regs?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yeah So public hearings are done we've-- Again we've packaged everything It's with the attorney general's office I think they may be waiting for just one letter from us which is I believe the fiscal impact statement right Yeah So once we get the fiscal impact statement then they have to write a letter that includes the fiscal impact statement it meets constitutional requirements and then there's one other requirement based on the administrative rules of GAR on creating administrative rules then once we get that letter from the AG I can take that and package it now present it to the governor for her review Yeah So I I think I'm only about maybe a month or two before it's done Yeah Which is good because the experience that we're gaining now for the body-worn cameras

makes it smoother as we work because there's another set of administrative rules I have to create and that's for the silencer. Yeah So that's another administrative rule So at least now we we understand the process 'cause it's been probably over a decade or longer since we've adopted administrative rules for GPD.

Senator Chris "Malafunkshun" Barnett: Thank thank you for that Chief So we're looking at at possibly a month for And then is there any additional fiscal impact since you've already procured and-

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: No there there's no fiscal impact to the Guam Police Department for body-worn cameras

Senator Chris "Malafunkshun" Barnett: Okay And then I had another question on another one of my laws Public Law 37-136 this is the law that renamed the southern precinct in *Hagåt* after the late Senator Pedo Terlaje And I'm j- I didn't see anything in the budget and I have not heard anything In fact I wasn't even invited to the bill signing ceremony for Public Law 37-136, but with that being said is there any movement on on this public law that and is it included in this budget proposal before us?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: I you know Senator I know we've m- at least made two or three attempts to procure the signs for the precinct You know I I'm not sure why unfortunately this never happens but we'll we'll look into it again and make sure we get the signs But yeah I mean *Hagåt* I don't know if you've been down to *Hagåt* lately but we've done a lot of improvement to the appearance of the building So – *Hagåt* Central I'm sorry yeah *Hagåt* Cen-- *Hagåt* Precinct *Sinajana* Precinct and *Tamuning* Precinct have brand-new paint jobs So if you go look at all the the three precincts they all look the same now It's uniform so *Dededo* Precinct is next on our on our list to paint and get it ready and then the road into the old I mean the *Hagåt* Precinct you know there was that one house to the left right before you approach We actually cleaned that place up thanks to the assistance of DPW we towed away all the abandoned cars and threw away all the trash So it looks a little bit more presentable as you come up to the precinct.

Senator Chris "Malafunkshun" Barnett: Yeah Thank you for that Chief 'cause I know that after Marwar I was kind of giving you a hard time about the painting of the Central Precinct and I gotta say it's you know it's a total 180 degree It's very welcoming I love that you know it looks like we're maintaining the building now and then also I've seen a lot more activity at the Central Precinct in terms of the

vehicles and all that stuff So that's it's good to maintain that presence I think that's about it for my Oh so this budget Chief it kind of looks like it's it's almost like a status quo you know kind of budget Is this budget going to allow you to deliver improvements to the people of Guam whether it's you know the number of officers that we have on the streets protecting the villages or you know relative to your outreach programs with Project You and all that? Are we gonna see increases and improvements or are we gonna see things stay the same with this budget proposal?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: You know it's actually a slight increase from last year and that was again factoring the $10,000 bonus which really affected the slight increase yes we we plan to deliver the same services but also increase what we're doing So for example right we tinkered with the forensic science camp last year and we found there's a lot of success in it so we're do- doing two camps come this summer We're continuing with Project You we didn't have the Tiyan High School program Now we're going into year two come next calendar year for school so we continue to to recruit more people into the Guam Police Department you know even despite the numbers of people that actually pass.

Senator Chris "Malafunkshun" Barnett: *Si Yu'os ma'åse* Chief and thank you again to your command staff and all the hardworking men and women in the Guam Police Department And *Si Yu'os ma'åse* Mr Chair for the opportunity to speak this morning.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse* Senator Barnett And one thing again just to be clear you also have your bylaw-mandated cycle fully funded correct?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yes sir

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: And you're currently you had a recruitment of 20 on our pre-budget meeting but you said basically seven now have been slated to go through the current cycle correct?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: That's what we're working on yes.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay And you're gonna wait until it's full to move forward?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: We have to finish the FY COPS the COPS funding Correct Then we can tap into the local funding.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Thank you for doing that.

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yes sir

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: And I and I know that you have an issue there that we're working on.

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yes

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: but thank you for making sure that that's done Just wanted to make sure that along with what you've discussed about your budget but your manpower is on track in terms of your ability to go through the cycles.

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yes sir

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Thank you very much Senator Terlaje you're recognized at this time.

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Yes, That was going to be my question Can you just clarify again? So as for FY '26 you were supposed to have 20 but there's seven pending?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: So i-in FY '26 the local budget appropriation we're authorized to hire twenty But we have two years two fiscal years of COPS hiring funds that we haven't been able to fully spend because recruitment is a challenge So I I think the big one is the FY '25 Yeah so there's thirty that we needed to hire in the FY '25 COPS hiring and we we haven't been able to fill that number yet sometimes we fill them but then the recruit quits right? So the funding becomes available again Same thing happens with the FY '24. So we really wanna spend our our federal grant money before we tap into the local funds and so that's why we have a very aggressive recruiting We're working on two separate lists right now to try and recruit as much as we can.

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Alright You also said earlier that you had ten current.

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yes there's ten-

Senator Therese M Terlaje: What is that?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: ten current and they-

Senator Therese M Terlaje: What what does current mean? Are they-

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: ten They're they're currently in training.

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Okay

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: they're actually supposed to have been out this week-

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Okay

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: for the beginning of their OJT but because of the storm it was pushed back So this week they're finishing off their last classroom instruction and then they'll be out by this weekend for on-the-job training So usually they go for from on-the-job training straight into regular police work.

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Alright So- So those those ten were funded by COPS?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yes Yes

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Alright So in other words you haven't used the general fund appropriation for-

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: We Yeah we're not-

Senator Therese M Terlaje: twenty more recruits

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yeah, we can't we can't get there yet because-

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Okay

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: not enough applicants

Senator Therese M Terlaje: And so that's FY '26 if you don't use it what happened? Did And you didn't use it in FY '25 either?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yes we used some of it in FY-

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Okay

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: twenty I think most of it in FY '25.

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Alright So for the seven you're waiting for a a cohort of ten to proceed?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: No,We have two cert lists One was fifty-six li- on the list but we're-- I mean fifty-eight but we're down to thirty-six because of the you know the just the regular process then we received an additional list from DOA last week There's 16 more names So now we have 38 plus 16 so we have 54 names to work with.

Senator Therese M Terlaje: But how many are you gonna go forward with?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: It it all depends because we have we have-

Senator Therese M Terlaje: What's the max that you can go forward with?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: So we have to go through I can't until I have un- 'cause I have to do a background investigation a polygraph

Senator Therese M Terlaje: No I mean how much money do you have that you can have a cohort? How big of a cohort can you have with the money that's available?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: I can hire all of those guys if they all pass

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Okay

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: 50 plus yeah

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Alright But- So m- money's not the issue for the hiring

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: money is not the issue with hiring And the- It's applicants

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Alright And then the It says for police training you're getting an additional 170,000 for FY27 That's the request That that's gonna give us what?Well that's on the spreadsheet.

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: So we budgeted it for 20 police officers in FY '27.

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Okay 20 additional?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: 20 additional

Senator Therese M Terlaje: From from your f- in addition to the FY '26 budget?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Right So yeah so-

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Alright Just wanna make sure

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Right Right

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Thank you

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yes ma'am

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Okay And then so the overall budget as you said is a slight increase about a million dollars I think because it's overall 2.2 million increase from the general fund but a minus 11 million in special funds And then some of these things were decreased The service bureau decreased by 545,000 from last year's allotted amount and the investigative bureau is being decreased by $141,000 So I know you said earlier the service bureau is where the dispatchers are and and others

and the investigative bureau you said had a shortfall of 39 officers yet it's being decreased in this year's budget there's an increase in this year's budget request for 736,000 for police commander and special ops and 403,000 for neighborhood That's good And 389,000 for the chief's office of the chief So can you just maybe describe the overall strategy in these decreases in certain areas especially investigative bureau service bureau and then the increases in the other areas?

Nellie Asanuma, ASO, Guam Police Department: The changes that you're looking at is were there were a number of officers that are under the the service bureau that retire or resign or transfer and then number of deaths So that's why the the funding source decreased by 500-some thousand And again we like for a special fund if it decrease we move the officers from that special fund into the general fund So those are the difference that you're looking at depending on the funding source N- number of officers transferred out so that's why you're s- seeing a negative over there But the positive is Also because of the shuffling of staff we move them from a different division to a different division so that way their funding source changes.

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Alright So for example the neighborhood patrol is increasing by 403,000. What is that going to result in? Is that more officers in neighborhood patrol or more staff or-

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yeah

Senator Therese M Terlaje: what what would be the result?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: So generally when we graduate these officers they start off in the services bureau because they're recruits and then when they graduate they're now moved over into the neighborhood patrol So their funding follows the with them Because the the funding was under the federal grant or the local hir- hiring and then they move to neighborhood patrol because as when you graduate your first assignment is neighborhood patrol Yeah

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Okay I guess I'm trying to follow because sh- you also said some of these transfer out and they when the new recruits come in some of these officers they get promoted Some

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Some of them some of them quit so-

Senator Therese M Terlaje: So what is the overall For FY '27 what is the plan for neighborhood patrol for example? Is it going to increase officers that are-

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: E- every-

Senator Therese M Terlaje: out on the streets for sure?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Ev- every year once we graduate recruits that increases neighborhood patrol Yeah

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Okay So we don't have a deficit of people going out of that d- Okay

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: No no

Senator Therese M Terlaje: And then what about the the special ops? It's a significant increase 736,000 what is that going to result in?

Nellie Asanuma, ASO, Guam Police Department: It's also the number of increase is also part of the recent promotions that we did for police officer two and police officer three And and I think most of what you're seeing is based on a lot of officers didn't get an increment like two years ago They're getting it now or in FY27 and also their benefits went up So that's one of the reason why we have a budget increase in those areas.

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Okay So that's seven hundred and thirty-six thousand dollars and pretty much same personnel number in those divisions And then the decrease in the investigative bureau of a $141,000 while you have a shortfall of 31 officers does that decrease the number of officers there that decrease of a $141,000 in the budget?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: No No

Senator Therese M Terlaje: It's gonna be the same?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: As a matter of fact No as a matter of fact they'll be getting again probably an infusion of with-- Once we graduate this ten they might get an infusion of two officers

Senator Therese M Terlaje: with the same budget? With a negative budget

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yeah with the same budget 'cause sometimes you know the the money follows them right?

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Oh I see

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: They started at patrol if they get transferred to investigations bureau it'll follow the money The money will follow them to their assignment

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Okay It's hard to follow then-

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yeah yeah

Senator Therese M Terlaje: with this up and down in your budget

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: It's it's it's a lot of moving around the money

Senator Therese M Terlaje: So would you say overall your neighborhood patrol is going to stay the same amount of officers-

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: No it's gonna-

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Or you're gonna increase by ten?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: It's gonna at least increase by ten

Senator Therese M Terlaje: In FY26?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yes And- And then in in a year from now depending on how many we hire from this current list that we're working on it could increase by as much as thirty hopefully.

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Okay Hopefully ten and ideally-

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Min- minimum yeah thirty Yeah

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Yes

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Hopefully thirty Alright

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Then the the investigative bureau it's gonna be status quo?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: No So again-

Senator Therese M Terlaje: How many officers?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: A year from now when we graduate this next cycle that we're recruiting for that means we can move more officers into investigations into highway patrol into special operations So they-- W- whenever we graduate a cycle and we put them out on patrol that allows us to look at the seasoned officers on patrol and find out where we can move them to.

Senator Therese M Terlaje: So what is the plan for investigative bureau? Will it be increased or stay the same?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Once we graduate more people and put them in the street investigations will increase highway should increase forensic science should increase

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Yeah

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: It all depends on how many we can move Because it's-- just because we graduate 10 doesn't mean we're gonna move 10 out of patrol because now you're still creating the shortage that you have in patrol So it's still gonna be short but maybe it's gonna have a plus six while we move six up- Yeah four up

Senator Therese M Terlaje: That's what I'm trying to gauge here-

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yeah

Senator Therese M Terlaje: because you gave us numbers of what we're operating in a deficit

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yes ma'am

Senator Therese M Terlaje: And I wanna see are we impacting that deficit by this budget or not?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Understood

Senator Therese M Terlaje: Okay So I just wanna thank all of you again for all your work and the accomplishments that you've highlighted Chief even the dispatchers and but the investigations the arrests the actually just answering the call the the enormous amount of calls that our community has *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* to all of you. Thank you very much .

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Thank you Senator

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* Senator Terlaje and so I'll close with a few questions Chief what I always think that tells the story really and I'm sure your ASO will concur is when we look at the fiscal year 2025 expenditures and encumbrances this basically is your closeout and at that we have a grand total of $53,018,160 then we have your authorized level in 2026 at $64,929,283 and we have a variant of 12 million almost 13 million dollars This is what the legislature's done to ensure that you can continue to progress and get to where you need to be and that's why I believe right now we're in a position to where your request is slightly over a million because we've gotten to the point to where you've been funded now for your promotions your raises we're gonna fund your bonus now and ensuring going forward you have your recruitment cycles that are intact Now I wanna tell another story unfortunately but I understand there's reasons for this so I'm not beating up on you guys We said this in the pre-budget hearing but what I have is a list here of your current traction-- tracking of lapses and I got under OPS you're tracking lapses of $2,316,000 On CJIS you're tracking 87,000On Safe Schools you're tracking 99,000 On Crime Stoppers I think you are negative so you're probably able to move money there on the hundred thousand and GPD cycle are negative as well so your grand total adjusted is a little bit over two about two point one million in lapses Can you discuss that?

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yeah, So, I was talking to our ASO after our pre-budget hearing Yeah And I said "You know why why are we lapsing so much?" And so the the two promotions that I talked about those payments hadn't-- haven't been reflected yet in in what you're reading but we just paid that out I think last pay period and so you-you're gonna see an adjustment to that number for the Safe Schools we do have plans I think we do have some contractuals that have gone out recently for like social media advertisings services So you know some of those areas where you're looking at positives you know or lapses those should be e-eaten up soon because some of the contractual stuff that we're doing and some of the promotions that we were paying out are starting to occur already.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Yeah So Chief this is this is why and like I said when you look at the gulf between the expenditure and encumbrances on 2025 and the authorized level I agree with our chairman I really think that and I hope that we start to have these discussions more fruitful And that is that you know in a perfect world and in a world the way I see it is you'd be constantly communicating with BBMR you'd be constantly commuting with communicating with DOA that as we approach the closeout of the fiscal year- You should be able to already be at least preparing for procurement on some of these items that you need. This air con system's critical and to me I'm the kind of person that and I've done this before as a director even though I don't have the funding source of course I'm not gonna announce I'm not gonna put a procurement out but I'm gonna prepare every document to where I could drop that thing in 15 days if I needed toI encourage you Chief to continue to work with the front office and Office of Finance and Budget will work with you as well that as we come close to the end of the fiscal year let's not lapse these funds Let's not lapse these funds because I'm thinking right now and as I'm looking across the board every single agency with the exception of two is lapsing in the hundreds the tens the hundreds and the millions of dollars And I'm gl-- I'm thankful for some of my senators here on the panel that are are are now asking the questions it is is it a money problem? And or is it an execution problem? Because to me you gotta spend that money and if you spend that money it makes it very clear in the next fiscal year and if you spend that money on a capital outlay of course that's not part of your fixed cost so you don't have to worry about that next year If that capital outlay is taken care of all you're sitting down is saying "How do we get our recruits? How do we buy our equipment? How do we enforce our body cams? How do we do the things operationally that we do?" And you don't have this this nagging you know procurement of capital outlay over your head So we'll work on that together But I also agree and I know this to be true that this is when a lot of the reconciliation of the annual budget comes to bear is towards the end of July into August and then of course September is the closeout So I encourage you to work

with us and to work with the administration to not have this situation where we have all these fund balances going into the next fiscal year when you have these critical procurements that you need to do One of the things Office of Finance and Budget's been trying to do is to ensure that you don't You know commingle your your your fi- your capital outlay with your fixed costs cause it just doesn't make sense Your fixed cost is for your operations in the fiscal year where you need to take care of your people take care of your immediate supplies take care of your gas take care of your vehicles take care of your maintenance You shouldn't have to be nagged by the fact that you need these capital procurements going forward So Chief can you can you commit to helping me with that? and we'll stay we'll stay on board 'cause we're gonna continue to remind you with the chairman and everything else pretty much every time we see every couple of months when we see that that's tracking we're gonna encourage you to to reprogram those funds for your capital outlay

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Yes, sir I commit to working with with everyone.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: And the reason why and I think our panel's is pretty clear and I thank them for their questions I mean the thing is we're talking about a variance of about little bit over a million In the grand scheme of the budget it's really not that big which means you've gotten to the point to where you can sustain yourself You've got like I said you've got your promotions you've got what you need to hit the streets and then now your biggest issue is recruitment And so tying that down and making sure that that you're whole with regard to your budget I think that you know we'll-- we should be in good shape going forward I wanna take this time once again to echo the comments of this panel today thanking you for everything that you've done throughout the storm your perseverance through budget processes to get you to where you are now and going forward and I think this budget is a recognition of your work It's a recognition of coming very close

I would remind our panel as well that this is the EBR So when we talk about the variances and everything else this is executive request and then we'll come down to a fine tune of what it's gonna be final when we actually do the substitute bill that we'll be putting on the floor But with that said once again thank you to the men and women in blue for all that you do and we look forward once again working with you get you the money you need now to do your procurement and then we'll handle the rest together in terms of your operational needs. So, with that it is 11:49 and GPD thank you their budget is considered having been heard. The committee's adjourned.

Stephen Ignacio, Chief, Guam Police Department: Thank you Senators

The Budget Hearing was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

COMMITTEE REPORT

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) -

INTRODUCED BY

Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam

AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

Friday, June 05, 2026, at 9:00 A.M.

Department of Revenue and Taxation

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 5, 2026

2 messages

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Fri, May 29, 2026 at 8:30 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Christopher Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com" <stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com>, "vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com" <vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com>, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 29, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 5, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Friday, June 5, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Department of Revenue and Taxation (DRT)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--
Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

FIRST NOTICE- DRT.pdf
695K

Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov> Fri, May 29, 2026 at 8:37 AM
To: Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

Hafa adai and posted on the calendar.
[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

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 29, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 5, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Friday, June 5, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Department of Revenue and Taxation (DRT)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 5, 2026

PRINT

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 5, 2026

PRESS RELEASE

Posted on: 05/29/2026 08:58 AM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

Types of Notice: PRESS RELEASE (/notices?type_id=2)

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 29, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 5, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Friday, June 5, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** (https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
- Department of Revenue and Taxation (DRT)

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 budget hearing, please contact the Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas for further assistance via email at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov***

senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov (mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov) *or by phone at (671) 989-9554.*

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Notice of Budget Hearing

Friday, June 5, 2026, 9:00 A.M.

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Friday, June 5, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Department of Revenue & Taxation

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

GUAM LEGISLATURE
AUDIO VISUAL DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Office Submitting Request: Senator Chris Dueñas

Date of Request: 05/28/2026

POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Ashley Shinohara Contact #: 671-989-9554

Email: senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS

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

☐ Oversight Hearing ☐ Committee Meeting ☒ Other: Budget Hearing

Notice Title / Bill(s) / Resolution(s) / Appointment:
Department of Revenue & Taxation (DRT)

Date of Event: 06/05/2026 Start Time: 9:00 AM AM/PM

End Time: 12:00 PM AM/PM

Location: Public Hearing Room

MEDIA HANDLING

Recording Format: ☒ MP4 ☐ MP3 ☐ Other: _____

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

CERTIFIED BY AV:

Name: Rudy Perez Signature: _____

Posted on/Air Date: 2026-05-29 to 2026-06-05

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 5, 2026

1 message

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Tue, Jun 2, 2026 at 8:30 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Christopher Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com" <stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com>, "vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com" <vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com>, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 2, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 5, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Friday, June 5, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Department of Revenue and Taxation (DRT)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--
Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

SECOND NOTICE- DRT.pdf
694K

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 2, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 5, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Friday, June 5, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
- Department of Revenue and Taxation (DRT)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 5, 2026

PRINT

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 5, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 06/02/2026 08:50 AM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 2, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 5, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Friday, June 5, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** **(https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
· Department of Revenue and Taxation (DRT)

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 budget hearing, 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.

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

BUDGET HEARING AGENDA

Friday, June 5, 2026 – Guam Congress Building

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam – AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

9:00 am:

- Department of Revenue & Taxation (DRT)

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

Date: June 5, 2026 **Time: 9:00 a.m.**

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules
by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam
AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.
-- Relative to Department of Revenue & Taxation (DRT)

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	MARIE LIZAMA	DRT	[redacted]	marie.lizama@revtax.guam.gov	✓	✓	✓	
2	Michelle Santos	DRT		michele.santos@revtax.guam.gov			✓	
3	Denise Mendiola	DRT		denise.mendiola@revtax.guam.gov	✓		✓	
4	Zita Pangelinan	DRT		zita.d.pangelinan@revtax.guam.gov			✓	
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								

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

Date: June 5, 2026 **Time: 9:00 a.m.**

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules
by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam
AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.
-- Relative to Department of Revenue & Taxation (DRT)

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Carolyn Riviera	DRT	635-1848	carolyn.riviera@revtax.guam.gov				
2	Alejandro Gay	The Pool						
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								

Department of Revenue and Taxation

FY2027 Budget Hearing

June 05, 2026

Director Marie P. Lizama

Deputy Director Denise M. Mendiola

DRT FY2027 Budget Outline

01. About DRT

02. Goals and Objectives

03. Major Accomplishments

04. Budget Data and Summary

05.Key Performance Indicators

06. FY 2027 Priorities

Department of Revenue and Taxation

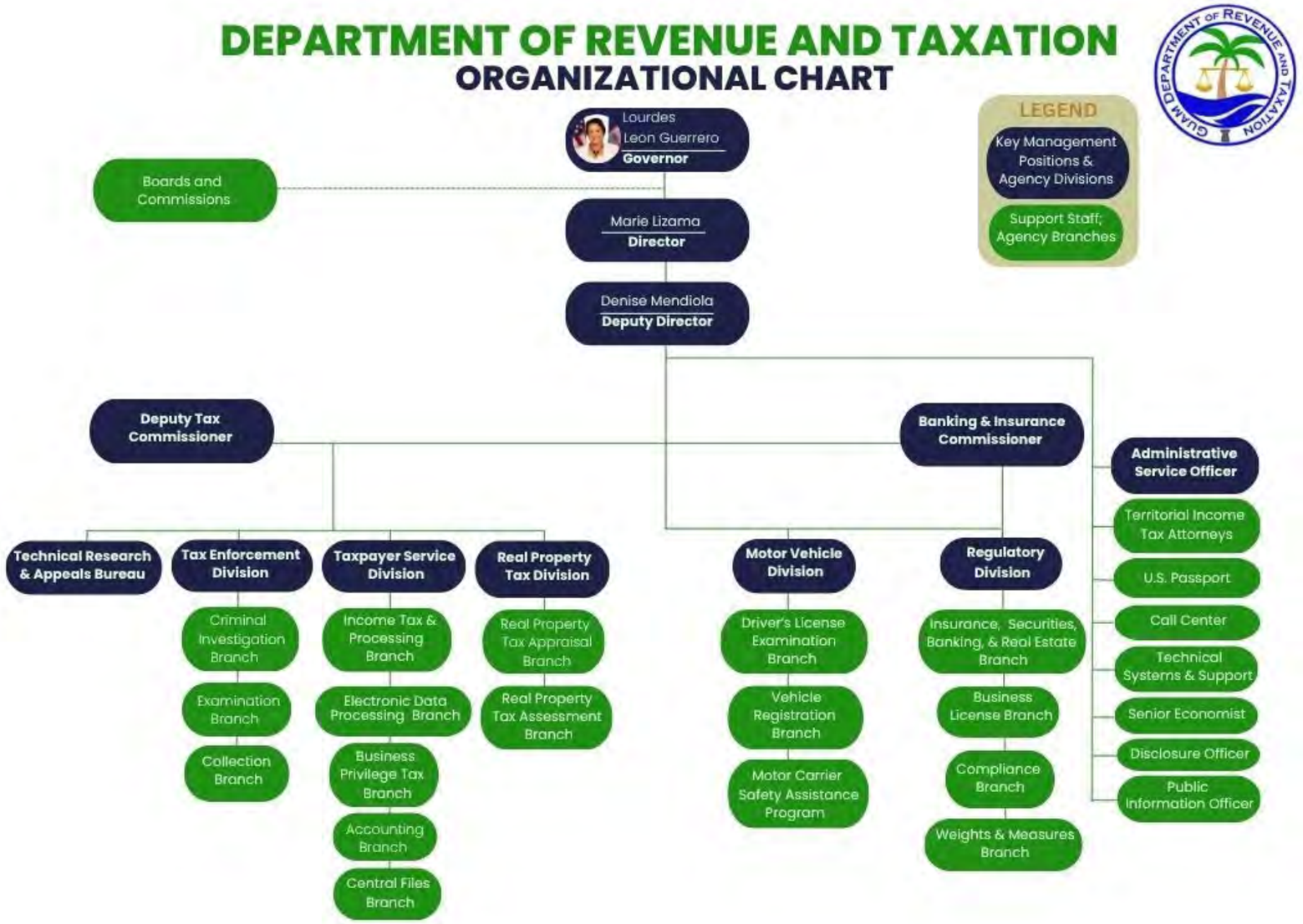
MISSION STATEMENT

To apply and enforce licensing laws with integrity and fairness and encourage voluntary compliance by educating customers to enhance and maintain public confidence.

AUTHORITY & PURPOSE

11 GCA §1103
“The Department shall be charged with the enforcement of the tax laws of Guam and the collection of revenue. It shall also be the government agency responsible for licensing and registration as well as allied and connected enforcement functions.”

Organizational Structure



Department of Revenue and Taxation

DIVISIONS & BRANCHES

Executive Direction

- Director's Office
- Administrative Office
- Passport Office
- Technical Research and Appeals Branch
- Systems and Programming Support
- Legal Team
- Call Center

01

Tax Enforcement Division

- Criminal Investigation Branch
- Tax Examination Branch
- Collection Branch

02

Taxpayer Services Division

- Income Tax Assistance and Processing Branch
- Business Privilege Tax Branch
- Electronic Data Processing
- Central Files
- Accounting

03

Real Property Tax Division

- Real Property Tax Appraisal Branch
- Real Property Tax Assessment Branch

04

Regulatory Division

- Insurance, Securities, Banking, and Real Estate Branch
- General Licensing & Registration Branch
- Compliance Branch
- Weights & Measures Branch

05

Motor Vehicle Division

- Driver's License Examination Branch
- Vehicle Registration Branch
- Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program

06

Goals & Objectives

01. Increase enforcement efforts to establish and maintain public confidence in both the local and Internal Revenue Tax systems as they apply to Guam .

02. Increase taxpayer awareness of tax laws and reporting responsibilities in achieving a high degree of voluntary compliance.

03. Regulate holders of licenses for the protection of the consumers of Guam from unsafe, unsound and unfair practices .

04. Improve e-Commerce services as it pertains to the timely filing and submission of applications, tax documents, and/or business forms .

Goals & Objectives

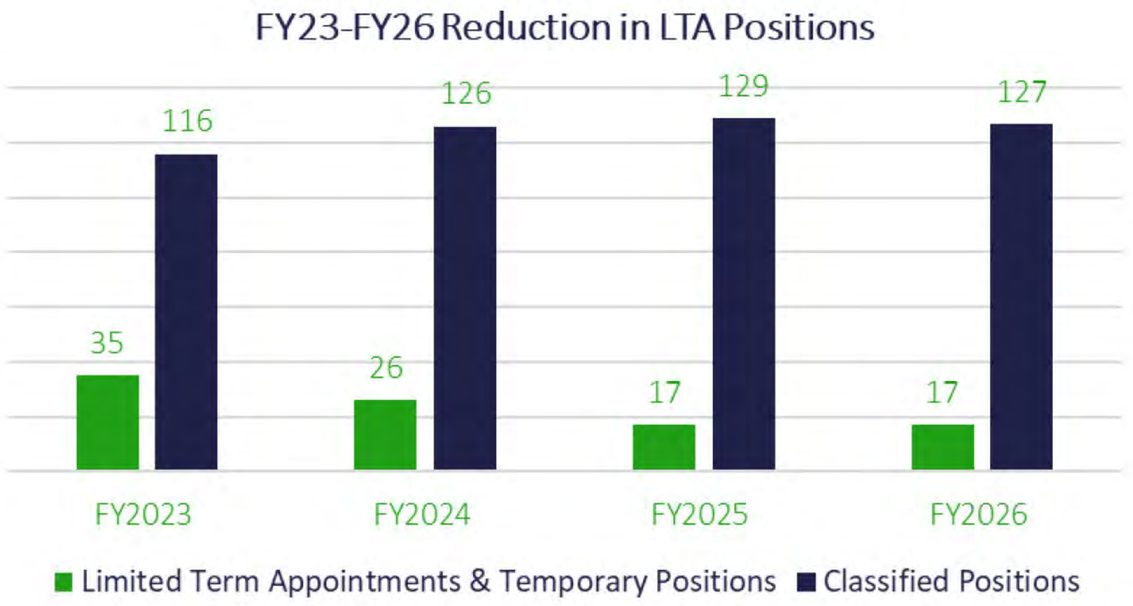
05. Increase expertise of staff and maximize capability to support department -wide programs and serve taxpayers .

06. Provide quality services in a cost -effective, timely manner.

07. Enhance and improve systems and processes to reduce customer wait -times and lines .

08. Maintain support and assistance to DRT regulatory boards and commissions to fulfill mandates .

Highlights: Personnel Development



- Between FY2023 and FY2026, there was an overall reduction of **51.4%** in LTA and Temporary Positions and a concurrent increase in classified positions

- Successfully hosted and mentored a University of Guam intern through the UOG-DRT Accounting Internship Program in Fall 2025. Recently hired her as a classified employee with the Examination Branch.
- Engaged with Guam Community College to create a similar internship program

Highlights: Regulatory & Compliance



Alcohol Compliance Inspection Summary

January - March 2026

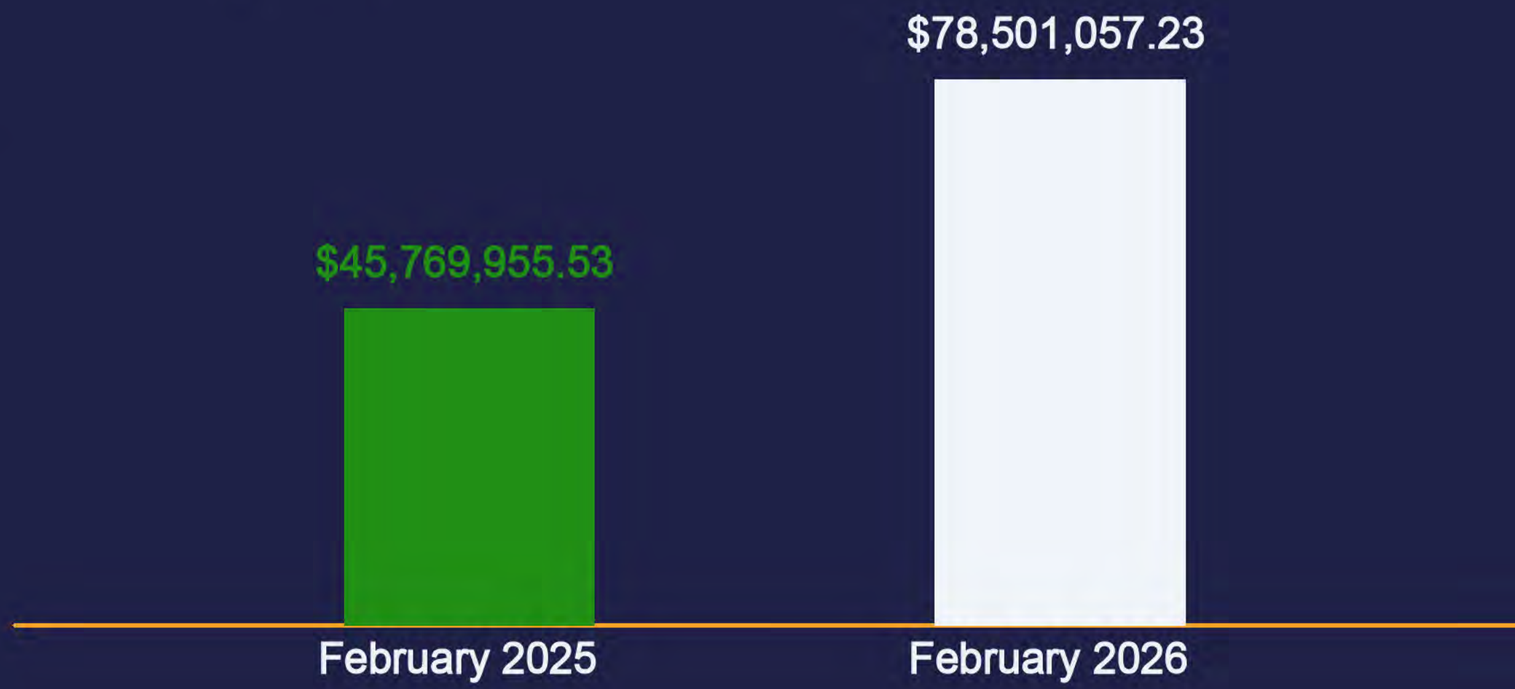
419	04	$6,000
Total Inspections	Notice of Violations	Violation Fees

Highlights: Tax Refund Dispersals

Current Processing Time: 12 -13 Weeks due to Sinlaku and System Shutdown

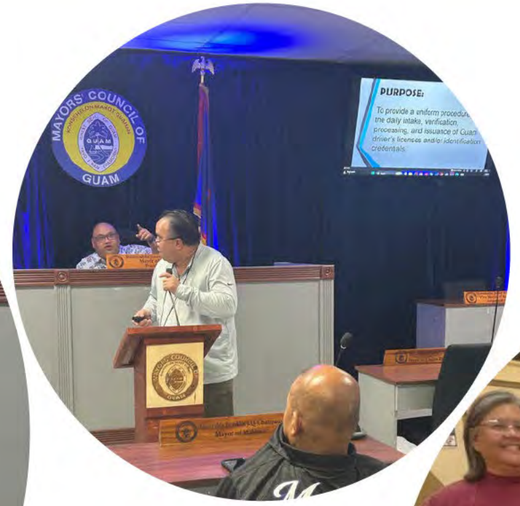
Processing on a weekly basis

17,205 Checks Issued &
7,197 Electronic Fund Transfers



Highlights: Educational Outreach









Highlights: Grants Awarded

Motor Carrier Safey Assistance Program

$ 855 K Grant Awarded

511

Total Inspections

90

Notice of Violations

1,678

Seatbelt Surveys

Driver's License Examination Hardware Upgraded

Computers
Scanners
Cameras
Signature Pads

Card Readers
Laminators
Printers
Port Switches

Highlights: Passport Program Launched

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE & TAXATION

Guam Passport Office Presents



PASSPORTS FOR THE PACK

Family Day Wednesday

PREPARE FOR YOUR NEXT FAMILY GETAWAY!

WHO: At least one minor applicant. Families with multiple children may also schedule an appointment. All federal requirements for the various types of processing apply.

WHEN: Kickoff **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026,** and every Wednesday throughout July (Weds. reserved for families only). July appointments will be released on a weekly basis.

WALK-INS & INDIVIDUALS: Available Mon, Tue, Thu, & Fri ONLY. Families are welcome to walk in, but Weds. offer a focused experience.

HOW: Appointments by **PHONE RESERVATION.** Call (671) 635-1840 / 1841 / 7651. First-come, first-served. Be ready to provide full legal names of all applicants, plus valid phone #'s and emails.

BE PREPARED: Access detailed information on what you will need for your passport transaction by visiting the official U.S. Passport portal: travel.state.gov or using the QR code below.

DOCUMENTS: Have the proper documentation with you. Applications cannot be processed otherwise and another appointment must be scheduled or you may walk in at another time. **APPLICATIONS** must be completed using permanent black ink only.



Highlights: Online Directory & Call Center Support





- **13 , 320 Phone Calls**

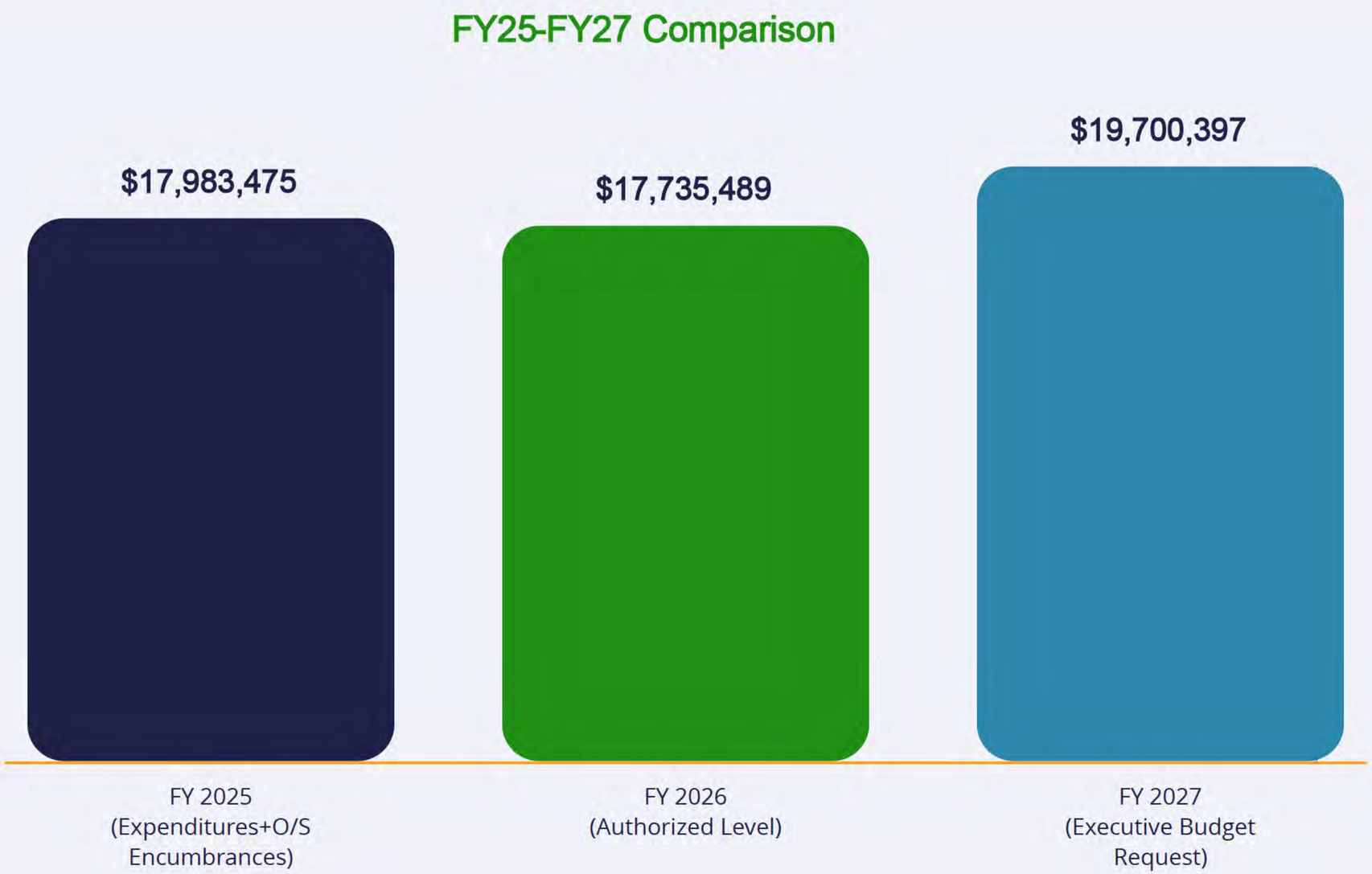
  Jan- May 2026

Highlights: Social Media & Employee Wellness

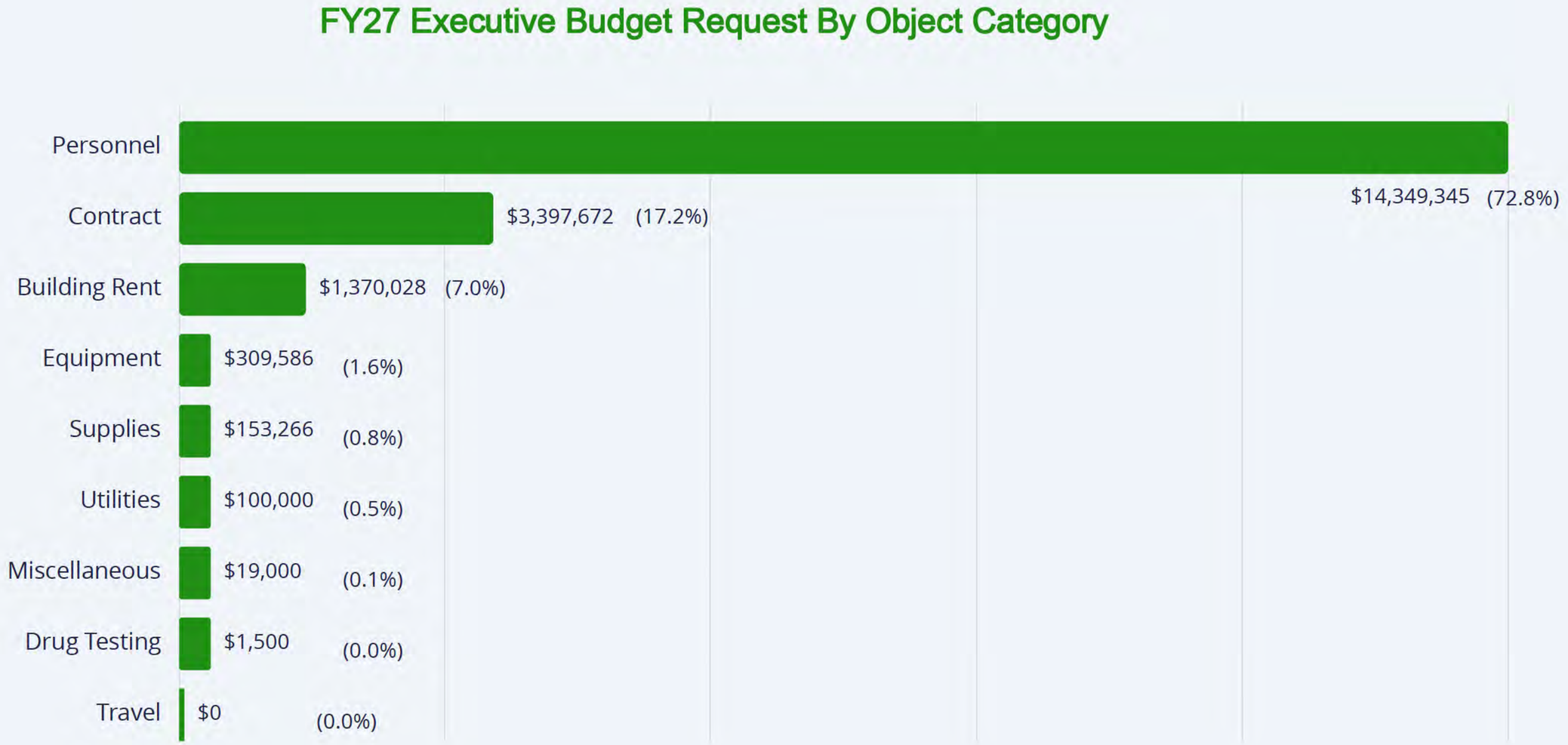




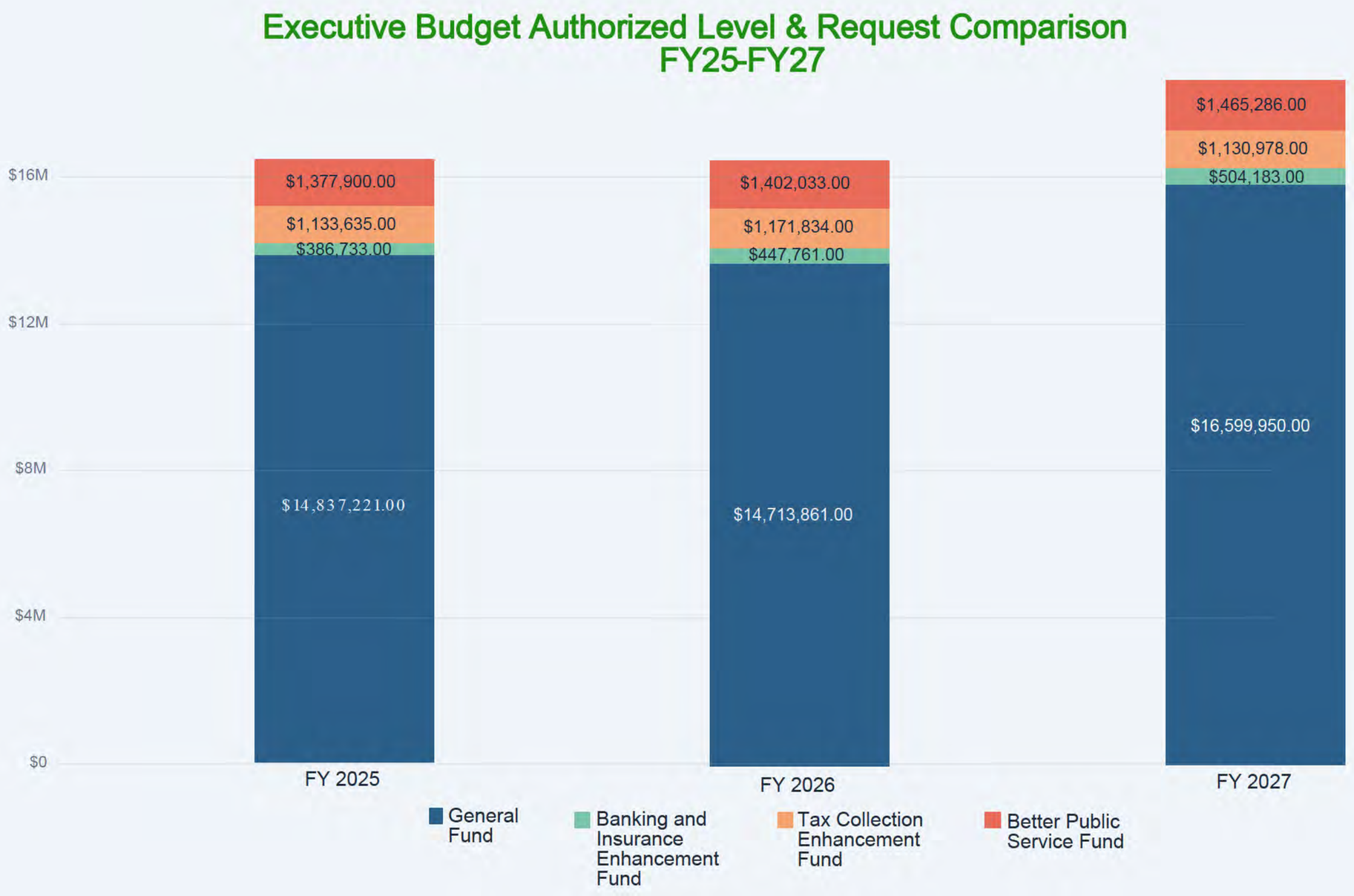
Budget Data


FY25-FY27 Comparison
$17,983,475
$17,735,489
$19,700,397
FY 2025 (Expenditures+O/S Encumbrances)
FY 2026 (Authorized Level)
FY 2027 (Executive Budget Request)

Budget Data


FY27 Executive Budget Request By Object Category
Personnel
$14,349,345 (72.8%)
Contract
$3,397,672 (17.2%)
Building Rent
$1,370,028 (7.0%)
Equipment
$309,586 (1.6%)
Supplies
$153,266 (0.8%)
Utilities
$100,000 (0.5%)
Miscellaneous
$19,000 (0.1%)
Drug Testing
$1,500 (0.0%)
Travel
$0 (0.0%)

Budget Data


Executive Budget Authorized Level & Request Comparison
FY25-FY27
$16M
$12M
$8M
$4M
$0
$1,377,900.00
$1,133,635.00
$386,733.00
$14,837,221.00
$1,402,033.00
$1,171,834.00
$447,761.00
$14,713,861.00
$1,465,286.00
$1,130,978.00
$504,183.00
$16,599,950.00
FY 2025
FY 2026
FY 2027
General Fund
Banking and Insurance Enhancement Fund
Tax Collection Enhancement Fund
Better Public Service Fund

Key Performance Indicators: Business License

Key Outputs *(Give 1-4 outputs of what the program delivers)*	Key Performance Indicator	Unit of Measure (Average #, Per Day, Per Mile, %, etc.)	Target Goal (Projected Levels)	Frequency (Daily, Monthly, Annually, etc.)	Responsible Unit (Who is in charge of tracking KPI?)	Key Outcomes *(Give Outcomes of what changes as a result of the outputs)*	Demand Trend *(What is the demand of the key output?)*	Performance Trend *(How is the key output currently performing ?)*	Impact of Key Output if Underfunded	FY Change Request (Variance v. Last Fiscal Year) 1/
Issuance of "New" Business License	Volume			Daily	Supervisor / Administrator / Mgmt		**HIGH** MEDIUM STATUS QUO	**HIGH** MEDIUM STATUS QUO	**HIGH** MEDIUM STATUS QUO	5%
	Volume	2,722		Annually		Facilitates legal business starts and economic growth.				
Corporate Registration	Volume			Daily			**HIGH** MEDIUM STATUS QUO	**HIGH** MEDIUM STATUS QUO	**HIGH** MEDIUM STATUS QUO	
	Volume	706		Annually		Ensures legal entity recognition and regulatory compliance.				
Sworn Annual Report	Volume			Daily			**HIGH** MEDIUM STATUS QUO	**HIGH** MEDIUM STATUS QUO	**HIGH** MEDIUM STATUS QUO	$109,867
	Volume	6,282		Annually **(July 1st – Sept 1st)**		Maintains accurate public records and entity standing.				
Fines/Violation	Volume			Daily			**HIGH** MEDIUM STATUS QUO	**HIGH** MEDIUM STATUS QUO	**HIGH** MEDIUM STATUS QUO	
	Volume	31		Annually		Deters non-compliance and enforces business				

Footnote / Note:
1/ Variances (+/-$) are based upon Division FY26 Authorized Level vs. FY27 certified Budget Request.

Key Performance Indicators: Use Tax

Key Outputs *Give 1-4 outputs of what the program delivers)*	Key Performance Indicator	Unit of Measure (Average #, Per Day, Per Mile, %, etc.)	Target Goal (Projected Levels)	Frequency (Daily, Monthly, Annually, etc.)	Responsible Unit (Who is in charge of tracking KPI?)	Key Outcomes *(Give Outcomes of what changes as a result of the outputs)*	Demand Trend *(What is the demand of the key output?)*	Performance Trend *(How is the key output currently performing ?)*	Impact of Key Output if Underfunded	FY Change Request (Variance v. Last Fiscal Year) 1/
Recordation of Form UST from taxpayers	Volume			Daily	Supervisor / Administrator / Mgmt	Enhanced revenue integrity, Improved tax compliance and equity, and creation of audit-ready and enforcement accurate records.	**HIGH** MEDIUM STATUS QUO	HIGH MEDIUM **STATUS QUO**	LOW MEDIUM **HIGH**	4%
	Volume	10,368		Annually						$120,232

ɔotnote / Note:
/ Variances (%/$) are based upon Division FY26 Authorized Level vs. FY27 certified Budget Request.

Key Performance Indicators: Driver's License

Key Outputs *(Give 1-4 outputs of what the program delivers)*	Key Performance Indicator	Unit of Measure (Average #, Per Day, Per Mile, %, etc.)	Target Goal (Projected Levels)	Frequency (Daily, Monthly, Annually, etc.)	Responsible Unit (Who is in charge of tracking KPI?)	Key Outcomes *(Give 1-2 Outcomes of what changes as a result of the outputs)*	Demand Trend *(What is the demand of the key output?)*	Performance Trend *(How is the key output currently performing ?)*	Impact of Key Output if Underfunded
Processing of Driver's License Applications	Volume			Daily	Supervisor / Administrator / Mgmt	1. With modernization of systems, and optimum staffing level, we will improve efficiencies.	**HIGH** MEDIUM STATUS QUO	***LOW** MEDIUM STATUS QUO	LOW MEDIUM **HIGH**
	Volume		25130	Annually		2. Improve customer service			
Administration of Driver's Written Exam @ DRT	Volume			Daily			**HIGH** MEDIUM STATUS QUO	**HIGH** MEDIUM STATUS QUO	LOW MEDIUM **HIGH**
	Volume		1300	Annually		1. Reduce waiting period for scheduling exams with UOG.			

Department of Revenue and Taxation

FY27 PRIORITIES

- Focus on local and federal mandates
- Continue with collection and compliance efforts
- Further strengthen internal processes
- Modernize equipment / software and digitize data
- Address outstanding OPA audit findings and recommendations
- Improve upon customer service standards

Department of Revenue and Taxation

Si Yu'os Ma'ase

FY2027 Budget Hearing

June 05, 2026

Director Marie P. Lizama

Deputy Director Denise M. Mendiola

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

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

In accordance with Section 6.04(c)(1) of the Standing Rules of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, this committee digest provides a *summary* of the public hearing detailed below. To assist the general public in navigating this report, please note that all blue-highlighted text contains hyperlinks. Clicking on these links will direct you to the corresponding referenced sections/documents. For any questions or assistance regarding this digest, please contact our office at (671) 989-9554 or email us at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov.

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) – COMMITTEE ON RULES BY REQUEST OF I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN, THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

I. OVERVIEW

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) was introduced on **February 2, 2026** by **Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam** and was subsequently referred by the Committee on Rules to the **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** on **February 3, 2026.**

The **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** convened a Public Hearing on Bill No. 266-38 (COR) on **June 5, 2026,** at **9:00AM** in the Guam Congress Building's Public Hearing Room.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Public Hearing Notices were posted to the Government Public Notices Portal and disseminated via electronic mail to all senators and all main media

broadcasting outlets on **May 29, 2026** (5-Day Notice), and again on **June 2, 2026** (48-Hour Notice).

SENATORS PRESENT

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations
Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations
Senator Jesse Lujan, 38th Guam Legislature
Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature
Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature

ORAL TESTIMONY:

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation
Denise Mendiola, Deputy Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation
Mikel Espiritu, Management Analyst III, Department of Revenue and Taxation
Carolyn Rivera, Tax Enforcement Program Administrator, Department of Revenue and Taxation

WRITTEN TESTIMONY:

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The public hearing for **Bill Number 266-38 (COR)** was called to order at **9:00AM**

[Questions and Discussion] **[***Begins at 01:04:00 and ends at 02:31:00*]

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Mananas si yu'os para hamyo todos, buenas yan håfa adai. Thank you for being here at the Guam Congress building the People's House the 38th Guam Legislature. Welcome to the People's House and thank you for joining us this morning as well as those who are watching. Buenas an Håfa adai once

again the Committee on Finance and Government Operations is now called to order and this time is 09:00 on June 5, 2026.

First notice of this public hearing was disseminated to all senators and media outlets on May 29, 2026 with its second notice disseminated on June 2nd, 2026. The 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 now hear Bill No. 266-38 – Introduced by Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* the Governor of Guam in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam -AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027 MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS - relative to the Department of Revenue and Taxation.

Thank you Rev and Tax folks for being with us this morning. Joining me for this hearing this morning is the vice chair of the committee Vice Speaker Tony Ada. Thank you sir for being here. Senator Jesse Lujan, Senator Shawn Gumataotao and Senator Therese Terlaje. Thank you colleagues for being here this morning

Those testifying on Bill Number 266-38 relative to Department of Revenue and Taxation please come forward and they have taken their seats momentarily I will have you sworn in prior to your presentation on your budget request. Before we begin I'd like to remind everyone in attendance of the Legislature of Guam'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 and the nature of the bill that's on the agenda. Personal inferences as to the character or motive of any senator individual testifying are not permitted.

The chairperson of the committee may order the removal from the hearing of any member of the Legislature of Guam or the public audience who fails to observe proper decor pursuant to the 38th Guam Legislature standing rules. Any violation of this general conduct will result in immediate removal from this public hearing room.

At this time I'd like to call forward the sergeant at arms and the revenue and taxation folks. There are others who are not at the table. If you are going to testify please also rise and be sworn in. If you do not plan to testify then you may remain seated. So Sarge please swear in the folks who are here to testify.

Edward Pocaigue, Sergeant at Arms, 38th Guam Legislature: Under penalty of perjury do you affirm that any and all information you provide today whether it be verbally electronically and in writing be the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth? Mr. Chair under oath you may proceed.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Si yu'os ma'ase Sarge and once again a warm good morning to the DRT folks and I will have them go ahead and introduce themselves and begin with their presentation. The floor is yours Ms. Lizama.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Håfa adai and good morning Mr. Chair, Senator Gumataotao, Vice Chair Ada, Senator Lujan and Senator Terlaje. My name is Marie Lizama and I'm the director of the Department of Revenue and Taxation. And with me I... Well I guess I'll let her go ahead and introduce herself.

Denise Mendiola, Deputy Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Håfa adai. Good morning. Denise Mendiola deputy director for the Department of Revenue and Taxation.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: And may I ask if MIS has the presentation that we forwarded electronically if we could have that on the board please? Thank you very much. Okay. So we are here before you today to defend the budget that has been prepared for us and our ask for fiscal year 2027.

Next slide please.

So the outline contains you know who are we what are our goals and objectives our major accomplishments you know the budget data and summary which actually has been handed out by OFB staff performance-based budgeting and the related key performance indicators and our FY 2027 priorities. Next slide.

Some of you have seen this before. We have an updated mission statement though and that's to apply and enforce licensing laws with integrity and fairness and

encourage voluntary compliance by educating customers to enhance and maintain public confidence. And then you will see our authority and purpose as outlined in 11 GCA Section 1103 in which we'll be charged with the enforcement of the tax laws of Guam and the collection of its revenue.

We are also the government agency responsible for licensing and registration as well as allied and connected enforcement functions. Next slide please. We have updated our organizational structure as has been mentioned in previous hearings you know of course we do have some-- We have a new -- We have some new positions to include the territorial the Principal Territorial Income Tax Attorney's Office.

And then of course we have just highlighted some. They're not considered branches themselves but of course we do have the disclosure office and of course we now have a public information officer. Next slide

We have a breakdown of the different divisions and related branches and at last count we have over 21 different branches relating to of course the executive office the tax enforcement division the taxpayer services division real property tax division the regulatory division and the motor vehicle division. Next slide.

Our goals and objectives. We would like to increase enforcement efforts to establish and maintain the public's confidence in both the local and internal revenue tax systems as they apply to the government of Guam or to Guam. We also want to increase taxpayer awareness of tax laws and reporting responsibilities and as well as achieve a high degree of voluntary compliance.

We want to regulate holders of licenses for the protection of consumers of Guam from unsafe unsound and unfair practices. We want to improve e-commerce services as it pertains to the timely filing and submissions of the applications tax docents and/or business forms. Next slide please. We want to increase the expertise of our staff and maximize the capability to support department-wide programs and serve taxpayers.

We want to provide quality services in a cost-effective and timely manner. We want to enhance and improve systems and processes to reduce customer wait times and lines and we want to be able to support and maintain provide assistance to the DRT regular- regulatory boards and commissions in order to fulfill mandates. Next slide. I'm going to turn it over to Deputy Director Mendiola to talk about the highlights with regard to personnel development.

Denise Mendiola, Deputy Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Good morning. Just going to refer to the slide here under Personnel Development. As you can see here between FY23 and FY26 there was an overall reduction of about 51% in LTA and temporary positions and a concurrent increase in classified positions.

We've successfully hosted and mentored the University of Guam interns through the UOG DRT Accounting Internship Program in Fall '25. We also recently hired a certain intern who is now with us in the examination branch. So this is an example of career development within DRT. In addition we've engaged with GCC to create a similar internship program through their accounting and bookkeeping program. So this is an example of the efforts that DRT is making and strides that we are making to create more of a career development program within the institution.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Thank you Deputy. I'd like to just also add in a recent oversight hearing we did indicate that recruitment and retention challenges remain.

You know some of those reason reasons include the uncompetitive salary levels which typically lead to the employees leaving to other Gov Guam agencies and/or the private sector. And of course the fact that many of our positions require technical expertise. Our solution thus far has been to continue to work with the Department of Administration and we are currently in working with them to update the position description questionnaires.

We tap on DRT retirees and be- we do that because number one we don't need to go through such extensive training and they are readily able to commence the overseeing the responsibilities relating to the job. Next slide please With regard to regulatory and compliance in particular we did launch the tobacco tax stamps.

I should point out that the process remains wherein shipments that come into Guam are part of the bonded warehouse process if you will. And so the stamps really are just kind of a reinforcement with regard to inventory that has been withdrawn from the bonded warehouse. I will just say that recently in the past just a little over a week our compliance branch conducted sixty-seven inspections at retail outlets and actually found three violators.

So they've issued fines. So they have found inventory without stamps and that has resulted to date in about thirty-five hundred dollars in fines. So despite our

educational outreach and so forth we know that there are still some retail outlets out there that are still selling these inventories that are unstamped.

So we will continue with such inspections. The same compliance team has also between January through March conducted four hundred and nineteen inspections and these were related primarily to those that hold the alcoholic beverage control cards. So if they walked into an establishment and the server and/or the manager on duty did not have a valid ABC card then they were issued violation notices of violation.

And that to date has or through March has resulted in six thousand dollars in fee in fines Next slide please. Tax refunds. So we are at this time and of course those were due to some issues that have arisen including the temporary suspension of our tax system or our tax system as well as Typhoon Sinlaku.

We did-- we are right now as opposed to the typical four to six week turnaround time we are now running at about twelve to thirteen weeks. However we do have our tax groups working overtime and it's pretty much all hands on deck effort in order to be able to get those refunds out closer to the original or the previous average of four to six weeks from time of filing.

And these would refer to error-free returns. You know of course something that would hold up the returns would be if there was additional information or perhaps additional documentation that would need would have needed to have accompanied the return. I will say too that despite this increase in processing time we are still ahead of the court-ordered injunction to have refunds paid out within six months of the filing the tax filing deadline.

And this year's tax filing deadline is May was May fifteen so we're still okay. with that said we do know that the public you know the people that are awaiting refunds it you know it's important to them that they get it as soon as they can. So that is a priority right now for our agency.

It should it should be noted that there’s a graphic here where it shows that in February of twenty twenty-five we issued forty-five million seven hundred and sixty-nine thousand nine hundred and fifty-five dollars in refunds as opposed to this year's it jumped to seventy-eight million five hundred and one thousand zero fifty-seven.

There's a couple of reasons for that but one of which is of course previous year we did start the tax year a little earlier the tax filing season. So it isn't so much that we have a huge jump in the number of taxpayers but we just kind of wanted to show that there is an increase for that particular spot and time.

Okay? next slide Okay. So as mentioned we've done some educational outreach and some of that includes you you'll see some photos here. We've reached out to the Mayor's Council of Guam. we've done presentations at the high schools in particular the Okkodo Career Day and we've done presentations at the Guam Chamber of Commerce.

All of this all of these efforts are really just to try to inform the consumers or the taxpayers of the requirements that are that must be done in order to you know satisfy some of their some of their filings. Next slide please We've had some grants awarded MCSAP in particular the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program.

And I should add that this particular branch as of I want to say maybe a little more than five years ago started with only a $250,000 amount granted. And as of today and over the course of several years it has increased and we are now looking at an $855,000 grant that has been awarded to this particular branch.

Driver's license we recently received a TAP grant and that has enabled us to purchase new computers and related equipment that would help in the processing of credentials so the scanners the cameras the signature pads card readers laminating machines printers as well as port switches. Now we do know that with regard to the driver's license branch in particular on any given day there could be huge amounts of customers that come in.

And on any given day there could be a time when the customer you know they hear one thing really and it's just the system is inoperable. The reality is this: the number of systems that it takes to produce a credential it's not just one. It has... So you have the vendor which is the iCloud. It- it’s ICloud-based.

You have the legacy system which is the AS/400. The iCloud system has to connect to the AS/400. Sometimes that connection does not happen. Sometimes it happens because perhaps the vendor did not renew a certificate. Sometimes it happens because-- or we are under the maintenance schedule of the Social Security portal which actually is required in order for us to issue Real ID credentials and that is

something that is beyond our control that does happen on a daily basis around 2:00 PM.

So we try our best to inform the public that if they need a Real ID credential that they must come in before that time. What we've also done is we've employed the call center to be able to take appointments so that those that are limited you know that that must get their credentials done by a certain time and they're well aware of that deadline in advance are able to set appointments with the call center.

Next slide please. Speaking of crowds we are at that point in time and we have been at that point in time where families in particular come into the office to see or to try to obtain passports. We have tried several different things to be able to address that demand. Unfortunately because of the shortage of staff to include the time that must be set aside in order to process these applications and get them out to the to the post office we have had to limit our daily intake to a certain time.

And then what we've done recently in order to address those particularly those with young children or you know just the families themselves we've instituted a family day Wednesday that is strictly appointment-based and it is limited to families with a minim of two one of which would be a minor child.

And the public however it will still has the opportunity and these families still have the opportunities to come in any other day of the week and be processed as walk-ins. Next slide please We've established an online directory of real estate agents. we feel that that provides some kind of confidence with regard to would-be home buyers who are able to peruse the directory and kind of take a look and see who is actually authorized and updated with regard to the to the agency As mentioned we have a call center.

Our call center between January and May of this year has handled a total of 13,320 phone calls. And they answer anything from or everything from tax filing and the refund statuses to driver's license transaction requirements the resetting of logins and of course any real property tax inquiries.

I have to mention that at the start or the inception of the call center there were perhaps there was perhaps maybe a little bit of question as to whether or not the call center is vital to the agency. We've all heard that you know GovGuam doesn't answer its phones. We did not want to continue down that path despite the fact that we have antiquated phone systems.

So what my predecessor did was she had established at the direction of the governor a call center of sorts and what we want to do is in the future we want to solidify that that center we want to solidify that branch. And the goal is to have each of the call center staff be specialists if you will in different areas.

So for example someone in income tax someone in real property someone in vehicle registration and someone in driver's license. And while we're not going to limit ourselves to just the specialties you know of course the goal is to also ensure that they are cross-trained we feel that that will eliminate a lot of the phone calls that are not currently able to get through to the proper branches or at least be able to assist them with regard to that.

You know of course there will be some calls for specific persons or perhaps with regard to something that is a little more complex in nature. But we have found that the bulk of the calls really are for things such as "What do I need in order to avail of the senior credit at real property?" Or perhaps "What is it is what fee is there for juniors and seniors from high schools?", which we know that they are not. Thank you to Senator Terlaje. and just different things that the call center can do or what they would like to do is relay important information to the public and thus save them some in-person visits. Next slide please So recently we do have a an official Facebook page.

We kind of had to deal with some challenges in copycat you know sites you know and so forth. But our PIO has been tasked to ensure that the social media page particularly for Facebook right now is updated with any information or any information or anything new that the agency has decided you know to put forth.

We have found that there are people out there who actually do take a look at these pages. We also want we ventured into... We realized that our employees you know we they need something that will help them you know do their jobs and this as far as their mental you know health- and health wellbeing.

So we've done outreach with Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center as well as the Guam Radiology Department to do some health tests and screenings. Next slide please. Our budget data. So for FY '25 '26 we pretty much remained flat. You know last year I know that we came before the body and were actually asked you know as to or may perhaps questioned as to why we did not fight for an increase in the budget.

And that stayed the same. I take personal responsibility for that but that was after some discussion with the Office of Finance and Budget and we had gone over some things that had not been expended in the previous fiscal year. So we pretty much kept to that. As you know and as mentioned in the oversight hearing there were some unexpected issues that arose.

One of which was the IBM iSeries you know product which actually involves all of our tax systems. You know when the budget was passed last year it was well ahead of the last leg of that particular contract and we did not account for a substantial increase in the renewal terms.

And you know we understand that there are situations and especially in today's world where there are costs of doing business that need to be passed on to those who try to procure such services. You know with that said you will find in the budget summary that we have actually accounted more so for shown the allocation for our contractual obligations.

Our budget is such that while there seems to... But while the items are listed out we have the flexibility to transfer within. And while we have found for the most part that that works for us there are times when it is you know when time is of the essence it does present somewhat of a challenge and that is because we would have to work closely with the BBMR in order to make budget modifications and make the transfer from one item area to another.

So while we-- it is likely impossible to pinpoint or to know all the expenses that would come through in a fiscal year we feel that this you know showing or having more of a display as to where the bulk of the monies go to would help us as well as you. But more so us with regard to kind of tracking what exactly-

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Ms. Lizama at this point I normally don't do this but I think this is critical for this particular request and this slide.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Sure, Okay.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Because I just want to do this for the-- I don't want to take the time of our panel. As you know I'm very strict on time because we're talking

about the budget. This is this matter is I think needs a deep dive and I would like to get this from you.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Sure.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: If you-- colleagues if you go to the budget request and we go to the front page you will see under general fund all of the categories are increased and the special funds is pretty much flat. The employees and the total FT's request is flat as well.

Really they're only asking for a grand total of three additional. And so it really if you go to the second page as the directors mentioned and you go into the operations it really is contractual services. If you go to fiscal year 2025 it was eight hundred and ninety-three thousand dollars three thirty-one.

Fiscal year 2026 four fifty-one three sixty-five and it jumps to two million four hundred and five thousand thirty-three in contractual. So I'm going to ask you this time to break down the increase in contractual.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Mm-hmm. Okay. I'm sorry is he here? Oh may I... Oh he wasn't sworn in though. He's going to need to be sworn in.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Thank you**.** Yeah. Sir you were sworn in correct? I'll have the sergeant at arms come forward. We'll get ahold of him. So yeah you know I know that because you know if you recall Marie and I'm sure you know that that line of questioning would've come from particular on this panel and others that we've always-

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Sure

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: It's always been a discussion on manpower right? You know low short staff whatever else and all of this. So given the fact that the you know it really is almost basically the bulk of your request additional is contractual it's going to be very important for us to get a detailed breakdown of that.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Sure.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: And I know the gentleman's getting sworn in now.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yeah. Yes. And I guess sir if is it okay if I just interject while he's being sworn in?

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

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Okay.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Whatever exchange you want to have but-

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Okay ...

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: We want to just make it clear that $2 million in contractual chunk we want to go we want that a full description of that.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: So I just wanted to point out that for FY '26 what transpired as I mentioned you know so it's pretty much we're given a pot of money right? And then in the budget we show it goes to certain items. and so you know the main goal for us was to just keep within the cap. So in reality the items within the budget could be transferred.

So- I suppose it does it is somewhat misleading in the sense that you know we're showing it more toward the effort to try to fund vacant positions and so forth. But this year we knew already and especially given what had transpired earlier in the year we knew that we needed to show that. We also needed to take into account possible increases in really in vendor services and products.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: I want to be clear that I think for some of us up here that's going to be welcomed. The fact that you're going into contractual services and especially if you're you know you're outsourcing that or you're sourcing it to where you know you have vendors to provide the services-

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yes

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: I think some of us up here are actually quite positive towards that. But we want to know the details on that.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yes.. And If I may before Mikel starts to you know this is the year you know we met right with regard to a new a possible new home. We also met with or not we also met with but we know that there was an issue with the real property system.

So that needs to be procured. in preparation for the release of the tax year '26 rule you know we also needed to take into account the fact that there is a public law wherein any results from the revaluation project which concluded this year would be de- deferred. And so we needed to take into account work that would need to You know kind of track that.

And so it it's all these things. We know we need to procure a new system with regard to or not just a new system but to finally address some of the mandates the local and federal mandates. And of course we don't expect current vendors to be able to include such mandates in whatever existing contract you know there is.

But with that said I'll go ahead and I'll turn it over to Mikel. He may be able to give you a little... I don't know if you have it here with you?...

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Before you go Mikel I just want to make one note. Yes we are discussing and I know that one senator has a list of questions on the proposed on your issue of possibly a new home.

I will note though that currently you have $1.3 million for rent. So that's already in your budget. So that we would think that that would be close to possibly debt service in the future.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yes. And we also realize there so our rent unlike most of the rest of GovGuam our rent currently includes utilities.

Yeah. so you know anything if were to start you know kind of something and if were able to move we'd have to take into account any retrofitting that needs to be done you know in order to make the space viable for our transactions.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations Sure. So we'll get the detail from Mikel. Obviously that would be a procurement in '27 if that goes that direction. We'll see what we anticipate. But Mikel go ahead and give us a detailed breakdown on the $2 million contractual request.

Mikel Espiritu, Management Analyst III, Department of Revenue and Taxation: I just want to add yes contracts are our biggest like part of the budget and after our employees like salaries and benefits. So this $2.405 it's... The biggest contracts are yes for like 1.5 million for... are projected for the IBM i Series. The- that's like encompassing the whole our whole tax system that deals with the AS400 and the tax information. The next-

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: So Mikel just to for... 'Cause like I said I don't want to use our senator's time for this so we're going to go over this. So you're saying 1.5 for that. What is currently budgeted for that?

Mikel Espiritu, Management Analyst III, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Oh right now we're on a sole source. We're preparing the purchase order but when it's one year sole source it's higher amount. So that one would be instead of $1.5 per year it would be $2.2 per year. So that's an increase for without a contract of $700,000 per year.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Okay so as you said Marie this is I... We need to get to this right? Because so if we go back and we look at your 893 on 25 and your 451,365 on 26 so you're saying that you have a current contract of 1.5 right? For your for that system you just mentioned the FBMI?

Mikel Espiritu, Management Analyst III, Department of Revenue and Taxation: This fiscal year FY26 it's $2.2 million.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Okay. So that means what you were saying earlier was that you were using budget modifications under-

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Correct ...

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: staffing to do that. Okay.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Correct.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: So keep going Mikel.

Mikel Espiritu, Management Analyst III, Department of Revenue and Taxation: And then in our next biggest contracts is the driver's license system. We work currently with Verito and just for the maintenance it's $494,000 per year and that doesn't include the consumables which are the supplies like for the actual cards and the printers for the driver's license.

So the consumables is another big amount which I would estimate as $200,000 per year. So in all in all for our that contract for driver's license it's $600,000 plus to include additional costs like maintenance if the printers would malfunction or need repair.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Okay Mikel. So I-- good question Senator Terlaje and we'll ask that now then.

So when we go prior to that you you're saying the one point five. So what was the contract in 2025 in terms of your services provided by DMR? I guess we'll just call it what it is. We know who the vendor is.

Mikel Espiritu, Management Analyst III, Department of Revenue and Taxation: For FY21 to FY25 for the five-year contract for the IBM iSeries it was one point two million for five years. Were under contract and that ended on fiscal year twenty twenty-five September twenty twenty-five. And so this year we're on a sole source contract for two point two million and that does increase in the cost of doing business.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: So you're anticipating that when you go back to a multi-year offering it could come back down to one point five possibly?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Certainly better than what we're paying right now.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Certainly better than the two point two that's sole source. Okay colleagues that's pretty clear right? So like I said I knew you would probably all have I know you have other questions so I wanted to clear that up because... And you know and really you know sometimes budget requests and excess jump off the page because you know they...

And especially I think most of our colleagues probably when they looked down and they saw the personnel it's like "Wait a minute three additional people only and two million." So that clears it up. Please continue and thank you Mikel. You can continue with the rest of the presentation.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Thank you sir.

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

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: And you know as I mentioned again you know back to the thing it was just trying to keep within the overall cap. And so we decided that that was actually not working best for us so we needed to give a more accurate number especially with regard to contractual obligations. Because for someone as the chair did mention for someone who is simply just looking at the items listed it's going to look like we are asking for a huge amount for just something else.

But okay. Next slide please. So this is just a quick snapshot of what we most of our budget goes toward. Of course, a lot of it is personnel. Then we have contracts. then we have the building rent you know equipment supplies. And I'm not sure why utilities is sectioned out but utilities is actually part of our building rent.

So just please take note of that. You see that we've actually... We typically do not budget for travel and that is because some of the different branches already their

budgets are actually account for their travel expenses or actually cover their travel expenses. And also we are part of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators and they typically take care of one or two of our staff to be able to attend the annual conferences and meetings and pop up pop up events. We are the agency that hardly travels. And so we have that there.

Senator Jesse Lujan, 38th Guam Legislature: When you say utilities that $1.3 million- Mm-hmm ... is that inclusive of the $100,000 already? Or is that another $100,000 added

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: I'm sorry. The staff has just clarified that utilities that's GTA.

Senator Jesse Lujan, 38th Guam Legislature: Oh okay.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: It's our telecommunications.

Senator Jesse Lujan, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yeah sorry. I did not... Next slide please

Okay so this is just a further breakdown of our budget ask and it will show that there is going to be the increase in the general fund and that's relating to the to the contract contractual obligations. Let's see here. Okay. next slide please

We've had discussions with the chair and with the Office of Finance and Budget with regard to the implementation of performance-based budgeting. And initially our concern was that because our agency is complex it includes some tax branches that we would not be able to effectively use PBB in those areas.

And I believe so the-- so Mr. Chair came back and says "Okay we're going to do three areas one of which is business license or general licensing one is driver's license and the other one is use tax which is actually part of the business privilege tax branch." And so you will see here for this particular slide with regard to general licensing were trying to establish a baseline and so we took some of the figures from FY 24 and you know we wanted to put down some KPIs with regard to how many new licenses we expect to issue and those with corporate registrations organizations

with sworn annual reports and any fines or violations with regard to expired business licenses and so forth or perhaps late fees.

And so I won't do an actual dive into those numbers if it's okay with you. I will leave that for you to kind of take a look at and certainly you're welcome to ask me any questions afterward. But next slide please. Okay. use tax. Well yeah I'm sorry. I thought use tax was last. But use tax and I have to explain the reason why there's only one KPI there is...

I'll give you a background of use tax. So use tax comes it applies to shipments coming in through either the port or through the airport. Now when it's at the port customs is the one that collects the taxes. So whenever shipments-- Before shipments are released they have to pay. The persons taking ownership of the shipment has to pay the tax.

The airport on the other hand there are two things that happen. So number one if it is just a consumer himself or herself then before the shipment is released the same thing happens. The tax gets paid. However the second part to that is if there is a third party involved so let's say FedEx UPS and so forth.

There is a 2011 opinion issued by the AG's office indicating that when a third party is involved with regard to the shipment the incoming shipment we cannot withhold such shipments to those third parties. And the reason for that was the third parties were saying that they could not act as tax collectors on behalf of the government of Guam.

And so there is no such withholding of shipments before taxes are paid. And so what typically happens is the shipments shipment comes in and then of course there are forms that the person taking or the... I'm sorry the third party taking possession of such shipments you know has to fill out. And then when that-- To my understanding when the shipment is delivered to the consumer then the consumer has a copy of the form that will be forwarded by customs to our office.

As of that audit there were some gaps certainly in the transmittal of such forms to our office or between offices. Customs has indicated and we are certainly encouraged by the fact that this process now only occurs within three to five days as opposed to weeks previously. And so the forms are with our office and then what happens is our staff enter that into the system and then they assess and they the taxes and then they contact the consumers.

And so that part you know we are still trying to kind of tighten you know the process and so forth but it is certainly we've made strides in that areas compared to previous years. So that's why you do see pretty much the one KPI and that's the recordation of the forms the form USTs for taxpayers.

Next slide. We have driver's license. And so driver's license again these were these numbers were taken or based on FY24 figures 26 And 20- and some 2026. And so you know you'll see that we're concentrating on the processing of driver's license applications as well as the administration of driver's written exams at DRT itself.

And I should just kind of expound on that. Currently when you know drivers or would-be drivers schedule their written tests with the University of Guam or through the portal the online portal and which is administered in the end by the University of Guam we've had some concerns by parents or you know the actual applicants themselves with regard to the fact that these testing the available testing dates are far in advance of what they would like.

And so being that you know what we wanted to do was kind of augment the you know the ability to for people to take such tests. And so we've instituted a regular schedule in-house testing on Tuesdays and Thursdays and we have the call center manage those appointments for those wanting to take such tests ahead of what shows online.

Next slide please So we just kept the priorities you know of course obviously manpower is always going to be an issue. We're going-- we're still trying to address the retention recruitment and retention challenges with regard to solidifying our manpower. But just some of the key priorities we want to be able to focus on local and federal mandates.

We want to be able to continue with collection and compliance efforts. And we do know that there was a bill recently passed into law that's Public Law 38-115 which actually codifies the agency's authority to carry out an amnesty program. That is just one of many tools that we have at our disposal in order to be able to collect what is due to the government of Guam.

And so we will continue with that. We also will continue with our compliance team's efforts with regard to ensuring that there is compliance with regard to some of the laws that are out there. We want to further strengthen our internal processes and so we do that by updating and/or introducing more appropriate SOPs and also with

regard further down the line modernizing our equipment software and the digitization of such data.

We're running out of space. I know Senator Lujan, Chair Dueñas you went up there you saw that we had despite the fact that it seems kind of large there's still issues with space. With some of our branches the retention schedule is such that it is forever you know. So we while we would like to move and we will certainly digitize the data there's still some requirement to keep the physical forms in storage.

And so we would we would like to do that. We do know that with regard to the modernization and of equipment and software again we encountered some challenges earlier this year with the real property tax system with regard to the tax system that while it while we refer to it as a tax system it really also involves things such as vehicle registration and the like.

We also want to address any outstanding OPA audit findings and recommendations. Some of the ones in particular that we do want to concentrate on are the recent is the recent report with regard to nonprofit organizations. You know and that also too I should say hails back to our educational outreach.

There are some organizations out there that believe that because they filed their bylaws or their related documentation with our general licensing branch that it means that they are automatically tax-exempt and that is not the case. So, we still have a lot of work to do. We also want to concentrate on report number 23-02 and that is the assessment and collections of taxes for alcoholic beverages and tobacco products.

That's all part of our efforts with regard to the tobacco tax stamps and the compliance inspections. And then of course there is the real property tax assessments and the exemptions. What we've done the-- finally the last thing we want to do we know that we need to improve upon our customer service standards.

While we do get compliments from the public we also get more than our fair share of complaints or perhaps misunderstandings over our processes. And so we have had implement-- we've implemented QR codes at the driver's license examination branch and other customer-facing counters for service feedback.

We continue with cross-training for employees and we want to continue to leverage our inter-agency and organizational relationships. So for example Customs

Department of Administration the American of Motor Vehicle Administrators and CANRA which is the Cannabis Regulators Association.

I want to thank some of the senators. I know she's not here Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane. I have said before in several different hearings that while we are often asked about fiscal impacts on legislation to be introduced we would like to see more of pre-introduction discussions and that is just to ensure that there is feasibility to d- what is trying-- what you are trying to introduce.

I'd like to thank you Mr. Chair Senator, Lujan for coming over to our humble home and taking a look at the environment that our employees are faced with and having to work under all while trying to serve the people of Guam. You know and there are you know certainly you know other things that we that we would like to kind of forge ahead with and of course with your with your input.

As the agency that brings in over ninety-five percent of the government of Guam's revenues we humbly ask for your support of our FY 27budget request so that we may achieve many of these goals and objectives. Thank you very much.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Si yu'os ma'ase Ms. Lizama and Ms. Mendiola thank you for being here. I'm sure there may be some questions for you as well. once again I'm going to preempt a few things just to probably assist my colleagues because I want to let them know that while I have been harping on lapses you are not tracking any lapses and I want to ensure-

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: We are not ...

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: that I think I know where that's coming from.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Correct.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: And obviously you still have outstanding recruitments that are in await but it- looks like you probably had to move money to contractual under for your current situation. Is that correct?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yes that is correct. And we are you know we have gone back to the list knowing that we still need to fill some of those critical positions and we have worked with or we're working with DOA to prioritize that.

We have the deputy kind of taking charge with that. and at one point in time we had the motor vehicle administrator Zita Pangelinan also working with DOA you know with regard to that. But what we're trying to do also sir is we are trying to kind of use different avenues. As the deputy mentioned before we want to tap on internships. You know we want to be able to kind of get some of these you know perhaps in not so traditional ways try to identify assistance for the agency.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Yeah so just as I go to our colleagues you know this modernization digitization that has become the buzz now. We had a great presentation by EPA last week-

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Mm-hmm

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: On the effectiveness of them Modernizing their system having a dashboard having a system that can be linked by the public now where if you're doing any business with EPA particularly in the area of contracting construction whatever else that requires clearances can find every day what is the status of that.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Sure.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: I gave DPW a big nudge yesterday but not for lack of trying. Mm-hmm. They did say they tried. And for some reason that procurement didn't go into effect. So they're trying again. They're going to go out and that is going to greatly help their digitization and that will greatly help their efforts now.

They’re doing a big rollout on elimination of abandoned vehicles. And so that will allow them to get through that and you're going to be key to that that'll allow them to now cradle-to-grave deal with and hopefully we'll get to a point to where that's all online.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yes.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Doesn't require a lot of manpower. But you would go through a system that would link all of the pertinent regulatory agencies to where there's no question of the status... of the vehicle and its pertinence to the law. That doesn't require a lot of manpower.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yes. And speaking of agencies I mean you know so back to customs you know we do know and we're kind of excited for them as well as ourselves I think there's that ASYCUDA you know system.

And so you know we just feel that and I and in talking to them one of the one of those suggestions at their side has been to include DRT as part of their steering committee with regard to that project. And we you know we know the benefits of having such a such a system and we feel that because it'll enable us to do a deeper dive into the types of products that are brought into Guam that we will be able to more readily provide data that you may need in order to make decisions.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Thank you. So I'll ask my staff to pull up the clock. We'll use the five-minute clock. We'll see how it goes as we go forward. and that way that we can determine if there's additional questions. But I think we've kind of framed it. Once again we've done a number a couple of oversights with you.

We certainly have gotten to the bottom of some of the issues. Also, maybe one other final preemptive question. On the issue of the dates that have been set for both the income tax as well as the GFF are you now basically with the property tax is everything set and you can kind of project out what are the remittances and the response from the public with the extensions that you've given?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yes. So we have seen and I think Lester Carlson Director Carlson may better able to answer that. He certainly has the data on that. But you know we have seen the number of taxpayers at our offices with regard to payment such payments. So whether it is you know the delayed or I should say yeah the delayed tax filing deadline which went pretty smoothly by the way and I have to just commend the staff.

It's pretty it was pretty much all hands on deck type of thing. And we saw regular brisk walk-ins from taxpayers. We also see the same over at the Treasury of Guam as well as our collections branch with regard to other payments to include real property.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Okay. Yeah so a little bit of homework for the Special Economic Service meeting that will come which is we're going to do prior-Wednesday to actually finalizing the budget. OFB will also send a notice to BBMR that we're going to need a little bit more data because that will before the 20th of June so that we have a closer even if they're draft numbers so that we can kind of get the effects. We're look- we're thinking that it was a lag with regard to the extension particularly on income tax with some of the change in numbers. Okay. So we'll ask for that for the SES so we can have a better accurate projection for when we go into budget discussions in July.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Noted.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: With that Senator Gumataotao you're recognized for five minutes.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Thank you Mr. Chair and thank you DRT for being with us today. Let me just jump right in. Out of 22 filled positions these are for limited term app- appointed employees. Out of 22 filled positions listed under executive direction nine employees were recruited through limited term appointments.

Recognizing that some of these positions, particularly collection agents are critical to the immediate and long-term settlement of tax and other government debts was the option to fill these positions as competitive limited term appointments available to DRT? And does the department intend to transition these positions to the classified service?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yes. That's... So let me answer the last part of your question right? And so that is our goal. We want to ensure that we completely eliminate if not you know decrease the number of LTAs and have them converted as long as they rate and go through the competitive process and you know be slotted into these classified positions.

You know with regard to collections it's similar to... And I should say that as we speak there have been certification packets received by the Department of Administration. So while DOA has admitted that there hasn't been such a huge number of people you know trying to break down the doors to come and work at DRT you know there has been some interest.

And so that is one of the things that we you know we're trying to kind of work around or work with DOA on so that it can be a little bit more attractive you know to someone so we are also... We've also talked with the HR manager with regard to using certain things such as above step recruitment you know and so forth.

So you know it's certainly not for lack of trying sir. We really do... We have put in our list. We realize that you know collections of course is a big thing. I was telling I was telling I believe it was the governor the other day that you know and of this and I know that Senator Terlaje has been has been working with our administrator with regard to the concern over the number you know is the fact that we need to go through some of these things that perhaps have reached statute of limitations you know and so forth.

That's very concerning of course that some of these things that have reached such statutes of limitation has been as a result of people have... who have either retired and perhaps the cases have not been able to be effectively closed out you know and so forth. But we are try-- Having said that we are trying hence the reason for overtime for collection.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: So there is interest to be permanized from these folks?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yes of course. Yes.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: All right. Now DRT wrote in the BBMR decision package that it referred or closed 17 criminal investigation cases in FY 2025. They anticipate referring or closing 19 cases in 2026 and project referring or closing 21 cases in FY 2027. Well first who are these cases being referred for further action and what is the status of those cases?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: I apologize. I don't have that in front of me but you know certainly when referrals are made and

you know you can't you can't predict how many cases you're going to end up having right? To pursue criminally or you know and so forth. But part of that process includes a referral to the attorney general's office. You know-

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay yeah. That that's what I was wondering. So these are direct referrals to the AG primarily?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: If it's criminal yes.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Right. And then so with that said based on the referred cases do you have any idea of the value of any financial obligations that are owed to the government of Guam especially that are the ones that are being referred to the attorney general?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: I apologize. I don't have that right in front of me but I can certainly get that for you.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Because I was going to say kudos for getting the employment of three full-time attorneys.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yeah.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: That's helpful. But when we think about that cost that we're paying for these attorneys... we should have that requisite cost of just how much is the investment in three attorneys is bringing back to the government in terms of its collections.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: So I should highlight that we are now down to two attorneys. We did have the principal attorney retire and so we are down to two. And the two that we do have left I mean you know while I'm sure it was kind of how do I say?

Perhaps there to some people there was no justification in having three. It certainly helped the agency because the principal one dealt primarily with human resources issues and so forth. The second one gosh and Carl please forgive me but I'm I want to say it's more consumer related and then the third one is a litigator. So different special specialties if you will and were fortunate enough to have their services readily available to the agency.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: So Marie that these lawyers were not- Headed or directed towards compliance at all?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: So no. So you will find that there are there's a shortage of attorneys with regard to tax LLMs. But with that said when you take a look at the work that's involved at the agencies it's a small fraction relating to actual tax. So it's more it's more procedures

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Contracts, Procedures, rules ... processes.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yeah All those things. We get we have quite a number of lawsuits hence the you know the fact that we are happy to have a litigator on board you know and so forth.

And then the other thing is just you know complying with certain things and ensuring that the interpretations made on any on any law or what have you is correctly done.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: You're right. I mean for me I was hoping that I mean here's something different which is okay because I think that if the attorneys were directed or at least focusing on how do we recover unpaid or underpaid taxes at least it would go a long way to help your enforcement.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: So with regard to things like that that's actually handled by the... So for example if there's any - construed you know abuse and so forth the examination branch is who handles that.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Who's scarier the examiner branch or the attorney for the examiner branch to go get unpaid taxes collected?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: I think it depends I think it depends on who you ask because sometimes you hear the word exam or audit you know w- as they're more commonly known. You know that really just kind of forces people to come in and submit their documentation.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Oh no no I am well aware of the audit process and the experience of it. I think that but I think when we're looking here I was thinking of collections. That was pretty much my big focus is I

mean I know that you don't have a deep bench but it should be deep enough to go and again most of the how we run government does not happen without you.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: The collections team and the supervisor in particular work with the tax enforcement administrator under whose purview they fall. And so that and then if there's anything in addition to that that perhaps needs clarifying that's when the attorneys will step in.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: All right. Thank you Marie. Let me just move on to some of our stuff on the vehicle registration side specifically passenger plates and vehicle registration costs. As a follow-up to our brief discussion during your March 2026 oversight hearing regarding updates to DRT fees what steps have you all taken at least a since a couple of months ago to determine whether costs including those that are tied to your vehicle registration branch which in FY 2027 requires $236,000 or $191,466 more than your current budget are they accurately reflected in the annual registration cost for vehicles across the board?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: I apologize I have not done an analysis on that. But you know with regard to fees there... We have commenced a discussion with the legal team with regard to you know we... What we wanted to do was come and propose if you will a complete revamping of the fees as opposed to introducing one for one branch and one for another you know and so forth. So I... We have not concluded that yet and... But it's certainly a discussion that has commenced.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Marie do you think that'll happen in this upcoming fiscal year?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: We... It's certainly something that is going to be a priority for us.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: And why I ask is obviously with that kind of effort that would change kind of the revenues going into the agency for the next fiscal year.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yes yes. You know and on a related note it has kind of also arisen in that it hails back to our customer service efforts because you know it is really frustrating and we understand

it certainly that one branch will charge for example for copies and another branch will just say "We don't make copies at all."

So it was kind of twofold when we took a look at the customer service standards were trying to improve upon and then it became okay there's definitely a need to standardize practices as well as it's probably time that we take another look at the fees that are associated with such services.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao, 38th Guam Legislature: Right. And I and I do appreciate your input on this and I do appreciate the presentation today. So thank you again DRT. Thank you Mr. Chair. That's all my questions for now. Thank you

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Si yu'os ma'ase Senator Gumataotao. Senator Lujan you're recognized for five minutes.

Senator Jesse Lujan, 38th Guam Legislature: Thank you Mr. Chair and good morning Director Lizama, Deputy Mendiola. Before I get into a couple of questions regarding the budget I just want to put on record that either later today if not today Monday I'm routing a bill for co-sponsorships to finally give the Department of Revenue and Taxation a permanent home. We want to thank you again myself alongside of course the chair OFB for giving us a tour about a month and a half ago.

Actually, just be- just before Sinlaku happened. And you know I just can't imagine in the storm I said "Wow if we if we would've had a direct hit from Sinlaku like it did our brothers and sisters is in the CNMI" I think I mean alongside you know many homes and other businesses but Rev and Tax would probably been inoperable seemingly-

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: We're certainly very lucky.

Senator Jesse Lujan, 38th Guam Legislature: Yes were. Yeah. I mean just to see the conditions I mean your different sections and desks I mean you had more canopies there than - than along the Flea Market or even Liberation Day you know the parade. I mean it's just unacceptable.

And then looking at the bathrooms and your bathrooms are basically not commercial bathrooms they're like home-style bathrooms that that s- situation there. So it's just

totally unacceptable. So again it's just ... So today if not today Monday is being circulated. And when you look at your budgeting the cost benefit of for GovGuam you're approximately about $1.3 million annually right for your rent?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Correct.

Senator Jesse Lujan, 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah. Okay. So again this bill will be a public-private partnership will be inclusive of course of utilities IT and infrastructure data and telecom okay? It'd be a home built to suit. Basically you put out an RFP and you know all that right? And we're looking at possibly maybe centralized maybe central Guam. All that we're ... Again it's built to for your facility 'cause it's totally unacceptable 90% of government revenues come in through revenue tax. And again I don't think if we have another storm coming over this way and it takes a direct hit at us I think you I think revenue tax will be in very very very bad shape. Yeah. So yeah. Yeah. so that equivalence on you guys were there since 2006 right? Around that time?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: I believe so 2005.

Senator Jesse Lujan, 38th Guam Legislature: 2005 okay. So looking roughly at 25 million money spent on something that's no ownership okay no equity so no permanent asset to the people of Guam and so you know to continue on with something like this is totally unacceptable.

And again- no assets and no equity in in in you know in investment with that. So my question is here has DRT documented the current facility problems including of course moldy air conditioning leaky roofs water intrusion plumbing issues and any other employee health complaints?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yes. You know actually there's a local representative you know who works with the landlord. We have been in touch with that person. That person does respond to certain you know to certain issues. Sometimes it's as urgent as you know the water tank's not working you know and you know so forth or you know there's leak- they're leaking at the front door because there's no awning you know and so and so forth.

But we've certainly gone that route and just recently our deputy director set up a meeting with the landlord's son. And so went back and we highlighted everything

that had been forwarded to the local rep and you know things that had been addressed or perhaps not effectively addressed.

And then he committed to making a an on-site visit. He'll be coming sometime in July I believe but yes certainly it's not for you know I mean it's not that we have not raised any of these things you know unfortunately we get so much traffic-

Senator Jesse Lujan, 38th Guam Legislature: Sure ...

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: That these things just really don't last. You know bathroom the toilets you know and so forth as you mentioned they're not exactly commercial grade. you know and just a whole bunch of other things. And unfortunately we also have some of the public who come in and try to deface is- things. Just last week there were pictures circulated on the managerial team's chat with regard to just you know kind of like what is it?

Messing you know trash in the in the bathrooms and so forth. So you know without even having someone there personally I would like to see an attendant there you know and just say "Hey look" you know after each use or whatever you know that it's okay you know and so forth. But you know that's you know we need positions for other things right? So we just feel that there are some members of the community that just have no respect you know for the environment.

Senator Jesse Lujan, 38th Guam Legislature: Mm-hmm. Have the building problems ever disrupted public services like delays in transactions and things of that nature? I know you guys have-

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yes ...

Senator Jesse Lujan, 38th Guam Legislature: You know you work really hard to do that but I mean just the physical you know nature of the situations may have disrupted you know some of your operations.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: So before we had quite a few issues with the water tank. You know and so if weren't able to get the toilets flushing and so forth you know obviously that's a health issue so we've had to shut down. So yes there were instances where we had to shut down. However I will say that the landlord did an overhaul of the water tank and so that is working properly you know at this time.

Senator Jesse Lujan, 38th Guam Legislature: Mm-hmm. Okay have you done a cost analysis the DRT and DOA do a cost analysis comparing leasing against permanent structure a government-owned headquarters?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: I don't have that.

Senator Jesse Lujan, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. Well I again my and my last statement basically here is that or even a question would you work hand-in-hand with the with the legislature again to finding a permanent headquarters and solution for a permanent structure for again DRT?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: We will not oppose having a new home. You know we I've said before to others that you know our dream has been and same with my predecessors is that when people come in and you know let's face it people don't want to pay tax right? You know it's just not one of those things in life that you look forward to. But with that said you know we are the equivalent of the local IRS.

And you know I'm sure you I certainly myself when I enter a federal building or something that involves serious matters you know you have that certain sense of kind of decorum right? You just you kind of behave in a certain way. And so having a new home and I suspect that what we're in right now while we've done our best you know our cleaners you know try to keep the surrounding areas presentable and certainly clean enough and our employees have done their best.

I mean you know I think it was the chair that expressed surprise that despite our humble surroundings that everything seemed neat and in order. You know with that said though you know you typically we... Who wouldn't want to be in a better environment you know? I come from an airline background.

In the airline world if you don't have a clean-looking or updated environment that kind of equates to questions on your reliance your reliability and your safety so that is something that you know we would not say no to.

Senator Jesse Lujan, 38th Guam Legislature: Sure. No no I mean actually you look up in your ceiling at your roof and you see holes.You know it looks like it's just in place-

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Natural skylights?

Senator Jesse Lujan, 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah natural lighting yeah. Yeah. Just one last thing comment actually. we're talking about tax collection and all that and this legislature 30th Guam legislature my bill alongside Senator Chris Duenas and my colleagues that's why we passed the ASYCUDA system. The implementation for CQA. And you know the leakage of that is basically to the tune of about $150 million annually in in taxes that were are not being collected based on an OPA audit regarding that. So that system is in place. As a matter of fact I just got a call yesterday to give them a call about the update and you know the implementation of such. So we're looking forward to that and more tax collections for you guys and for the people of Guam. So you know we definitely could use $50 million annually-

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Absolutely .

Senator Jesse Lujan, 38th Guam Legislature: That that we don't have currently right? Right. With that being said thank you Mr. Chair. Okay.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Si yu'os ma'ase Senator Lujan. Vice Speaker Ada you're recognized.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Thank you Mr. Chair and good morning here for being here this morning. You know and I'm just listening to Senator Lujan and the concerns about the - The facilities and things of that nature. And what is the redundancy for protecting our taxpayer information? You know I mean if Sinlaku came head-on is everything in that one building? All records all-

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: If you're talking physical you know documentation yes. If you're talking things that are stored on the computers of course we've got the servers with OTECH. We have the servers certainly with the vendor the current vendor and so forth. So you know the danger really is in the physical documentation.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: And that's where you said that there are some records that have to be kept for perpetuity.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Correct.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Where are those records located? I hope not up at that building.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: You know if I'm not mistaken you know it is in a part that is shielded from you know the ...I mean we are in a tent structure ... former Costco warehouse. So-

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: That's what I'm saying and that's a concern there. Because there is actually no no safe there's no safe area in within that building. Because you know usually those type of structures it'll a roof goes or a wall goes the entire structure would be compromised.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yeah. Yes.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: So there's no there's no permanent storage facility for those records that are required?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: There is none at this time. I think the only thing you can kind of count as permanent would be the former I don't know what do you call them reefers or walk-in refrigerators you know that that are part of the building.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: So you guys did not look at any other facility that you can take these permanent records and store them safely away from rodents and you know-

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: I not currently. I don't know about historically having any other storage. Yeah. I do know that this we have attempted before to try to find a new home and the trouble that we've come

across is we are requiring 55,000 square feet of space along with 200 at least 200 parking stalls and the inventory right now has none of that. so it's been it's been difficult. We've also tossed around different ideas. You know could we perhaps have a satellite office in the north one in the south and then maybe be able to occupy smaller space centrally you know and then you know.

Or do we I know the acting MVD administrator's looking at this but perhaps find a new home just specifically for vehicle registration and driver's license and that will certainly you know kind of reduce or decrease the space needed for you know the rest of the branches so.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: I see. Okay and then you also spoke about the you know recruitment and working with DOA. When was the last time Revenue and Tax put out announcement for recruitment? Deputy?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yeah. It's ongoing sir and I and the deputy can speak more to that. Yeah. you know we just met with the HR director- Tuesday yes Tuesday. And if I may. Sure. I'll turn it over to Denise. yes.

Denise Mendiola, Deputy Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Good morning to you. Answer your question about recruitment we had a meeting with Tony Aguon with DOA's HR and he's the administrator for that area. So we discussed several things primarily the recruitment process.

So as a preface to this as you know DRT right now has 156 employees. We just brought on three so it's inclusive of three new hires. We've been actively recruiting. However what we noticed is a pattern of announcements that will go out packets that will come back with minimal number of applicants.

And of those applicants maybe one or two will qualify through the interview process. So with that said many times we've had to send the packet back to DOA. So in the meeting with Tony he did advise us that with all of the agencies that have a recruitment process we are the only agency that comes back with a very low count of qualified applicants.

So one of the things that we noticed is that the PDQs or the job descriptions or the-- for these positions are outdated which means that they were done maybe 10 years

ago which doesn't ... It's not relevant today- today's job market. It's not relevant to the position that they need to do in the agency.

So those were the two findings. Based on those findings we agreed that we are going to embark on a new project which is to work on the reclassification of these positions before we can work on actually doing any other new programs to bring in the on new employees because we want to make sure that the new job descriptions are relevant to the work that's being done today and that we are aligning with the potential job market.

So those students that are coming out of the university out of GCC those that are out in the local market and even those that are not on Guam anymore that we can recruit to come back that would be able to qualify for these positions. So that's what we're working on right now with our branches for them to reclassify these positions.

And then with that we're going to look at potential new job or salary ranges based on those new positions. So right now we do have an active recruitment list. As of today we have a position available in every branch in the agency. We've brought on as I said three new hires and we have two packets that are back at DOA for supplemental packets that are coming back to us hopefully in the next week or so.

With respect to the compliance folks that you were talking about I just want to add that we also discuss the new the apprenticeship program. So DRT is going to work with DOL to become an employer sponsor and participate in the registered apprenticeship program. We're going to target specifically those that are in the law enforcement field those that are involved with compliance with tax with I'm sorry with respect to revenue agents revenue officers those in the compliance department so that as I understand it- to be in the compliance department you have to have passed the POST or you need to be POST certified.

And so those will be the first ones that we'll be able to send through that program. So that's the next thing that we're going to be working on is becoming an employer sponsor in the registered apprenticeship program.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: So how long is all this going to take? I mean you know we got we have an agency that this is like no other agency within the government of Guam.

Denise Mendiola, Deputy Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Correct.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: This is where all the revenues come in. This is where all the uncollected revenues are supposed to go as well. How long is that prog- those programs going to take and how did we wait this long to find out that after so many tries of trying to get people on board we're now just trying to figure out –

Denise Mendiola, Deputy Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: So I can tell you that the timeline for an update of job specs is six months. I can tell you that to create any new jobs will be 30 days and then you still have to go through the six-month process. So while we're doing that and that's why we ask the question what can we do in the meantime to be able to bring people on board? So we're able to do something called a selective factor and we're able to use that piece so that we specify the requirements of that position that will be coming in six months.

So that's our way to be able to justify that we will have a selective factor for this particular position with the intent that we are going to reclass and it's going to have new job specs. So we'll be able to do that right away.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Okay. All right. Thank you. Then what are we looking at for the...I know Director you were talking about statute limitations and that nature. How much are we looking at uncollected revenues right now uncollected taxes?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Okay so there would be I don't have the exact number 'cause remember that when it hits collection it's kind of more like a... What we take in every day while it is accurately defined as collecting the collection branch is actually those obligations that are like past due.

So there's a distinction there and I don't have the actual number. In fact what I believe that our tax enforcement administrator had given to Senator Terlaje before you know it's there's in that particular amount includes those that may have reached statute of limitations but we won't know until the collection agents actually go through each of those cases. So there may be a way to parcel out that and I apologize that I don't have that in front of me sir but we can certainly try to get that figure to you.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: What's the estimate? 100 million 120 million 140 million? - What are we looking at?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation:... no. We're talking if you're talking just the accounts receivables it's probably more so in the like 200 million mark. I could be I could be wrong. Please do not quote me on that. I'd have to go back to the tax enforcement administrator. But as I mentioned you know that doesn't... Oh sorry. She's here ...

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Now it just comes down to it's just this 200 million is 200 million right?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Correct but remember that some of that amounts those amounts are ...It kind of throws off that total figure because statutes may have already you know been met or have come –

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: You don't we don't have a benchmark to where you know the statute of limitations is coming up that we reinforce the collections on those individuals that haven't paid? Or are we just waiting until- We're just waiting until the statute of limitations and then we just write it off.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: In ideally- But here is our dilemma. At one point in time historically that branch had I want to say 35 revenue officers. We are now down to I think just under half that and that's you know certainly it's again it goes back to the recruitment and the retention issue you know and so forth. I don't know you know I don't know the specific details with how statute of limitations are statutes of limitation are monitored. But certainly it all goes back to the fact that that particular branch is now dealing with half of its staff historical staff.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: And how long have we been at that halfway point with their staffing? How many years have we has it been like that?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: I mean I know that since I came on board in '21 it they were already at that. In fact when I came on

board it was pointed out to me that there was a huge gap between entry-level positions and those at the senior the senior level. But again this is something that I guess you could say it's kind of beyond our control. If you don't have people as the deputy mentioned if you have zero interest or there's so little interest in applying for these jobs then you know we are forced to work with what we have you know? And granted I mean that's not to say that we shouldn't try but hence the reason for the overtime with regard to the collection agents.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: I mean have we looked at the possibility of contracting or outsourcing these type of positions so that we'd be able to stay on board with our collections?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: We did employ the use of LTAs and then over the years your predecessors or you know other previous legislative bodies have taken us to task with regard to the number of LTAs that we've had on our on our staffing pattern. So we've we you know... And remember that these LTAs have rated for and have been positioned into or have taken these classified slots so the total net number has not changed.

It's the makeup right of the staffing pattern. But with that said we've run across... It's it still goes back to recruitment and retention issues. Our people are tired. You know everyone's tired. It is something that you know we continue to try to do. It is certainly something that that continues.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: I see. Okay. Well- I'm lost for words but I'll just go ahead and move on. The you know there was a concern brought up with the license the license or license plates. There's individuals that are driving around vehicles that have veterans plates on it and but they're not a veteran. Are these folks being allowed to transfer vehicles or renew vehicles that does not belong to a veteran and a veteran plate accompanies that vehicle? Do you know? What is the policy?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: I don't know the actual procedure but I do know that when we issue such veteran plates the process is initiated or it starts with certification by the Veterans Affairs Office. So we do not issue you know those plates without that certification.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: But we don't look at renewals right? So when the vehicle comes in for a renewal if the owner had changed it changed ownership the-

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: So with regard to renewals we don't we don't take a look at that if I'm not mistaken. But if you're talking about a transfer in ownership. I'm pretty sure that the staff take a look at that with regard to-

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: And if the individual is not a veteran that plate will not be transferred?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: I believe that's the correct process yeah. Reverts back to a regular plate. yeah. So.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Yeah it's just because we had some constituents out there that said you know there's veteran vehicle you know folks with veterans plates that are running around and the individual is not a veteran and they own the vehicle so.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yeah. Yeah. Well you know I can speak for myself sir. You know my husband is a veteran. I am not a veteran and I do my... I do not park in the veterans' designated slot although some people say "Well you can because you're married to a veteran." But I can assure you that I-

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: But you're not the veteran.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yeah. It may be that it's a family member. I don't know. Yeah.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Yeah. Okay. And you were talking about a territorial income tax attorney's office. Correct. And where are these attorneys going to come from?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Well okay so years ago when the late Senator Klitzke introduced legislation which became law that established that office we had a difficult time recruiting for those positions. Only in the last few years were we able to get you know attorneys for those positions. What first needed to happen was we needed the principal attorney and then and that person is unclassified and then the two positions in that office are classified positions. So the three attorneys that we had at one point in time they all came from the attorney general's office. And then as I mentioned the principal attorney has since retired and so we are down to two.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: And when did he retire?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: She retired- She ... May 1st I believe was her was her May 1st whatever that Friday was her.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: And are you looking at a replacement for that attorney no?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: At this time we are concentrating on other things.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Oh so then you can do without that attorney?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: I wouldn't say it would be ideal because there's certainly more than enough work for three attorneys. You know in fact you know the two we have-

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: But you said earlier that they're all different specialties right?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Different specialties but that's not to say that they couldn't cover for each other. you know if one person was out you know was absent you know or on extended leave or what have you. But you know right now we are not actively seeking to fill that main attorney's position.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Okay. And you were ear- earlier you were talking about the you know driver's license and you know 'cause I know some folks went up there and they sat for hours waiting to take the exam.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yes.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Have you looked at the possibility of actually doing what was done previously where they contracted out and had the driver's license like at again Shopping Center and folks were able to do renewals and other things down there and...

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: At one point in time I know we had the office at the again Shopping Center. And then when COV- right around the time I think COVID hit then we did not renew. We had issues with that particular location in that you know of course the landlord wouldn't turn on the air conditioning until the rest of the mall opened or the shopping center opened and so forth. And we did not actively...

So then of course COVID occurred and we have not actively gone out to seek a satellite office because we wanted to concentrate on keeping you know on keeping more of the branches together. With that said as I mentioned the acting administrator is taking an -- she's been in active discussions with regard to possible locations for the motor vehicle division which would be driver's license and vehicle registration you know.

But yes sir we're trying all that we can. As I mentioned we're pushing appointments and we're pushing online options. And you know it’s just sometimes our situation is complicated by the fact as I mentioned that there are several different systems in place that work together to produce credentials.

So whether it's the internet you know instability whether it's the vendor's cloud-based system not talking to the legacy system you know whether it's even as simple as a printer malfunction or perhaps there's no there's no additional printers on. You know there's so many different things that can affect that but we are trying. And our deputy would like to add something.

Denise Mendiola, Deputy Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: If I can add to that the administrator and her staff have been working to improve the performance standards of that branch. And so based on the KPIs that you see if you were to break down the numbers of twenty-five thousand one hundred thirty per year it'll take you to give you about two thousand number of licenses processed a month with about - 17 an hour if you broke it down to the hourly.

So if you took 17 applications processed an hour divided by six employees give or take for about seven hours a day you're looking at about 2.9 processed per hour for each employee which is right on target with them having to take 20 to 30 minutes per customer. And the reason for that and a lot of the reason for that is with this current system you have to have the perfect dance.

The system requires about three to four different external systems for it to work. So if you have one of them that's not performing perfectly the whole thing shuts down or you have delays you have lapses. And so-- And the reason why we know this is because they have a chat the employees have a chat and every morning we see them waiting for the system to move just you know lapsing.

And so that's what the supervisor and the administrator have been working on is how to fix the system so it doesn't rely on four different external systems that we don't have any control over. And that really is the reason why the delays are happening. And so in the meantime what they've done is create a new customer service system where they have somebody at the front they have customer-- I mean call center that takes appointments so people don't have to wait.

And then those that are waiting they have designated areas for the Manamko and people with disabilities and then they have an express line. And so they're really trying to find so many different ways to make it work but granted there are going to be those that fall through the cracks in this process.

So that's something that is a real issue is when they talk about the modernization of our systems Actually they were they were actually in Phoenix at a conference working with the other states just trying to figure out w- what are what do we need to do or what can we do as a territory in an isolated island compared to the states that don't necessarily have the infrastructure but we have the same needs. And so you'll be able to hear more about it as we keep working on that progress.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: I see. And then the other question is are driver's licenses now recognized as a Real ID and that we can go through TSA and not have any problems with it?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yes sir. And that just to give a bit a bit of background you know that was actually tied to the vendor working with TSA and TSA's uploading of specimens.

I can attest to the fact that it worked for me last month. You know Denise actually made arrangements with the local TSA to go to the airport and try to scan hers so that worked. Will it be 100% perfect or is it 100% perfect? Certainly not and there have been one or two cases well certainly prior to the assurance that the specimens were uploaded we had more instances wherein it was not recognized. But since then I think I've only heard of one or two where it hasn't and we have not been able to figure that out you know save for checking with the vendor.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Yeah 'cause I went to the rent-a-car in LA and I-

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Were you turned away?

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: I was actually turned away but then they had their little book there-

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yeah

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: that showed the different IDs and states and territories so-

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yeah

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: ... it was just fortunate that Guam's driver's license was recognized in the book but not in the system.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: May I ask was that recent travel?

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Yes.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Okay.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Just very recent.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yeah. I can't speak for as to why that is but we have been assured by the vendor that TSA has uploaded such specimens.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Okay. Thank you. And then just my last question as my time is running out the you were talking about the vendor for the financial system. We're at $2.2 million now right? At- Is this for a one-year contract? What is this... How... What's the length of term for this contract?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: So when that unfortunate incident occurred you know we had to revert to...Of course it at that time no one was aware you know that the sole source contract was limited to one year only. Of course when proposals were given by the sole source vendor it obviously the longer term agreement you have the less expensive or lower than the one-month amount. And so when we did have that issue it basically reverted to a one-year you know one-year contract if you will or agreement.

And you know that's because the other months had already passed. So as we had pointed out in our earlier presentation we are hoping to be able to take advantage of a longer-term agreement so that our monthly costs will not be as exorbitant.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: And this is with the same vendor? They...

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: It is their system yes. It is sole source. Yeah.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: So we're stuck again with the same vendor that we have the 2.25 million $2.2 million contract with that we're looking now to get a longer term contract for a lower cost. What happened to switching over to a different vendor?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: We are trying to... And we've been working closely by the way or in in reference with or consultation with the Office of Technology. So while it may seem like a huge amount you know the Office of Technology has confirmed that in order to start up something with a completely new vendor that it would take multiple times more than what we're expected to pay. Now with that said we are certainly going to go out when we have...We will do this with a- all of our services that require we require. We will be going out with RFPs so that we can better tailor the systems to what we actually need.

Vice Speaker Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Okay. That's perhaps just my last question for Rev and Tax. But again thank you folks for coming down and presenting your budget for 2027. I truly appreciate it. Thank you. Mr. Chair thank you for the opportunity.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Si yu'os ma'ase Vice Speaker Vice Chair of the committee. Senator Terlaje you're recognized for five minutes.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: Si yu'os ma'ase. Thank you for your presentation this morning and for all your work Department of Revenue and Taxation. I'll just follow up on that line of questioning regarding the c- the contract the sole source contract now. That's for one year sole source. When... And you said you- you're working on a new RFP for a multiple year. When who's working on that? What is the plan on that? When is that going to be ready?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: So we do have the procurement person working on that. Right now what we did was we issued and it was published a sole source you know a bid to carry us through to the rest of the fiscal year. And so she certainly has her hands full. She's working right now on several different things and we certainly intend to work on an RFP you know for the upcoming FY27 so.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: Can you talk timeline? So when you say end of fiscal year you mean FY26 so in September this contract ends? This sole source procurement will end?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yes it does.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: So you're trying to get an RFP out before then for the multiple year?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yes.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay. Thank you. And - Are we going to require in that new contract that you know caps on the price escalation or data portability that you know at the end we're going to own all the data all of that?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yes And it has always been such that the data or the data belongs to the agency and to the government of Guam.

And I think where perhaps there have been different opinions or maybe perhaps a different view of that lies in the fact that you know how do you get to that data? Mm-hmm. But certainly you know our vendors just like with anyone else including our own employees we take oaths of disclosure. So you know anything you know anything that lies or rests within the systems you know it's ours and cannot be shared or be used toward other you know other things.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: All right. And then the about tax collections we talked a little bit about it but you said the examiner branch that's the one we're relying on to really do collections and audits. What can we expect for FY27? You didn't really highlight that.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yes. we are recently you know as I think I mentioned in one of the highlights you know we did we did were able to recruit and successfully hire an a person for that for that branch our efforts are ongoing. We continue to work with the Department of Administration with regard to revenue agents as opposed to the revenue officers who are part of collection. And so we do have those efforts ongoing. We It is one of those positions

ma'am where it is the attraction or the attractiveness of the current salary levels is really not there.

The tax enforcement administrator has certainly worked and is working with you know with the with McKell with regard to you know the technical pay a- and so forth. So it's slow moving but you know it's certainly something that we are trying to address.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: All right. That was the part of Rev and Tax I was hoping would be able to be laid out in some kind of performance base. Kind of like how can we're going to collect this much from overdue in this fiscal year at least pursue it or pursue litigation for 10 more cases or those kind of things.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yeah. As I mentioned before when the subject of PBB was first brought up you know I had talked to the team because you know I talked to those that were present when apparently this effort was first kind of introduced maybe a couple of years ago even though the law that created it was established decades ago.

And so there was some concern and just like with the IRS there's some concern that when it comes to taxation it's a little bit more complex. And I believe that that's why the chair chose those specific areas was because you know... And I'll give you-- I'll just give you an example.

You know how do you measure success if let's say we had one individual who owed $10 million or what have you right? And then you have 20 individuals who collectively owed less than that $10 million. Are you going to measure our success on the one individual or the 20 individuals? And that's just a very simple you know example.

But certainly I think what we wanted to do we didn't want to appear as if were totally resistant to PBB. We wanted to work with OFB to say "Okay let's try to do something that's easily measurable and then we can transition into other branches." So to your point though we are going to still continue with our efforts.

And these revenue agents do have technical time reports that highlight what they're working on you know and so forth and they answer to the supervisor who in turn answers to the tax enforcement administrator.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: Our goal is to resolve cases before the statute of limits right?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yes absolutely.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: All right. I guess that's why I wanted to see if the... You have a you should have a list of how many are like within 90 days or a year or whatever all those time periods and then you know how many of those are we going to resolve in FY27?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yes. For sure. And that would be at the administrator or the supervisor level to monitor.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: All right. The oversight for Rev and Tax Senator Taitague she is ill today but she wanted to know what steps are being done for the to address the audit for the nonprofits?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Okay. The audit for the nonprofits with regard... Okay the OPA audit for the nonprofits. Let's see.

Yeah. I know that we mentioned or we talked to her briefly at the OFB meeting and we did tell her that we had we were in touch with or were aware of the results or the findings and the recommendations and we had worked on part of that and we're continuing to work on part of that. So for example there is a requirement such that nonprofits are supposed to publish their financial statements.

And while some of these nonprofits aren't large enough to have their own websites to publish such docents you know we have gone in and we've been able to do that and have those financial statements on our on our website. So there's progress don't believe that we've fully completed it yet.

What we have done to try to get some of these organizations into compliance is through our educational outreach campaigns such that we say "Hey look take a look at the updated listings on guamtax.com. Make sure that your status your tax-exempt status hasn't been revoked. If there are any changes in the makeup of your organization or any updates in the bylaws and constitutions that they are effectively filed with the general licensing branch" and so forth. And I do apologize I think the deputy wanted to mention something else. Oh okay. Okay. I'm sorry. Yeah she wanted to kind of add to the tax collection answer. Yeah. But that's what it is ma'am.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: All right. So I think that was a law that I authored and was passed that publishing on your website for those you know who can't afford to publish in the papers. But are you-- You're saying you're doing this general education campaign but what about just directly to those who are not complying? Are we keeping up with those who are not complying and letting them know right away?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: I don't I don't know that answer. I don't I had did not check with the administrator to see what efforts are being done. I know it's there are two people in that Technical Research and Appeals Bureau. And you know the bulk of the work right now is you know addressing the new applicants as well as kind of getting some of those whose statuses have been revoked back into becoming you know active or you know active status and so forth.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: All right. The passport office you talked about they have to close before 3:00 because you need to get stuff to the post office. Has that always been the case? And is one constituent messaged my office that there's only one person to process passports and that's why there's such a long delay. They only take twenty-five people per day. Is that correct?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: It's actually between thirty and thirty-five. So yes there is a limit right now. And currently what happens is or what has affected us certainly is we actually had one person on extended leave. Her she was the sole person tending to her mother-in-law who was in a hospice care.

And then we had two other people who had to you know who we had to alternate or we could not deny the leave. There are two of the forty approximately forty-four people who have excess leave or leave in excess of three hundred and twenty hours. So we're trying to get them to use that. So what typically happens is we have someone who's on the intake side who screens all the documentations.

And then of course there's one person who actually who works on that and could be two. But we also had to keep in mind that there was yet someone else who had to prepare such documents also from the previous day if we d- we didn't get to all of that and getting it to the post office. And we've actually had the deputy you know help with getting it you know driving it to the post office.

And then of course we had to take into consideration like lunch you know lunch for those individuals. So I'm not pleased to say that yes at one point in time it could there could be or at any point in time there could be only one person processing applications. And we the deputy certainly has been in touch with the staff to see how we can better maximize the use in the day so.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: Yes. So thank you for carrying the burden I guess. But yeah hopefully we can just hear that there's some solution on the horizon at least temporarily while you have these people temporarily on leave right?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yes.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: Because yeah you know this is-

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: We know ma'am. And that's why we're hoping that the Wednesday appointment designated appointments will certainly help especially with regard to families.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: All right. In the oversight hearing you told us that you did the assessment. The assessment was done on the new for the new real property tax but it was not implemented because the governor said not to implement assess the new tax roll. But it was already approved by the board. And so is that going to be implemented in FY27 in January? Or what is your plan?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: So with regard to the law itself right it does allow for the deferment and with regard-- the deferment of any increase in taxes directly relating to the revaluation project. And so we part of our educational campaign has also been to inform those and reassure those property owners that unless you are going through a zone change unless you've sold your property outside your immediate family you know unless you know haven't improved upon you know vacant lots and so forth that there-- you will not pay such an increase because that's what the law is. With that said we need to ensure that the system is capable of monitoring that so that when a property owner does sell the property outside of the immediate family that they're not hit with this surprise amount you know and so forth. So-

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: But when are you going to implement the new tax roll?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: It will take effect with the tax year '26. But again we just need to be careful such that the statements do not ... We have to effectively monitor it so that even if it doesn't appear on the statements that the property owner is aware that this is the amount that it has increased by and it will just remain a deferred amount until such time that any of those actions are taken.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: All right. So when the assessment or the invoices or what do you call those go out- Statements ... in in January or February or December?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: December.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: December. Those are going to show a new tax roll that's already been adopted?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Ideally yes that's what we're looking at ... is for it to show on the side. Just saying this has been deferred.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: All right. Yeah never mind the deferment but the new tax rule that you haven't-

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: It's not going to show it's not going to show any increases.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: None at all across the whole island?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: It's... Well with the exception of those-

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: Isn't there a whole new... tax rule that has been adopted by the board right? But you said that was you did not implement that. So when will you implement that?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: We did not implement actually the increases relating to the revaluation project. So we did not do that for this year. But for the next year... So your tax is pretty much going to remain the same unless if of course if you're a homeowner-

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: No no no. Just just answer the question. When is that new assessment going to be effective then? December.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: It's going to be effective for the tax year '26.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: Okay.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: But again back to the statements it may not necessarily show that because it's a deferred amount.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: You're talking about an exception right?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yes.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: That's my law that was deferring for single and for residential uses. Right? We're going to defer that increase. But the tax the new tax rule will become effective so for everybody else. Right?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yes.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: And that's going to show in the statements that go in December.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: It'll show in the statements yes.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: And do you have something... I guess that's what... Okay so that's already implemented for sure for December.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: That is that is.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: That's what I want to know. I want to see any documentation that that holds that off. Is there going to be another assessment done then in FY27? I know the law says like - Do you expect none?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: No. No. The if with regard to revaluation that is going to occur every I want to say it's every three years.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: Yeah. Okay. Just wanted to make sure 'cause that wasn't was held off on. So yes so according to the law that I passed we that assessment is supposed to go into place by another law the existing law e- every three years. But for residences who do not who have not selling their property they're going to that increase- They won't see the- Any increase will be deferred.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Correct.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: Right. Right and you just trying to work out a process to show that. That's fine. The

Sorry I just want to. Just again I guess I'm going to go back to that tax collection. Can you just give us some hope? Is FY27 are we going to be more effective in in enforcement and collecting taxes? Can we expect like you know a just more success in that or pretty much are we going to be staying the same?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yes ma'am. So that is why we have asked for and have received approval to conduct overtime for that particular team. You know it's that. The other thing is overtime with regard to being able to process and get those tax refunds out you know because of course the you know consumers or the taxpayers are eagerly awaiting you know such refunds. So those are the two things that we are working on right now with regard to overtime. So yes it is expected to continue.

Senator Therese Terlaje, 38th Guam Legislature: All right. That's kind of different but thank you. Si Yu'os ma'åse. Thank you for all your work.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: So I do share that I think that we are going to have an opportunity to expand on performance-based budgeting and I and I think now that you've taken the initial step even your approach here I see a lot more data that we can fill in on that.

Just to be clear and I think maybe Senator Terlaje might be aware of this as well and really this is an iteration that involves a lot of training and also is initiated on the BBMR side along with OFB. We just wanted to make sure we kicked it off and I want to thank you and I appreciate the effort that you've put in to begin with here at least.

And I and I've heard from some of your staff that it's been beneficial in terms of taking a close look at what this looks like. And I'm also im- encouraged by the fact that really going back to your efforts of improvement a lot of this can be done through your digitization and automation that really is... And then also telling the DRT story like you know "This is our side of the house. We can show that our processing through our modernization is up to date. If there are documents or other things missing that's on the taxpayer and on..." That leads me to something else that I have to ask a couple of questions about.

So recently I had a meeting with Guam Association of Realtors and some other business groups and they brought something to my attention that basically this .This discussion is really about fairness on the business license renewals. What was brought to my attention is that there are times when GRTs or other tax liabilities or perceived liabilities are recognized several years back even when the individual's applying for a license and you've already issued a license to them one or even two years prior. And so the question is how does that happen? Who who's who has the onus in terms of trying to reconcile? Could that be an internal thing with DRT in terms of... But I have a series of questions along this line and maybe this will guide it a little bit better so may- why don't we do it this way? Can you talk to us basically through the exact clearance process for a business license renewal which DRT branches review it what each branch checks and who makes the final decision to clear or hold a renewal?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: In the clear-- or the renewal process there are clearances that must be made. So sometimes depending upon the person's situation it could involve income tax it could involve BPT it could involve collection it could involve real property. So depending upon what branch requires you know clearance from you know that's going to affect whether or not you know the renewal is able to be made.

In some cases for example there's one for BPT and for whatever reason you know the taxpayer you know of course you know that BPT is filed online. So the taxpayer has come across a return from a few years back wherein an exemption was a renewal or I'm sorry a return was filed but there was something tied to the improper taking of the you know the Dave Santos ex-exemption.

So, when the situation is explained and typically they-- I always encourage them "You need to send a letter in" and so forth. So we have taken the position that if this is something that requires more in-depth research and investigation then we're going to grant a conditional clearance from that branch so that they will be able to renew the business license.

We are certainly not in the position of trying to deny someone you know the ability to run their business you know and so forth. So it really depends. sometimes it's if it's something and it certainly shows in the system if this person has been told before "You need to do this this or this" you know then obviously it means that there was a disregard for the instruction from the previous year when a conditional clearance was granted. So while it may appear that there is inconsistency it really lies in the situation for that individual.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: I can understand that. And so I think we're getting to the crux of where probably some of these folks have been running into this issue. Yeah. So to be clear and we can communicate this and the people listening who are renewing business licenses can understand this that it is does come upon a time where Rev and Tax may have renewed a license two maybe even one two three years ago

with a clearance but there's been an adjustment somewhere along the line behind. It's not necessarily... Obviously you cleared them. So they must have not had any outstanding 'cause you gave them their license. But there is an event maybe that took place prior that now- is flagged as an obligation.

And you cleared that you clearly described that and you would give a conditional approval if that was the case.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Right ... And that's why sir I always encourage people who call me who WhatsApp me who send me you know stuff over social media I'm like "Write a letter. Write a letter address it to the tax enforcement administrator copy in the collection supervisor whichever branch is part of that process and you can CC me and we'll...That way we have something you know there-

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Yeah ... I think these consumers really and I can understand this and I'll just go through a few more questions is man we switched to an online process where it's incumbent upon us we're demanded to do this and we're counting on the system now to work based on going back to modernization and digitization. We're thinking "Look we gotta do this. This is no longer you know oh it's in the backseat of my truck and I forgot that I didn't drop it off or I didn't make it that month." This is every you know this is this is you know done electronically.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Right.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: So there's a little confusion. Wait a minute you're saying I have an obligation two years ago can't renew me now. I have two licenses to show that you've allowed me to go through forward so that's the scenario. So I got you on that. If a business license was renewed last year what would cause DRT to flag that same business license this year f- that and that's actually that question. The GRT missing filings. So you're saying that you would more than likely find an obligation as opposed to a missed filing?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yes. And now that we have collection working overtime you know that a lot of that is surfacing now. So their efforts are reflective of that.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Okay so yeah this is kind of another constituent question. When an older issue is discovered during the current renewal cycle does DRT determine whether it's an actual taxpayer compliance issue or an internal DRT records reconciliation or processing issue?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: As we look into the situation of course you know we would have to consider all things and if it is determined that it is our side where we are at fault you know of course we don't forgive the...We typically don't forgive the tax liability. We say you need to pay the tax liability. However we may waive the penalties and interest. You know interest is rarely paid unless it's been determined that it's our fault. So it really depends on the situation and again that's where we encourage taxpayers to include as much detail as possible.

And then we have mechanisms to be able to collect that that will not have them suffer if you will. So for example an installment agreement and again that is determined upon you know what docents the taxpayer can put forth that will justify our working with them on an installment agreement.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Okay. So this question really I think comes from what we all thought that would be kind of I don't know about magic bullet but something that would really bring us into modernization as well. How does DRT's business license and tax clearance system interface with the GFMIS and what information is automatically shared reconciled between the two systems?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: I know when I came on board certainly when we had the previous director there was a project. It didn't exactly involve the GFMIS but rather it was a system that would have enabled the electronic circulation if you will of documents and that was for the business license permitting center.

To my understanding there was a protest on that and so it basically stalled and I ne- I believe that discussion needs to be resurrected. So it's not to my understanding it didn't include the GFMIS but it was a separate system and it's certainly something that we will need to kind of resurrect if you will just so that we can in our efforts to better streamline the process and make it easier for them.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: You think an additional module in GFMIS would accomplish this?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: I'm not sure. I'm not you know-

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: I mean it hasn't been the goal forever.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: I think DOA may better-

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Getting particularly land management. I mean getting those systems to talk to each other in real time so that-

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Because the GFMIS was procured on the DOA side I'm pretty sure that they would have they would be able to pose that question to their vendor.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Okay. So let me see. I'm- Okay ... I'm hoping this is not redundant. If it is I'll stop myself. Okay. Are unpaid GRT tax liabilities payments or clearance holds visible in real time across DRT's internal system?

And there's a question about GFMIS. I think we kind of got that answer. Or are there manual steps that cause delays mismatches or missed flagged during renewal? In other words basically is that all electronic where you pull up a system and bang you can see everything?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: I would like to think that it is. It is currently working. It is being tracked hence the number of people who are being turned away from automatically renewing their license online or perhaps in person. So in the legacy system I believe that there is there is an area that would parcel out the non-payment of BPT. And if the tax administrator has anything you know I don't know if there's additional-

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Is there anyone else who can answer that a little bit more clearly? I mean that's clear. In terms of- But I'm just saying is there a definitive answer whether or not-

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: She needs to be given the oath ...

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

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: But I but sir I believe that it is because you know if it wasn't being tracked-

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: You know what? Yeah I'm going to waive swearing in on this one just 'cause this is a technical question. Thanks Vanessa. Go ahead and come up and you're not really speaking to the veracity of the of the fiscal issue so you can you can answer that question if you have a technical- BPT.

Carolyn Rivera, Tax Enforcement Program Administrator, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Okay. Okay. Can you repeat the question?

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Sarge is here Oh ... so we'll just do the formality. Thank you miss. Please proceed. Identify yourself.

Carolyn Rivera, Tax Enforcement Program Administrator, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Carolyn Rivera Department of Revenue and Taxation Tax Enforcement Program Administrator. May I ask you to repeat the question?

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Sure. Yeah. So the question basically is that are unpaid GRT tax liabilities payments or clear and holds clearance holds visible in real time across DRT's internal systems? I don't think the GFMIS is applicable here 'cause you're not particularly connected to it for this purpose. Or are they manual steps that cause delays mismatches or misflagged renewals?

Carolyn Rivera, Tax Enforcement Program Administrator, Department of Revenue and Taxation: I would say generally there's both. TPS between DRT and DOA there is a process we call interfacing.

A TPS is our payment system. And so there is... I don't know the frequency I don't recall the frequency but it does happen I believe nightly the interfacing of our payment system. So there's where the payment transaction in this case will get posted to the return record per se. Or even if it was a business license fee paid that status date the data was paid would translate to the business license record status date

renewal date so whatever is being paid in the TPS that ... How do you say? The final posting of that transaction to the account record whatever's being paid happens during interfacing period. So and then with... May I please offer some clarification?

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

Carolyn Rivera, Tax Enforcement Program Administrator, Department of Revenue and Taxation: So with regard to business license renewals and required clearances.

So in the business license policy there is a section a specific section I think it's section 7132 that specifically or clearly lays out terms when there's an existing liability. We are allowed or authorized to give conditional clearances. Now conditional clearances are given when we're working with the license holder or taxpayer to come into compliance.

For whatever reason the business license wasn't able... needed required the clearance because they're not in compliance. So when the licensee comes in to renew and we identify you know you haven't filed certain returns in the past years or year we will clarify that for them give them some time to get those returns in but at the same time provide them conditional clearances.

So we give them whatever time three months a year or to the next year. So once we renew a license it's good for the year. So it doesn't matter if we say "Get it to us next month get it to us next week Friday" whatever that condition to clear up their license renewal records right? - There's many many times where license holders get really busy after being issued the c- the license renewal on conditions they forget.

They get too busy. There's all kinds of variables right? And then they come back the next year and remember "Oh I renewed last year." There are times where if there was three typhoons you know if they had a reasonable circumstance-

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Case by case basis.

Carolyn Rivera, Tax Enforcement Program Administrator, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yeah. Case by case basis for sure. so we try to work with all our licensees and taxpayers.

There's all kinds daily daily daily taxpayer assistance taxpayer incentives. We're there. May I actually try to advocate?

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

Carolyn Rivera, Tax Enforcement Program Administrator, Department of Revenue and Taxation: You have a tax issue we recommend highly recommend talk to us. Right. Come in and seek our help right? There will be help for you. But if you avoid us we can't help you.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: It's like going to the doctor. You feel a little bit ill and you're staying away and then you get more sick. Go see the doctor. You might get some medicine. Thank you for that. So I think for our taxpayers and those listening that might be having some of these issues with their license I think also on the remittance reconciliations because you have multiple outlets in terms of being able to remit payment correct?

That's what you were talking about that daily reconciliation? Okay. So I think basically let me see if this question has already been answered. When DRT holds a renewal does the applicant receive a written explanation identifying the specific branch holding it the exact issue legal authority being relied on and the specific action needed to be cleared?

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: In some cases when they attempt to renew online it will not tell them or it will tell them that you need to see your clearance is required. And so typically what happens is they'll come in anyway and then they'll know or it'll it should say which branches require clearance. And so it does unfortunately require typically an in-person visit to those specific branches.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: And then and so they'll tell you check mark boxes go to collection go to here. Go see this specialist.

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Yeah. And if I may just to add to Carolyn's suggestion you know sometimes what happens is a person who needs clearance comes in on the very last day that they need to renew.

And if they can help it you know if they please come and see us before then well before then. Thank you.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Okay. The last two questions you answered already. So we're done. I appreciate it. And It's very clear on what your request is for and we'll work with OFB and then we'll have some maybe some further correspondence prior to the actual bill that's going to be substituted and then and to finalize.

Yeah. But we appreciate all your efforts. we appreciate your presentation today. certainly we encourage you know to continue on the PBB formatting. Like I said I think it's a good first attempt. I think we could probably expand on the KPIs but certainly your variance is not that high of a request

because it looks like you're looking at internal controls to be able to accomplish that goal of getting a licensure whether it's driver's license area or business license or other permitting attachments that you have more efficient through modernization digitization. So we certainly appreciate that.

I appreciate the fact too that you mentioned. You know it seems like there's another theme and I-- There only-- Certainly with my staff they have a very good relationship with the University of Guam. I really start to encourage all the GovGuam agencies that are having this recruitment retention issue you know work with the university on their current programs and things that they have to articulate.

And maybe some of these students too that are going to college and just took the courses aren't thinking really career path at that point necessarily and then all of a sudden they find out hey you know working with the university saying "We're doing these programs specifically tailored to ensure that these qualifications that are new qualifications and above step typical technical jobs at DRT and other places."

You know you get that education here you know you're going to match the application process. I really like that you're doing that and we need to just encourage that government-wide 'cause that's a perennial issue every time we get particularly in areas of law enforcement or with yourselves in technical areas of the government what they're-- the work they're doing.

DOA talking about that a lot too. So good work on that. And I think yeah University of Guam GCC are premier institutions of workforce development. We really

appreciate that effort. So with that we're going to consider the Department of Re- Revenue and Taxations budget having been heard and the also commending the results of the attempts on performance-based budgeting and we look forward to having favorable consideration in the upcoming budget hearings and session.

Thank you. Si Yu'os ma'åse. The committee is-

Marie Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue and Taxation: Thank you Mr. Chair.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations: Thank you and thank you Ms. Mendiola as well Ms. Lizama and the team. Thank you for being here. Rev and Tax hearing is now adjourned and the time is 11:31AM early for lunch. Si Yu'os ma'åse.

The Budget Hearing was adjourned at 11:31AM.

COMMITTEE REPORT

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) -

INTRODUCED BY

Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam

AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

Tuesday, June 02, 2026, at 9:00 A.M.

Department of Parks and Recreation

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 2, 2026

1 message

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Tue, May 26, 2026 at 3:34 PM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Christopher Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com" <stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com>, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>, aria.ofbguam@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 26, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 2, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Tuesday, June 2, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

---

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

FIRST NOTICE- DPR.pdf
694K

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 26, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 2, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Tuesday, June 2, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 2, 2026

PRINT

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 2, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 05/26/2026 03:35 PM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 26, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 2, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Tuesday, June 2, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** **(https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
· Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

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 budget hearing, 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.

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Notice of Budget Hearing

Tuesday, June 2, 2026, 9:00 A.M.

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Tuesday, June, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Department of Parks and Recreation

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

GUAM LEGISLATURE
AUDIO VISUAL DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Office Submitting Request: Senator Chris Dueñas

Date of Request: 05/26/2026

POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Ashley Shinohara Contact #: 671-989-9554

Email: senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS

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

☐ Oversight Hearing ☐ Committee Meeting ☒ Other: Budget Hearing

Notice Title / Bill(s) / Resolution(s) / Appointment:
Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR)

Date of Event: 06/02/2026 Start Time: 9:00 AM AM/PM

End Time: 12:00 PM AM/PM

Location: Public Hearing Room

MEDIA HANDLING

Recording Format: ☒ MP4 ☐ MP3 ☐ Other: _____

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

CERTIFIED BY AV:

Name: Rudy Perez Signature: _____

Posted on/Air Date: 2026-05-26 to 2026-06-02

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 2, 2026

1 message

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Fri, May 29, 2026 at 8:30 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Christopher Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com" <stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com>, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>, aria.ofbguam@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 29, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 2, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Tuesday, June 2, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

SECOND NOTICE- DPR.pdf
694K

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 29, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 2, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Tuesday, June 2, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 2 , 2026

PRINT

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 2 , 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 05/29/2026 08:56 AM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 29, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 2, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Tuesday, June 2, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** (https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
· Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

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 budget hearing, please contact the Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas for further assistance via email at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov***

senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov (mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov) *or by phone at (671) 989-9554.*

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

BUDGET HEARING AGENDA

Tuesday, June 2, 2026 – Guam Congress Building

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam – AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

9:00 am:

- Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR)

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

Date: June 9, 2026 **Time: 9:00 a.m.**

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules
by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam
AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS. -- **Relative to Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR)**

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	MELVA LIMO	DPR	[redacted]	melva.limo@dpr.guam.gov				
2	JOHN GLENN TAITAGUE	DPR		John.taitague@dpr.guam.gov				
3	Michelle S. Yamasta	DPR		Michelle.yamasta@dpr.guam.gov				
4	Joey Terlaje	DPR		joey.terlaje@dpr.guam.gov				
5	William Stinnett	DPR		William.Stinnett@dpr.guam.gov				
6	John Lizama	DPR						
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								

Department of Parks and Recreation

Performance-Based Budget Fiscal Year 2027 Presentation

Agenda

1. Overview of the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request
2. Historical Context and the Department's Stewardship Footprint
3. Staffing Overview by Division
4. Key Performance Indicators for Each Division
5. Alignment of Budget to Expected Service Outputs
6. Specific Legislative Requests for Support

Fiscal Year 2027 Request

Budget Overview

$4,596,359
FY 2026
Authorized Level

$830,160
Special Funds

$5,426,519
TOTAL

$5,860,701
FY 2027 - Governor's Request

$817,461
Special Funds

$6,678,162
TOTAL

$1,251,643

VARIANCE
FY 2026 - Authorized Level
VS
FY 2027 - Governor's Request

Fiscal Year 2027 Governor's Request by Major Budget Category

BUDGET DETAIL

Category	FY 2027 Request	Budget Signal
Personnel Services	$4,673,282	Largest operating requirement; supports core staffing capacity
Operations	$239,418	Contracts, supplies, equipment, miscellaneous, operating support, and Park Police Reserve
Utilities	$948,000	Power, water/sewer, and communications
Capital Outlay	$0	Limited capital support
Total Request	$5,860,701	Governor's Budget Ceiling Request
Special Funds	$817,461	Limited Gaming Fund Public Recreation Services Fund Tourist Attraction Fund
GRAND TOTAL:	**$6,678,162**	

Guam's Historical Context & Stewardship

Footprint 2027

- Local & National Registered Historic Sites: 3,070
- Territorial Park Areas: 26
- Territorial Seashore Parks: 56
- Recreational Facilities: 16
- Natural Preserves: 4
- Conservation Reserves: 2
- Cemetery: 1

FY27 Staffing Overview

Divisions	Budgeted Positions	Funded Vacant Positions	Filled Positions	Fill Rate
	A	B	C	D = C / A
Administration Division	7	3	4	57.14%
Park Police Division	13	4	9	69.23%
Park Maintenance Division	17	12	5	29.41%
Recreation Division	21	13	8	38.10%
Guam Historic Resources Division (GHRD)	10	3	7	70.00%
TOTAL :	**68**	**35**	**33**	**47.76%**

Parks Division

Key Performance Indicators(KPI):

Grounds keeping, facility repair, restrooms, painting, equipment support, cleanup, and readiness of public spaces

Parks Division

Con't. KPI: *Grounds keeping, facility repair, restrooms, painting, equipment support, cleanup, and readiness of public spaces*

- **The authorized level for FY2026 is 350,939.**

- For **FY 2027, we are requesting a total of $991,454** to maintain and expand services:
  - **Park Grounds, Pavilions, and Shelters: $499,492**
  - **Vicente Limtiaco Cemetery: $207,938**
  - **Park Adoption Program: $208,961**
  - **Vehicles and Equipment: $60,063**
  - **Miscellaneous Supplies and Repairs: $15,000**

Parks Division

Con't. KPI: *Grounds keeping, facility repair, restrooms, painting, equipment support, cleanup, and readiness of public spaces*

- **Daily Island-wide parks maintenance** at park grounds, pavilions, and shelters. Our team performs **2 to 3 park maintenance cycles per day**, totaling **over 624 cuts annually** across all parks.
- **Cemetery grounds upkeep** at Vicente Limtiaco Cemetery, ensuring no delays for families, especially those experiencing financial hardship.
- **Park Adoption Program** success, with **25 parks about 50% of our inventory adopted and maintained by community partners**, maximizing our limited staffing and resources.
- **Fleet and equipment management:** We currently maintain **8 department vehicles** (with only 45% operational at times due to age) and rely heavily on essential equipment, including **3 zero-turn mowers, 10 bush cutters, and 3 water blasters**.

Parks Division

KPI Output:



1. Facility closures
2. Limited access for the public
3. Increase safety hazards and potential for accidents
4. Negative impressions for visitors impacting tourism
5. Higher long-term repair cost due to deferred maintenance.

RECREATION DIVISION

Key Performance Indicators(KPI):
Recreation programs, sports facilities, community events, facility use support, and public recreational services.

Recreation Division:

Con't. KPI: *Recreation programs, sports facilities, community events, facility use support, and public recreational services.*

- **Our Funding Request:**
  - In **FY 2026**, our operations were budgeted for **$1,065,084**.
  - For **FY 2027**, our operations request is **$1,359,032**.
  - This represents a **$293,948 increase**, or approximately **27.6%** from 2026 budget.
    - Increased utilization and the need for improved maintenance and facilities.

RECREATION DIVISION

KPI Output:

1. Improve community health/recreation access
2. Increase in Youth and Adult Leagues/Tournaments
3. Improve facility utilization and conditions
4. Increase quality of safety compliance for various sporting facilities
5. Increase knowledge and awareness of water safety

Guam Historic Resources Division (GHRD)

Key Performance Indicators(KPI):

Historic preservation review, cultural resource stewardship, compliance support, landmarks, and preservation coordination.

Guam Historic Resources Division

Key Performance Indicators(KPI):

Historic preservation review, cultural resource stewardship, compliance support, landmarks, and preservation coordination.

- **Fiscal Overview**
  - FY 2027 Agency's Request: $848,666
  - FY 2027 Governor's Request: $828,588

Guam Historic Resources Division (GHRD)

KPI Outputs:

1. Survey and inventory: Protection of cultural resources and organized library, improve accuracy and completeness of historic preservation program records
2. Guam and National Register Nomination: Update site inventory to modern standards
3. Public education and awareness information enhancement: Increase the communication on historic preservation among the public, and increase knowledge of the public to HP laws
4. Technological improvement of GHPO records: Record management is paperless and SHPO portal causes timely review
5. Safeguarding of historic property: Continued upkeep of historic sites

Territorial Park Patrol

Key Performance Indicators (KPI):

1. Patrol the Park System
2. Answer calls from police dispatch
3. Deter crimes
4. Entertain criminal complaints
5. Issue traffic citations
6. Issue litter citations
7. Assist locals and tourists to navigate park system
8. Education and outreach
9. Assist homeless persons
10. Write police reports and appear for all court related matters

Territorial Park Patrol

Key Performance Indicators (KPI):

Patrol the Park System, Answer calls from police dispatch, Deter crimes, Entertain criminal complaints, Issue traffic citations, Issue litter citations, Assist locals and tourists to navigate park system, Education and outreach, Assist homeless persons, and Write police reports and appear for all court related matters

- **Authorized Level for FY2026 is $1,487,662**
- **FY 2027 Governor's Request: $1,104,272**

Territorial Park Patrol

KPI Outputs:

Interagency Readiness | Education and Outreach | Public Safety



- Guam Park Police actively engage with the community beyond enforcement
- Officers deliver public education campaigns and traffic safety messaging tailored to Guam's needs
- Provide on-site support at special events, family gatherings, and cultural activities
- Dedicated to assisting park visitors, tourists, and military families in Guam's recreation areas
- Lead and partner in prevention initiatives targeting vandalism, illegal dumping, and park safety
- All efforts reflect Guam's heritage, values, and community spirit—keeping parks safe, visible, and welcoming



Questions?

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

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

In accordance with Section 6.04(c)(1) of the Standing Rules of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, this committee digest provides a *summary* of the public hearing detailed below. To assist the general public in navigating this report, please note that all blue-highlighted text contains hyperlinks. Clicking on these links will direct you to the corresponding referenced sections/documents. For any questions or assistance regarding this digest, please contact our office at (671) 989-9554 or email us at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov.

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) – COMMITTEE ON RULES BY REQUEST OF I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN, THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

I. OVERVIEW

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) was introduced on **February 2, 2026** by **Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam** and was subsequently referred by the Committee on Rules to the **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** on **February 3, 2026.**

The **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** convened a Public Hearing on Bill No. 266-38 (COR) on **June 2, 2026** at **9:00 a.m.** and recessed in the Guam Congress Building's Public Hearing Room. The

Committee on Finance and Government Operations reconvened on **June 9, 2026** at **9:00 a.m..**

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Public Hearing Notices were posted to the Government Public Notices Portal and disseminated via electronic mail to all senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on **May 28, 2026** (5-Day Notice), and again on **June 1, 2026** (48-Hour Notice). Public Hearing notices were posted for the reconvening of the Public Hearing on **June 03, 2026** and again on **June 5, 2026**.

SENATORS PRESENT

Chairman Christopher M Duenas
Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada
Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao
Senator Jesse A Lujan

ORAL TESTIMONY:

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
Joey Terlaje, Acting Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
John Taitague, Parks Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation
Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation
William Stinnet, Recreation Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation
Michelle Yamasta, Program Coordinator, Department of Parks and Recreation (SHPO)

WRITTEN TESTIMONY:

Department of Parks and Recreation PowerPoint Presentation

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The public hearing for **Bill Number 266-38 (COR)** was called to order at **[09:00 a.m.]** on June 2, 2026.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas:
Manana Si Yu'os, good morning and thank you for being here. We were scheduled to hear the public hearing for Department of Parks and Recreation. I am going to recognize those great employees who have showed up here to the budget hearing. and I'm going to have them go on the record and identify themselves. I'm going to start from my right.

William Stinnet, Recreation Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation: Good morning. William Stinett, recreational administrator for DPR.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Thank you for being here, William.

Lt. Anthony Martinez, Park Police, Department of Parks and Recreation: Sir, Lieutenant Anthony Martinez, Park Police.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Thank you for being here, sir.

Joey Terlaje, Acting Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Good morning, Senators. My name is Joey Terlaje. I'm the park police superintendent.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Thank you for being here, sir.

Joey Terlaje, Acting Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: You're welcome.

John Taitague, Park Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation:
Good morning, Senators. My name is John Glenn Taitague, Parks administrator.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Thank you for being here, sir.

John Taitague, Park Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation:
You're welcome.

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: Good morning, Senators. My name is Melva Limo, administrative services officer.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Thank you for being here, ma'am. To the public, I want to express my disappointment. However, I will do it on understanding that the acting director, and we're going to find out his appointment letter as well uh after the um resignation of director Sablan. And now director acting I believe Warren Pelletier will find out his status. I as the chairman of government finance and operations will not conduct a hearing without an appointee sitting before us to answer the questions and I will make it clear why all of you individuals take the direction from your appointee from your director confirmed or not confirmed acting. They don't have the same duties and responsibilities you have as career employees and I will not subject you to having to answer questions from this committee when you are not appointees of the governor. This budget should be defended by an appointee either confirmed or in an acting status and not by classified employees.

I will not have any agency come before my committee and subject classified employees who do their job day in and day out to try to keep the services flowing in the agency and as I close this, one of the reasons also I want to make sure you understand, I have several questions also with to do with the 2024 audit and findings. And I do not want you to be responsible for that until the investigative committee is convened to have you answer questions if need be should we be visiting your agency with the investigative committee. So with that, I want to thank you and I'm sure the vice speaker, the vice of this committee, if he wants to share some comments, shares my position and my appreciation for all of you.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: thank you, Mr. Chair and thank you to the classified employees of the Department of Park and Parks and Recreation, which I have oversight of, and I thank you for being here this morning but I support the chairman in his decision to reschedule this budget hearing until the appointed director or in acting capacity, the you know, is here to answer the questions that this committee has of the department. thank you, Mr. Chair, for your leadership.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: And in closing, once again, I planned and I will plan and I'll project this now to also ask questions on uh a very widely spread media release on something that I believe was inappropriate on supposed equipment from the Guam legislature at one of our parks. I think you and I have the common

decency to know that we would give each other a call and say, "Hey, can you come up and pick up what's here, what appears to be some refuge with the Legislature's markings on it so that we could do our job because our team here, if you look at your parks and rec, if you look across the street right now, you will see a manicured lawn. You will see but you know monuments and others that are painted. You will see our staff go over there not asking anybody else to come down and work with the homeless and people who have difficulty supporting them but asking them to also recognize *Hagatña* as the capital. We have our people who come here every day to be in *Hagatña* for business and we also have our visitors.

Okay, this is how this legislature operates. When you look at our lawn here, it's all cut. Our building is painted. Okay? And I can tell you right now, and this is me, I'm not going to put the vice speaker on for this as the chair, but I can tell you right now, if any government behalf of the vice chair of this committee and the vice speaker and myself to thank each and every one of your employees today for the hard work that they're doing particularly up at the cemetery and other areas where we know it's very difficult. We want to thank you once again, but once again in closing, we will not subject you to have to answer for something that an appointed official that can be here today and gone tomorrow instructs all of you to do work and to have you come down here and answer on behalf defending a budget, the most important thing that you do. I'm very disappointed at the administration for even thinking that they could do this. I got no text. I got no call. The vice chair's got no information and I think it is a disservice to the people of Guam to not have an appointed official here or at least come before the committee and email us, write us a letter and say, "We cannot defend our budget today. Senators, please give us a reschedule." With that, thank you. God bless you. God bless you, Guam. The committee on finance and government operations for the budget hearing of Department of Parks and Recreation is hereby in recess.

[Budget Hearing for Department of Parks and Recreation is in Recess]

[The Budget Hearing for Department of Parks and Recreation reconvened on June, 09, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.]

[Questions and Discussion] [*Begins at 00:39:37 and ends at 01:38:39*]

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: *Manana Si Yu'os* Good morning thank you everyone for being here Welcome to the 38th Guam Legislature the People's House At this time we are reconvening the public hearing for Parks and Recreation fiscal

year 2027 budget request I am only going to read into the record the official notices that went out first notice of this public hearing to all senators and media outlets was disseminated on June 3rd 2026 with its second notice disseminated on June 5 2026 The hearing notices were also made available on the Guam Legislature's website our legislative calendar and the Government of Guam's public notice portal.

For the public information on this budget hearing this is coming back from recess, which happened on June 2 at around 09:20 in the absence of paperwork and official request on the acting director to present So today colleagues and I'd like to recognize my colleagues who have joined us the Vice Speaker the Vice Chair of this committee and also the Chair of Parks and Recreation thank you for being here Senator Jesse Lujan and Senator Shawn Gumataotao thank you for being here we're resuming this hearing and I have an acting appointment letter that was dated June 1 2026 appointment to the position of director for Mr Robert S Lizama former mayor of Yigo So thank you Mayor for being with us.

So at this time what I would do is ask the panel to rise and be sworn in by the sergeant at arms and then we will proceed with the acting director and however the department has chosen to present its budget this morning So please proceed Sarge.

Edward Pocaigue, Sergeant at Arms, Guam Legislature: Please raise your right hand Under penalty of perjury do you affirm that any and all information you provide today whether it be verbally electronically and in writing be the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Mr Chair they are under oath. You may proceed.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Thank you Sarge We appreciate it so much So I'm just gonna remind my colleagues that all the rules of engagement still apply as we know as per our 38 Guam Legislature's standing rules for conduction of conducting public hearings in the public hearing room So at this time I'll recognize the acting director Mayor Lizama to open and let us know please Mayor and we'll have all of the panel introduce themself and then proceed with your presentation.

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Good morning honorable chairman My name is Robert Lizama the appointed acting director for Department of Parks and Recreation.

William Stinnet, Recreation Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation: Good morning senators I'm William Stinnett recreation administrator.

Joey Terlaje, Acting Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Good morning My name is Joey Terlaje I'm the Park Police Superintendent and the acting Deputy Director for DPR.

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: Good morning senators My name is Melva Limo Administrative Services Officer.
John Taitague, Park Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation: Good morning senators My name is John Glenn Taidague Parks Administrator

Michelle Yamasta, Program Coordinator III, Department of Parks and Recreation: Good morning Senator My name is Michelle Yamasta Program Coordinator III Guam Start Resources Division.

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Thank you Honorable Senator Good morning *Manana Si Yu'os Todu Senadot* Senator our oversight chair Senator Tony Ada Senator Sean Gumataotao and Senator Jesse Lujan good morning and thank you for once again allowing Department of Parks and Recreation for coming before you to justify our budget for 2027 FY 2027 as I was viewing last week's presentation of course Department of Parks and Recreation apologizes for the absence of the appointee or a leadership However it was through the comfort and the confidence of the administration in that the acting appointed deputy director superintendent for parks police Joey Terlaje was ready to present So what I did of course yesterday was I met with the with the management team of Department of Parks and Recreation who had just introduced themselves And going through the process the paper that will be presented to the honorable senators this morning I f- I feel very comfortable with the work and all what was put together in this paper in working together closely with your oversight as the oversight chair and also as the chair for the new proposed PBB I'm very new to the process being the first However I see of course the importance of why we want to proceed with this PBB of course I officially retired out of the government last April

24 and with that I was asked of course by the governor and the lieutenant governor if I can come back out of retirement to come in and serve Department of Parks and Recreation once again.

I had the privilege of course to work with some that's on the table here and very much comfortable with you know they've continued to hold the fort down you know with Department of Parks and Recreation with their work their experience Of course with John Glenn being the park administrator working his way up from a staff all the way up to park administrator of course, Melva Limo as well coming back to Department of Parks and Recreation being the administrative services officer And on the SHPO side of course with Miss Michelle who is up at the SHPO office along those lines you know I come with experience of course by serving under the Calvo administration working as the previous director I await now the action and the confirmation process by the Department of Parks and Recreation Commission I request your support in asking if I can yield to the acting deputy director who had walked through the process on this PBB with your office in doing the presentation as I am comfortable that you know he can proceed with what he had presented to me yesterday. If that's okay with you?

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Yes, Mayor Lizama that's acceptable And the reason why is from what you're presenting today is you've assed the responsibility that you've reviewed the budget presentation and that you represent this is executive direction from the governor's office as the current acting appointee. So with that I have no problem proceeding given the fact that what Mr Terlaje and the rest will represent is confirmed to have been the wishes of the executive direction and you accept full responsibility of this presentation in defending this budget.

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: I trust their work.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Good enough Let's proceed

Joey Terlaje, Acting Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: *Håfa Adai* and good morning *buenas todu hamyo* Mr Chairman or Chairman Dueñas members of the Committee on Finance and Government Operations and honorable senators of the 38th Guam Legislature Again for the record my name is Joey Terlaje

I am the Department of Parks and Recreation Park Police Superintendent and the Acting Deputy Director.

To help me navigate the specifics of this proposal our key leadership team are present to defend the day-to-day operations and financial modeling of this budget Together we are equally responsible for executing this fiscal plan Again I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the incoming DPR director Mr Robert Lizama and our deputy director Warren Pelletier who apologizes again for his absence here today due to a serious injury that he sustained at the Paseo grounds.

Good morning senators On behalf of the hardworking DPR employees I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the senators of the 38th Guam Legislature for allowing us to present our fiscal year '27 budget The Parks and Recreation budget is fundamentally about the growth and wellbeing of our community It is a direct investment of our island's com- community's mental health physical wellness and our island pride Our parks are the places where our children play where our *måmnåkos* connect and where our families gather for recreation.

The $1,251,642 budget increase requested by DPR actively changes how the department maintains the island's parks and facilities. Historically DPR has faced major backlogs due to a shortage of manpower. This proposed directly targets those workforce gaps for too long DPR has been working miracles with the very little resources available and with boundaries. Your cooperation support and understanding will help us to maintain and overcome our challenges. The requested increase impact maintenance personnel in the following ways: a significant portion of the added funding is earmarked to hire more full-time dedicated main- maintenance workers and technicians.

The problem here is a small pool of personnel is stretched across more than 82 parks sports facilities beaches and historical sites This setup causes a lengthy delay for simple work orders the target of $1,251,642 increase builds a consistent predictable payroll base to involve more ground crews. This expansion allows the department to deploy localized maintenance teams rather than relying on a small, overwhelmed island-wide crew.

Now matching personnel to performance matrix Based-- because DPR is participating in the 38th Guam Legislature's performance-based budgeting pilot program the increase in personnel funding is tied to specific tangible trackable workforce data under this new model staffing levels are evaluated by one number one tracking and assessing how quickly personnel can respond to emergency situations or resolve facility maintenance tickets specifically targeting public restroom repairs lighting installations pavilion upkeep or law enforcement responses will definitely increase operational efficiency and enhance proper planning.

Directing personnel hours towards high traffic parks like *Ypao* Beach *Matapang* Beach *Inarajan* Pool and the *Dededo* Sports Complex will ensure that high demand areas will receive a proportional amount of care Transitioning away from temporary labor currently DPR frequently has to rely on unpredictable limited term appointments volunteer groups business partners or other government of Guam agencies to manage seasonal overgrowth and basic upkeep

The $1,251,642 baseline shifts funding towards permanent skilled internal personnel This would allow the department to maintain strict schedules for routine tasks like mowing waste management and structural upkeep without waiting on emergency executive allotments. Our budget request is targeted entirely towards execution safety and accountability we are asking to fund specifically for personal services contractual services supplies and materials equipment and utilities At this time please allow us to present our PowerPoint slide presentation.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Please proceed

Joey Terlaje, Acting Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Thank you Senator Duenas Okay next slide please Slide two So this is basically the agenda that we put together number one is the overall fiscal year 2027 budget request number two historical context and the department stewardship footprint number three staffing overview by division

number four key performance indicators or KPIs for each division number five alignment of budget to expect- expected services output and s- and six specific legislative request for support Slide three please

Slide three is the fiscal year 2027 request budget overview For fiscal year 2027 we respectfully submit a total budget request of $6,678,162 This amount reflects an

increase of $1,251,643 over the f- the prior fiscal year underscoring our commitment to one adequately supporting park a- assets number two enhancing recreational programming number three protecting seashore and cultural resources and four maintaining a visible public safety presence Slide four please

Slide four fiscal year '27 the governor's request by major budget categories Our proposed budget ceiling stands at $5,860,700 and it is structured to meet our operational needs while upholding principles of fiscal responsibility and transparency Let me provide a detailed overview o- of each major budget category and its significance.

With personnel services we're looking at $4,673,282 This category constitutes the major- the majority of our budget reflecting our commitment to maintaining a skilled and dedicated workforce Personnel services covers salaries wages overtime fringe benefits and other employee related expenses These funds are crucial to retaining experienced professionals filling critical vacancies and ensuring that our staffing levels are sufficient to meet the demands of our growing community.

Investing in our people directly translates to improved services or service delivery faster response times and a greater capacity for innovation within our organization The operations is $239,418 These funds support all non-personnel day-to-day needs including contracted services necessary for specialized tasks and compliance with regulatory requirements supplies and materials for routine operations and equipment and purchases and maintenance Miscellaneous support that allows us to adapt to unforeseen challenges every dollar in this category is allocated with efficiency in mind ensuring that our team has the tools and resources required to operate safely and effectively With the utilities is $948,000 Reliable utilities are the backbone of uninterrupted public service This allocation covers electricity water sewage and telecommunications.

It ensures our facilities are operational our communication infrastructure is robust and we can respond swiftly during emergency or service or service disruptions We also continue to pursue energy efficiency measures and cost savings initiatives wherever possible The capital outlay is zero for fiscal year 2027 we are not requesting additional capital outlay.

This decision reflects our current strategy to maximize the use of existing infrastructure and to prioritize maintenance over new construction or major

purchases We remain vigilant in assessing future capital needs but at this time our focus is on sustaining our current assets and program delivery.

Our fiscal year 2027 budget request is carefully balanced by prioritizing people maintaining operational excellence and ensuring the continuity of essential services for the people of Guam It is the result of rigorous internal review and aligns with both the governor's fiscal policy and the real needs of our community

The total request of $5,860,701 is the governor's budget ceiling request The special funds is at $817,461 That's with the Limited Gaming Fund Public Recreation Services Fund and the Tourist Attraction Fund The grand total is $6,672,162 678 I'm sorry six $6,678,162

Slide five please Slide five is the Guam historical content and stewardship footprint for 2027 As we review the fiscal year 2027 budget request I want to highlight the department's broad stewardship of Guam's parks heritage sites and natural spaces responsibilities rooted in the 1999 DPR's master plan Our mission extends well beyond daily operations it's about preserving Guam's heritage natural beauty and recreational opportunities for generations to come Our stewardship covers 3,070 historical landmarks safeguarding our island's our island's story from ancient latte sites to important events in modern history number two is we have 26 territorial parks essential spaces for recreation family gatherings and promoting healthy lifestyles Three 56 seashore parks protecting our coast offering recreation and services- and serving as buffers against erosion and climate impact number four we have 16 recreational facilities venues for sports youth activities and community programs that keep our people active and engaged Five we have four natural preserves preserving habitats for unique s- unique species supporting biodiversity and providing opportunities for environmental education

Number six we have two conservation reserves focused areas for habitat restoration species protection and sustainable resource management And we have one cemetery maintaining a respectful resting place for our community These sites are vital for recreation cultural preservation environ-environmental protection and the overall wellbeing of our people.

To fulfill these duties our fiscal year 2027 budget request is structured to maintain and improve all facilities build staff capacity support heritage and environmental programs fund essential operations and drive strategic initiatives like coastal protection and climate adaptation In summary our stewardship touches every village

and resident the proposed budget directly re-reflects the resources needed to continue protecting and enhancing Guam's parks and heritage for the future.

Slide six please Slide six I'd like to provide I would like to provide you with a detailed overview of our department staffing for fiscal year 2027 and we broke it down into divisions. For the administration division four out of seven positions are filled That's 57% This team is responsible for the department's core operations including planning finance and resources and compliance. These roles ensure our policies are implemented effectively and our resources are managed responsibly.

The Park Police division nine out of 13 positions are filled This division provides law enforcement and public safety in all of Guam's parks With four vacancies our ability to patrol and respond to incidents is reduced potentially impacting the safety and security of our visitors.

The Park Maintenance division only five out of 17 positions are filled 29% making this our most understaffed division. These employees are are crucial to keeping our parks open clean safe and well-maintained with so many vacancies routine maintenance repairs and groundskeeping are delayed which directly affects the quality of our facilities. We have staff that are currently under the limited term appointment statuses utilizing ARPA funds The intent is to recruit for the [00:28:00] labor positions through the merit process in hopes that those currently working with us would apply to maintain continuity if selected.

The Recreation division eight out of 21 positions are filled make up of 38%. This division organizes and delivers community programs sports and events that promote health and engagement across the island Staffing shortages here limit the number and variety of activities we can offer to residents.

Now the Guam Historic Resources Division or GHRD- Seven of 10 positions are filled make up of 70%. The GHRD staff are essential for identifying protecting and preserving Guam's history or historical and cultural sites and vac- and vacancies limit our capacity for cultural preservation and compliance with federal and local mandates across all divisions only 33 of our 68 budgeted positions are filled which is less than half. The most significant staffing gaps are in park maintenance and recreation which directly affect our ability to maintain parks support community activities and protect our and protect our public assets In terms of full-time staff we have 33 positions Two unclassified positions in leadership and administration that are both filled.

There are 31 classified frontline and technical positions with 27 filled and four vacant. Although some areas are near full capacity the ongoing vacancies especially among frontline and technical staff, remains a serious operational challenge We need continued support to address these critical gaps and fully serve the people of Guam.

Slide seven please Slide seven is the parks division's KPI Groundskeeping facility repair restrooms painting equipment support cleanup and readiness of public spaces Slide eight please Slide eight the authorized level for fiscal year 2026 is $350,939. The fiscal year 2027 for fiscal year 2027 we are requesting a total of $991,454 to maintain and expand services Park grounds pavilions and shelters is $499,492 The Vicente Limtiaco Cemetery or also known as *Tiguak* is $207,938 The Park Adoption Program is $208,961 Vehicles and equipment is at $60,063 Miscellaneous supplies and repairs is $15,000.

Slide 10 please or I'm sorry slide nine The Park Division is responsible for maintaining eighty two public parks and the Vicente Limtiaco Cemetery Ensuring these areas remain clean safe and accessible for all residents and and visitors The key responsibilities and achievement include the daily maintenance of park grounds pavilions and shelters. Our team performs two to three park maintenance cycles per day totaling over six hundred and twenty-four cuts annually across all parks The cemetery grounds upkeep at the Vicente Limtiaco Cemetery with daily maintenance and trash collection are at five days a week ensuring no delays for families especially those experiencing the financial hardship.

The Park Adoption Program Park Adoption Program success with twenty-three parks about fifty percent of our inventory adopted and maintained by community partners maximizing our limited staffing and resources The fleet and equipment management we currently maintain eight department vehicles with only forty-five percent operational times due to age and rely heavily on essential equipment including three zero-turn mowers ten bush cutters and three water blasters

Next slide please Slide ten Park divisions KPI output number one facility closures number two limited access for the public number three increased safety hazards and potential for accidents Four negative impression for visitors impacting tourism.

Next slide please So recreation division's KPI Recreation programs sports facilities community events facility use support and public recreational service

Slide 12 please Recreation division our funding requests In fiscal year 2026 our recreation division had a budget of $1,065,084 For fiscal year 2027 we're requesting an increase of $1,359,032 This represents a $293,948 increase or approximately 276% over the 2026 budget Increased utilization and the need for improved maintenance and facilities.

Next slide please The Recreation Division's KPI outputs number one improves community health and recreation access number two increase in youth and adult leagues and tournaments number three improve facility utilization and conditions number four increase quality of safety compliance for various sporting facilities and five increase knowledge and awareness of water safety.

Next slide please This is the GHRD KPI Historic Preservation Review Cultural Resource Stewardship Compliance Support Landmarks and Preservation Coordination. Slide 15 please Slide 15 is the fiscal overview for fiscal year 2027 agency's request is $848,666. For fiscal year 2027 governor's request is $828,588.

Next slide please The GHRD KPI outputs Survey and inventory Protection of cultural resources and organized library improve accuracy and complete completeness of historic preservation program records number two Guam and national registered nomination Update site inventory to modern standards number three public education and awareness information enhancement improves the communication on historic preservations among the public and increase knowledge of the public's historic preservation laws number four technological improvements of SHPO records Record management is paperless and SHPO Portal causes timely review number five safeguarding of historic property continue upkeep of historic sites.

Next slide please Slide 17 is the Territorial Park Patrol's KPI number one patrol the park system number two calls from police dispatch number three they deter crimes Four entertain criminal complaints and makes arrests Five issues traffic citations Six issues litter citations Seven assists local and tourists to navigate park system Eight education and outreach Nine assists homeless persons And ten write police reports and appear for all court related matters.

Next slide please So, slide 18 is Territorial Park Patrol's KPI authorized level for fiscal year 2026 is One million four hundred and eighty-seven thousand six hundred and sixty-two The fiscal year 2027 governor's request is one million one hundred and four thousand two hundred and seventy-two

Next slide please So the Territorial Park Patrol's KPI outputs number one Guam Park Police actively engage with the community beyond enforcement number two officers deliver public education campaigns and traffic safety messaging tailored to Guam's needs number three provide an on-site support at special events family gatherings and cultural activities and four dedicated to assisting park visitors tourists and military families in Guam's recreation areas And five lead and partner in prevention initiatives targeting vandalism illegal dumping and park safety number six all efforts reflect Guam's heritage values and community spirit keeping parks safe visible and welcoming.

Senators that pretty much concludes our PowerPoint or our presentation at this time I would like to thank all of you again for giving us this opportunity to share our budget request at this point in time senators we are now are up our team up here we're ready to answer any questions regarding our financial and operational our operational needs. Si Yu'os Ma'ase and Thank you again.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* Chief Joey I would direct our colleagues to the two sheets of behind the budget request and the breakdown on the summary this is the table in the KPI format that has been trained to the staff or provided training provided to the staff from OFB for a more detailed outlook on the KPI versus the presentation in the PowerPoint.

I'm gonna ask some baseline questions to begin that will not count against our colleagues' time of five minutes of things that I've observed in the budget request that need further delving into based on the presentation You'll probably be deferring to the ASO and other administrative staff on this Chief.

Joey Terlaje, Acting Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Yes sir

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: My first question is your presentation in terms of employees and the increase in the manpower and the like to match the request however when we go down to the colleagues the bottom of the page on the FTEs the fiscal 2025 expenditures and encumbrance which is of course completed is 40 employees the 26 drops to 37 and the 27 actually drops to 36 with a variance from 2027 of only four and the authorized level being one by the governor but we'll stick with the four So I'm having some difficulty I can go to your contractual and show you where there's some disparities there but your actual FTE request doesn't match

unless there's budgeted vacancies that aren't being enumerated here in terms of your request. So can I go to the ASO for that.

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: Thank you for the question Senator So on the I'm sorry there was an error on the unclassified Should be only two unclassified positions there and then the 31classified I didn't include the LTAs that are under the ARPA funds So that's –

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: So what you're saying then is that cause normally what we do when you have a budget request if you're requesting the increase you're putting your forecast of employees out to your total number not what you currently have.

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: Right So yeah so currently if we were to hire the Okay so for FY27 we have 35 so it'll be 60 68 staff that we will be getting for the FY27.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay so yeah for some reason it totaled out the grand total, Okay So we'll go with that then and then when we go to contractual your slide presentation represents **$**239,418 but when I go to the summary your actual contractual services request is $747,837.

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: Contractual

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: If you go to the second page of this- It's contractual of the budget digest If you go to the second line under contractual services if you start with fiscal year 2025 it was 107356 then '26 authorized level 157120 governor's request for '27 is 56,375 But then when we go over into special funds and we total it it's 747,837

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: With the 56,375 I believe that we usually the contractual for the pool and restrooms are usually on the special funds we I only actually base myself on the using the special funds for grass cutting and restroom maintenance.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay So maybe we'll have another follow-up with OFB to unless I get some signals from them on what these disparities that I'm finding Okay I think the biggest one that jumps out acting director and acting deputy

is and this is kind of what we talked about when we had our pre-budget meeting we'll see where you actually land but it's kind of interesting how your fiscal year '27 total request of 991454 under KPIs Park Division actually almost exactly matches with your current lapses in the CRER April 2026 of 991,300 So it sounds to me like you've had difficulty recruiting and getting staff because even in your current staffing pattern it seems as if you were able to complete all your recruitment on your status quo budget you'd actually have this you'd have your staff in place with your current request with your current funding levels.

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: That's correct we actually have we put in our recruitment so you know the challenges with recruitment that's what created the lapses.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay So basically your budgeting your budget vacancies budgeted right now-

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: Yes sir

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: are causing your lapses-

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: Yes sir

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: and you've got your recruitments in

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: Yes

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: So we're gonna have to reconcile that too with the staffing pattern versus the request because I'll work with OFB on that and see what that number looks like because I guess we'll have to go back to contractual because I'm really trying to find the the major When we go to the KPIs that's where I see your I see more of your variance particularly in the area of contractual where you have an authorized level of 350959 for the 26 and then it goes to 991454 under your KPIs and that's where you're doing your grass cutting graffiti ground maintenance everything So if you colleagues if you go over you see what the change of request versus their KPIs you have your almost 500,000 change on park grounds and park shelter you have your 207,000 change on the Limtiaco Cemetery You have your adopt park adoption program 208,961 Your response capabilities vehicle and equipment is 60,063 and then miscellaneous supplies at 15,000.

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: Senator –

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Yeah

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: the reason why it's that high is because usually in all the budget that we've been doing we've been putting the operations into the director's office so because of the KPI and the PBB we're putting more funding into maintenance and for more staff and more supplies with-- We also I also put in one administrative assistant that was supposed to be I mean we were supposed to recruit under the director's office We're putting we're shifting that funding over to Parks and Recreation I mean for parks maintenance so that the parks administrator can have some help in admin

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay So from my perspective certainly I don't doubt that first of all I guess my final question is on your variances on your variances of your-- when you when you did your breakdowns here of by divisions when you say particularly on staffing overview and you identified park maintenance and park division as being the key and you have your positions there are these current funded vacancies? With the exception of probably you're saying you're trying to onboard the ARP funded positions c- currently correct?

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: Yes, Those are funded vacant positions.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Funded vacant

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: Yes

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay So what we'll do as a follow-up and acting director Mayor Bob what we'll do is we'll work this against what the current lapsing rate is and we'll kind of see where we're at so that we can you know make those adjustments on the proposed increase 'cause if you have budgeted vacancies right now you may accomplish that closer to the close of the fiscal year so we'll monitor that We just don't wanna you know in the end whatever level we adopt we wanna make sure that you know we don't come across as having you know cut your request when we've already reconciled that what you've represented in your presentation if you had your budgeted vacancies filled right now you'd you'd be in much better shape than you are today and then going forward So we're gonna meet

you where you are and then we'll see the variance in terms of if that adjusts based on the current tracking of lapses okay So with that I will go to my colleague Senator Sean Gumataotao You may proceed Five minutes

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Thank you Mr Chair and thank you to DPR for being with us this morning Let me just jump right into this recognizing that based on your budget request of $6.6 million across general and special fund appropriations which includes $4.6 million for personal salaries benefits a million dollars for operations over just short of 950,000 for utilities and 19,000 almost 20,000 in capital outlay what ideas long-term public-private partnerships security camera systems as a force multiplier expanded and better coordinated park adoptions and inter-agency use agreements with folks like the Guam Visitors Bureau and the Mayor's Council of Guam do you have at this point to better equip DPR's 36 employees whose salaries and benefits make up 70% of the department's budget request so that they have the tools that they need to develop and maintain our public parks beaches and facilities?

Joey Terlaje, Acting Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: For the long term long term goals for each employee in reference to pretty much their wellbeing their safety we do we do have plans in place Each division has their own plan to ensure that OSHA standards safety compliance are being adhered to We do.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: yeah why Joe I'm asking is that when you have a slide of your footprint and it shows these sites areas parks I'm just trying to figure out are there some other plans that you all are talking about on the side to help to be able to support the operations of the entirety of the department? Yeah maybe Mayor just insight from your experience.

Robert Lizama, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation: Thank you Senator for the question if I understand it basically what is happening here as we had discussed this yesterday presently there are five park maintenance division employees and one of the things that I've recognized is that when I exited out two years back then in my first tour there was many vacancies that was on the staffing pattern **a**nd then when I reviewed it this go-around it appears the same and I've always asked the question as why is it that we only have five maintenance park maintenance division out there having to take care of the 85-plus parks around the island given of course that we have the contract work. The contract work is mostly concentrated on the on the restrooms and so but as far as when it comes down to the grass cutting even

myself as a mayor of *Yigo* with five maintenance worker just for *Yigo* alone and you and you mirror that with the five maintenance workers with park maintenance division doing to for the entire island and the 85 parks that they are responsible for it's overwhelming And as the deputy director had mentioned that the the health the OSHA the burnout the pr- these are all impacted on the employees that calls for resignations sickness retirement a- and so down the line So in support of working and budgeting these positions and and adding on to the to the the manpower for maintenance and allowing the 12 vacant positions to be budgeted that would bring us to the threshold of having to at the same time you know have a shift work you know in allowing you know the employees to be you know given at least if we can go on a six to six shift or some some sort where you you start doing maintenance work early in the morning at 6:00 6:30 in the morning down to sundown at 6:00 PM you know whereas you have the midway from 12:00 1:00 and 2:00 as a break because of the heat You know these are things and elements that we would like to accomplish to see that we're not able to burn out our present five employees So with the support of of continuing the budget in budgeting these vacancies of 12 and bringing us up to that 17 threshold would be more than at least adequate and then on the contractual side and then of course we also have the community involvement where we have the adoption of parks program That also helps out the very The the good thing about that is that we do have 25 plus adopted parks as I understand the numbers you know out there at least that relieves the park maintenance division from having to maintain you know these these areas if you will Chinese Park for example.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Okay Well thanks for that and this is gonna be a hard question to ask even as public safety chair but I'm trying to understand and help the department If Parks and Rec reallocated three or four territorial park police officers to maintenance facility staff would parks be maintained to a higher standard do you believe?

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Perhaps They are provided the different training They are trained as you know-

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Oh no no no I'm not talking about having them in the parks I'm talking taking the funding and funding maintenance.

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Of that that's where I think we're gonna have an an issue with if In my time my my first tour we only had three park rangers for the entire island's park system So now that we've got it at a comfortable level so that they'll be able and now even with law

enforcement having to go out there and and and run a shift and we have not even gone into night night shift you know for nighttime park patrolling you know So if we decrease the manpower on the park rangers' salary or positions and shifting them over to maintenance these individuals that go through the the the the training process has to meet standards right and then if I don't think there's any one park ranger that would wanna go over to maintenance.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Oh no no Mayor I think what I'm getting to is if I was to take three or four territorial park police officers- Right which I don't wanna have to do transfer over the cost over to the maintenance division are we gonna see facility closures become less frequent Are we gonna are we gonna We're try- Are are our parks gonna be in a better shape or would there be more recreational programs I'm just saying that if we're doing performance-based budgeting and we need funding I I'm just I- like I said I don't

I'm asking this even as public safety chair I don't know what's going through my head right now but trying to find a solution to help pull this off for Parks and Rec

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Understand I understand If I have.

Joey Terlaje, Acting Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: So, Senator Gumataotao just so just for clarity I'm trying to understand So to to remove some of our monies to maintenance is that what you're saying and if we redo that we would reduce well our limit to even higher.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: No no Joe what I'm saying is if hypothetic you're you have a lot of people in in the Park Police Office which we're trying to find a way I- if we're trying to execute the performance-based budgeting to maintain the parks we gotta find money somewhere to support it unless That's why I asked the first question If you were gonna go and find maybe public-private partnerships or other means using the Mayor's Council I'm I'm just try- We have so many parks so many recreational facilities- I understand the question A- again I get it why I'm asking I Even to the chair he's like "Why are you gonna pull out Pa- Park Safety" No I'm just we gotta find a cash from somewhere to support the maintenance of our parks.

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Yes I I understand the question sir and I know that that's in line with with how it's been successful with other mayors offices where we have parks that at the request of the mayors right would want these parks to so that they can take care of it 'cause it's rightfully in their village right a good example and that's that's working out that's a process Yes but at the same I've I've mentioned that we've not even tackled even having park rangers patrol the parks in the evening late hours the wee hours because that's where vandalism comes in And if we decrease or we shift any any monies from the that that is ident- dedicated for the for the territorial park ranger system over to maintenance I think we're we're we are not meeting the objective of a safer parks because of vandalism so forth and so on.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Okay no that's fair Mayor let me just move on if I can Recognizing that Public Law 27-27 which authorizes DPR to lease the Paseo Stadi with the objective of infusing much needed private sector support for the development of that important sports facility of Micronesia It's been on the books since July of 20 of 2003. What policy recommendations including amendment or a full repeal of the law has been put forward by DPR to infuse money into not just Paseo but into DPR's coffers?

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: I understand the question and of course we have a very good example like we have of course the the park that's adopted up at the GFA the soccer field as an example You know we have those financial organizations that are very much workable you know towards continuing the maintenance of the the soccer facilities up there the Paseo is one a big of course facility definitely it's s- it's something that we can look into you know and seeing how we can venture I know that the baseball organization at one point the Federal Baseball Association at one point you know was running the the Paseo Stadium you know taking care of that So that also at least is is helping at one point you know helping out Department of Parks and Recreation so it's an opportunity to look into in the future You know give me time to to navigate this because definitely I do agree you know that if we can see and have the community the business community organizations NGOs come out and you know- Express an interest you know by all means we will you know look into that and see if there's a legislation I'm up to you know being open and dialogue and you know further discuss any of the facilities in the park- parks inventory.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Yeah thank you for that and then just one last thing Mr Chair as I know that ARP monies are coming offline that's why the

line of my questioning was geared towards we have to start to consider the reality that the the American Rescue Plan monies will vanish and very quickly and if you're budgeting to that you still have money on the table it's gonna be gone And so I'm hoping Mr Chair that the as we're doing the performance-based budgeting that these alternative column options to help fund our recreational facilities recreational programs maybe little leagues can get bigger sponsorships but if we're looking at that's what we want to achieve for DPR- Mm then and we have to fund it we have to find some very creative ways to do so Understand And also to meet the KPI needs of the performance-based budgeting It it it cannot be one or the other It has to be in tandem in my humble opinion and again just in in able to assist the Parks and Recreation Department do their role and to meet all of their mandates with this new performance-based budgeting Mr Chair that's all my questions and a- again thank you guys for being with us this morning.

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Thank you, Senator.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Appreciate the input this morning This month the Senator Gataotao and I share your your your discussion points I think what we've seen now through all and now with your presentation on performance-based budgeting is we got the measurement now So using your current budget using your current lapses using the focus that you've identified moving out of the director's office more to operations we start seeing now that transition to the resources hitting the ground where we've identified the shortcoming So I think you're right and then on top of that finding the the the outside resources to bolster that effort So I I agree with you Senator Understand. Vice Speaker Ada you're recognized at this time.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Thank you Mr Chair and good morning everyone Good morning senator Thank you for being here The the funded vacant positions what what seems to be the the issue there Is it a DOA issue or a Parks and Rec issue?

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: The recruitments are down at DOA it's the challenge that every department has so we're still waiting.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: When was the last time a follow-up was done with DOA on these vacant positions?

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: I followed up about a month ago and the only positions that are actually announced are the lifeguard and lifeguard recruit. We still have park patrol recruitments our office our office needs a cashier so they're still there.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: No announcements have gone out for park maintenance or recreation division those vacancies none no announcements have gone out?

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: Nothing yet but we currently are waiting for two recreation coordinators to pass their drug tests and one laborer for maintenance with the drug test also and one historian.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: How long have these positions been vacant?

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: So, the positions that was vacated with historic division their positions were vacated since or the recruitment was processed since 2024 with

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Recreation division

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: The lifeguards and the recreation at last year in October

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Okay and then the park maintenance same

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: Same Last year in October

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Last year

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: Yes

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Okay and then what is the status with the *Hagåtña* swimming pool Where are we at with that?

William Stinnet, Recreation Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation: The status with the *Hagåtña* swimming pool William Stinnet it's

about 50% done there was a delay in permitting so instead of starting on July 4th it ended up starting on November 11th So there's a 365-day contract with that with that with the pool So as of now just talked to them last week 50% done **t**here is engineering architect that that needs to go on with the main drainage Mm-hmm That's the only thing that's on hold right now so there needs to be a change order but everything outside the pool is on track It's just the pool's gonna be might be a delay with the 12-inch drainage that's corroded.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: And so- So is that is it on budget or is it over budget?

William Stinnet, Recreation Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation: As of right now, they're doing their cost analysis to BME is to send it over to Department of Public Works.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Director, where is that funding gonna come from to If there's additional funding that's needed for the swimming pool where's that gonna come from?

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: I'm I'm not sure of the exact funding source However I do know of the delay happening because the in the process of the construction they have stbled across the the piping system that is damaged that's an o- because of aging and one day the the the pool is dried it's it's drained out and then the next day they w- they were wondering there was no rain why is it now again that there is water So as they continued to dig that's when they came upon this actual old age piping system that needs to be replaced so they're working on that So that change order with what Mr. Stinnet is talking about is what's but as far as the the actual funding source I am not certain I can get back to you on that.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Yes, so the funding source and the amount of what is gonna be over budgeted right From what is originally set for the swimming pool

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Correct

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Because I think this is gonna be costing more than what it would've cost to build a brand-new swimming pool elsewhere wouldn't it.

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Understand Yeah and considering the aging of such a facility you know and we we have to get to the root of why is it that this is happening and they've stumbled upon this and that's where the change order is happening and I'll get back to you We'll get back to you with that Senator.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Okay Thank you and then also the other one is the cemetery Tiguac Cemetery where are we at with Tiguac Cemetery Are we still having DOC come out to do the grass cutting and how often do they come out?

John Taitague, Park Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation: Thank you for that question Senator Vice okay so currently the former director Angel Sablan had come up with a plan a three-month temporary three-month plans So we executed that three-month plan as of April of this year which we put out a quote for for three potential vendors and one was awarded already So the vendor that's taking care now of San Tiguac is Pro- Property Pros and it's on a three-month plan pending you know until the current contracts are being completed by review.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: and how much is that contract? How much is that three-month contract?

John Taitague, Park Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation: So, they're on a monthly basis it's like I believe 8,000 some a month And the funding source for that one That is coming out of the You wanna answer that.

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: So that's coming out from the public recreation services fund

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Public recreation service fund and then what's gonna happen after the the three-month contract is expired Are you going out for a one-year contract or what- what's gonna be the the plan of attack from there Because you know Tiguac Cemetery always seems to be the the hot issue right of what's going on and how we're handling things up there?

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: Because the bidding process is closed already we're gonna prepare the scope of work and the contract before the end of the fiscal year So that way we can get it in October.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Alright Thank you and John Glenn I know you you said I think there was 25 adopted parks correct?

John Taitague, Park Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation: That's correct sir

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: So on these parks have you gone back to your your contract with the organizations and like you know kinda put in a timeline like how often they have to maintain the park what they have to do to keep the maintenance of it?

John Taitague, Park Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation: Yes sir we've had I've reached out to the adoptees and I requested from them also for on a monthly basis to send in a report on the status of you know on the dates and times that they're performing the their duties on the parks.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Yeah, that's good because you know I mean when they wanna take a government facility right or a park and you know they place their organization's name or their logos and things of that nature then you know naturally we wanna make sure that the park is always maintained and clean and it keeps that off of your your plate so that you can concentrate on other things 'Cause I know that you know you got your hands full with the cemetery and you got your hands full with other parks as well So you know I think having them you know keep that maintenance ongoing is beneficial to Department of Parks and Recreation What happens in the event that they don't maintain and how often do you If they like don't maintain it for three months do you cancel their the agreement with them What what do you do?

John Taitague, Park Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation: So I'll have a discussion with the director on that and see from there what what he wants to pursue maybe terminate the adoption and move on to the next potential adoptee that's interested.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Okay that sounds good Yeah and that way you know there's always 'Cause I know there's always people wanting to adopt the parks right but those things that you know they they can't they don't come around because other folks are keeping the park to themselves and they're not maintaining it right?

John Taitague, Park Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation: Okay sir So with that right we do allow also multiple adoptees to a park So not only one is gonna be be adoptee we allow the multiple.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Okay And then you guys were talking about your your vehicles and equipment Do you guys currently have a backhoe for the cemetery, no?

John Taitague, Park Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation: the backhoe is under that's GOVAS backhoe

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: That's GOVAS

John Taitague, Park Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation: Yeah But GOVAS backhoe but-

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: So, the Parks and Rec don't have their own-

John Taitague, Park Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation: They don't have an operator We have an operator

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: I see

John Taitague, Park Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation: So, we work together you know we send our operator to do their burials and they lend us their backhoe.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Okay Director the department didn't get any ARPA monies for equipment's and things of that nature?

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: That was one of the question I had asked as far as the breakdown of equipment and vehicles Senator And give me time Definitely I I am going to be venturing into this because one of the things I did share with the the the management team here is that you know we we we gotta venture into ways to to of course get those bigger equipment's you know for the use of our parks and facilities of course we are very gracious of course of getting the support of DPW right right after the *Sinlaku* typhoon for coming out and assisting us with the east and west side of the island in

terms of getting those sand and clear getting Marine Corps Drive all cleared off from that sand with their equipment Parks and Recreation personnel as well were there to assist in what they can to help in that process.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Yeah, You know 'Cause I recall Parks and Rec used to have their own dump truck and backhoe as well right?

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Definitely Yeah And of course you know these tractor mowers is one of the key- Yeah that would really help our parks GHURA especially 505 506 501 502 You know these big areas of parks that are under the GHURA system okay is one area that is gonna be very much helpful.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Yeah 'Cause I know the administration's listening in to the budget hearing today so you know hopefully they can find some ARPA money like they did for DPW to do some street paving So hopefully they can do ARPA money for you guys so that you'd be able to get the equipments that is needed for the department so that you guys will be able to you know fulfill the the mandate of the of the Parks and Recreation in keeping our parks clean Not just for the visitors but more s- well more so our our residents So and you know you can go back down to ALUP and just let them know "Hey have you got some extra ARPA money that you know if we can get some of that that DPW got" You know it'll be great because we can utilize the equipment for Department of Parks and Recreation.

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Thank you Thank you for that direction there Senator I definitely will take that under advice at the same time you know we've actually had this discussion yesterday as well Thank you very much.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Okay Thank you Mr Chair that's the only questions I had Thank you and my time is already expiring so thank you Mr Chair.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse* Vice Speaker Ada. Senator Lujan

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Thank you Mr Chair Only got a couple questions And good morning Mayor Lizama and Chief Terlaje- Good morning sir to the DPW team and congratulations again on your reappointment Good to see you there.

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Thank you Senator

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Let me just ask you know in the pre pre-budget hearing then acting director Warren Pelletier had mentioned that the the leak down at the water leak down at Joseph Flores Park *Ypao* Beach was costing approximately $33,000 a month in water leaks has that been resolved?

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: I'll yield to the staff I'm not familiar with this -

Joey Terlaje, Acting Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: It has not We've identified there is a major leak It has not been resolved but we do we're taking steps to address it - Okay we have a plan in place Matter of fact I have sent a letter to the Guam Waterworks Guam Visitors Bureau SHPO all the agencies that I thought would help us discuss and to to to fix the leak So we're hoping on this Friday at our office we're gonna meet with I thought that every you know I think that everybody's involved would help us come to the table and but we do we are gonna address it.

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Thank you for that How how long has it been in your estimation that this this water leak has been been going on?

John Taitague, Park Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation: There's several leaks Senator

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Okay Okay

John Taitague, Park Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation: and with the existing pipings those are all all galvanized pipings already

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Okay So it's been going on for a while?

John Taitague, Park Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation: Yes

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Okay So and that and that's basically ba- basically my my my questioning is is basically it's costing about $33,000 a month okay for the water

leaks which equates to just under $400,000 a year annually in water leaks alone to be to be specific $396,000 So I go back to your your request utilities request $948,000 So that means then if it's costing us about $400,000 a year in water leaks alone so basically $400,000 of the $948,000 is based on just water leaks alone right? Wow That's a lot of money.

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Thank you for that question Senator definitely I'm one of course again in my first tour John Glenn knows that you know these are areas of you know ways we can you know trim You know And definitely I'll look into this scenario because of course understanding yes the hardware that's there the piping system is old so we- we gotta get to a solution so we can knock down that 900 some thousand.

Senator Jesse A Lujan: The other thing that Warren had mentioned before is that the of course the grounds down there are I guess under the SHPO basically right Okay and so that being said there is a process enabled you know to do that but my question is it's been dug up before as well and the SHPO is under you guys So can we expedite that so we can finally fix it?

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Thank you Senator for that You know there's what they call pre-existing work You know so those pipes I'm sure were- were placed there and it had to be a dug to be placed in the first place So if we go back on record we can always go back on that and work closely with the SHPO office in identifying this because I- I see no reason why that we are having a delay if that is the case that it's the SHPO that is delaying the process- which I'm not certain however if that is where it's at

Senator Jesse A Lujan: No no no I'm not saying they are the ones but I'm just saying if they if they if you know if they're the impediment to that it's under your purview basically so we can get that and especially the cost of $400,000 a year I mean because the the budget request at this point I mean I'm sure you can go on and on and tell me what you can do with 400,000 more in your budgeting rather than again you know for water leaks because it we're just we're just paying for water that's not being utilized So do we have a timeline I mean Chief Terlaje you requested from these other agencies right have they responded back to you because I mean some of us have I mean these areas that you contacted we have I mean I have I have oversight for GVB and if we can if we can work with them to say "Hey can you respond to them" and how can we all come together to fix it cause that's a lot of money and.

Joey Terlaje, Acting Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: As of yesterday no one has –

Senator Jesse A Lujan: No one

Joey Terlaje, Acting Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: No one has responded but definitely we'll after this hearing I will I will conduct a follow-up

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Okay can we get them all then together and see how we can holistically fix this this situation

Joey Terlaje, Acting Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Yes sir

Senator Jesse A Lujan: So the $400,000 can go to again areas that you're short- of personnel or whatever it is that you need because man we're just that's we're just throwing money away.

Joey Terlaje, Acting Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Yes sir

Senator Jesse A Lujan: A hundred- $400000 a hundred thousand and how and how long have we been do- so is this $400,000 times how many years Wow Wow

Joey Terlaje, Acting Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Senator it's been a long time since I started 2019 it's the issue is still the same

Senator Jesse A Lujan: So even if we go back 2019 times now 12 times 19 20 seven years Seven years Wow Whoa Man we could have fully outfitted DPR with with all that money Wow

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: Actually SHPO Patrick Lujan had given us his blessings to proceed with the upkeep of the water So we just need to come up with a plan and submit it to Patrick.

Senator Jesse A Lujan: So that being said I guess the piping I guess the overall piping there is done right So I guess if that if that's gonna beif you're gonna take the

holistic fix on that you're probably anticipating a park being closed down for a while right I mean again the usage of the park for I mean for the holistic fix right?

John Taitague, Park Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation: Thank you for that question senator So to answer your question so we do have a plan that we're trying to to come up- set finalize it right So what we wanna do is redo the whole piping system from the main meter and run the line just strictly only for the restrooms and the outside showers So we're gonna eliminate the the existing pipings on the sink area where the barbecue place

Senator Jesse A Lujan: So you wanna bypass wanna bypass the existing water line

John Taitague, Park Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation: Yeah right now we're gonna terminate from there and then rerun a new line PVC pipes

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Yeah preferably Okay Wow Okay I mean whatever it is that we can do like I said the Chief Terlaje the agencies that you mentioned that you contacted we some of us have oversight to those agencies So if you can communicate with us and and let us know how we can how we can help and have them work in coordination with you guys to be able to get this done 'cause it's you know it's all in our I mean we have to come together to get this done and that's just one park I mean do you have other parks that are that are leaking as well?

John Taitague, Park Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation: Yes we do Senator

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Ooh

John Taitague, Park Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation: We have fisheye then we have a top and usually bro- we'll repair the showers or th- Yeah things like that and next day it's broken

Senator Jesse A Lujan: So we have the we have the same problems then with their I mean the piping again as well

John Taitague, Park Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation: no just minor minor breaks but the repairable

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Okay So it's not the major infrastructure that goes in the Okay

John Taitague, Park Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation: not like *Ypao*

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Okay

John Taitague, Park Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation: and then *Ipan* and Public Beach again we need to redo the whole piping there again Surf site

Senator Jesse A Lujan: *Okay* Well okay So please again Mr Director if you if you just get back to us and let us know how we can assist you again with the other agencies if if they're not responding

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Yes Actually we just got word that Waterworks has responded

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Oh good

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: And the meeting has been set for Friday and from there we'll will be getting back to you on this issue.

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Great 'cause I have I have oversight of Waterworks as well.

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Yeah and so as far as closing down Ipan I don't think of course that would be part of the plan We can piecemeal you know I mean we have two restroom facilities there and we can work with one while the other one is being repaired and and all that we'll come back and we'll share the plan

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Yeah no that's great I just wanna remove that you know $33,000 a month $400,000

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Understand

Senator Jesse A Lujan: A year and Chief Terlaje since you were there in at 2019 you know to now- Wow wow $400,000 a year times seven years at least at this point that's a lot of money we can we can we can give you to to better outfit your your park park patrol and and everything else that you guys have

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: I understand

Senator Jesse A Lujan: I mean- Build build a couple more swimming pools

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: It's obvious- Yes It it's obvious that you know we see at least in at least- Yeah this is the first seeing the actual nbers- Sure okay in terms of utilities that is normally the the norm is normally GPA's bill is higher than Waterworks and even at any homes right but in this case we see on on DPR's inventory is that of course the water meters are spinning you know much much quicker than what- Sure is being consed on the power side So definitely I've asked the deputy to remind me on this I want to do a check mark on this and find out how we can get this thing resolved and bring the numbers down.

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Great Thank you

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Thank you sir

Senator Jesse A Lujan: Thank you very much Thank you very much Thank you Thank you Chairman.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* and I just wanna note that we did have a very in-depth discussion as well and it's good to hear that meetings are starting during the pre-budget meeting this came up and with the former director Angel we we we hashed it out and I think you're on the right track here You need an all hands on deck with Guam Waterworks Just for the public's information on this one of the biggest difficulties is with the Governor Joseph Flores Park there is a mandate that there's to be no digging and and no spikes and other things going down into that park You need a waiver for that So I agree with you Mayor that incrementally what's probably gonna work best is going to be bypassing it and staging it because of the fact that it will be done more than likely as a surface a

protected surface water supply and and that'll have to be designed But I'll tell you what that'll be a world of difference and as Senator Lujan was saying that will probably accomplish already almost one quarter of your request in additional funding just on the savings and and so I look forward to when you have that meeting I'm sure you're gonna put everything on the table with all the parks and see if you can do a a one-shot deal with a with a rapid response.

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Yes yes Senator

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: So I know that we can reconcile the differences in lapses budgeted vacancies contractual but I just wanted to go to contractual real quick for this fiscal year what are your current contracts in place and who are the vendors For this current fiscal year what are your current contracts in place and who are the vendors?

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: We have the Guam Cleaning Masters with the restrooms and also JJ Global with the pool maintenance.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Those are the only two contractual contracts that you currently have?

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: Yes

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay since we had the encumbrances- Report here and fiscal year '25 what were the contracts in fiscal year '25 and who were the vendors?

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: In 2025 we had the grass cutting at *Tiguak* the restrooms and the pool maintenance Just three.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Who are the vendors Who were the vendors?

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: For the grass cutting for Tiguak was Comfort Cuts for the pool was JJ Global and the restroom maintenance was the Guam Cleaning Masters.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay we're all those contracts sustained throughout the entire fiscal year of 2025?

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: With the exception of Comfort Cuts.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay When was that terminated?

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: That was terminated in February

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: And for what cause

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: I'm sorry

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: For what cause?

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: For non-compliance

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Non-compliance Okay Can we get a write-up on that for the committee

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: Will do

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Yeah We want to see what the the execution of that termination was for and the reason why is as we go forward with all the other agencies as well we requested a detail on contractual is that we want to also track how things are going forward on on contracts within the government It's important for Office and Finance and Budget and just our legislature as the check and balance to you know proposals that we also track from year to year and flag any contractual that that we wanna do a deeper dive on and so thank you for your your information and your forthrightness on that and like I said we'll look forward to My request officially today is that within five days you give us a detailed explanation of the reason for termination of the contract

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Will do Senator

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: Will do

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Thank you very much So you know like I said I wanna first of all thank you this completes the performance-based budgeting initiative rolled out by Office and Finance and Budget I wanna thank the members of the BBMR team that came down through the several training meetings that we had and I want to thank your team I think I can safely say and I want the public to understand this as we close out your hearing that it was a rough start And rightly so This is a very intense process but it's something I believe that the government needs to continue going forward because I think you can admit through this experience you can now see very in very defined terms what it means when you evaluate your current status of what you're doing and where you wanna get to and where you should be and what the requirements of those resources are both externally and internally So I wanna thank you once again for looking internally and identifying resources that you can shift to your priorities and then of course the external is to make up the difference as we go forward And then within the half and the full year next year we can evaluate the performance The idea behind this is when we see the performance growing and improving and I know that even in the issue of of the requirement for lifeguards and everything else we're gonna have to tackle all of that.

And we mentioned Director coming in I just want you to know we mentioned also because of the fact that under the classified service and I didn't get to this but I- if you wanna s- speak to it sir you can we realized that because of pay and different disparities that it was so difficult to recruit as a full-time so we asked maybe it's smart for you to go to that on contractual 'cause some people might do that on a part-time basis And if you get a pool of 30 people covering as opposed to 10 people under a permanent position it may work better So it may be better not to have that at this time until you can get it re-evaluated and to see what the competitive level are those to come in as full-time lifeguards and so it might make sense you know for it to be a a collateral duty coverage under a contractual agr- arrangement where you have people coming in you know instead of a full-time job with benefits they don't mind doing a shift of four six eight hours you know maybe a couple times a week And we said "Why are we parking this almost couple hundred thousand dollars there" and we continue to say "We don't have lifeguards but we already know what the problem is" So this was the whole purpose of performance-based budgeting is to evaluate what we're doing and to see if we can do things differently with first of all the same resources we have and then second is is to augment those shortfalls internally and externally So I wanna thank you for that and director you have some comments.

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: May I well thank you I with that comment Chair of course it reflects of course the G4S you know having to cover down of course the lifeguard duties I think that's where that's what you're alluding to and definitely it's something to explore I know that my first tour you know it was a discussion that you know apparently it birthed onto what is happening now you know presently with the visitors taking over the some some some operations because you know we're we're talking about freshwater or Open water beach beach water and we are talking about pool right So you have two different types of [01:34:00] water pool systems right So it it's something that's good to explore further a- and see it's it's working a deputy has just expressed that because I I did inquire You know I I know that we do have the G4S tourism visitors officers or I forget what the title is VSOs Right VSOs VSOs you know that are handling some operation with the lifeguard duties So if if it's working for such for some time so it's something to explore further.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: And the chairman of tourism which I am the vice chair as well we were talking about that and sharing notes here we believe there will be some reevaluation of operations and an overlap and duplication not saying that we don't need the manpower that's currently assigned but do we need that manpower under two different commands Maybe it's better under centralized command You are the parks people So the reality is is that you know from the officer on the top side all the way down to the boots on the ground you know that that coordination is the most effective getting that information and and and I'm not saying you can't communicate now but it just seems to be a possible ineffi- possibly an inefficient process and you could probably meet your KPI really quickly with the augmented manpower under your jurisdiction and you know now you have a happy relationship there

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: And you know in closing of course senator chairman you know - As this is my first official hearing of course being a part of the process although I have not gone through the confirmation process with the DPR commission as the appointee by the governor I look forward to continue dialoguing and working closely with this management team. These are the the the employees that lead you know the the the Department of Parks and Recreation for the past years and I thank them of course for putting this paper together working together with the Warren Pilatiere and the former director Angel Sablan You know I I thank them as well You know because the the presentation that they provided me yesterday we we of course I was given the opportunity to sit in and I did commit to them that I will be here although I am not I

am still in the acting capacity that you know I thank you also for giving me the opportunity and calling me up to be part of this process Thank you very much.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Well we're glad you're here mayor and like also congratulate you on your appointment and absolutely right the team in front of us I'm sure performing its duties with the limited resources it had but before performance-based budgeting is a completely different team today in terms of their outlook and the understanding of how we can achieve things through greater efficiency and greater emphasis So thank you and good luck with the commission- Thank you and keep us posted on on that those activities And we will give you a final Yes ma'am Ms. Limo

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: Mr Chair Yes I wanted to bring something up to your attention on the HRD or the Guam Historic Resources Divisions matrix So there was an additional $20,000 So you notice that So what I what was taken out of there was utilities Correct So we wanna put that back in.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Sure, We saw that and so we in fact just before the hearing the OFB staff came up and and told me about the entries and so we'll reconcile that.

Melva Limo, ASO, Department of Parks and Recreation: Thank you.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Thank you See how on top of it your team is there but

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: On top of it Yeah There you go

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Yeah So thanks a lot team and and I appreciate that I look forward to that report on contractual and then the committee will continue to evaluate going forward We will give you some notification in terms of how things progress before we get to the final bill that will hit the floor and let you know what you can be looking forward to in the final analysis and then of course the debate on the floor which anything goes there but thank you very much DPR and to your entire team thank you to the governor's office for for sending the designated representative from the executive direction And so with that I'm gonna

consider DPR's budget hearing for fiscal year 2027 having been heard And it is 10:37 *Si Yu'os Ma'åse* We adjourn.

Robert Lizama, Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation: Thank you very much Chair.

The Budget Hearing was adjourned at [10:37 a.m.].

COMMITTEE REPORT

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) -

INTRODUCED BY

Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam

AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

Thursday, June 04, 2026, at 9:00 A.M.

Department of Public Works

Gmail Michaella Celorio-Estabillo <michaella.ofbguam@gmail.com>

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 4, 2026

1 message

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Thu, May 28, 2026 at 8:30 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Christopher Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com" <stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com>, michaella.ofbguam@gmail.com, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 28, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 4, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, June 4, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Department of Public Works (DPW)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--
Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

FIRST NOTICE - DPW.pdf
695K

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 28, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 4, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, June 4, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Department of Public Works (DPW)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 4, 2026

PRINT

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 4, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 05/28/2026 08:55 AM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 28, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 4, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, June 4, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** **(https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
· Department of Public Works (DPW)

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 budget hearing, please contact the Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas for further assistance via email at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov***

senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov (mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov) *or by phone at (671) 989-9554.*

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Notice of Budget Hearing

Thursday, June 4, 2026, 9:00 A.M.

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, June 4, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Department of Public Works

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

GUAM LEGISLATURE
AUDIO VISUAL DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Office Submitting Request: Senator Chris Dueñas

Date of Request: 05/27/2026

POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Ashley Shinohara Contact #: 671-989-9554

Email: senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS

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

☐ Oversight Hearing ☐ Committee Meeting ☒ Other: Budget Hearing

Notice Title / Bill(s) / Resolution(s) / Appointment:
Department of Public Works (DPW)

Date of Event: 06/04/2026 Start Time: 9:00 AM AM/PM

End Time: 12:00 PM AM/PM

Location: Public Hearing Room

MEDIA HANDLING

Recording Format: ☒ MP4 ☐ MP3 ☐ Other: _____

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

CERTIFIED BY AV:

Name: Rudy Perez Signature: _____

Posted on/Air Date: 2026-05-28 to 2026-06-04

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 4, 2026

1 message

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Mon, Jun 1, 2026 at 8:30 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Christopher Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com" <stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com>, michaella.ofbguam@gmail.com, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 1, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 4, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, June 4, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Department of Public Works (DPW)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

---

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

SECOND NOTICE- DPW.pdf
695K

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 1, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 4, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, June 4, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Department of Public Works (DPW)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 4, 2026

PRINT

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 4, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 06/01/2026 08:22 AM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 1, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on June 4, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, June 4, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** (**https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf**) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
· Department of Public Works (DPW)

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 budget hearing, please contact the Office of Senator***

If the budget hearing, 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.

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

BUDGET HEARING AGENDA

Thursday, June 4, 2026 – Guam Congress Building

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam – AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

9:00 am:

- Department of Public Works (DPW)

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahån

Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas x Office of Finance & Budget

Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Date: June 4, 2026 **Time: 9:00 a.m.**

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules

by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam

AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

-- Relative to Department of Public Works (DPW)

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Linda T. Ibanez	DPW	[redacted]	linda.ibanez@dpwguam.gov	✓	✓		
2	V.P. Anoka	DPW	646-3131			✓		✓
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								

The Honorable
LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
Maga' Håga · Governor

The Honorable
JOSHUA F. TENORIO
Sigundo Maga' Låhi · Lieutenant Governor

public works
DIPATTAMENTON CHE'CHO' PUPBLEKO
VINCENT P. ARRIOLA
Director
LINDA J. IBANEZ
Deputy Director
ERNEST G. CANDOLETA, JR.
Deputy Director

June 4, 2026

Honorable Senator Christopher Duenas
Chairman, Committee on General Government
Operations and Appropriations
I Mina'trentai Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Thirty-Ninth Guam Legislature

Re.: Department of Public Work's Fiscal Year 2027 Proposed Budget

Hafa Adai Senator Duenas and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the dedicated men and women at the Department of Public Works, I am pleased to present our proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. We are prepared to continue to operate as diligently and efficiently as possible keeping in mind our statutory mandates. DPW's total budget request amounts to **$21,202,938.** While this is a decrease from last fiscal year, we believe our operations and services will not be severely affected. Funding sources include **$4.1m** from the General Fund, **$7.9m** from the Guam Educational Facilities Fund (GEFF), and **$9.2m** from the Guam Highway Fund (GHF). As in previous fiscal years, DPW's operational costs related to the Bus Operations Division will be fully funded by the GEFF. With the enactment of Public Law 36-105, other Divisions to include Administrative Services, Highways, Capital Improvement Projects, Transportation Maintenance and Building Maintenance, will be funded by the General Fund and Guam Highway Fund.

DPW is prepared to work within our given budget levels. With the additional funding coming from federal grants and programs, DPW will continue to plan, coordinate, and implement a number of projects and activities that will benefit our island residents.

This upcoming fiscal year, we understand that Performance-Based Budgeting will be implemented within two of our programs. Building Permits & Licensing, and Abandoned Vehicles Collection. As this is the first time for actual implementation, we trust additional conversations and training will take place to ensure correct and stated outcomes are achieved. Also, we believe that by initially establishing our baseline performance indicators and numbers, it will guide us toward successfully implementing and tracking our PBB.

As I go through our budget presentation, I will be discussing important issues in employee hiring and retention. This present fiscal year has presented us with challenges in filling much needed positions within the department. While hiring for entry level positions has been fairly positive, so

has the exit of those same positions for higher paying positions. The labor field on Guam for technical personnel continues to be very competitive....and these positions include Engineers, Planners, Electricians, Air-conditioning technicians, Plumbers, etc. Because of this, it is very difficult to hire individuals for these positions given our current salary structure.

Our vacancy level is quite high and I am open to discussing allocating a portion of personnel funds towards other areas of our budget.

Other expected expenses are budgeted for Streetlights at $7.1m We've seen an increase of over 7,000 since switching from the traditional high intensity discharge bulls to LED bulbs. The demand for additional streetlights from our Mayors and residents continues to grow for safety in our villages, streets, roads, etc.

Another issue I'll be discussing will be our current workload addressing abandoned vehicles. This new program is slated for PBB, and we intend to take full advantage of the funding and the opportunity to create a fully functional division that handles all areas of abandoned vehicles on island.

Please allow me now to present DPW's budget through the following presentation.

Again, on behalf of the fine women and men working at the Department of Public Works, I am very pleased to present our FY2027 budget for your review and approval. My staff and I would be most happy to discuss our proposal and to answer questions you may have.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse!

VINCENT P. ARRIOLA

cc: Honorable Maga'Hagå • Governor Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Governor's Office, Chief of Staff (COS)
Governor's Office, Chief Financial Advisor (CFA)
Bureau of Budget and Management Research (BBMR)

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

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

In accordance with Section 6.04(c)(1) of the Standing Rules of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, this committee digest provides a *summary* of the public hearing detailed below. To assist the general public in navigating this report, please note that all blue-highlighted text contains hyperlinks. Clicking on these links will direct you to the corresponding referenced sections/documents. For any questions or assistance regarding this digest, please contact our office at (671) 989-9554 or email us at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov.

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) – COMMITTEE ON RULES BY REQUEST OF I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN, THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

I. OVERVIEW

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) was introduced on **February 2, 2026** by **Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam** and was subsequently referred by the Committee on Rules to the **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** on **February 3, 2026.**

The **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** convened a Public Hearing on Bill No. 266-38 (COR) on **June 4, 2026** at **9:00 a.m.** in the Guam Congress Building's Public Hearing Room.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Public Hearing Notices were posted to the Government Public Notices Portal and disseminated via electronic mail to all senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on **May 28, 2026** (5-Day Notice), and again on **June 1, 2026** (48-Hour Notice).

SENATORS PRESENT
Chairman Christopher M Duenas
Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada
Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao
Senator Sabina F Perez

ORAL TESTIMONY:
Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works
Linda Ibanez, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works

WRITTEN TESTIMONY:
Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The public hearing for **Bill Number 266-38 (COR)** was called to order at **[09:01 a.m.]**

[Questions and Discussion] [*Begins at 00:51:37 and ends at 01:48:14*]

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: *Manana Si Yu'os* Good morning to the people of Guam The Committee on Finance and Government Operations is called to order at this time It is 0901 we are awaiting the arrival of some additional Department of Public Works officials and so we will take a quick recess and await for their arrival before we start the business of the day but your legislature the people's house is on time Finance and Government Operations Committee is hereby in recess and we'll be back in a moment.

Committee on Finance and Government Operations is hereby called back to order *Buenas yan Håfa Adai Manana Si Yu'os Taotao Guåhan* Welcome to the 38th Guam Legislature the People's House your house The Committee on Finance and Government Operations is now called to order once again at zero 9:09.

First notice of this public hearing was disseminated to all senators and media outlets on May 28th 2026 with its second notice disseminated on June 1, 2026. The 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 now hear Bill Nber 266-38 COR introduced by the Committee on Rules by request of the ***I MAGA'HÅGA GUÅHAN*** **THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30 2027 MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS** relative to the Department of Public Works (DPW).

Joining me for this public hearing this morning is the vice chair of the committee and the vice speaker Vice Speaker Ada Thank you for joining us as well as Senator Shawn Gataotao. Thank you colleagues once again testifying on Bill Nber 266-38 relative to the Department of Public Works will take their seat and they already have and then what we would do is momentarily we will swear them in as we begin the hearing before we begin I'd like to remind everyone in attendance of the *I Liheslåturan Guåhan* general rules of conduct Individuals testifying shall be first be recognized by the chairperson before speaking and shall state their full name for record-keeping purposes Excuse me Questions and testimony shall be confined to the substance and the nature of the bill on the agenda Personal inferences to the character or motive of any senator or individual testifying are not permitted The chairperson of the committee may order removal from the hearing of any member of *I Liheslåturan Guåhan* or the public audience who fails to observe proper protocol as per our 38th Guam Legislature standing rules at this time I'll ask the members of Department of Public Works to rise the director and I believe the deputy or acting deputy to be sworn in before we start the hearing on public works budget.

Edward Pocaigue, Sergeant at Arms, Guam Legislature: Under penalty of perjury do you affirm that any and all information you provide today whether it be verbally electronically and in writing be the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Mr Chair they are under oath.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Thank you Mr Vince as well as Miss Linda we thank you for being here this morning**.** Please introduce yourself and the floor

of yours is yours for your opening statement and I believe you have a presentation on your budget request.

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works:
Yes sir. Thank you very much Mr Chairman. my name is Vince Arriola I'm the director at the Department of Public Works

Linda Ibanez, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works:
Linda Ibanez deputy director of Public Works.

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works:
Again thank you very much Mr Chairman Senator Ada Senator Gumataotao. We're very pleased to be here before you to present our FY27 2027 budget.

[PLEASE SEE ATTACHED TESTIMONY]

Thank you very much I look forward to discussions with the committee Good morning again.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: So Vince we think that it's gonna be productive for the folks that are tuning in to be able to view the presentation So we will take a short recess to upload the video after it's scanned Okay I'm s- sorry the presentation after it's scanned and we'll come back in a few minutes
We're in recess.

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Thank you very much.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: We wanna thank our AV and our technical staff for moving quickly And so director and deputy please proceed.

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Okay thank you very much Mr Chairman And thank a- again thank you also for the your AV staff and I apologize again for a little bit of a delay Okay if I can just begin my- our presentation

Next slide please so what we plan to discuss today would will be the DPW division overview throughout DPW our staffing we'll go through some of our core KPIs key

performance indicators and then specifically discuss our PBB on on permit building permit and inspections and abandoned vehicles and then at the end of our presentation we've got a little bit of a of what we would request from the legislature that relates to this this this budget here.

Next slide please So within DPW we've got a number of divisions that we've held for the longest time We have our administrative services division our capital improvement projects division these CIP basically handles all construction contracts they handle all the construction activities for the government of Guam building permit and inspection section which I'll be discussing later Our bus operations division throughout the island building maintenance division that handles building mains all throughout all the government of Guam offices Transportation maintenance maintenance division this is basically a transportation repair shop for light duty heavy duty heavy equipment buses a- and and so on and so forth And then of course our highways division that handles s- roadside maintenance village street paving traffic light maintenance and so on and so forth

You can see it right there Next slide please So one of the things we because of this new PBB on abandoned vehicles what we propose is that we will add an additional subsection if you will to the highways division and add the abandoned vehicles division under under highways Overall staffing within the division Next slide please Overall staffing within the by division within the department you can see we've got a number of our budgeted positions We have the filled positions and you can see we've got quite a number vacancies that are that that remain unfilled as I mentioned in my testimony it's been it's been very taxing to fill these positions- Not just at the high-higher technical positions but also at entry level We've just seen an entry and then an exodus in all sorts of positions for of people either moving to the States seeking higher pay working inside the base working in the private sector So there's just a number of factors there but there's there's a lot of movement within personnel let me just let me just talk a little bit about if you see at the bottom we have proposed abandoned vehicle vehicles unit and we're I'll I'll be discussing that next But we're looking at five individuals to specifically specifically handle that division we- right now we have a a procurement we're in the middle of a procurement of an RFP to select companies recycling companies to basically handle this the program of abandoned vehicles we are in the middle of procurement right now and our vision is that the we would en- enlist the services of private sector to basically go out there collect the vehicles have them recycled and eventually ship them off island our issue because there is a public law that mandates how we're supposed to treat that is our issue is we need to do-- we need to make sure that we handle the paperwork so to speak and the logistics administratively so that we every single vehicle that that

we touch that we pick up that we dispose of there's a there's an audit trail for every single vehicle and you know like any different program we expect to be audited and so we will we we're we're gonna need some individuals to handle that basically administrative division administrative individuals to handle that

Next slide please this is just a grand total of our total personnel cost which sits at $17.2 billion what I wanna go through next slide what I wanna go through next is the KPIs by division under transportation maintenance And these of course can also are these are what we have as as present KPIs and they can always be adjusted but for purposes of our our FY 2027 budget for performance-based budgeting we will strictly be attempting to implement that under business license and abandoned vehicles But we also have some KPIs under our existing divisions Under transportation maintenance we're looking at the percentage of inventory managed the total count of maintenance and repair services completed started and completed the total count of shop repairs completed field repairs completed because we also do repairs in the field and the total count of contractual repairs completed

There's we oftentimes we do have to seek the services of outs- outside mechanical and repair shops Under building maintenance the percentage of scheduled preventive maintenance activities completed percentage of maintenance work that is preventive rather than reactive and of course our response time to repairs that that may be needed. Under bus operations we're looking at students transported to and from school we're looking at ensuring that all our drivers are received training and certification refreshing transportation policy and proper licensing and maintaining an adequate level of buses across all districts And we'll talk about that a little bit later.

Next slide please Under administrative services we're looking at policy compliance and coordination efficiency budget variance and reporting accuracy of course average time to fill vacant positions This is really critical with within DPW As you know we do go through DOA and DOA has a is implementing a new system for basically hiring and screening individuals who get hired through the government of Guam So we hope that will help streamline the process of bringing individuals on board Of course we have to look at our inventory accuracy and of course safety compliance and inc- incident response Under CIP the main issues there is we need to make sure our building projects are completed on time and our building projects are within budget

currently we have I say- About 40 40 to 50 projects that are currently on track some are in the the design phase but most of them are in in the construction phase Under our highway d- division the percentage of scheduled street village streets for repair and resurfacing average response time to fill potholes repair repair longevity throughout all our streets processing for coral requests 'cause we're still doing that soil erosion mitigation compliance rate and work order completion rate this is basically for highway maintenance street maintenance road repairs and things of that nature Under building permits and inspections

Next slide please last year we were authorized $8.1 million This year we've got a request of 7.3 We understand it's a decrease I think we can-- we we'll still be able to handle it within the division as you can see in the bottom we've got personnel operations utilities and capital outlay

We're at $7.2 million this is funded through the building design fee it's as I mentioned earlier it's a bit of a decrease from FY26 our largest cost component of course is under personnel it's-- And the the decrease is based on projections for the building permits and inspections sec- section Next slide please This is our current staffing level we've basically have 30 positions with a a fill rate of 14 so we're basically at 50% and it's diffi- again these these are the the issues we have dealing with hiring we did have our chief inspector retire recently we're looking to fill that we believe we can fill that in-house inspectors hiring inspectors that that seems to be an issue customer service I think I think we're okay hir- hiring customer service individuals but it's really the inspectors who are a little bit on- more on the technical side but I think we're bring- we've got two individuals that we're bringing on board as we speak So basically they handle the building permit applications occupancy permits construction business license licensing elevator inspectors inspections and of course renewals and just to give you an example our customer rep salary is at $32,000 versus the same salary at GPA is at $42,000 So that's basically what we're faced with But we know for a fact that within DPW we are basically the entry level uh We have the entry-level positions throughout the government for these kinds of positions.

Next slide please So what we're looking at key performance indicators would be that building permit applications are processed the number of applications the nber of permits issued the construction inspections conducted business license inspections elevator renewal compliance and total number elevators due for re- for re- renewal we're not just looking at the number W- we won't just be looking at the number that we've processed or we've had for intake but we'll also be doing the

timeline and the time it takes for us to process keeping in mind that we do have agencies that are outside of our control but we will work as closely and diligently with them to make sure our KPPs are in line or KPIs are in line just a few notes The permit timeline is not the same as the DPW review time the DPW review time is basically we do plan checking plan review for structural civil mechanical electrical and plumbing and that basically our timeline I've never seen anything like I say like for a simple residential unit I've never seen anything go over three to four days max within our review single permit timeline often combines multiple touchpoints many of which are outside DPW's direct control DPW's internal review is only one portion as I mentioned not all permits are comparable you've got a single family residence a commercial complex and perhaps a hotel do not require the same level of review Permits can be delayed by a range of administrative technical operational and coordination factors throughout the review and approval process But we will we will m- work to work with our counterpart- parts We know the strangleholds are at EPA SHPO and Agriculture but we will work to keep those permit review days to a to a minim under building permits and inspection as I mentioned the key outputs would be site compliance inspections We do go out to different construction sites We do inspections most of most of the inspections that we do especially for single home construction are financed by the bank so we have to sign off on every stage of the of the building so we will be measuring our average inspection hours that are completed per inspector the unit of measurement of course is gonna be the hours and our goal is gonna be Initially what we need to do is we need to establish establish baselines once we establish our baselines then from there we move forward and we'll see exactly what kind of productivity we get whether it increases or whether it decreases and then we've got some form of accountability We've got some form of measurement to see exactly how we're doing the frequency we'll be doing this monthly quarterly and annually And of course the key outcomes we have a more accurate mea- measurement of our inspect- inspection workload by type complexity field and effort and this goes for building code refo- enforcements business license inspections because we do those as well and elevator escalator operating permit inspections

I did I think I discuss that later I'll discuss that a little bit more later on building inspections Under abandoned vehicles we do have $2 million that we've received from EPA We've got an MOU from them what we are what we are requesting is is the full 12 million in in the rec- recycling and revolving fund We understand there's there's 12 million that that's still there and I think once we start this program I think it's gonna take off faster than we expect I we know that there are so many vehicles out there and we wanna make a program that's that's accessible to to the people out there because I think that seems to be the problem there's so many abandoned

vehicles out there and our residents have no place to put them And when you have a situation like that it gets to a point where what we have today They just d- put them on the rail- roadsides they put 'em them on government property they put them on private property any way they can any place they can put 'em So what we're looking at is we're looking at a personnel budget of at least $250,000 I'll discuss that later We're looking at five individuals for that - In terms of the budget takeaways we don't have a-- there's no standalone abandoned vehicle budget right now that's identified here So we expect a portion of this to be to be added into this this current budget the workload today is currently absorbed by our highways division and basically that workload is going out there retrieving abandoned vehicles that are either in our parks our beaches our easements our rights of way homeless encampments things of that nature and they are currently stored at the back of our DPW compound to make additional space we've removed tires and we've been using the It's a car crusher that was purchased by the Guam Solid Waste Authority So we've been crushing cars and basically stacking them on top of each other we estimate we've got about three hundred cars in the back of the DPW compound. I mentioned that this this procurement for the collection of abandoned vehicles is currently ongoing Once that is fully operational the first batch of vehicles we expect them to pick up recycle and dispose of will be the vehicles within our compound.

Next as I mentioned currently the same personnel supporting abandoned vehicle operations are also needed for highway maintenance paving and other field operations We are requesting the following positions to lead and manage the abandoned vehicle program a program coordinator four who will basically head the program coordinator two who will assist administrative assistant and two equipment operator 'cause we believe at the same w- while we are still gonna do the administrative portion of this this program the follow-up the accounting the audit trail if you will from collection to disposal we're gonna need administrative personnel to handle that But we believe that the government is still We're still gonna need equipment operators to go out there and pick up the vehicles on our own in addition to the assistance of the private recyclers We're looking at a resource-intensive compliance-driven disposal operation We're looking at vehicles that that often arrive with household trash. Unfortunately fecal matter dead animals and other hazardous or unsanitary conditions This is what's happening out there in the real world Before final handling or disposal vehicles may require draining and subsequent disposal of petrol oil lubricants transmission fluid gear oil and other fluids debris removal glass removal and most often than not tire and then we're looking at controlled staging.

Next slide please So what we're looking at here is fairly simple We're looking at a percent of reported vehicles are resolved either towed or removed within 5 to 14 business days and that we have 90% resolution within 5 to business days And when we say resolution is that vehicle is picked up it's brought to the the yard and it's submitted to a a contracted recycler currently w- currently we've we've got the 90% resolutio- resolution although the the vehicles are in our lot we we want to continue to do that the-- although we know that we have capacity issues and I'll talk a little bit about more right after this on on what we see as the the the perfect abandoned vehicle program. Last right DPW is dealing with an island-wide abandoned vehicle program I've mentioned many times we estimate anywhere from 13000 to 15000 abandoned vehicles island-wide and and again we have 300 vehicles and and counting at our DPW war- yard What we have today is is our $2 billion What that gets us for probably for the next year if not sooner or later is anywhere from 1300 to to 5000 vehicles based on on these numbers that that we have we don't know what the actual cost will be until we receive proposals but based on our current procurement that is currently out there publicly so we do we know we have a bac- backlog of anywhere from 8,000 to 13,000 vehicles and we believe that by re- receiving the the full amount of whatever's in the recycling fund we can we can ramp this program up and increase the number of vehicles being collected and the and the capacity as well.

I think in terms of the perfect abandoned vehicle program we're looking at three to five additional public sites let's face it we need to create sites for these individuals residents and/or companies to dispose of their abandoned vehicles If we don't have if the government doesn't provide these sites for the for the our residents our companies for or any individual who's trying to get rid of of an abandoned vehicle we're gonna continue to have the same old problem so we need to provide sites The the problem here is may- as I understand is all the government property belongs to CLTC right now So we are working with land management We've been working with land management for the last several months trying to identify sites where anywhere from three to five acres each of course it's gonna have to be fenced for security but the ideal would we create w- would be we create sites for these in- individuals to come and basically just drop off the car No charge no nothing I think once you once you start instituting a charge it's al- it's almost gonna be like Guam solid waste Forget it I'm not gonna pay you $35 I'll just drop it on the side of the road That is our our key that's a key indicator that we're probably gonna have to put is the amount of cars and trucks abandoned vehicles that are left on the roadsides. We hope to see a a huge decrease once we begin this program

I wanted to talk a little bit about our highways division and some of our village street projects because we again we do have an ask at the end of our my presentation So this is this just shows a list of all the village street projects that we've done over the last several years by village if you'll see the we've done $19 million of village streets federal highway projects that we've done we're at we're at 100 million let me just go back to completed village street projects This year we're looking to ramp up our village street projects We've got about $20 million in that we've that was transferred to DPW ARP funding. The key there though is we have to finish it by this year and we believe we will finish it We've discussed this with our our current contractor Hawaiian Rock so we're gonna really ramp up a lot of village street paving throughout the island for the rest of the year The next slide shows our completed federal highway projects.

We hope to to have groundbreaking for additional projects we just did the brown breaking for groundbreaking for Route 17 which is the Cross Island Road Construction will start either next week or the week after at the intersection of Cro- Route 17 and Route 5 we're looking to ground break Route 10A which is the the airport road right in front of from Don Donki all the way up to airport and hopefully by the end of the year we get to ground break the phase two of Route 14B which is *Ypao* Road from Seven Day Advantage Clinic all the way to to Marine Drive So those three major federal highway projects are slated for this year And as we speak we are we are striping and marking Marine Drive from Micronesia Mall all the way to Andersen Air Force Base You know that should that should be just about done soon

Okay here's our request So again as I've stated during our presentation we do have some requests here under building permit and inspection we wanna fill and retain existing authorized positions evaluate additional staffing after baseline data is established We wanna support e-government workflow mo- modernization for intake routing corrections as I mentioned many years ago we had a procurement for a digitized system for building permits unfortunately that was there was a protest and - I'll be honest I d- I think that that procurement just excuse me that just died but we are working very closely with build Bureau of Statistics and Plans and I think they believe that we can do this this system in-house So I know they are working very closely on that as I mentioned under our highways division we are in in requesting an increased $10 million for village street paving because the because we have the 20 million of ARP that we're trying to that we will exhaust between now and the end of the year this 10 million is we'll leave it up to the legislature. If there's a $10 million surplus somewhere and you need to give it to some department that knows how to spend it that would be us and we appreciate that abandoned vehicles

we'd like to authorize and fund new dedicated staff so that the abandoned vehicle work does not does con- does not continue to draw from core highway crews and whether we select it from other divisions we can do that as well but keep the funding level the same we could also provide funding beyond the current $2 million we believe that once this once we have the recyclers on board this program is gonna really take off at a speed probably that that that we haven't expected I think we're also we're also g- gonna look at additional legislation We'll see how this program runs out but you know so I we're still not tackling the heart of the matter here which is individuals still think that it's common practice to just take an abandoned vehicle and throw it off on a roadside on an easement or a right of way and so some of the some of the issues besides identifying three to five government sites for disposal we we believe we should make it ineligible If w- if we find the owner of these abandoned vehicles we th- we think there should be legislation so that these indivi- in- these individuals are would be ineligible to register new vehicles you know we we need to punish them somehow we need to increase the fines It would be my suggestion that we increase the fine to $5,000 for the litter of an abandoned vehicle or just leaving an abandoned vehicle at a at a government facility or easement or right of way or even on private property for any infraction or any occurrence we need to tackle this problem and we understand it's gotta be twofold we have to we have to legislate either increased fines or the the inability to register new new vehicles And then the government also needs to establish sites so that we can in fact accept these abandoned vehicles.

I think once we do the combination of those two plus we get the recyclers on board we'll see a huge decrease in the amount of abandoned vehicles that you see throughout the island That's basically all I have Mr Chairman I hope I wasn't too long we are available to take questions and and have a fruitful discussion especially on our KPI on our PBB divisions of abandoned vehicles and building permits. Thank you very much.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'åse* Director Arriola and no it wasn't It was very informative and I gotta say that this is a great first start to our PBB efforts and presentation first of all I wanna thank you and your staff for coming to at least two meetings at Office in Finance and Budget and following the the training that we did in terms of the structure and I agree with you there needs to be more training and I look forward to in the future you know whomever will be handling this for the next budget cycle that we'll leave the notes behind that it really with BBMR and OFB taking the lead on this this is a perfect example of where we can really improve and I'll ask a few questions before I go to the panel on this particular issue and then I'll I'll go to the panel Wanna thank Senator Perez for

joining us as well for this hearing So what's jumping out to me real quick director is the issue on so the $20 million is that from the $104 million the governor has repurposed over to DPW.

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works:
I don't know that exact answer Senator I all I do know is that we had $20 million transferred for the use of for village street paving and one of the reasons the primary reason is we need to spend it before the end of the year we have existing contracts with our with Hawaiian Rock that's doing our street paving So we basically amend the contracts do additional task orders and we have plenty streets to pave.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: That's good news That's good news director and to your team thank you very much Yeah And I think the people of Guam are really gonna appreciate that So- Very much so Yes We were anticipating as we go forward because we were tracking this year other than the projects you have lined up and we just get this on the record You're tracking this year as having expended I believe about 1.8 million of the 2 million so far Is that correct For the village streets Correct.

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Yes

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay So that's on target Yeah as per the budget and as per so the 2 million is definitely not a problem to exhaust in 2027 okay that's identified that that's spent And then- Right and then what we'll look at since you're doing the 20 million I believe we'll we'll look at putting an authorization in so that we can track it during 2027 and reallocate as well going forward But I think that 20 million's gonna carry you-

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Yes sir

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Pretty far considering the pace at which we were doing it this year at the 1.8 You've just about finished it and we're a little over half of the fiscal year Fiscal year So great work Okay So that that's really good news Thanks Vince the other main issue and I I wanted to get to this right away and once again excellent work on the highways as well We're seeing that and great news that the project for *Ypao* Road is gonna move forward and that's on target One of the things and we recently had EPA here on the rules and regulations for the Type 4 systems and one thing that came up in terms of their obligation is the issue of having to track permits And so that that came up as part of it and they made a very good

presentation that in within their division that that does those approvals they're fully automated like you're talking about you're trying to get there and thanks for you know letting us know you were trying Vince because they're they basically said online and throughout their entire process anyone who's got a permit application right now that has review by them there's a dashboard They can go online they can see exactly where it's at and what they're finding is exactly what you said to me before Vince that- Right a lot of times and we'll talk to our GAR folks about this a lot of times there are missing docents or missing things that are required for clearances and so it's on the onus of the individual applicant or the contractor sometimes there's a soil sample sometimes it's something else that's required by law and that but other than that they explained to us that they're fully digitized in that area and very user-friendly and so it just popped in my mind I was gonna talk to you about it So are you aware that they that online like that?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Yes sir I am Yeah and it's I think the best part about it it it serves a a a fantastic customer service issue for the individuals that are in fact seeking permits whether it be the owner or the contractor or a developer It keeps them in line and gives them exact open communication on where that permit is So that's what we we're we're we're trying to do within the entire DPW and government of Guam.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: So I really enjoyed your presentation on abandoned vehicles It looks like we've just about got the puzzle pieces in place and figured this one out So you've looking for land acquisition but the main issue right now basically is your procurement So I know you can't you know discuss that in terms of any details but you do have bidders for the applications you have out?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: We believe we'll get several bidders It closes later on this month we'll let it we'll you know hopefully we we get to award to to several bidders we're looking at an IDIQ here And then we'll let it the program run You know the do let we'll get our feet wet so to speak try to work out whatever kinks we can tweak the process to make it as smooth as we can **b**ut our our ultimate goal is is that we have a smooth-running collection machine.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: So yeah So going to your- Absolutely And I think that money will flow faster from EPA once you get the first you know once you get the first procurement out- Right and it's and it's showing that you know you're at a rate now that you've burning through that- in terms of getting those

vehicles off the roadsides and out of the villages and the like and then I I believe you can turn those contract over a lot faster

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Right and also with our MOU with EPA we have very strict guidelines and reporting requirements that that are required based on that basically $2 million grant that that they've awarded us So that's where the administrative part comes through is that we we have to report to them as well And we know somewhere down the line there's gonna be an audit so we will be prepared for that and also real quick there was an audit by the OPA that was released several months ago and it audited our - oh I'm sorry Village Street So that was real quick Village Street And the basic- th- they basically found no issues with our Village Street paving program only that additional funding is needed.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Got it So going over to the reason why I wanna keep harping on this going over to your presentation on your digitization I mean on your building permits and the abandoned vehicles and what you presented to us and what you presented in the pre-budget meeting I don't disagree with the manpower and when you go to your building permits status of your capacity and your KPIs there you're doing okay in a couple of areas but then of course when you get to the requirement that you're talking about for the abandoned vehicles I know you talked about the law and the requirements of the law **b**ut you know Vince I think the digitization is gonna handle that because that that should be seamless once you've got a process for everything the law calls for in terms of the identifying the vehicle identifying owner identifying all that I think once you get that platform set up then you don't really have that intensity of the paper trail and manpower and anything else when you do exactly what like I said EPA is doing you basically have a dashboard and an online for that.

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: That's exactly right It it's all input.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: And then it should communicate with- the relevant agencies Revenue Tax and everybody who's involved in the chain of custody of a vehicle.

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Right Yeah the only thing that we're we are finding is when we trace back the last or the final owner registered owner they're they're either gone or this was 15 20 years ago 'cause you're not seeing any new late model cars They're just they're old They're 15 20 years old

and it's just although I think we just picked up one the other day that was a perfectly running car and so we're not gonna crush that We'll hold on to it We'll see if- Go through the process some bank comes after it

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Yeah I mean there's stuff we're gonna have to write off I mean I'm sure that's what it's gonna come down to when we get When we already know that and that's why when the lot treat treated as trash that's what it is It's basically refuse So we docent and then we just get rid of that junk Okay Excellent really overall like I said on your presentation on your budget like you said you're coming in a touch below other than your programs and then also I just wanna finish with so that you know I wanna talk to other agencies about this I'm glad you put in your presentation that you wanna work within your budgeted vacancies to be able to utilize those funds in other areas also I think if you continue on your budgeted vacancies and you're working with DOA- Prior to so you know with those divisions that are 70% 80% you know maybe standing up your abandoned vehicle division straight away can do internally you know with those budgeted vacancies and then we visit it during the fiscal year as it's operational.

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Yes sir

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Other than that I really don't have any more detailed questions And so we will set up the five-minute clock If there are some follow-ups afterwards I will entertain it but I'll start with Senator Sean Gataotao as he was the first one here.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Thank you Mr Chair and thank thank you DPW for your presentation today I'll just puy right in for the record has DPW accessed or attempted to use $609,523 from its FY 2025 general fund unexpended balance which was reported by BBMR as of September 30, 2025?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Is that as lapsed funds or a carryover?

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: It just says unexpended balance.

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Senator we're gonna have to look into that I I don't see that I I need to know whether that's a what report did that come from I'm I'm sorry

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: I was gonna it was saying it was the consolidated revenue expenditure report general fund as of September 30, 2025 and it shows funds available $609,000

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: I don't believe that because I think what happened even as late as last year it it was it was they used the term captured And so that that was whatever lapses that we thought we had it was it was taken from us as well as other agencies if I recall.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Yeah Thanks Vince for that I just wanted to make sure I had that on the record Right let me talk a little bit about your FY2026 appropriation reserve With less than three months left in the fiscal year are you all on track to expend a combined appropriation reserve balance of $3.2 million reported as of March 31st 2026? And has a portion of the funds been set aside for any prior year obligations if any?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: You know I It a lot of this depends on You know we op- we operate through DOA right DOA does all our GSA procurement DOA does all our personnel which is a big-ticket item you know the sooner we can get the individuals on board the sooner the spending starts right So a lot of that a lot of our spending is really dependent on the actions of DOA Not to throw them under the bus that's just the way it that's just the way it works The faster we get results from DOA the faster the spending occurs.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Right And we've been asking this throughout all the budgetary process so I'm just wanting to make sure I had that at least from you all at DPW Now if the fiscal year this one FY2026 ends with what could be $2 or $3 million in a carryover as the current trends are suggesting do you guys have a plan to maybe avoid this Or is it the kind of the common cold that we're seeing throughout the government of Guam especially what we saw in '25 now ending '26 at least at this point can you see that?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Senator yeah we actually see this six months into the fiscal year So once at the six-month period of the fiscal year that's when we s- We take a look and see what our balances are and then from there we start ramping up because we know it's gonna come to a head We know that somewhere down the line we're gonna receive either a or or something from DOA saying "Okay this is your drop-dead date" which is either August or I think we just had one which was in March right that that stopped cer- certain types

of expenses So we anticipate that and so we try to get everything in the hopper if you will for either heavy equipment spending personnel actions contracts things of that nature .

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Alright Thank you Vince for that let me move on to the school bus issue So- What is the average age if you could tell us today of the 157 school buses that are operated and maintained by DPW and kind of as a follow up on your presentation to us last June it was an idea urging further research into all electric buses what is the status of the $9.87 federal funds that DPW receive this was a few years ago 2023 to purchase 25 all electric buses and fleet?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: So, let me let me go back to the overall bus. I was here maybe three, if not four months ago, I'm not sure it was some oversight hearing, but I was I we talked about our school buses, right? And I committed to do a school bus replacement plan uh within DPW, right? and I committed that it would be done in 90 days which probably I believe ends later this month it's a lot more work than what we signed up for but we are still doing it So what like you said we've got well over 100 school buses and we're gonna rate each and every one of those school buses and for safety for me- mechanical viability and for aesthetics for comfort and things of that nature right so we are still in the process of doing that we know that our fleet is aging some of them are gonna we're looking for a replacement . I'll have Linda talk about we have a I believe it's a grant for additional school buses and I'll have her talk about that but let me let me now talk about the electric school buses right Yes we do I It's I believe it's an $8 million grant to to purchase school buses anywhere from 20 to 25 we've been working with the the local folks here and and USEPA What we've what we've and we're still working with U- USEPA but the bottom line is we neither of the shippers here on Guam can ship the buses to Guam So whether we have a vendor here who responds they they won't be able to respond because you won't be able to ship it to Guam So we penned a letter maybe a couple weeks ago to USEPA again re-restating our position We've had phone calls with them letting them know we don't believe there's gonna be any change So whether you have $9 million or $10 million or $15 million we're un- we're gonna be una- unable to spend it because the shipper just can't bring it to Guam so we've asked for to see if they would consider propane type of buses anything that's that's less than diesel or some other some other type of a bus that's that's cleaner in emissions we haven't heard back from them and that was about two weeks ago but we'll s- we'll see there where that takes us Bottom line is those buses can't come to Guam.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Yeah Got it Thank you so much for that.

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: But I'll let me have Linda talk about-

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Oh sure please Lynn yeah go ahead.

Linda Ibanez, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works: So we have a DERA grant we have with EPA so that's a matching grant that's in the hopper also then we have the TEFF account we already submitted the requisition to GSA for bidding we would like to purchase 20 additional bus school buses on our fleet So that's still with the AG's pending review phase one.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Alright thank you so much for that Lynn let me talk a little bit about your traffic lights and equipment if I could Based on the request for at least $95,000 for traffic parts pedestrian walk parts traffic light posts traffic lights and equipment were any of these materials and devices impacted by the recent storm and if so do you anticipate any federal support for their replacement?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Yes We we just awarded a contract for I believe it's 1.8 $1.8 million to replace all the traffic signals and all the traffic signal heads all the traffic signal lights throughout the island and this was damages from Mawar and so those parts that you see would be parts you know for these new lights coming in So e- every single traffic signal on Guam should have new lights Some of the cabinets are still okay Most of the cabinets actually are still okay I just had a meeting with-- We just had a meeting with our traffic signal supervisor and he assures me the traffic signal boxes the the control boxes are still okay It's it's all-- It's really just the lights the l- the heads and the bulbs that'll all be replaced by a private contractor We just awarded that.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Alright thank you Vince and building on my question during your budget hearing last year has Public Works reestablished a system I think Linda you referred to the system as Oscar to help the department pursue payment from individuals and businesses who are found responsible for damaging public property including but not limited not limited to guardrails street signs bus shelters traffic light posts that kind of stuff-

Linda Ibanez, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works: Okay we had a system years ago which was Oscars it was linked with GPD we were able to

download right whoever damaged our guardrails traffic signals and we were able to make a claim against their insurance if they had insurance So that system was in place for quite some time and of course contract again right Procurement And so we went through the process but of course like I said procurement right it's the fold and it never proceeded after that So GPD has another system We're trying to link up with them and there is a dialogue with our Office of Highway Safety team and Federal Highway to try to regurgitate the system right 'Cause they do have a system in place We just need to be linked into their system

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Lynn couldn't couldn't they use maybe go through the the Criminal Justice Automation Commission at the judiciary maybe as an al- alternative If we're finding a gap couldn't we just go that route to assist.

Linda Ibanez, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works: Okay we'll include them because they're a part of our partnership with Office of Highway Safety and Federal Highway so we can link up with them.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Yeah I just think from a procurement point of view if we can't go this traditional route maybe trying to and finding another way maybe through the judiciary as a as an alternative Mr Chair I only have one more question if I could on public streetlights dur- I guess Director you mentioned during last year's budget hearing that you have the money for streetlights How many more streetlights have been installed since last year and how are those requests going for install?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: I mentioned in my testimony s- since we've changed them out to LED we've we've added an additional 7,000 So I think we are close to about 20,000 streetlights right now out there but we've reached wh- the previous appropriation was I think a little over four million so we've reached our capacity for payment of of streetlights even with the with the new LEDs So if we're gonna add additional streetlights we're gonna need the appropriation to increase

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Okay now Vince you don't have any more high pressure sodis out on the streets today they're all LED now right?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: May may probably less than 1% that are out there

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: And why I was asking is couldn't we take the savings from the new installs and maybe use those to pay for the new LED lights?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: And that's what that's what we used for the additional 7,000 streetlights the savings that we realized from that high intensity by changing them out we had savings and those savings went towards installing additional 7,000 LED lights So now that we've got those on board we've exhausted the current appropriation of I believe it's- Little over $4 million right

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Right I mean at s- at some point when once all the high pressure SOD streetlights are all replaced at this point just maintaining these LED lights over time They have longer warranties Yeah they have a longer life for the most part- and hoping that at some point we can get all those you know HPSs off the road and using LEDs.

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Most of them are the one of the big issues that we're having that we hope to use with the addition- with the additional streetlight funding is there's a n- there's a there's a number of housing areas that were constructed so long ago it's like Ypaopao Estates Barrigada Heights there's a neighborhood somewhere close to Jonestown and when these houses were built they put in their own streetlights right their own streetlight poles Well today those poles are either falling down they're rusted and and GPA has not replaced them because they don't carry those types of of poles So I've we've met with GPA and so we- we're looking at DPW replacing the poles or at least purchasing the poles and working with GPA to get those poles replaced and get the streetlights up 'Cause if you see at those neighborhoods that I just mentioned a lot of the streetlights are off simply because the poles themselves are either incapable of of of carrying a a a light bulb anymore or a light post anymore or they're rusted or they just outlived their usefulness.

Senator Eulogio "Shawn" Gumataotao: Alright Thank you so much Vince Thank you Linda for being with us today And Mr Chair that's all the questions I have. Thank you DPW for all that you do Thank you.

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Thank you so much Senator Appreciate it.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* Senator Gumataotao Vice Speaker Ada you're recognized.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Thank you Mr Chair and thank you for holding this budget hearing Vince and Linda thank you for being here and- You know so far it looks good with the KPIs and the PBB that we've been the chairman has been pushing forward with And we were just discussing up here how you know this is what we're looking for and how it should be done and you guys are setting the setting the example So thank you for that as the oversight chair The couple of questions I had was you know we-- I I know you had a discussion and I believe you guys have a working group for the abandoned vehicles and looking for property that that is the problem and that's the issue And I mean I'm not sure how we can 'Cause we pay for it one way or the other either it's gonna go into some some jungle on on Chamorro Land Trust property or on the side of the streets or wherever it may be And I know that we have a big issue up in Dededo And how is it that we can help work and ensure that we can get these abandoned vehicles together and collected and you guys have been running a a program that's working so far and I hope that we can continue to do that Where are we at with your working group in final in finalizing an area for for the property.

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Yes Senator as I mentioned earlier we've been working very closely with Department of Land Management of to find suitable sites right and it's a lot of it is you know the site has to be level we're preferably not over the water aquifer accessible not in someone's backyard you know so when you put all those requirements in the list gets shorter and shorter so we are continuing to work with them but the ideal site would be anywhere from five to ten 10 acres We would clear it We would have to fence it in for security I'm not sure if we need to post a guard there depending on the type of fencing but we're still looking for property in the end I don't know I just thought about it this morning because I knew this question was gonna come up maybe we might have to rent land from a private owner or maybe one of the prospective recyclers coming on board would have land of their own and we just that that'll be just part of the part of the payment and/or contract to them is that they would ha- in fact have a staging area as well So if that works then you know we're open to we have to think outside the box on this one We can't we can't have a closed mindset this is as I mentioned so many times to this this same legislature and a few others we are at epidemic stage here with the with the abandoned vehicles and unfortunately our folks out there still think it's just okay to just take an abandoned vehicle put it on the side of the road light it and walk away and so and I think that's happening because they just don't have a place to throw it if-

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Yeah definitely and I think what we now also need to look at is that the contractor or the vendor that you you're seeking out for if they have that piece of property that it just doesn't be a staging point forever It becomes one of those that you stage it and then you take it off you get it off-island immediately So I mean it could be somewhere that we can- We pay you when that vehicle leaves the island.

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Yes sir So- Well we're gonna KPI them as well Something like if I give it to you you've got 30 days to get it off this island so right and show us the bill of lading to make sure it it goes off So you know this this PBB this KPI is gonna it'll go from this [01:20:00] committee to us to the recycler To to the we like I said we have to show that full audit trail of where that to track that vehicle to make sure it g- gets off island.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: And I know on the 2023 Guam Transportation Improvement Plan it was slated that there'll be about 79 million for 2027 federal federal funds for federal highway funds Is that still the case or are we looking at an increase or a decrease in that?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Ri- right now we still have our annual grant is at about 17 million I think that may have taken into account additional grants that we're that we're hoping for some of the additional grants that we're hoping for are would be coming from DOD for the DAR1 project the

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: The Fantastus Road yeah

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: From NCS all the way to Camp Blas and for the re- restructuring reconstruction of the five additional bridges We are still short in terms of funding for that

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: And then also on the on the on the highways you were talking about the striping that's ongoing currently are they using What are they using to stripe the road Is it paint Is it thermoplastics Is what-

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Yes it's thermoplastic paint You it comes in beads and then you have to heat it up and then you spray it and then it's fairly thick and it's also reflective.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Is it reflective?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Both white and yellow

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Are they putting the glass beads after the installation of the thermal plastic paint?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: I think it's I think it's it's boiled in one shot

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: It's mixed Right Oh okay Right Yeah because you know it it seems like the stripings don't last too long once they lay it I mean usually you see You know I've been in California several times and you know their their reflective paints there last quite a while and you know hundreds of thousands of cars that travel the the streets Are we are we at a Here are we doing a cer- a certain type of?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: We're using federal specs when it comes- We know that yeah We can't use anything other than federal specs So you know it could be I don't it it could be weather it could I know I know the striping that we did down at Dead Man's Curve seems to be holding up so you know and we do h- I I believe we do have some form of a warranty especially for the markers We've used several kinds of the reflective markers We've used several kinds of glue to hold them down and some of them a lot of it we're s- we're still changing out because they sometimes they don't even last six months so contractor's gotta go back and replace it but we'll take a look at that type of painting paint that that you're discussing with me but we know for a fact that we use US federal specs on that.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Okay And then also you were talking about the traffic lights the they'll be changing out the lights and they got a contract already out

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Yes sir

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Does that include the synchronization of red yellow green to the crosswalks where I know-

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Yes

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: That some of the tourists have been waiting-

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Timing and everything yeah so- Yes

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: that all that is all inclusive of this-

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Yes sir Yeah

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Modernization Alright

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Yeah You're probably talking the specific one in front of Dusit yeah the because that traffic light has been out for maybe over a month we are still awaiting parts electronic parts for it the light is fine it's the electronic signal parts that we're waiting for

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Okay then but other than that Mr Chair I think that this is a good start on our PBB for the department the only thing I do ask Director and Deputy is that you know we know this term is coming to a close The the Leon Guerrero administration is coming to a close and regardless who is going to be the next governor of Guam and regardless who's gonna be the next deputy and the director for Department of Public Works it is my hope that there is a transition plan in place that when they take over or should you continue whichever is the case and but more than likely if you know you guys are in place fine If it's a transition that a complete transition be done so that we don't have to look where we're going and how is it gonna be done or you know that this is for the people of Guam This is for our people that we wanna ensure that their s- their continued safety and their continued access to the streets and everything like that is a- is always front first and foremost So I hope that you know we can get your commitment that should there be a transition that you guys will be more than than willing and more than open to ensuring that whoever is the next director and deputy director or if you're remaining in place that it will be done accordingly and always to for the best interest of the people.

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: This One we agree 100% Senator We believe not to be overly humble but we believe we set the bar- right over the last seven or eight years and we certainly wanna see progress continue at the department.

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Absolutely So thank you for that-

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Thank you very much Senator You have our support on that

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada: Thank you.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* Vice Speaker also just wanted to mention prior to going to Senator Perez so our most recent lapse rate for your department is at 1.3 million so you are expending your resources that's much better than most So you're at 1.3 million as of April 2026. Senator Perez?

Senator Sabina F Perez: Thank you Mr Chair and good morning director and deputy director.

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Good morning Senator

Senator Sabina F Perez: Thank you for your thank you for your presentation And I was really excited to hear about the abandoned vehicle program being implemented and one of the priorities since it was-- I was the one of the authors of that bill to streamline removal of abandoned vehicles and so one of the If I could point out since you are procuring for a company to remove these vehicles are you know I guess part of the law requires that the you know there's a due diligence or due process i-in that when upon removal of the vehicle abandoned vehicle that there has to be records on DRT website so that if the owner wants to come back and pick it up that they have that opportunity So has that been included in this RFP to ensure that there is a so-called a period where the owner can still claim?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Yes Senator for that form of administrative work that'll be in in that'll be performed in-house by DPW as I mentioned earlier that's why we're looking for additional bodies just to handle the administrative work We understand we have that law in place which you authored and we have every intention of abiding by that law and I think what that law specifically says it it sets up certain requirements certain duties for us to do and a certain I keep saying audit trail so the audit trail so we track the location and the owner or previous owner of those abandoned vehicles that are out there

Senator Sabina F Perez: Okay Thank you for that clarification Appreciate that and then regards to the procurement so how many people on staff are fully trained they've completed all four modules in the procurement within DPW?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: I don't have an exact number but we have several maybe four or five.

Senator Sabina F Perez: Okay yeah 'Cause that's you know that's something the budget you know when we come before the budget that you know there's money for that and what do you-- what is it that you need to ensure that you know the staffing that are gonna be involved in procurement You know how many actually individuals you think are needed for the procurement process so that they get full training?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Yeah I think that that's a good question Senator Thank you And I know most if not all the training are still done at at GCC - I don't know Senator but may- maybe perha- perhaps more courses should be made available not just to DPW but throughout-

Senator Sabina F Perez: Yeah

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: throughout the government Yeah because we we know procurement is a hot topic

Senator Sabina F Perez: Correct

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: and the more people you have going in in there you know it helps to better accountability better efficiencies throughout the government.

Senator Sabina F Perez: Yeah absolutely But the question was how many- Yeah individuals staffing or needed to have the training within your department?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: I know we have we have quite a number of individuals that have taken module one and two all the way to four we probably have three right Yeah Is that about right?

Senator Sabina F Perez: That definitely could be beefed up considering DPW's the head of construction for procurement for the government of Guam So yeah that's that seems like there's a need there has that been included in the budget co-presentation or proposal?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: We have that under it-- we have that the f the-- funding is not an issue

Senator Sabina F Perez: Okay

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Yeah yeah Okay Funding is not an issue

Senator Sabina F Perez: Alright

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: but thank you

Senator Sabina F Perez: Alright great and then for this procurement for the removal of abandoned vehicles so if it's gonna be over half a million so AG involvement is needed are you-- has the AG already been involved in this-

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Oh yes yeah procurement

Senator Sabina F Perez: Okay

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: The the procurement is in public now

Senator Sabina F Perez: But it hasn't been reviewed by the AG?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Yes

Senator Sabina F Perez: Okay and then this procurement so r- you know the focus has been on the abandoned vehicles but tires too Is this gonna include the tire removal Because otherwise that's gonna be another issue You know if we- we're collecting you know both-- the parts are accumulating right We see that We see the problem with the acc- accumulating of not only abandoned vehicles but the tires too which is which poses a fire hazard right So is that included in this?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Ev- everything's included Everything.

Senator Sabina F Perez: Okay Yeah and you know I-- it's good to hear that this company you're actually Is it also included that they're gonna remove and the timing of removal of these these abandoned vehicles Is that part of the procurement or the solicitation?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Explain a little bit more the timing of the removal

Senator Sabina F Perez: Yeah So basically does the procurement include you know the storage and removal and

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Oh yes yes yeah

Senator Sabina F Perez: frequency of removal Because you know we have a limited amount of permanent sites I my-

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: That's right

Senator Sabina F Perez: my understanding if that's correct

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Yes I-

Senator Sabina F Perez: And so-

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: I will double-check that but as I just mentioned to the chair we don't want them to become another staging site So- it is it is our intention that if they do pick up a vehicle that within 30 days 45 days that that specific vehicle whether it's crushed whether it's cubed whether it's taken apart but that v- vehicle and/or parts of that vehicle are shipped off within 30 to 45 days

Senator Sabina F Perez: So the procurement's 45 days?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Yes

Senator Sabina F Perez: Okay good one of the things that you're asked in your presentation was workforce development And so Can you give us an idea of you know as far as the workforce how much do how much do you project that are gonna be within retirement age And so you know I guess that determines how robust the workforce development has to be for this agency?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: I don't ha- I don't have that with me Senator but we do have a a succession plan throughout all of all of

DPW one of the areas that we are gonna it's gonna affect us is gonna be the capital improvement projects. We have a couple engineers that are-- They've told us of their intention to retire fairly soon we don't know exactly when but as I mentioned the prospect and the ability to hire engineers specifically is very difficult at DPW even given the fact that we are like a starting point for engineers it just the market for engineers out there is extremely difficult for DPW to enter because of the types of wages that are out there a starting engineer in the private sector and that's not even a licensed engineer you just come out as a an engineer graduate you're pro- you're probably looking at sixty to seventy thousand a year.

Senator Sabina F Perez: Yeah So one thing that GPA and GWA have been doing is that they have their apprenticeship programs and they are you know they're celebrating that they hired one of the first graduates that came out of UOG and perhaps emulating some of that you know the workforce development starting at the college level to you know have that pipeline I think that's really critical There's already a model in place here on Guam and so you're asking for ideas I think that-- Have you worked on that at all?

Linda Ibanez, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works: So**,** yes there is a model we've been working with Department of Labor for these apprenticeship programs so we are in dialogue with them to include the engineers and electri- electricians and plumbing we started with the school bus drivers and that's where we were able to hire 10 from the boot camp So we're working with Department of Labor on-

Senator Sabina F Perez: Okay Yeah and I see it's working because when I look at your staffing pattern it looks pretty complete or almost full Yeah But when I look at the CIP division there's a lot of vacancies And so now that we have the engineering school I guess my suggestion would be to work directly with the UOG they have a pro-tech program which you know you know as far as funding goes they are you know providing scholarships for doctors I believe and you know it seems like engineers are really critical for the government So that's my suggestion is to walk work directly with the scholarship office at UOG.

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: We appreciate that Senator We'll work on it Yeah Appreciate that Thank you so much

Senator Sabina F Perez: And then in regard to the public audit regarding the Village Street Master Plan it was an old plan right 2009 and so some of the responses

or at least the audit highlighted was that some of it may be outdated or there were some that were not prioritized or given a priority rating and so now that you have the $20 million in ARP funds so how what process are you gonna use to utilize those funds have you already had a chance to take a look at and do some preliminary updating of this Village Street Master Plan in working with the mayors

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: ye- yes Senator The streets have basically been identified for that 20 million because we have a we have a condensed time to spend that basically we have to we we told the con- contractor "You have to s- expend it we you have to pave and complete the work by the end of November to make sure that we expend through we've got 30 days to ex- for billing and everything" But those streets have already been identified they've been they've been tagged They've been measured They've been assessed They've been estimated and becau- again because we have a a compressed timeline So I just spoke with the mayors' council We just spoke with the mayors' council We we've advised them that this is coming forward most if not all of them most know of the of the same roads that we're about to pave and so there really shouldn't be any issues The only issue is not every road is gonna get paved I mean but 20 million is gonna buy us a lot of asphalt

Senator Sabina F Perez: another thing that DPW deals with is flooding and so that division would be also the highways division is that correct?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Yes ma'am

Senator Sabina F Perez: Okay and so do you have-- You're saying that you feel you can you can accomplish your mandates with the f-the-

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Yes ma'am

Senator Sabina F Perez: budget that you currently have and so considering like you know intense storms that have happened that we've seen what is the plan to address flooding?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: We know of our We know of the main flooded areas already *Pago Bay, Polari,s Merizo, Humatak* and a lot of those fixes are long-term and in the millions So what we do what we've been doing is we do regular maintenance We found out if we do regular maintenance it really prevents the flooding to the flooding to a to a large extent We're also-- We've

got some flooding up north where houses have just been built and it basically traps the water within the roadways And so we've put a we know we've put a procurement out for infiltration chambers that we'll we will be installing in various village streets and roadways to accept the water and we've done that at Westbrook and *Barrigada* We've done that at a couple streets in *Dededo* and they seem to work be working fairly well so we'll be using that that format in other areas where there's no direct stormwater drain to take the stormwater out.

Senator Sabina F Perez: That's good to hear in regards to compliance so you know there's been discussions in the past where some contractors are utilized and then the roads are not properly you know resurfaced wh- who in your division is responsible for that and do you have enough personnel?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Yes We have our highway encroachment personnel whenever GWA or a telecom company or even a homeowner needs to excavate or dig through any of the roads they need a highway encroachment permit they submit either a per- a bond or a cash bond if you will the permit is issued once the repairs are done or even before the repairs are done there's a there's a certain standard for re- for permanent repair that that's that's based on a DPW standard Our inspectors go out there and inspect it to make sure it's done they sign off the mayor signs off the contractor signs off and the repairs are done and that individual either gets the well either gets their performance bond back or they get their deposit back But it's highly reviewed by us There are some long-term ones like GWA typically because they're probably the in terms of utiliz- of cutting into our roads they're probably the highest user doing that And so - It's a it's a matter of them seeking the hot asphalt from the l- the lone contractor here in Guam So you know they it it's not they can't just pave right away they usually wait until there's like five repairs and then they'll do it all at one shot so and then but we work very closely with them one of one of them that we're looking at is the one at the Tri intersection we know that w- we keep tabs on every excavation that's done throughout all our roads on Guam.

Senator Sabina F Perez: Thank you Mr Chair if I can just ask two more questions I know my time.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Sure, Thank you I'll allow the two questions.

Senator Sabina F Perez: Thank you so the other thing is federal funds and if you can explain what those are what they're used for and if they are actually incorporated into the key performance indicators?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: The federal funds are basically for our routed roads for both paving striping marking some guardrails but mos- mostly for paving and so this this this current year we looked we've already broke ground on Route 17 a portion of Route 17 for a complete pave over we look to break ground for Route 10A which is the airport road design's already been done there and we have a RAISE grant for that and then we wanna finish up phase two of *Ypao* Road that'll be a federally funded project as well .

Senator Sabina F Perez: Okay and the second part of that question was the known performance indicators So y- there's you know if you have f- federal funds as well as plans that you would you address safety you address I guess other federal requirements So have you adapted them to a performance indicator

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: We currently utilize them throughout all our operations of every project that's federally funded We just haven't How should I say We just haven't put it down in in in a format that's that's presentable if you will but we do discuss them with our consultants throughout every throughout every project and that's not just at beginning to the end It's through throughout every every every part of the contract if you will or every part of the of the construction phase.

Senator Sabina F Perez: Okay and the other question I have is greening of roadways So there was a project that EPA had where they actually did demonstration projects utilizing re- you know recycling plastic glass I believe in in the law there is a requirement to include crushed glass and I guess where is your where are you at with crushed glass using of crushed glass?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: You know there was a proposal about two years ago to use crushed glass Someone on island has two containers full of crushed glass and I think it got stopped on the federal side I need to follow up on that Senator

Senator Sabina F Perez: Yeah I know for the non-primary roads right? It could be used for tertiary po- potentially

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Right

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Thank you Senator

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: But I just need I just need to make sure that our contractor is able to use that within their system Yeah

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Thank you Senator

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: I need to follow up on that for you.

Senator Sabina F Perez: Okay Thank you so much

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Thank you Senator Yeah I know in our tour when we first came in with Senator Lohan and myself as part of our oversight GSWA we went up there and they have the crushed glass bin They just said you know it's not it's not practical at this point to go forward until we can get the right application for the mixture and the like So they're prepared as well In fact like I said they had some crushed glass in the bin.

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: I think in the beginning we were gonna use it for base course like road preparation down below the asphalt the only problem is we didn't have a mixer to mix it with the base course because we could certainly use it

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay But they're they're outfitted for it I'm sure you probably know

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Right

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: So maybe just another call to them to in case you get there going forward they're prepared to do it

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Yes sir

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: so just a couple constituent questions as we follow up busing for the south have we figured that out in terms of charter schools

or do we do we are looking at maybe doing a refined program for it if the if the if the population is not quite as large but still need the transportation busing for charter schools in the south?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: We bus charter schools throughout the island we know with I think the largest one right now is Mount Carmel and that that's really presented a problem because they've got students as far away as Yigo I believe you know because they advertise right So that that that presents problems for us But I think we've been able to mitigate those issues and work with them especially through the exchange here

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay So maybe we'll set up just another meeting because I also had that in my when I did pre-budget for charter schools So if we can just sit down again and make sure as we go into the new school year- to see exactly what we got I- I know you have challenges there Mm-hmm but I think if we can just sit down prior to just to make sure that we're ironing out some concerns and see what we can do more.

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Sure

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay Thanks The other one was the elevator inspectors do you have a full complement?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: We have a commissioned elevator inspector we only have one because he's the only one that has been able to get I believe it's called QEI QEI commissioned or certified and and so he's the only individual we have but we have one indi- individual dedicated at building permits and inspections to handle the workload of his workload as well as the workload of elevators that need to get inspected So we've got a a great tracking system of elevators escalators dumbwaiters and different lifts So we've kinda we've really find I'm really pleased with the work that we've done over the last couple years We we've really been able to streamline the process and make it fairly efficient and you know I hate to say it but I think it's still shut down the elevators at GCIC.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: That's what I was gonna say

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: But you know that that's very unfortunate but that's really not on DPW.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Not on our side

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: We did what we had to do but I think just the fact that we did it put everyone on notice I mean everyone came to our front doors and said "Hey you know we need our elevator inspected we need we our permit is expired" so on and so forth But we have a much better tracking system today than we did say three years ago.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: So those that are utilizing and need the inspection and need the services you're you can meet their requirements and their timelines?

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Yes sir Oh yeah Sure

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay So we just wanna get that information out there 'cause- I know people are following through and you know Vince it's really important that we get this on the record 'cause you know sometimes there's miscommunication on whose issue- this is and we don't want constituents as well as-

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: Understood

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Other people that use the buildings that if they're out you know government we need to say the government side is ready to inspect ready to enforce and just you need to do your contracting side.

Vince Arriola, Director, Department of Public Works: And there's about four or five elevator companies that that install and repair So the business is good out there while we only have one certified inspector the number of companies that are out there is plenty sufficient you know.

Chairman Christopher M Duenas: Okay thank you so we will thank you for being here once again and I can tell you that certainly your presentation under the PBB is started and set the bar for the future hearings that we have coming forward Mr Chair and so we'll look forward to that going forward. At this time- We are now adjourned Oh It is 10:46. *Si Yu'os Ma'ase!*

The Budget Hearing was adjourned at [10:46 a.m.].

COMMITTEE REPORT

BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) -

INTRODUCED BY

Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam

AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

Thursday, May 07, 2026, at 9:00 A.M.

Office of Attorney General

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 07, 2026

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Thu, Apr 30, 2026 at 8:30 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Christopher Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com" <stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com>, "vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com" <vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com>, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 30, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 07, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, May 07, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Office of the Attorney General (OAG)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

FIRST NOTICE- OAG.pdf
692K

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 30, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 07, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, May 07, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Office of the Attorney General (OAG)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 07, 2026

PRINT

FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 07, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 04/30/2026 09:32 AM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 30, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: FIRST NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 07, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, May 07, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** (https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
- Office of the Attorney General (OAG)

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 budget hearing, 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.*

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Notice of Budget Hearing

Thursday, May 7, 2026, 9:00 A.M.

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, May 7, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Office of the Attorney General (OAG)

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

GUAM LEGISLATURE
AUDIO VISUAL DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Office Submitting Request: Senator Chris Dueñas

Date of Request: 4/29/26

POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Ashley Shinohara Contact #: 671-989-9554

Email: senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS

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

☐ Oversight Hearing ☐ Committee Meeting ☒ Other: Budget Hearing

Notice Title / Bill(s) / Resolution(s) / Appointment:
Bill 266-38 (COR) - Office of the Attorney General

Date of Event: 05/07/2026 Start Time: 9:00 AM AM/PM

End Time: 12:00 PM AM/PM

Location: Public Hearing Room

MEDIA HANDLING

Recording Format: ☒ MP4 ☐ MP3 ☐ Other: _____

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

CERTIFIED BY AV:

Name: Rory Poker Signature: _____

Posted on/Air Date: 4/30/24 – 5/7/24

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov>

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 07, 2026

Office of Finance and Budget <ofb@guamlegislature.gov> Tue, May 5, 2026 at 8:30 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc: Senator Christopher Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com" <stephen.ofbguam@gmail.com>, "vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com" <vanessa.ofbguam@gmail.com>, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 05, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 07, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, May 07, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Office of the Attorney General (OAG)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

--

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Office of Finance and Budget (OFB)
The Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Website: www.ofbguam.org

2 attachments



senator-duenas-headshot.jpg
70K

SECOND NOTICE- OAG.pdf
693K

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 05, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media**

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

Re: **SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 07, 2026**

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, May 07, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am

- Office of the Attorney General (OAG)

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 budget hearing, 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.***

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 07, 2026

PRINT

SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 07, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Posted on: 05/05/2026 08:59 AM

Posted by: Camarin Breton

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

Division(s):
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET (/notices?division_id=276)

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

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

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

Share this notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 05, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, and Media

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

Re: SECOND NOTICE - FY27 Budget Hearing on May 07, 2026

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a budget hearing on **Thursday, May 07, 2026,** beginning at **9:00 am** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building.

Relative to **Bill No. 266-38 (COR)** **(https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20266-38%20(COR).pdf)** - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The agenda for the FY27 Budget Requests is as follows:

9:00 am
· Office of the Attorney General (OAG)

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 budget hearing, 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.*

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

This ad was paid with funds by the Office of Finance & Budget

BUDGET HEARING AGENDA

Thursday, May 7, 2026 – Guam Congress Building

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam – AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

9:00 am:

- Office of the Attorney General (OAG)

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahån

Date: May 7, 2026 | **Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas** | **Time: 9:00 a.m.**

Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS. Relative to Office of Attorney General (OAG)

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Pompeyo Barroga	OAG	683-2002	pompeyo.barroga@guamcsc.net			✓	
2	Nisha Dewan	OAG-CSED	[redacted]	nisha.dewan@guamcsc.net			✓	
3	Shane Balbas	OAG	[redacted]	sbalbas@oagguam.org			✓	
4	Maria Brooa	OAG	475-3406	mbrooa@oagguam.org			✓	
5	Alice Aguilo	OAG	487-6561	aaguilo@oagguam.org			✓	
6	Jerome Lorenzo	OAG	477-8281	JLorenzo@oagguam.org			✓	
7	JOEL VERANGO	OAG	686-3138	jverango@oagguam.org				
8	Scott Sherony	OAG	475-3324				✓	
9								
10								
11								
12								

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahån

Date: May 7, 2026 — **Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas** — **Time: 9:00 a.m.**

Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS. Relative to Office of Attorney General (OAG)

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Cherrelle Mickens	OAG		cmickens@oagguam.org				
2	Esther J. Hur	OAG	475 2587	cvru@oagguam.org				
3	Jocelyn Pineda	OAG		jopineda@oagguam.org				
4	Jacqueline Pineda	OAG		japineda@oagguam.org				
5	Lorraine Rivera	CVRU	671-475-2587	lrivera@oagguam.org				
6	AUSTIN G. FORTUNO	AG'S OFFICE	475-3324	afortuno@oagguam.org			✓	
7	Courtney Hackney	AG's Office/GC	[redacted]	chackney@oagguam.org				
8	Curtis Van de veld	AG's office	[redacted]	cvandeveld@oagguam.org	✓	✓	✓	
9	Victoria Quichocho Rojas	OAG	[redacted]	victoria.quichocho.rojas@guamsse.net			✓	
10	Lyssa Torres	OAG	[redacted]	[redacted]				
11	Jared Karl Austria	OAG	671 688 0108	jaustria@oagguam.org				
12	Remedios F. O'Keefe	OAG	[redacted]	Remedios.O'Keefe@C65.net				
	Marianna Mian	OAG	688-9464	mmjvlan@guamcse.net				

Date: May 7, 2026

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

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS. Relative to Office of Attorney General (OAG)

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Jon Ryan Lordis	OAG	[redacted]	Jlordis@oaguam.org				
2	Corene Blas	OAG	475-3324	cblas@oagguam.org				
3	Jaun S. Aulwes	OAG	475-3324	jaulwes@oagguam.org				
4	Delsherae M. Garcia	OAG	[redacted]	dlgarcia@oagguam.org				
5	ANDREA ATALIG	OAG		acatalig@oagguam.org				
6	DANITA P. PEREZ	OAG		dperez@guamcse.net				
7	Yolanda A. Galalila	OAG	967-6899	yolanda.galalila@guamcse.net				
8	SABLAN, YAMYSHA MONAE	OAG	[redacted]	yaysha.sablan@guamcse.net				
9	CRUZ, JANAE	OAG		jcruz@oagguam.org				
10	Dulce Talador	OAG		dtalador@oagguam.org				
11	TWE Ver	OAG	475-3324	twe@oagguam.org.				
12	Matthew Fernandez	OAG	[redacted]	mfernandez@oagguam.org				

Derrick Mabuca OAG Dolce@oaguam.org

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahån

Date: May 7, 2026 | **Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas** | **Time: 9:00 a.m.**

Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS. Relative to Office of Attorney General (OAG)

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Jennifer Snover	OAG	[redacted]	Jennifer.Snover@guam.gse.net				
2	Daniel Doria	OAG		daniel.doria@guamlse.net			✓	
3	MARIA CINDY HERNANDEZ	OAG		mchernandez@oagguam.org				
4	FRANK R. SANTOS	OAG	475-3409	frsantos@OAGguam.org				
5	Melanie Hernandez	OAG	475-2545	mhernandez@oagguam.org				
6	Hanna Cundiff	OAG	475-2545	kcundiff@oagguam.org				
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahån

Date: May 7, 2026 | **Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas** | **Time: 9:00 a.m.**

Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS. Relative to Office of Attorney General (OAG)

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Geraldine Pangelinan	CSED	475-3360				✓	
2	Celeen Jonne Ennis	CSED	[redacted]	[redacted]			✓	
3	Julie Mendiola	CSED		Julie.Mendiola@[redacted].net			✓	
4	Sean Japor	OAG	864-1420	sjapor@oagguam.org			✓	
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								

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

Date: May 7, 2026 Time: 9:00 a.m.

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS. Relative to Office of Attorney General (OAG)

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Lujan, Brianna	OAG	977-0803	blujan@oagguam.org				
2	BONNITA, NEIL	OAG	475-3324	nbonavita@oagguam.org				
3	Annizel Joy Nunal	OAG	[redacted]	annual@oagguam.org				
4	Paula U. Iechad	OAG	[redacted]	diechad@oagguam.org				
5	Talia V.S.N. Babauta	OAG	[redacted]	tbabauta@oagguam.org				
6	Sophia Gerenger-Reyes	OAG	475-3360	sophia.gerenger@guamcse.net				
7	Francis Louis B. Borja	OAG	[redacted]	francis.borja@guamcse.net				
8	William AL Sablan	OAG	475-3404	WSAblan@oagguam.org				
9	ERLYN A. PAMA	CSED	475-3360	[redacted]				
10	CHRISTYNE OLIVER	CSED	475-3360	christyne.oliver@guamcse.net				
11	Joanna Richards	PSU	475-3404	jrichards@oagguam.org				
12	Jason Lujan	OAG	475-3324	jvlujana@oagguam.org				

Release from the Eagle's Nest:

Who Ya Gonna Call?

(Wednesday, May 6, 2026)

Tomorrow at 9:00 am the Attorney General of Guam reports to the Guam Legislature WHY we require money to run our law firm to represent our client, The People / Government, and to do all the tasks that Congress & our Senators require of him for the next 12 months.

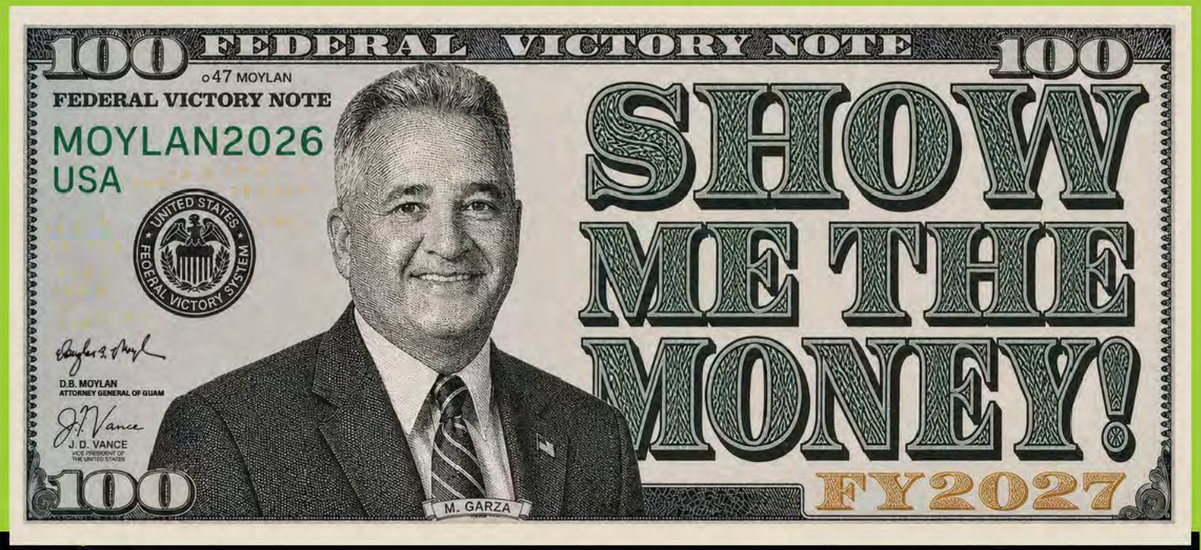
Appropriations have Consequences. The AG was created by Congress in 48 USC § 1421g(d)(1). The Attorney General is elected by the People as their attorney, & is a Constitutional Officer. The AG must exist and mandated to enforce Guam's criminal & civil laws. "*Excess*" revenues continue. We are not Parks & Recreation or any Cabinet office.

Ask the Question, when criminals kill, rob, rape and steal; when kids need child support; when contracts and federal funding needs AG review and approval, when the government is sued threatening our bankruptcy, or when things go "south" . . . ***Who Ya Gonna Call*?** **It's the democratically-elected Attorney General of Guam!**

Pay now, or pay *dearly* later . . . anyone with a legal problem lived these words. Our recent 4/23/26 meeting & 4/27/26 letter from the Legislature's Office of Finance & Budget (attachments), threatens to take our $1.6M "lapses," and rejects our $1.6M additional request for prosecutors, attorneys & legal staff needed to protect us from murderers, meth addicts, rapists, thieves and repeat criminals, and to do the legal work demanded from the Attorney General. They were reminded that Guam lacks attorneys, must be recruited from off-Island, and are expensive. Most attys. require in excess of $150,000.00 ea., not including support staff, materials & equipment. Without prosecutors our courts stop. We continue doing more with less. Guam's largest and the People's premiere law office requires money, and we generate revenue & save money for this Govt. Bottom line, "***SHOW ME THE MONEY***" . . . or suffer the consequences.

Office of the Attorney General
Douglas B. Moylan · Attorney General of Guam

134 W Soledad Avenue, Ste 412 · *Hagåtña*, Guam, 96913 · USA
671-475-3324 · 671-475-4703 (fax) · *dbmoylan@oagguam.org* · *www.guamattorneygeneral.org*
"Guam's Toughest Law Enforcers"


100 FEDERAL VICTORY NOTE 100
o47 MOYLAN
FEDERAL VICTORY NOTE
MOYLAN2026
USA
UNITED STATES FEDERAL VICTORY SYSTEM
D.B. MOYLAN
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF GUAM
J. D. VANCE
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
M. GARZA
SHOW ME THE MONEY!
FY2027
100


OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
Toughest Law Enforcers
HAGÅTÑA, GUAM

















Funded



ENFORCE LAWS YOU PASS
PROSECUTE MURDERERS, RAPISTS, ROBBERS, HOME INVADERS & OTHER DANGEROUS CRIMINALS



ASSISTANCE TO CRIME VICTIMS
CHILD SUPPORT FOR CHIDLREN
REUNITE KIDS WITH PARENTS
PROCESS GOVERNMENT CLAIMS
STOP GAS PRICE GOUGING & COLLUSION
IMPROVE LIFE ON GUAM
BALANCE POWERS BETWEEN GOV'T. BRANCHES
PROSECUTE CORRUPT OFFICIALS
REFORM DELINQUENT KIDS
PURGE CRIMINAL ALIENS



COLLECT MONEY OWED TO PEOPLE OF GUAM
STOP LAWSUITS THAT BANKRUPT GOV'T.
REDUCE CATCH, RELEASE & REOFFEND NUMBERS
PROTECT LIFE, LIBERTY & PROPERTY
PROVIDE LEGISLATURE & GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS LEGAL SERVICES
ISSUE LEGAL OPINIONS
. . . AND MANY MORE

Unfunded



LAWS PASSED NOT ENFORCED
CRIMINALS CREATE MORE PAIN & SUFFERING TO VICTIMS
NO CONTRACTS PROCESSED; LOSE FEDERAL FUNDS



NO CLAIMS PROCESSED
CONSUMERS GO UNPROTECTED
NO POLITCAL DETERMINATION
VIOLENT & NON-VIOLENT CRIMINALS RELEASED
SLOW ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE / COURTS
PUBLIC AUDITOR REPORTS NOT PROSECUTED
PEOPLE HAVE NO VOICE
NO TREATMENT COURT MOVEMENT
NO PROTECTION OF FEDERAL RIGHTS
UNCHECKED ILLEGAL GOVERNMENT SPENDING
JUDGMENTS BANKRUPT GOVT. CAUSING FEWER SERVICES



APPROPRIATIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES



















FY2027
BUDGET REQUEST

Office of the Attorney General of Guam



QUICK FACTS

Office of the Attorney General
FY2027 Budget Request

Current budget		**$22,405,958**
Requested budget		**$24,074,240**
Requested Budget Increase		**$1,668,282**
Breakdown[1]		
• Salaries	$273,579	
• Operations	$19,620	
• Utilities/Capital Outlay	$683,822	
• Child Support	$691,261	

No. of Attorneys Required	**96**
No. Attorneys in Office	**30**
No. of Attorneys NEEDED	**45**
Average Attorney Salary & Benefits	**15 x $165,000**
ACTUAL ADDITIONAL NEEDED	**$2,475,000**
Total Personnel	**163**
• Attorneys	**30**
• Staff	**133**
Criminal Jury Trial Wins Since Jan. 2023	**89**

1. Figures in the breakdown are rounded off.

A message from **Attorney General Douglas B. Moylan**



Hafa Adai Senators:

Herein contains our detailed budget request for Fiscal Year 2027, which remains substantially under budget in light of this community's need for legal services. The Supreme Court of Guam and our Guam Bar continues to reiterate Guam's severe lack of attorneys. Chief Justice Maraman characterized Guam's plight as "dwindling" numbers of attorneys in her May 1, 2026 State of the Judiciary Address.

Criminal prosecution remains the most important legal service to our client, yet child support, and civil legal representation in and out of Court for our People / government are just as significant to provide legal services & to save money to maintain and improve our People's lives. Our civil duties are too numerous to enumerate herein, but include approving and rejecting government claims, defending against money judgments that could bankrupt our government, ensuring children receive child support, advising government officials, reuniting kids with their parents in Family Court, keeping gas prices affordable and performing necessary notary administration functions to name a few. These legal duties all take money. Not paying for the attorneys, staff and operations will literally bring this community to its knees.

Prosecutors, attorneys and support staff cost money, and most attorneys cost in excess of $150,000.00 / yr. This 2027 Fiscal Year's request is only ~$1.6M more, to include keeping our ~$1.6M in lapses. With that money our community remains safe and existing government services continue. Although we require about 96 attorneys to do the legal work required of us, we will continue and increase performance with ~$3.2M to supplement our existing 30 attorneys and support staff.

Quite frankly, we are not asking for much compared with our Constitutional and vital role we play in maintaining and improving all our quality of life. Ask yourself, when in trouble . . . "Who ya gonna call?" I respectfully submit it will be the Attorney General and my team of dedicated legal professionals.

Douglas B. Moylan

DOUGLAS B. MOYLAN
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF GUAM

Table of Contents

FY26 vs. FY27 Budget	1
Projects & Programs	2
Prosecution	3
AG Moylan Matchups	4
AG Moylan Minute	5
AG Moylan Movie Matinee	6
5-Star Treatment Commitment	8
AG Moylan Purge	9
DHS ICE 287(g) Program	10
Deport Air	11
3Rs Project	12
Billboards	13
Changing Our Kids' DNA	17
Protect One Another Village Q&A	19
PanBusters	20
Staffing Trend	22

FY26 vs. FY27 BUDGET

Appropriation Classification	FY 2026 Authorized Level	FY 2027 Agency's Request
PERSONNEL SERVICES		
Regular Salaries/Increments/Special Pay:	12,263,054.10	12,823,685.00
Benefits:	5,267,708.18	5,211,807.00
TOTAL PERSONNEL SERVICES	17,530,762.28	18,035,492.00
OPERATIONS		
TRAVEL- Off-Island/Local Mileage Reimburs:	25,428.00	10,000.00
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES:	2,493,855.55	2,418,608.00
OFFICE SPACE RENTAL:	1,848,706.00	2,237,842.00
SUPPLIES & MATERIALS:	49,600.00	65,550.00
EQUIPMENT:	331,090.00	206,800.00
WORKERS COMPENSATION:	5,000.00	5,000.00
DRUG TESTING:	5,571.00	9,500.00
SUB-RECIPIENT/SUBGRANT:	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS:	71,120.00	84,800.00
TOTAL OPERATIONS	4,830,370.55	5,038,100.00
UTILITIES		
Power:	-	-
Water/ Sewer:	-	-
Telephone/ Toll:	31,148.00	28,648.00
TOTAL UTILITIES	31,148.00	28,648.00
CAPITAL OUTLAY	13,678.00	972,000.00
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	22,405,958.83	24,074,240.00

In summary, our proposed FY2027 budget is $24,074,240.00, which represents 1.67% of the Government of Guam's FY2027 budget of $1,440,926,482.00. As the largest law office on the Island with 30 attorneys and 133 support staff, our office continues to experience increasing operational demands. We are actively recruiting to fill additional attorney positions to better serve our client.

Our requested increase of approximately $1.6 million, or 7.45% over the FY2026 budget, is largely due to salary increases resulting from organic growth, as well as capital outlay, office rent and other related operational needs.



2026

PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

Making Guam A Good Place to Live



PROSECUTION

We're the Good Guys!

Guam's Toughest Law Enforcers continue to uphold the AG's commitment to protecting the People of Guam, aggressively prosecuting cases ranging from minor offenses to serious felonies. From drug-related crimes and violent offenses to complex white-collar schemes, this AG Douglas Moylan Administration targets criminals at every level to protect the community and allow crime victims to fight back.

Since January 2023, AG Douglas Moylan's dedicated team of Renegades have secured over 89 Jury Trial Victories, each one the result of tough prosecution that this AG was elected to deliver. Every conviction removes a criminal threat from our Villages and another crime victim receiving justice they deserve. These results reinforce a clear message: those who choose criminality will be met with a Tough on Crime AG who will work only towards securing a conviction and a harsh sentence. We . . . ***Go, Fight, Win!***





AG MOYLAN MATCHUPS

The AG Moylan Matchups: ***We Bag Em' & Tag 'Em for You!***

Reporting to our Client, the People of Guam, AG Douglas Moylan launched "The AG Moylan Matchups" (TAG'MM) to showcase this AG's courtroom victories and strengthen public awareness of our winning criminal trial record. Building on prior initiatives such as "The AG Moylan Minute" and "The AG Moylan Purge," this series presents jury trials as "matchups" between AG Moylan / the People of Guam versus criminal defendants.

With 89 jury trial wins to date, the AG's Office highlights each case outcome to reinforce deterrence against crime. **Through 24 reels released so far, TAG'MM actively documents both misdemeanor and felony convictions.** The series communicates how this *Toughest AG on Crime* secures convictions while ensuring our Client is informed of such wins. TAG'MM advances a clear mission: deter crime, allow crime victims to fight back, and keep the People of Guam fully informed on how this AG Douglas Moylan Administration delivers from one conviction to another.

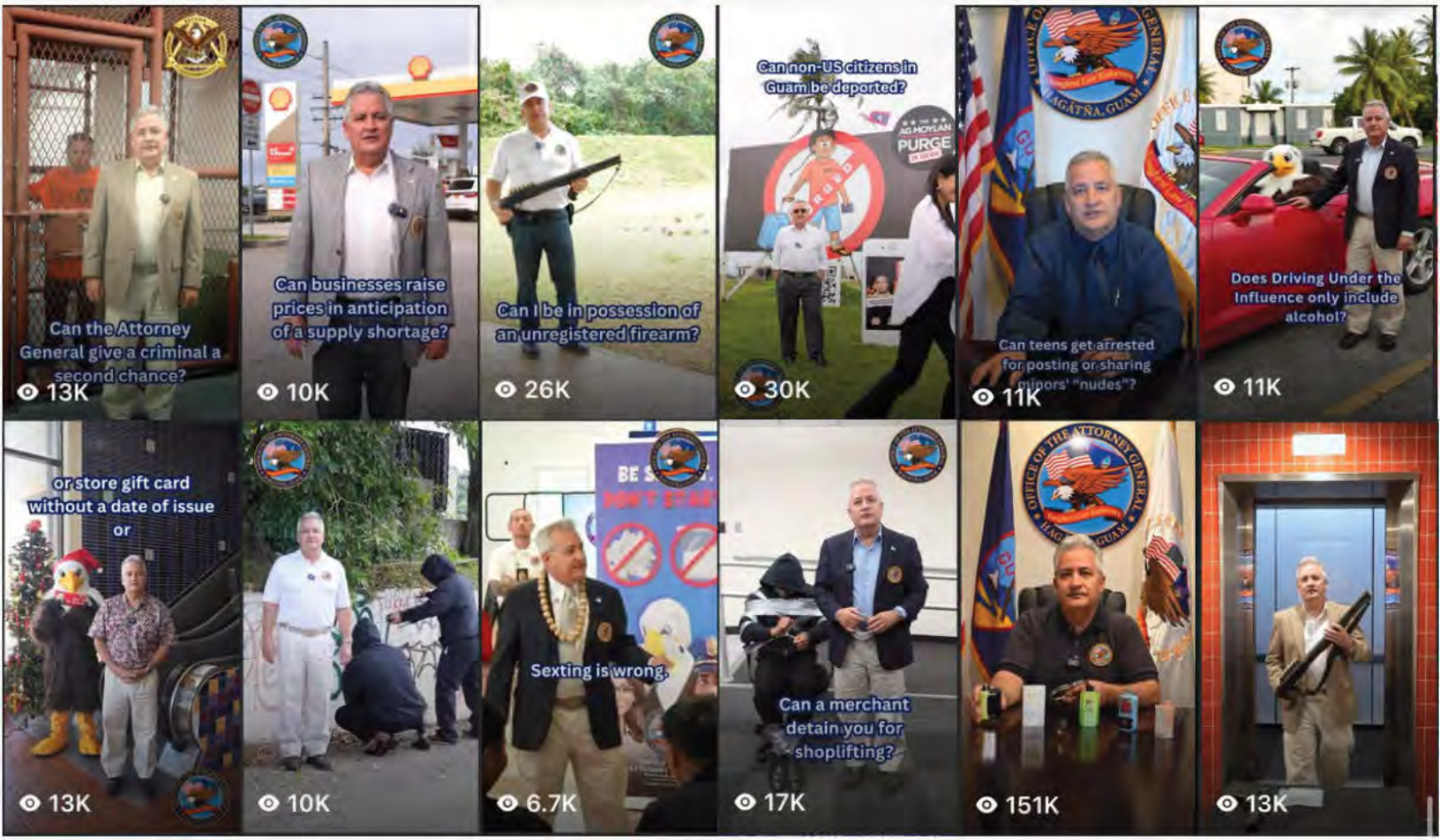
AG MOYLAN MINUTE

The AG Moylan Minute Brings Law to Your Homes.

You Ask, We Answer! From bold public messaging to direct, digital outreach, the AG Douglas Moylan Administration continues to redefine how the People's Attorney connects with his Client, the People of Guam. Building on the impact of our iconic billboards, the AG's Office has launched the AG Moylan Minute, a fast, no-nonsense video series delivering practical legal guidance in under a minute.

Since its rollout, more than 54 high-impact reels have been released, each cutting through legal complexity to answer real-world questions with clarity and purpose. The Client is the People, and service means both winning in court and educating the community with legal knowledge. Across every platform, this AG project's mission remains the same: equip the "common man" with the tools to know, assert, and protect their rights under the law.











AG MOYLAN MOVIE MATINEE

The AG Moylan Movie Matinee: Love Your Kids!

Coming to a Theater Near You! The AG Moylan Movie Matinee brings families for time together with an afternoon of movies & games strengthening parental bonds with their children. Under AG Douglas Moylan's "Love Your Kids" legal policy, the program engages Non-Custodial Parents and their children with positive time together, replacing distance and disconnection with good memories at the theaters, with 3 matinees so far and 215 parents and children that have joined in for the "Golden Ticket" experience.

In partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Access and Visitation Program, this AG initiative directly addresses "broken homes" by creating consistent, meaningful opportunities for reconnection that help ease children's feelings of abandonment. In this second-term, this AG's Child Support legal policy is simple: enforce the law firmly, but also build opportunities that strengthen the family.


The AG Moylan




Ko'Ko'
Express




OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
HAGÅTÑA, GUAM
The AG Moylan Movie Matinee
GOLDEN TICKET
DATE
FEB 21, 2026
TIME
1:00 PM (SHARP)
PLACE
MM THEATHERS
CINEMA 9
SERIAL NO.
THIS GOLDEN TICKET INSURES ADMITTANCE TO THE AG MOYLAN MOVIE MATINEE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
Love your KiDS
HAGÅTÑA, GUAM

AG MOYLAN'S 5-STAR TREATMENT COMMITMENT

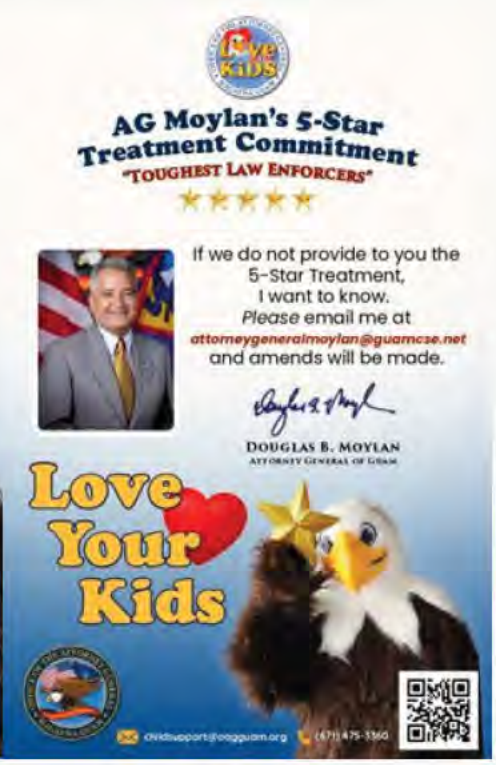
AG Moylan's 5-Start Treatment Commitment to Child Support Parents

Customer is King! AG Douglas Moylan implemented a major customer-service upgrade through its "5-Star Treatment Commitment" to parents receiving child support services. The AG's Office has streamlined child support processing to deliver quick and easy turnaround times from application intake to guideline calculation, court filing, and final order issuance. **Parents now receive clear, timely updates, now within 2 working days for guideline calculations and 1 business day for hearing notifications, ensuring they are consistently informed and never left in the dark.**

AG Douglas Moylan is setting firm internal performance standards that prioritize responsiveness, efficiency, and clear communication at every stage, all to serve our customers, the People of Guam. The AG's Office also encourages parents to provide direct feedback, ensuring continuous service refinement based on real customer experience. Together, these improvements reflect AG Moylan's goal of improving child support services to better serve families and promote "Love Your Kids!"







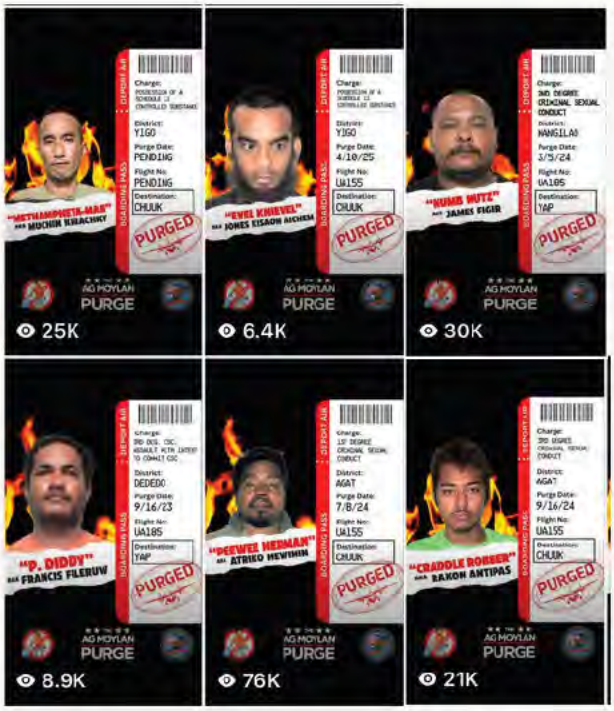
AG MOYLAN PURGE

The AG Moylan Purge: ***115 Criminal Aliens PURGED and Counting!***

AG Douglas Moylan, as the Chief Law Enforcement Officer for his Client, the People of Guam, advances a coordinated public safety and immigration enforcement effort focused on removing repeat offenders and criminal non-U.S. citizen offenders who threaten community safety. Working as a team with DHS/ICE, local law enforcement, the courts, and corrections, the AG's Office is pursuing the prosecution, incarceration, and deportation of criminal aliens who hurt us.

Since the start of the Administration, this effort has resulted in 115 confirmed deportations and cases in active removal processing. Our legal policy is clear: non-US citizen offenders who choose to commit crimes in Guam will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law and removed from the Island under an AG Douglas Moylan in Office. As we enter the final 12-months of this term, we are aggressively "amping-up" this signature AG program to protect the People of Guam.





DHS ICE 287(g) PROGRAM

The AG Moylan Purge Continues with ICE 287(g).

As a Tough on Crime / Law and Order AG, AG Douglas Moylan is furthering our immigration enforcement capabilities through the ***DHS ICE 287(g) Program***, in coordination with federal partners and in alignment with President Donald J. Trump's Administration. **11 AG Criminal Investigators now operate as federally-deputized immigration officers after receiving ICE credentials**, giving this AG the ability to identify, detain, and remove criminal non-U.S. citizen offenders.

This marks Phase II of the AG Moylan Purge, which actively disrupts repeat offender cycles and targets deportable criminal aliens in custody or subject to warrants and detainers. The program also reduces costs for the taxpayer in running a prison cell while reinforcing a clear deterrent message: criminal conduct by non-US citizens will result in aggressive prosecution and deportation. Under this AG Douglas Moylan Administration, Guam will not serve as a safe haven for criminal aliens.







DEPORT AIR

The Criminal Deportation Initiative, launched on August 21, 2023, enables pretrial and post-judgment defendants to undergo voluntary deportation, barring their reentry to Guam. On November 1, 2023, our "29 Deported and Counting" billboard was erected in Dededo, Barrigada and Agana. The subsequent "Deport Air" billboard, featuring 40 non-US criminals with ICE detainers, was unveiled on June 1, 2024. Almost three years later, the "Deport Air" initiative, now called The AG Moylan Purge continues to "amp up," with 11 AG Investigators now deputized as immigration officers under DHS ICE's 287(g) Program.









3Rs PROJECT

Repent, Reform & Respect: AG Moylan's 3Rs Diversion Project

Redemption Must Be Earned. AG Douglas Moylan, exercising his prosecutorial discretion under Guam law, launched a pilot project to extend to persons accused of certain crimes a limited "second-chance" opportunity to avoid criminal prosecution by demonstrating real change through action. As Chief Law Enforcement Officer for its client, the People of Guam, the AG's Office requires participants to complete restitution, perform approved "good acts," and contribute meaningfully to crime victims and designated community organizations.

Eligibility remains limited and selective, ensuring diversion is reserved only for individuals who show genuine commitment to reform and responsibility. This AG initiative strengthens public safety by reducing recidivism while reinforcing that second chances must be earned, not given. Ultimately, AG Moylan's 3Rs Diversion Project hopes to reward truly reformed individuals who conduct "good acts" and "hard work" with another chance to join our law-abiding community.

BILLBOARDS

We continue communicating with our client, the People of Guam, through our billboards. To date, the AG's Office has released **26** distinct billboard designs, each one shedding light on crimes and legal issues. On the spotlight this year are our ***Moylan Minute, Purge,*** and ***Parents Teach Respect*** billboards. These images paint a picture of the issues we face and are not (necessarily) intended to make us feel comfortable.














METH KILLS
METH IS POISON
METH IS DEATH
JOEY P.
2002 - 2024

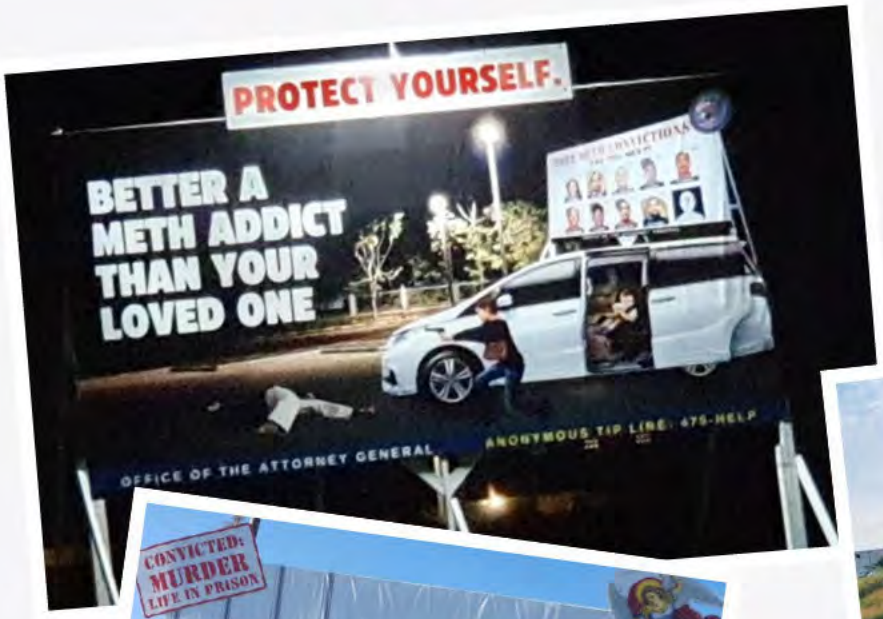

GOOD SAMARITANS
IN EVERY VILLAGE
BECOME ONE!
DEDEDO
YIGO


GIMME


GOVERNOR, HELP OUR PEOPLE.
UPDATE
GOV. TOOK HER LOGOS

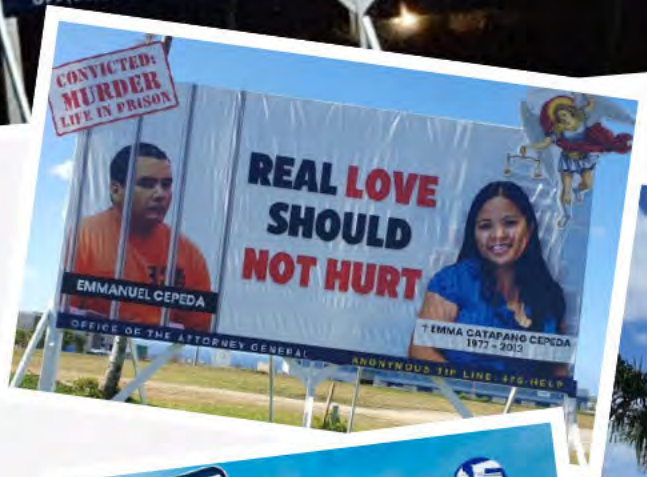

CRIME VICTIMS FIGHTING BACK!
50 TRIAL WINS AND COUNTING


GOVERNOR . . .
100%
METH INSPECTIONS
SAVES LIVES
METH KILLS


PROTECT YOURSELF.
BETTER A METH ADDICT THAN YOUR LOVED ONE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
ANONYMOUS TIP LINE: 475-HELP


YOU THE JURORS ARE PROTECTING US
We the People


DUI KILLS
HE LOST HIS LICENSE
SHE LOST HER LIFE


CONVICTED: MURDER LIFE IN PRISON
REAL LOVE SHOULD NOT HURT
EMMANUEL CEPEDA
† EMMA CATAPANG CEPEDA 1977 - 2013
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
ANONYMOUS TIP LINE: 475-HELP




CONGRATULATIONS. YOU WENT VIRAL!
JOSEPH, KDJ
SMCHS SANCHEZ STUDENT
CONVICTED: ASSAULT
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL


WE ARE VICTIMS OF CRIMINALS . . .
ARE YOU NEXT?
STOP
CATCH. RELEASE & REOFFEND


DEPORT AIR


Imagine a place for those in need . . .
MEAL • SHOWER • SLEEP • WORK
THE DIGNITY PROJECT


MURDER
LIFE SENTENCE
CONVICTED:
JANUS TABBADA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF GUAM


Pedophiles
Deserve
Prison
CONVICTED
30 years
Duayne Peters
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF GUAM


BREAKING NEWS
AG Wants
Children
To Succeed
Parents
Want In
LOVE YOUR KIDS
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF GUAM


Love Your Kids
Unconditionally.
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF GUAM


29 DEPORTED IN 2023
AND COUNTING...
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL


2023 METH CONVICTIONS
ARE YOU NEXT?
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



CHANGING OUR KIDS' DNA

Since launching in November 2024, we've brought the AG's *Changing Our Kids DNA* School Tour to **15 middle schools and high schools**, delivering an important message to our youth: ***Meth Kills and Be Smart, Don't Start.*** Through testimonials from former meth addicts, discussions with our attorneys and an exciting Question and Answer portion, we continue the fight against the deadly meth epidemic Guam is experiencing. For AG Moylan, to be with kids and teach them respect for the law and one another is the best use of our People's limited taxpayer resources.








"Toughest AG on Crime"




METH KILLS
BE SMART.
DON'T START.


"Toughest AG on Crime"
BE SMART.
METH KILLS





AG'S *PROTECT ONE ANOTHER* VILLAGE Q&A

The AG's Office is bringing crucial information directly to our client, We the People, through the **Protect One Another Village Q&A Outreach** series, equipping residents with knowledge of their rights under Guam's Castle Doctrine and Self-Defense laws. With successful events in 4 villages and more on the way, General Moylan and our team of attorneys and staff are reaching out to every community to share how they can lawfully protect themselves and their families. Beyond the legal presentation, these interactive sessions creates meaningful discussions between your Elected-AG and the People of Guam.















PANBUSTERS . . . everyone has to follow the law.

The AG PanBuster team was created in January 2025 to enforce the Anti-Aggressive Panhandling Law, 16 GCA § 3805(a). Our team of men and women in white suits patrol the streets of Guam, ensuring the safety of our drivers and pedestrians. As of May 2026, our PanBuster teams have issued a total of **110 tickets** to illegal panhandlers, sending a clear message: ***Get off our Roadways & Get A Job.***

OTHER ONGOING PROJECTS

Crime Victims Fighting Back

Anti-School Violence

Clearing of Homeless Encampments

Concrete Action on Road Damages

Load Shedding Accountability

Consumer Rights Awareness

Releasing Undistributed Child Support Funds (PL 37-100)

Awarding Good Samaritans

and many more . . .



STAFFING TREND



THE PEOPLE OF GUAM'S ELECTED LAW FIRM



TARGETS & PROJECTIONS

The Office of the Attorney General of Guam is a democratically-elected law firm created by Congress and Guam law. Based upon the May 31, 2024 Supreme Court decision, our projected 55 attorneys who might have done both criminal and civil legal work, has now been increased to 96 attorneys in order to service all the departments and agencies. An additional 56 Assistant AGs are still needed. This will require additional legal support staff, equipment & supplies and facilities for these attorneys. ***We are up to the task.***



ATTRACTING TALENT

Staffing the largest law firm on Guam with high-caliber attorneys, paralegals, investigators, legal secretaries and clerks is critical to fulfilling our mandate, but it's not an easy task. Even the Supreme Court of Guam recognizes the shortage of qualified attorneys on Island. The AG's Office Recruitment Team aggressively seeks the skilled attorneys needed to carry out AG Moylan's mission of Protecting the Public. Our efforts so far have brought in dozens of experienced, off-island attorneys to join our ranks, reinforcing this AG's promise to be the ***Toughest AG on Crime***, backed by his team of Renegades, the ***Toughest Law Enforcers***.



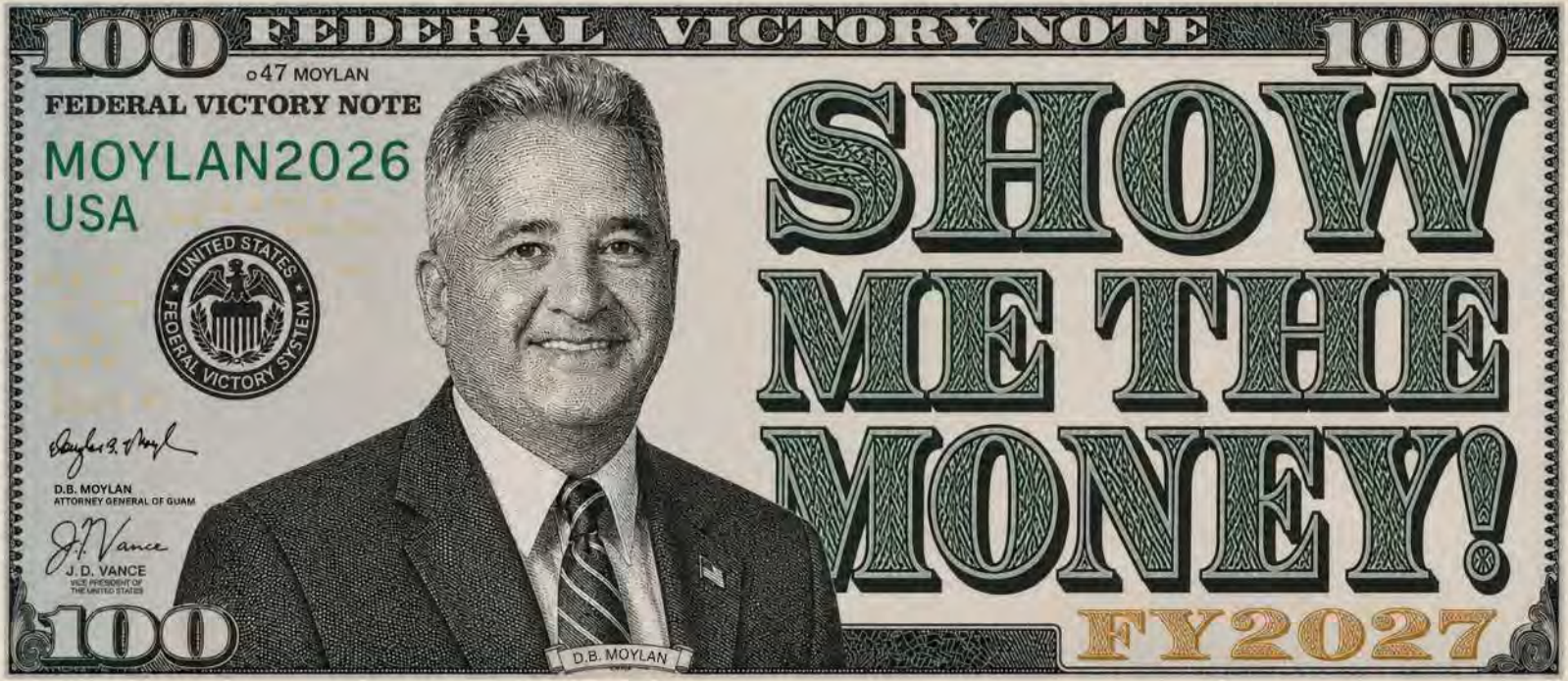

JOIN OUR TEAM!


THE SPOT!


ON THE SPOT!
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
DOUGLAS B. MOYLAN
"Toughest AG on Crime"
JOIN OUR TEAM!
Bank of Guam






100
FEDERAL VICTORY NOTE
100
o47 MOYLAN
FEDERAL VICTORY NOTE
MOYLAN2026
USA
UNITED STATES
FEDERAL VICTORY SYSTEM
D.B. MOYLAN
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF GUAM
J. D. VANCE
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
100
D.B. MOYLAN
SHOW ME THE MONEY!
FY2027


100 FEDERAL VICTORY NOTE 100
DJ47 TRUMP
FEDERAL RESERVE NOTE
TRUMP2024
USA
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
47
THIS NOTE IS NOT LEGAL TENDER
FOR ANY DEBTS, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE
DONALD J. TRUMP
J. D. VANCE
TRUMP4547
SERIES
2024
100
TRUMP

April 27, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Committee Chairs, 38th Guam Legislature
From: Chairman Christopher M. Dueñas
Date: April 27, 2026

Subject: Expedited Budget Schedule and Required Agency Coordination

Hafa Adai Colleagues,

This serves as a formal reminder that the Legislature will proceed under an expedited budget schedule, with the goal of passing the FY 2027 budget no later than **July 17, 2026**. Given this compressed timeline, your full participation is essential. Please ensure that any travel plans allow for your presence on island throughout the budget process.

I also reiterate my position as Chairman: **the use of carryover funds will be ruled out of order.** As highlighted in the FY 2024 audit, reliance on carryover funding contributes to structural imbalance. Our objective this cycle is to produce a conservative, fiscally sound budget grounded in recurring revenues and responsible appropriations.

To support this effort, each Committee Chair is directed to coordinate with the agencies under your jurisdiction and provide the following:

1. **Spending Capacity (Current Fiscal Year):**
   Confirm whether each agency is able to fully expend its FY 2026 appropriations.
   Agencies must understand that unspent funds will not be permitted to carry over.

2. **Annual Leave Liability:**
   Report the number of employees within each agency who are currently carrying more than 320 hours of annual leave.

3. **Performance-Based Budgeting (PBB) Readiness:**
   In anticipation of full PBB implementation in FY 2028, with trainings scheduled in FY 2027, provide the number of employees within each agency who will require PBB training.

Please submit this information to my office no later than May 8, 2026.

Kindly confirm receipt of this memorandum. Your cooperation is critical to ensuring that we meet our deadline and uphold our responsibility to deliver a balanced and disciplined budget for the people of Guam. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Senator Christopher M. Dueñas
Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations
38th Guam Legislature

Cc: Office of Finance and Budget
All Members, 38th Guam Legislature

To: The Honorable Members of I Liheslaturan Guåhan,
Honorable Frank R. Blas, Jr., Speaker,
Honorable V. Anthony Ada, Vice Speaker,
Honorable Sabrina Salas Mantanane, Senator and Legislative Secretary,
Honorable Jesse Anderson Lujan, Senator,
Honorable Christopher M. Duenas, Senator,
Honorable Telo T. Taitague, Senator,
Honorable Shelly Vargas Calvo, Senator,
Honorable Vincent Anthony Borja, Senator,
Honorable Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, Senator,
Honorable Tina Rose Muna Barnes, Ranking Member, Senator,
Honorable Chris "Malafunkshun" Barnett, Senator,
Honorable William A. Parkinson, Senator,
Honorable Sabina Flores Perez, Senator,
Honorable Joe S. San Agustin, Senator,
Honorable Therese M. Terlaje, Senator
From: Curtis C. Van de veld, Esq., Chief Prosecutor

Written Statement of Testimony in Support of Full Funding of the Office of the Attorney General.

The Office of the Attorney General (herein referred to as "OAG"), General Crimes Division (Comprehensively referred to as "General Crimes"), has 8 Superior Court Judges, and a Supreme Court of Guam whose docket we must appear, 9 courts. There are two defense organizations, the Public Defender Service Corporation (herein referred to as "PDSC") and its off-shoot, Alternate Public Defender (herein referred to as "APD") as adversaries as well as the private bar lawyers of Guam, whether court-appointed or hired who appear in cases filed by General Crimes.

While I am certain that the Senators are aware, and so too the public, General Crimes is the instrument through which persons arrested for criminal behavior are formally prosecuted for the crimes of their arrest. This burden is often affected by uncontrolled events, such as when crimes are committed, the number of crimes committed in any particular day, the burden to charge arrestees within 48 hours, the burden to go trial on asserted speedy trial rights cases within 46 or 60 days depending on the release status of a charged defendant, the availability of witnesses – including the overtaxed Guam Police Department which presently suffers shortages of staff, expert witnesses – some of which are off-island, a Law Enforcement Reports Management System ("LERMS") which has

experienced periods of malfunction, and unavailability of police reports, just to name a few of these conditions.

In order to meet the respective burdens of defense representation to which it is appointed, both the PDSC and APD have staff attorneys. PDSC has 18 staff attorneys (omitting the Civil Law Office attorneys) and APD has 6 (according to guambar.org). Together, these organizations represent about 60-70% of the persons for which counsel is appointed through disposition of the defendant's respective cases. The defendants in the remaining 30-40% of cases are represented by individual Guam Bar Members. The total of these attorneys just in these two organizations, PDSC and APD, which do not have the extensive burdens exclusively placed upon the OAG General Crimes, such as charging crimes, advising investigations by police, and proving the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt, employ 24 lawyers. Assuming that these organizations represent 70% of Defendants through trial and on appeal, the total of these numbers is 24. Extrapolating that number for an additional full-time number of lawyers for the remaining 30% of cases adds another 8 lawyers to the defense of criminal cases for a total of 34 lawyers handling adult and juvenile delinquency cases and appearing in the 9 courts. The OAG General Crimes employs a total of 15 lawyers, and the Family Division employs 3. This totals 18 lawyers to do more work than the comparable number of opposing full-time attorneys number of 34, 16 lawyers less by comparison. The Lawyers in General Crimes, because of the charging obligations and in order to prepare for trials, often work extensively on weekends. The job is burdensome and when any staff member is on leave or unavailable, the remaining team members of the staff pick up the load and get the work done. However, this is hardly a formula for prolonged success. Staff come and go frequently. Only 3 lawyers in General Crimes have a history in Guam longer than their employment with the OAG. These circumstances make the retention of staff limited to shorter terms of time. A few of the OAG lawyers employment is subject to federal grant funding. Most are employed through appropriations by the Legislature. The OAG General Crimes Division, if it were funded appropriately would employ another 16 attorneys. Recruitment is difficult and largely limited to people from the mainland. Should the Legislature fail to fully fund the OAG, and in particular the General Crimes Division, the reduction in appropriation will have catastrophic consequences. General Crimes experiences high turnover due to the extreme burden placed on General Crimes Attorneys. They don't seek hero status, just fairness in staffing allotment and the ability to eventually reach a comparative number to the adversaries within the judicial system which they must work harder to fulfill the burden the system places upon them.

In my 36+ years of practice of law in Guam, through former appointed and elected Attorneys General, it was a common event for large numbers of cases to go uncharged and

for people to be released on Citations/Notices To Appear and then nothing further happen and cases worthy of prosecution would get dismissed for failure to prosecute such as stated in the Guam Supreme Court Opinions of PEOPLE v. VILLAPANDO, 1999 Guam 31, PEOPLE v. PALOMO, 1998 Guam 12. However, many people were forced to waste their time going to the Court on the date set for them to appear, only to be told that there was no case filed. This unfairly burdened those people and is why the Guam Supreme Court held that failure to file by the date set for the persons appearance became a de facto limitation of action and ended the ability to prosecute. This is not a criticism of prior Attorneys General but an observation on a persistent problem Attorney General Moylan has sought to resolve.

Under the leadership of the Attorney General, the General Crimes Division charges almost all of the cases referred to this office from the Guam Police Department in order to protect the people of Guam from criminal acts. When a rare case arises in which the staff of General Crimes are unable to discern that the arrest is supported by sufficient factual support to move forward, the General Crimes staff instructs to release the person arrested to remove the burden on innocent members of the community of needless appearances lifting burden from the Judicial system.

I urge the Legislature to fully fund the employment of 34 Assistant Attorney's General for the OAG and most particularly the General Crimes and Family Divisions in order to provide a reasonable work environment. Of these 34, the number of lawyers will be shared between the General Crimes and Family Division whose staff are overburdened in providing the service needs of our adult and juvenile justice systems. The island's child welfare systems are not stabilizing, rather those systems are expanding. Please do not cut the OAG budget request. Doing so will place the safety of the community at risk and diminish the ability to properly prosecute those who do harm to others within the community and protect children. This is not just a budget decision; it is a policy choice about the kind of future we are building. Investing in the OAG today reduces crime, strengthens families, and creates safer communities. Due to the hard work and dedication of the staff at the Office of the Attorney General, we complete all the tasks that the system burdens the Office of the Attorney General to perform while using less resources than in past administrations. Please support the budget as proposed by Attorney General Douglas B. Moylan for the good of the PEOPLE OF GUAM.

QUICK FACTS

Office of the Attorney General
FY2027 Budget Request

Current budget		**$22,405,958**
Requested budget		**$24,074,240**
Requested Budget Increase		**$1,668,282**
Breakdown[1]		
• Salaries	$273,579	
• Operations	$19,620	
• Utilities/Capital Outlay	$683,822	
• Child Support	$691,261	

No. of Attorneys Required	**96**
No. Attorneys in Office	**30**
No. of Attorneys NEEDED	**45**
Average Attorney Salary & Benefits	**15 x $165,000**
ACTUAL ADDITIONAL NEEDED	**$2,475,000**
Total Personnel	**167**
• Attorneys	31
• Staff	136
Criminal Jury Trial Wins Since Jan. 2023	**89**

1. Figures in the breakdown are rounded off.

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

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

In accordance with Section 6.04(c)(1) of the Standing Rules of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* this committee digest provides a *summary* of the public hearing detailed below. To assist the general public in navigating this report please note that all bluehighlighted text contains hyperlinks. Clicking on these links will direct you to the corresponding referenced sections/documents. For any questions or assistance regarding this digest please contact our office at (671) 9899554 or email us at senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov.

BILL NO. 26638 (COR) – COMMITTEE ON RULES BY REQUEST OF I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30 2027 MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

I. OVERVIEW

Bill No. 26638 (COR) was introduced on **February 2 2026** by **Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* the Governor of Guam in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam** and was subsequently referred by the Committee on Rules to the **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** on **February 3 2026.**

The **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** convened a Public Hearing on Bill No. 26638 (COR) on **Thursday May 17 2026** at **9:00 AM** in the Guam Congress Building's Public Hearing Room.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Public Hearing Notices were posted to the Government Public Notices Portal and disseminated via electronic mail to all senators and all main media

broadcasting outlets on **Friday April 3 2026** (5Day Notice) and again on **Tuesday May 5 2026** (48Hour Notice).

SENATORS PRESENT
Senator Christopher M. Dueñas Chairman
Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane
Senator Telo T. Taitague
Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

ORAL TESTIMONY:
Douglas Moylan Attorney General of Guam OAG
Raymond Ilagan Deputy Director Division of Child Support OAG:
Tom Paulino Fiscal Officer OAG

WRITTEN TESTIMONY:
Douglas Moylan Attorney General of Guam OAG

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The public hearing for **Bill Number 266-38 (COR)** was called to order at **09:02 AM**

[Questions and Discussion] [*Begins at 00:02:00 and ends at 02:20:17*]

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: *Manana Si Yu'os.* Good morning and welcome to the 38th Guam Legislature The people's house and thank you for being here this morning. This morning we will be conducting a public hearing on the budget request from the Office of the Attorney General. And so thank you all for being here. This morning's budget hearing is conducted by the Committee on Finance and Government Operations and is called to order at this time 09:02 on Thursday May 7th 2026.
First notice of this public hearing was disseminated to all senators and media outlets on April 3rd 2026 with its second notice disseminated on May 5th 2026. 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 bill on the agenda: BILL NO. 266-38 (COR) – COMMITTEE ON RULES BY REQUEST OF I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30 2027 MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The focus of this session hearing once again is the budget request of the Office of the Attorney General. At this time I would like to welcome my colleagues who are joining us this morningSenator Telo Taitague who is the oversight for the Attorney General's office. we have Senator Shawn Gumataotao and Senator Jesse Lujan.

Thank you colleagues for joining me this morning. 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 recordkeeping purposes.

Questions and testimony shall be confined to the substance and the nature of the bill that's before us. Personal inferences to as to the character or motive of any of any senator or individual testifying is not permitted. The chairperson of the committee may order the removal from this hearing of any member of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* public audience who fails to observe decorum pursuant to the 38th Guam Legislature standing rules.

Any violation of the general rule of conduct will result in immediate removal from this public hearing room. With that we'll now proceed to the bill on the agenda and I will recognize our attorney general Attorney General Monan to make an opening statement. But before we do that General are you having all of your members that you've brought forward seated with you to testify today?

Douglas Moylan Attorney General of Guam OAG: Yes. They will all be answering questions. I will be making the opening statement and then maybe the chief prosecutor will make a short comment as well.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Okay. in that case we'll have all of you rise and anyone that may be supporting that may testify please rise. It is customary and our rules to have folks sworn in for public hearings that involve fiscal matters.
Sergeant at Arms please proceed.

Edward Pocaigue Sergeant at Arms: Under penalty of perjury do you affirm that any and all information you provide today whether it be verbally electronically and

in writing be the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth? Mr. Chair I yield. Thank you sorry. You may proceed.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Appreciate you. General please introduce your panel or have them introduce themselves however you wanna do it and then proceed with your opening statement and your budget request.

Douglas Moylan Attorney General of Guam OAG: Thank you. If I may Mr. Chairman stand as I'm doing this.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Sure.

Douglas Moylan Attorney General of Guam OAG: Just for the opening statement. Thank you.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Sure.

Douglas Moylan Attorney General of Guam OAG: *Håfa Adai* Chairman Chris Duenas our Oversight Chairwoman Telo Taitague Senator Jesse Lujan as well as Vice Speaker Tony Ada and Senator Sean Gumataotao. to my left I've brought today to the testimony on Bill 26638 our 4D Sophia Geisner Child Support Director OAG Deputy Chief of Staff Anna Nicole Perez Comptroller Dulce Taladoc to my right I have the Chief Prosecutor Curtis Vanderbilt Deputy Neil Bonavita from the General Crimes and Deputy Leigh Miller which handles our solicitors' work. Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today in order to explain and to justify why we believe that the essentially a $1.6 million increase in our budget would be appropriate.
And I am assuming and I don't wanna be presumptuous in that assumption that we would be able to maintain our 1.6 million in lapses which we believe are justified based upon the unique circumstances of what the Attorney General's Office is and what this elected office represents and can do for our legislature and our people of Guam.
Briefly as you know the attorney general's office and the attorney general is an elected constitutional officer created by the Congress in 48 USC Section 1421 GD1 and regulated by Guam law including to the extent that it's a democratic office like yourselves. and I do want to acknowledge and appreciate our oversight chairwomen and every senator in the last budget hearing that allowed the elected attorney general which was created in the 1998 congressional legislation the ability to put together a team in order to do the people's work.

Unlike other departments the attorney general's office is the chief legal officer of the government of Guam and that's that magic language that Congress created but also is the chief law enforcement officer for our people. Unlike other law firms the attorney general's office is the only group of lawyers that can enforce our criminal laws.

No other private law firm no other entity on Guam has that austere duty to do that.

In asking the question why we should be funded I think and and I've done a little bit of a dramatic effect my team has put this together. We wanted to dumb it down for us and for everybody listening to us that those words "Who you gonna call?" affects all parts of our lives whether we're elected leaders whether we're judges senators governor but more so every person in our community.

When faced with a problem whether in your personal life or in the public life that we're holding here lawyers are always the people that are the technicians and logisticians in order to solve legal problems. From child support problems to divorces to even the disposition of property in our lives a lawyer is always the key to understanding what the rules are and we are a nation of laws as we all know.

From the attorney general's office perspective there's eight divisions that I've created that by definition tell us all the importance of the attorney general's office. We have the General Crimes Division. We have the Government Corruption Division which I would kind of dovetail into the news article about how the legislature is now gonna delve into the 22 million on trying to identify where that money went.

The Child Support Division our Family Division and that Family Division is a closed proceeding but deals with literally every voter's life in some way because they're the ones that deal with the raising of children if kids are being brought into the Department of Youth Affairs or the police department on some juvenile matter to kids being taken away from their parents because of the meth epidemic that's going on right now to the Solicitor's Division which is gonna be a big part of our conversation I think today on what will happen if we fund or do not fund the AG's office.

The Civil Division which I like to call the protectors of the public interest. Those are the ones that step back away from representing government departments and look at those bigger questions like the hospital for instance. is the right of the governor to be the chief executive interfering with the right of the Guam Legislature to appropriate money and to decide key questions about the type of debt that the people of Guam will incur?

To consumer protection and right now with the Iran war going on we're very concerned about the gas prices and Guam's unique location isolated location and how the gas prices are affecting each one of us not only on the fuel that we put in our vehicles but also what's gonna hit us next is the residential power rates in addition to the commercial power rates which the government and you senators will

need to be possibly appropriating more money to pay for the fuel 'cause we're still in that that problem area.

To the appellate and writing division these eight divisions of the attorney general's office sum up what exactly we do for our people for our government and what we offer and why we believe why I respectfully submit the $3.2 million million which is 1.6 allowing for lapses and then 1.6 additional other things that I'd like to highlight as a law firm every lawyer and this is applicable also to the doctors the physicians and the accountants.

You've heard I've heard the public auditor talk about how difficult it is to not have enough accountants. And again the $22 million investigation that is about to be conducted by the legislature it's driven by yourselves as senators. it's driven by the accountants the certified public accountants that are able to take the numbers and to show what's happened with the money to the attorneys at the end of the equation to process it and to see what laws may have been break broken or may not have been broken.

In our summary here I respectfully submitted into the record and it was put together by my staff showing you senators as well as our people what 12 months of funding us has given to our our community to our client. And I guess that's where we differentiate from other officials that have come before you.

The elected attorney general isn't under the Governor. You senators made the elected attorney general directly accountable to the people. But as an attorney as with a doctor that has a patient an attorney has a client. There's no way around that and the elected attorney general is no different than any private attorney.

It's just that my client is all of us that are in this room and all of us that are out in the community. But no difference that there is a client

In the AG's office the top principal attorney is that elected attorney general and may dovetail into some of your questions later I am the ultimate unclassified employee. I am the ultimate temporary employee and my term is for four years. The attorneys that are under me are expensive. and because of the economic curve with fewer attorneys in a community the price goes up.

Supply demand. There's no difference. Even on the meth industry it's always driven by supply and demand. I don't care if you're a communist or a capitalist. There's a reality in life and that's the reality. In the State of Judiciary Address on May 1st by our Chief Justice Katherine Merriman what caught my ear was that word dwindling. Dwindling attorneys and this has been known since 2022 that Guam doesn't have enough attorneys. Now most of us would say that's probably a good thing right? Attorneys cause trouble. Attorneys are the ones that are usually behind a lot of trouble. But the point is when we look at it from a constructive point of view that the attorneys in the AG's office because there's not enough attorneys on Guam and again recognized by our Guam Supreme Court since 2022 and nothing has changed and in

fact I believe it's gotten worse to bring those attorneys into Guam and that's the primary source for the last three and a half years that I've been the attorney general it costs our people more to bring them in than you would normally have if we had sufficient attorneys But that's not the the end of the equation that it's costing more.
To find the attorneys and all you need do is open the newspaper it is shocking to see as I was growing up in the 1990s and so forth to see Guam's quality of life is and I use that word it's going it's literally and excuse the language going down the toilet. It really is. The question what do you do at night anymore?
What do you do with your loved ones in order to enjoy Guam? Going to a beach is not simply enjoying Guam. DFS the Agana pool the going into every village and seeing all those junk cars all over the place seeing all the meth addicts that are either in stolen vehicles or in now bikes running 24/7 committing crimes and we've seen that recently with the GPO incident with the Korean murder the Korean tourist murder.
The quality of life is going down. So how do you sell to attorneys on the mainland that that have all these resources to bring these attorneys in? That's been the problem. To find the attorneys to recruit them into Guam has been a tremendous problem for the attorney general. I literally every morning at 7:00 am interviewing people from the States because I have an amazing team that has hit every state every bar throughout our United States in order to recruit them and our numbers show it.
We have been maintaining and currently we have 30 attorneys. We need at least 50 but in order to do all the work required of us we need 96. Okay. So what do you do when you don't have enough money you don't have enough attorneys? You gotta think outside the box and I will respectfully submit that we have done more with less.
And I do get it I understand money is difficult to appropriate and you gotta justify it. So attorney paralegal investigator law clerks then you got the materials the supplies the rental office space all that goes to a figure that we're gonna ask for. We've asked for it. and thank you senators for the last budget year.
We're able now to have an Agana office down here. and I believe and I saw the public auditor the other day and I said that I believe that the attorney general's office pays the most rent of any department in this government. We have about 163 to 170 staff and we're located in two different offices now the ITC and the the old Bank of America, Bank of Hawaii building.
In the equation of being able to hire attorney and as you senators are aware management is very difficult. Okay? So what is the what is the the easiest way for me to to relate this? Why is it that President Trump they tried to convict him for the two years before he became president again? And why is it.
And the president answered this question. Why is it that everybody's trying to kill him? Literally our president of the United States. The president's answer to that

question was he was bringing in what the people wanted. He's doing he's making change. And when I ran in 2022 I promised to make change.

Elon Musk summed it up when he said "We're effectuating the will of the people." I make no bone about it. I am not an attorney general that keeps quiet and doesn't give an opinion on things. I think that the free expression and the ability to freely talk brings things to the top of the like our billboards it brings things to the top of the forefront and it causes Frustration is a word.

It causes an uncomfortable feeling when you see those billboards. In the brochure my team literally put in and I think we're at we identified 26 distinct billboards that were put out there covering that scope of the eight divisions that I was talking about. These are not just criminal billboards putting criminals up there.

They talk about parentchild relationships. They talk about the the the education function of the attorney general to our client out there the the Moylan Minute the problem with the meth in our in our epidemic that's going on right now the homeless the panhandlers the problem we're having with nonUS citizen criminals.

This is the type of comprehensive coverage the attorney general's office provides to our community and this is the basis in which we are respectfully asking to maintain the money that was given to us and then also to have 1.6 million. Now one of the problems with not giving us the money so that I have money in the bank at least I'm assuming that and now hearing that there's possible moving around by the governor and the administration that we really didn't have the money in the bank.

You can't make a phone call and recruit an attorney without having money to pay that attorney when they come in. One of the things that we're probably gonna get into not only has since the this whole medical complex issue has come to the forefront the governor has intentionally interfered with my ability to spend the 2026 appropriation.

Carol Baulos is on the verge of suing the people of Guam and the attorney general's office and she's an attorney that I hired back in 2023 and under contract helping out our child support division many of the people in child support who are here. She literally stopped providing services I think about a month or two months ago because we had owe owed her I believe it's in excess of 100 100,000.

Literally this person has been working since 2023 under that same contract and is now no longer providing services to our client and the child support custodial and noncustodial parents and the kids but literally is gonna be suing us. So I'm gonna have to take one of the attorneys one of the civil attorneys in my office go into court attend the hearings in order to get the money that you gave us.

So we've got logistical is excuse me issues where we may. And by the way I think our lapses the projection right now I believe is 13 million about 13.6 million that we're projecting to burn up. But even that money is gonna turn out to be a lapse

because if the department administration doesn't pay these people that are owed the money then we're gonna have more of a lapse.

So I'm assuming we're best case scenario we'll have 1.6 million in lapses. I can't hire the lawyers that I need without 1.6 million so it becomes a chicken before the egg argument and I respectfully ask that you put the money in our account so that I can go start October 1 continuing to make my phone calls so that I can bring the lawyers in what you'll also hear by the way for our investigators we've been working with you senators to ease up on the post rules so that we can bring in more law enforcement type officers and I know that's a big discussion in Guam Police Department not having enough people and so forth.

So I would ask respectfully ask our senators to please consider the environment in which this attorney general has been operating. Realize that just because I hire somebody doesn't mean that they're the best of the best. And to work in a controversial law firm and I respectfully put it on the table this is a controversial law firm.

If you want to work for Attorney General Douglas Moylan and my team here you need to be strong enough you need to be dedicated enough and I use that word dedicated. All of you senators the governor the mayors you hire people in your office that will support you will fulfill your promises and yes will vote for you if asked "Do you support this attorney general?

Do you support this senator? Do you support this governor?" Everybody up at Adelup right now if they were to be asked a question "Do you support this governor?" And they said "No " you're fired. I'm sorry. I've been here 35 years as an attorney. I've worked in all three branches of government. I've sat in the Legislative Council's office for six years in the old building.

When you work for an elected leader no question because how can we do what we promised during an election without having a staff of dedicated people that aren't gonna look at you sideways and say "I don't agree with you Mr. Attorney General"? That goes up to the attorney level. If you don't agree with the attorney general then don't work in his law firm.

If you don't agree with the doctor don't work in the doctor's clinic. If you don't agree with the accountant don't work in that accounting accounting firm We're professionals. The attorneys to my right we are answerable to the judges. We can be ethically sanctioned and you've got an attorney general here that doesn't need this job.

I don't need this job. Every attorney on Guam I think it's what $500 an hour now to hire an attorney? I could be making my retirement just working for two years in our in our public. All the government departments that are hiring attorneys right now under private contracts those sorts of things that's the discussion that's going on because we don't have enough attorneys.

So everybody here at this table we're not getting any richer because we're going after those meth addicts. We're not getting any richer because we're going after the panhandlers. We are public servants in the true sense of the word and I thank all my staff. And I sent out a a very blunt email just the other day and I copied it to everybody.
And for all those guys that think they can leak information out of a law firm leak that one because I called it like it was. Don't work for this law firm because all of us are together helping our community. And I thank each one of these people that take the time today and yes they are being paid for the medias.
They're on government salaries because they are protecting their right to come before you and express their productivity for our community as an elected law firm for the people. So with that I apologize. I'm a little bit loquacious here but I think it needs to be said and I'll submit at that. Thank you.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* Attorney General Moylan. I want to once again recognize those that have joined us before as we opened. Vice Speaker and Vice Chair of this committee Vice Speaker Tony Ada thank you for being here. Senator Perez thank you for joining us as well. just a few comments from myself before I move to my colleagues.
First of all thank you for attending the prebudget hearing so that we could get an idea of where things are. just to be clear 'cause I want the other senators if they haven't researched this yet to kind of get an idea maybe as part of their questions. So General and we're just going off the CRER right now which is really the only thing we can use and it's a document produced to track revenues.
So in fiscal year 2025 your actual lapses were 5,882,780. for 2026 as of March was 5,200,158 and then I believe you represented when you came before the commit the committee in prebudget was your intention is to bring that down to 2 million going forward somewhere around.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: I believe 1.6.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Okay to 1.6. Okay. So we'll watch that progress. And then the request as I can see it just so that we're clear sometimes this becomes a question and maybe I'm just gonna start with this so that it does it's not confusing to other senators. What looks to be very productive is in fiscal year '25 your level at federal match under child support was just about 4 million.
and and then it went up to 400 four excuse me 4,000,250 so a slight increase but of course respectable at that with 25, 000 about 255,000 more. And then we see a very handsome movement here and maybe I'll just get that on the record real quick with

the child support division. at 1.9 million increase in federal match bringing your grand total to 6.194.
That is federal funds for child support division. Can we just make sure we get that on the record so that my colleagues understand that that's not a general fund increase but it's an increase of what you've been able to acquire for the purposes of federal match and administering the program.
Can we just get that on the record?

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: Hi good morning.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Good morning. Yeah identify yourself please

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: My name is Dulce Taladoc.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: 'Cause we keep a record. Okay thank you.

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: I'm the acting controller for the AG's office. So for the federal match we for 2026 we have 2.2 million and then we for 2027 FY 2027 we asked of course there's an increase because our local funding is also increased.
So it goes to 3 million for FY 2027 for our child support.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Okay so your anticipation is though to get the 1.9 a a additional for the administration of the program?

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: Yes sir.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Okay. Okay. Other than that I would just reiterate once again just as a benchmark of where we are for the for our colleagues and we just we like to go through this budget digest in the just in the general numbers so that also we have a primer.
So your fiscal year 2025 and this is basically how you closed the year in 2025 of expenditures and encumbrances was 20,489,000. Your fiscal year 2026 authorized level is 26,656,337. and of course you did have a increase like I said slight increase in federal match. Your fiscal year '27 request is 30,268,281 with a variance from the '27 level to the '25 actual expenditure of 9.778 million and a variance for 2027 request versus 2026 authorized level of 3.61194.
You know this is, we this year we made sure we got the reserve released so that there's no question about what the governor's office is requesting for your office so that we benchmark what the legislature's gonna finally do in the final analysis versus

the request. The governor's request for 2027 is 22,126,000 with a variance of 8,141,000 to the negative to the attorney general's office.
So we just need to put all those numbers on the record so we kinda know what we're talking about in terms of the prior going forward. So my understanding is that because of the federal match increase where we land on the actual request for the 3.6 is really An attempt to build into the budget The lapses carry over because just so it's clear we're not singling out the Attorney General's office. We have been found to and we must now by the public auditor's reports and the public audits that have been coming out discontinue the carryover of lapsed funds.
That has created a kind of a false premise in terms of funding availability and has caused an auditing problem in terms of how agencies can use money And just skewed the whole budget process in terms of accountability. It's almost impossible I guess is what it's coming down to to take a prior year lapse fund.
Let's just use raw numbers for now. You got 10 million here. You're authorized. You only spent nine. You got one million left over. You carry that in. You get another 10 million this year so now you got you know 11 million for this year 'cause you carried over that million. Problem is is that that's not really what's in the budget and when you start benchmarking an audit against that it gets confusing in terms of what are we talking about?
Are we talking about this fiscal year and what's authorized as a level? So it looks like what you've done is you've And I just get this clarification from either your fiscal or you General.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Mmhmm.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: You've basically said carryover lapses meaning my request is 3.6 million 'cause I'm putting it in as a general fund request.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: That is correct. I understand what you've just indicated there and I respect that. Okay. And I was told that even in the 2026 fiscal year that we did not get the lapses approved. What happened was it's just an additional appropriation. So whether we look at it as carrying over lapses or we just ask respectfully for an additional amount of 3 point 3plus million to our budget that's how we're coming before you today.
Okay. We're projecting figures midstream and our projection is 1.6 million we will not burn up and then we're asking for 1.6 million so Our figure was 3.2 I believe.
Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Yeah. And that's why I wanna be clear that you know I mean I think we all just have to make sure that we're we're making the right representations.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Yes.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: And so that way we don't get caught up in the you know if you don't give me my prior year what it. To me what it comes down to is this is my budget request which means it sounds to me like what's happening and what you've represented to us is your biggest issue with the inability to spend your money is is between yourself and the Department of Administration not your inability to spend the money.
Is that what's here? Is that's what going on here?

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Thank you. It's multifaceted but yes you are correct in identifying there we run into this problem that we have money given to us and we can't spend it. It's like Pretty Woman right? I got all this money and nobody wants to sell me anything. But in addition to that what I me just mentioned the environment for lawyers is difficult for me to spend it but when I do get it I've gotten five lawyers in within two weeks because of whatever that's.
It's freezing in the States more people are picking up the phone and wanting to move. Whatever the case is it's just a hit or miss. Sometimes we're getting a lot of lawyers wanting to to come over to the AG's office and so that's another factor. and then the additional one is as I said to have a performing law firm and to set a high bar.
We got people that come in that just can't cut it. They can't cut working for this office so they're either going home or we're they're. I've got the public defender grabbing my lawyers that I'm bringing in. That's shocking to me that I'm bringing in people to Guam and then they're jumping the ship and going on the defense bar side.
So that's the type of management issues that I'm dealing with. And again I make no bone about it. It's hard working for me. I'm not gonna hide it because I have a high standard. I want my lawyers to win. To those those eightynine jury trial wins since I took office They took a whole team to do that from the lawyers the good prosecutors that can convince the jury that this person's a criminal and should should be convicted to the investigator to the paralegal to the clerk to the process officer.
That's what I have faced since coming into office. So there's there's several reasons Mr. Chairman that are adding to this and when you lose somebody that moves off to the public defender's office or goes back to the States which I literally have had in the last 30 days one of our attorneys we brought in for the civil division he says that "Hey it's tough living here.
I'm gonna go back home." You know? So but what that does to the accountants is it starts making a "Okay we thought we were gonna spend this month but then it becomes less. But then I got the money again to hire another attorney bring him into Guam " that sort of thing. So it's in that backdrop and I believe Mr. Miller will

comment the chief prosecutor will comment on that moving figure that I'm experiencing as a manager of the office trying to give you a straight answer.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Yeah no I and we and pardon me I have to do this because there was there's high visibility on this particular hearing and so I wanna make sure we're clear.
Okay? I mean high visibility on all of them but you know there's some contention here which is fine. That's that's the process. But I wanna make sure we lay the groundwork so that our our our panel understands you know where we are exactly. So that sounds to me maybe we can go there.
It sounds to me like that's contractual on on on the most part because your fixed costs to me look stable. And everybody I think here other than contracted attorneys is under fixed costs. So I don't see classified service in terms of at least my initial brush being affected here simply because of the fact that that's that's a fixed cost as opposed to contractual.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Since last year we've been hiring unclassified employees. So the I think that addresses that that issue to some extent.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Okay.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: But also Mr. Chairman I've got a lot of the I hired a lot of these people 20 years ago. They literally were still in the office when I I became the attorney general in 2023.
Most of them are retirees already. They're they're talking to me about "Hey I'll stay till the end of your term but I'm already five years past my retirement. I'm going to the States " stuff like that. So yeah we're and that taps our budget because then it becomes a a retirement figure that we're gonna be paying in addition to have to hire a replacement for them.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Okay. Yeah I just I just you know I mean I I wanna if anything I wanna walk away with today is that we're gonna be stable. We're gonna make sure that the the the funds available to pay the fixed cost of the staff and benefits and associated contractual which means your office your your utilities your supplies everything else I mean you're you're never gonna get a no answer on that from myself.
I don't believe of any other senator. I think where we'll be where we'll be looking at and and and and understanding where you're coming from Is that essentially the request so that it's clear because it can only be one or the other. And the reason why

we're setting this this this hard rule is that so that every agency that comes before us can't say "Hey well wait a minute.
You gave them their lapses " right?

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Right.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: But So the idea here is if you're. Let's be clear. Their budget request is an increase in this year's appropriation. If it hends up it ends up being somewhere in the neighborhood of what you might have been lapsing that means that's your new general fund appropriation not necessarily.
So that so that we're speaking the same language.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Correct. And unlike the other departments like I kind of pointed out they're not looking for lawyers. We are the central database the central repository for lawyers. So for every department that came before you they're not saying we need to go recruit lawyers.
I'm the only one saying that and I need the money in the bank. And that's why if you look at 2022 forward we've always ended with lapses and not only because I don't go into the red personally I never allow my staff to spend more than we have. But even more than that we can't spend our money. That's why I say remember Pretty Woman when she's in that store and says "I got all this money but nobody wants to sell me something"?
I've got all this money that you guys have given me through the last three years but I can't spend it because we don't have the lawyers.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Right.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: I would love to have a staff of 50 lawyers. Think about what we could do with that. But Yeah. We don't have the money or I'm sorry we don't have the lawyers to hire them.
So chicken before the egg you need to give I respectfully suggest submit we need to have the money. And that money you can't just limit me by what our figures are showing right now because I can't make a phone call and say "Please come in so I can hit my target of 45 attorneys." And that's not even the the support staff.
When I'm I'm saying 45 I got 30 now. I'm want only talking for the next 12 months 15 more lawyers. We're not talking about the paralegal that I'll have to hire to help that lawyer anything else. So really quite frankly I'm probably looking at maybe 12 more lawyers and then the rest of the money would be used for support staff and then the efficiencies that we can create in the office.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: So when we're talking about these unclassified when we're we're talking about the attorneys are these contracts that are routed or are you just able to hire unclass straight away with under your signature?

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: There's two. Unclass under my signature. We bring them in under the the personal action like an employee and then you have your
Like Carol Baulos' situation was by contract. We have a lot of the retirees that were on contract. there there's a few of them that I that we've hired on contract. That's the one the governor's holding up with DOA despite having approved it for the last three years. It's an intentional undermining of the office

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: So I hope to my colleagues and you know thank thank you for understanding and I know the the oversight chair's been through a number of this and so I'm gonna allow the chair the discretion.
Would you like to last or would you like to go now? It's it's it's it's up to you. Okay. So we have done a lot of work in terms of working with your office and I have asked you know very respectfully to my colleagues that we are here to focus on the budget. You are very prolific in terms of your information about what your office is doing. General I don't think anybody needs to wonder what you're up to so I don't think we need to be asking about your programs today. We are honing in on the budget and for that reason I wanna maintain the efficiency of this. And and and at least until unless there's something super compelling we'll use the clock at five minutes for direct questions associated to the budget so oversight chair Senator Telo Taitague you're recognized.
Senator Telo Taitague: Thank you Mr. Chair. Before you start my time I just wanted to recognize the hardworking individuals at the attorney general's office. You've put up with a lot of stuff and it's not just these people in this room but there's other people outside in the lobby I was able to to see through the door that they're here standing in full support to be here.
That really is a very tough position that you're in. You're getting pushed back quite a bit but you're standing your ground and that's important because we know that you're fighting for the people. It's all about fighting for the people of Guam and keeping our island our home safe. So I just wanna recognize every And I'm seeing so many new faces Mr. Chair at the attorney general's office the younger generation the next generation that's stepping forward. And you see these individuals sitting in front to teach that institutional knowledge to those who have been here for a long time and there is quite a bit that are retiring out and leaving island which is
Can you hold off on my thing? On my Just wanted to recognize the attorney general's office first so to not put it as my time. We are being timed so I'm gonna be try and

be as fast as I can on that. But I just wanted to recognize them first and thank you so much. *Un Dangkolu yan Si Yu'os Ma'asi* for all your hard work.
Stay the course. Stay the course. So the first question I have is regarding the timeline for a review of contracts because it's not just you know fighting crime and having these commissions child support. You also deal with the government of Guam procurement and that means also reviewing contracts.
So Mr. Attorney General can you tell me how many of those contracts that you have to review and a lot of times were were held up because of the attorney general. Can you explain what this hold is?

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Yes I can. Thank you Madam Chairwoman. I'm gonna have Deputy Lee Miller address that from solicitors.

Lee Miller, Deputy of Solicitors, OAG: Mr. Chairman senators iin the year beginning April twenty twentyfive through April 2026 the Solicitor's Division which is the division that that reviews procurements memorandums of agreement federal grant agreements things of that nature in total received 661 requests for review.
we completed review on four hundred and eighteen of those six hundred and sixtyone matters which means today there are approximately 240 open matters. in complete candor I can't tell you within that universe of 240 open matters some of those are in the process of of dialogue back and forth between our office and the agency in other instances the agency initiated a procurement initiated a review but has changed direction and I don't have enough staff to follow up and say "We haven't heard from you in six months. What's going on with that file?" So in our view we think today we have about a 150 to a hundred 175 open active matters.

Senator Telo Taitague: On top of that how many attorneys do you have assigned to any of the other agencies?
You know this is saving the government of Guam a lot of money this this office is by assigning attorney generals instead of these agencies hiring attorneys.

Lee Miller, Deputy of Solicitors, OAG: Mr. Chairman, senators the the off the solicitors division is currently staffed with four and a half attorneys. Our half attorney splits time two and a half days a week she's working on solicitors matters.
the other two and a half days she's supporting our child support division.

Senator Telo Taitague: That's a lot. Mr. Attorney General can you tell me why we're having such a hard time keeping the attorneys on Guam or in your division?

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: For the multitudes that I just mentioned the For the solicitors division well you got your Maslow's hierarchy of needs quite frankly. When you have people's lives that are being threatened when you got the meth addicts that Ms. Taitague that was murdered in on the road on social media body dumped in the middle of the street on a Saturday in Talofofo that is the type of triage that I'm dealing with as an attorney general. When you only have 30 lawyers and our pros And you guys were great giving the judiciary two magistrate judges and eight sitting judges and one referee for what is it?

child child support and then you have the another referee for the family court. You try doing the math on keeping people safe from the meth addicts. When I asked this governor to lock that port down so that we can have less meth addicts out there that aren't killing us they're killing us now.

All the 2024 all the crimes the murders in 2024 all had meth on the suspect and the defendant's records. The Look at your your your your newspaper. Those two guys that were shot in that car a few days ago meth all over the records. How can you deal with triage when And looking at a contract which is a civil matter some department head wants to get something done when you got meth addicts killing us out there?

Mr. Vandeveld who's gonna have something to say on this as well as Mr. Bonavita as well as half this audience out here they've been dedicated to keeping us safe. How can I keep you safe when there's only 30 lawyers? I am shifting lawyers to the prosecution function because that is where I have the most important role is to keep us safe.

So his four lawyers his four and a half lawyers that Mr. Deputy Lee Miller is talking about that's because we can't get lawyers. I keep on saying it. Try being an attorney in a law firm and not have enough lawyers. These guys in the private sector try getting a divorce these days and seeing how much money it's costing you and your your soontobe ex.

Try getting a name change and seeing how much the lawyers are charging you out there. It's because there's not enough lawyers in the community. Why is it the public defender is poaching my lawyers? They're poaching my lawyers because I got a great staff that brings them in and then I get these phone calls that say "Hey I just got a call from the public defender.

They're gonna offer me more money and less work." We're the ones that drive the criminal justice system not the public defenders. Those guys sit in their their chairs and basically go to work and then we're the ones that have to wake up on Saturdays to charge these guys that are being arrested. And I kid you not meth addicts and repeat criminals is why a few days ago you had that was it 337 million or something from the Department of Corrections?

I think that we should all clap and thank everybody behind me. When I came in in 2023 that prison was not full and I was elected because of the meth addicts because

of all the crime out there. These people here come in on Saturdays burn their butts. On Sunday we literally had to have several in this audience have to deal with the releasing somebody on a 48hour requirement.
The chief prosecutor and I were talking. That's how we're working in the AG's office. No excuses. Find a dedicated group of attorneys and support staff and do our job. But you will get burnout and I'm sorry you can't you can't isolate money from an attorney law office. They go handinhand. The first thing you think about when you look for an attorney "Oh my God do I have savings?
Can I pay for this lawyer?" Look at everybody in DC when they started indicting everybody. They started losing their houses because you first thing you gotta do is get money to put on the table It costs money to have lawyers. It costs money to have doctors. It costs money to have accountants. Anything that we license in this community it costs money.
I can't I cannot First of all I'm asking you for the money. I can't guarantee you that I'm gonna find the lawyers because Guam doesn't have enough. So sorry longwinded response No to a question but I think it has to be said.

Senator Telo Taitague: No worries.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: We don't have enough solicitors because I need my front line being prosecutors.
And by the way unlike the Senate when we don't appear for a court hearing you know what happens to us? A nice judge in a black robe says "Oh my God Mr. Moylan isn't hasn't sent a lawyer to my my eight courtrooms every morning." A nice document that all lawyers shiver at called an Order to Show Cause Re: Contempt of Court because the gentleman or the lady in the black robe on that nice airconditioned courtroom is saying "Where's that prosecutor?
Because we got a defendant in front of us." Well that's the question. Where's the prosecutor? I don't have prosecutors because there's not enough attorneys on Guam and it's a vicious cycle. It's a snowball. You don't have enough prosecutors what's gonna happen to those prosecutors that are manning the front line that are burning themselves out because they gotta give up their Saturday when they've got kids and a wife that wanna go out to the beach?
"I'm sorry honey. I brought you to Guam and this attorney general is burning my ass because he's gotta send an attorney in on a Saturday." And it's just not one attorney. When we get Mr. Vanderbilt Mr. Bonavita we get 14 arrests and in 48 hours you need to within four hours process 14 people. 14 defendants have to have a complaint have to have the affidavit of probable cause have to have the motion for pretrial incarceration so we don't release a meth addict or a guy that just beat the shit out of

his excuse the language out of his wife be released and goes back and finishes it off and kills her.
That is my worst fear living in that attorney general's office and that's why those guys get it from me when I hear that somebody wasn't able to get arraigned or I'm sorry magistrated with a court order to keep them in jail because they're gonna go out and kill the victim. So why don't I have enough solicitors?
I would love to have enough solicitors. Well first of all guys for 45 lawyers we need in the prosecution at least 21. I only have maybe 15, 18 prosecutors doing the full scope. I need 21 In the civil division and that's what brings it up to 96 is the contracts it's the representation for the Department of Corrections Parks and Rec every department that you guys deal with it was 96 is how many lawyers we need in the office.
We're not even close to it. So doing more with less

Senator Telo Taitague: Thank you so much for your passion. Go ahead.

Curtis Vanderbilt, Chief Prosecutor, OAG: If I could. We have 15

Senator Telo Taitague: Just move the microphone down and yeah recognize who you are please first.

Curtis Vanderbilt, Chief Prosecutor, OAG: Curtis Vanderbil. I'm the chief prosecutor. We have 15 people in prosecution. In the family division we have three people.
In the family division that's the total of 18. We don't have enough people to cover all of the different obligations that we have. I have some very wonderful people who work for me. They work very very hard. They have no time off. If one person goes on leave it's really it really puts a stress on the other people who work in this office. They are trying to achieve the objective that the general has set which is to punish people who commit crimes against our island and it's our island. We love this island. If we love this island we respect its laws. There's a lot of people who just don't love Guam. But the general sets a standard and we are obligated to try to meet that standard.
And because he is the client he makes the decisions. He's the representative of the client. And some people don't like the notion of not being able to make choices of their own. This is a this is a a problem. And then we get people who get offers to work for one of the defense firms and the defense firms are staffed at a much higher level than us.
The total number of lawyers between the public defender and the alternate public defender is 24. We have 15. We have the burden of proof. We have the obligation

to come in and charge. Mr. Bonavita as my deputy works all the time. I work all the time. The people in my office they come in on weekends and over a course of three weekends they've done maybe one weekend of charging.

Some come in for two weekends because we're just so taxed. And we have a problem in that the law enforcement reports management system has suffered being down over a number of times so far this year. So that means we gotta hustle try and find how we can get the reports so that we can do our job. I'm gonna tell you the governor had refused to sign a contract that I had last year.

I think there's five months for last year under my contract I was not paid for at all and yet I still work. This is not acceptable. These political games because she doesn't like something that the attorney general is doing should not impact upon the ability of this office to complete its mission. Its mission is too important

But as you can see the attorney general is very fervent about his desire to punish people who commit crimes and we try to achieve that goal and objective. So he talked about Ms. Baulos and her potential lawsuit. That is why lapsed funds are important because those lapsed funds can go to pay in the event that she gets a judgment against the office.

They are they provide for being able to pay for activities work that was done during the year of the appropriation. We're not asking for you to solve all of our problems. We're just asking to make sure that you appropriate enough money for us to be able to do our jobs and to try to recruit people to d to do work.

As a lawyer who has practiced in this community for 36plus years it is difficult to leave private practice and to go to work for the attorney general because you have to then abandon everyone that you did work for people who showed trust and respect for you and hired you and then you we're supposed to just cut them loose like we don't care.

It's all a dollars and cents circumstance. That's not right. It doesn't satisfy my heart to do that. I feel I owe more to the people who showed love and affection for me to hire me and to represent them. And so not being able to wind down my practice engage in a contract with the Office of the Attorney General when the governor won't sign those contracts it makes it near impossible to hire people from the local community.

In the prosecution division we have three people who have a history living in Guam In the family division there is one. So all of the recruitment for people to fulfill our mission primarily comes from offisland. We shouldn't have these games about getting people's contracts approved. If I'm gonna try to recruit somebody locally and I'm gonna tell them they're gonna go through the same kind of gamesmanship that I went through we're not gonna get people.

It's just not gonna happen. And in a dwindling number of lawyers within our bar association this is a real serious problem. Thank you.

Senator Telo Taitague: Thank you so much for both your passion because we know it's not just the frustration of the attorneys that have to do this extra caseload but it's the staff behind you that have to come in on the weekends too.
So that's why greatly appreciate. And are you finally getting your allotments in on time Attorney General or Dulce? What's the status there? Because that's how you're losing attorneys they're not getting paid. And how many attorneys do you have that that you had that left that has has yet to be paid?

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: Yes Your Honor. We have we have contract that we did in RFP and then we have hire a legal. Of course that's part of the contract but it was not signed. we tried to register it to GSA but they don't wanna register it because there's no signature for from the governor. So we have the total of 9 like a a legal contract that it was not signed by the governor so we.

Senator Telo Taitague: What is the liability for the attorney general's office because of this?

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: Because of that we have probably around like 325 000.

Senator Telo Taitague: Wow. That you owe these attorneys?

Senator Telo Taitague: Yes. Okay.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: And Madam Chairwoman when I first came into office I already recognized as I said 2022 we everybody in the bar already knew there weren't enough lawyers.
So what did I do? In order to do the job I didn't come up with excuses. I went to people like Curtis Vanderbuilt Carol Baulos. We put them on contract so they could still maintain a private practice be happy in their private practice but provide services for the people who are our client. So we've been thinking out of the box for the last three years.
But what the governor did was she prevented me from touching the money you gave me and that created the frustration. That's the tipping point that Mr. Vanderbilt's talking about. It's a cycle. If you don't have enough lawyers you're burning out the ones that are having to work on the weekends. So that's why I'm asking for the amount I'm asking.
Thank you.

Senator Telo Taitague: And you do have a rules and regulations that are being put in place right now? What's the status there?

Anna Nicole Perez, Deputy Chief of Staff, OAG: Good morning senators. I'm Nicole Perez. I serve as the deputy chief of staff. We are currently in the AAA process of adopting our personnel rules and regulations. We have our public hearing scheduled for May 18th at 1 PM.

Senator Telo Taitague: This will help the agency like move forward on some of the questions or the authority given to you. Well that's good news. Also good news of course is is just the ability to look at other areas like the Port Authority like the gouging of of prices on this island that consumers are constantly even calling our office.
But I also wanna give kudos to you attorney general for assisting former Judge Elizabeth BarrettAnderson who sits on the commission for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Commission. She has told me that you actually dedicated staff for that commission which hasn't been done in the past.
So there's so much more behind the attorney general's office that they have to review on. But how many And and for the big questions how many attorneys do you have right now and what is the amount that you do need?

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: The number that I understand is 30 lawyers we have on staff right now. We would like to get 45 lawyers.,that would be what 1 3.2 million if it was added to the budget and of course I'm incorporating the assuming we don't get the 1.6 in lapses. So that is the figure. It's a for 12 months it's a manageable figure. We will exceed our our ability to perform but it will protect me from losing and burning out my existing attorneys.
I get University of Guam I'm getting a great team. They're young they're trainable as paralegals. The investigators we talked about that earlier. We gotta deal with post and we have a fixed number of investigators. But we have started investigator trainees. So in answer to your question we have 30.
I would like to get up to in the 40s 40 to 45. But 45 at 3.2 million you've already hit the max. I do need paralegals to help them and the support staff

Senator Telo Taitague: That's still substantially lower than what the public defender has right now as far as attorneys are concerned and they don't deal with half of the things that you have to do.
So I think you're you're just being very kind and trying to be frugal which you have always been with your office to try and save where you can save. but I do wanna to

also bring up the fact that the area here under classifieds, unclassifieds. If you look at this printout that was given to
Did you get one Attorney General? Yeah. Did they get one? Yeah. Okay. On the bottom part here it has the amount of unclassifieds you know in FY '26 and then it looks at your request for the Oh I'm sorry. It's on the second page second page
The bottom unclassified classifieds and it's showing different you have like in authorized was 105 82 160 and then in the agency's request is substantially lower. Can you explain that Dulce

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Well these are the with the authority that was given to me as a the manager of the law firm the classifieds are carryovers from the last 30 40 years 20 years is when I was here last.
But the unclassifieds is I guess it's a figure 'cause we can create positions and it's driven by money not by classification right now. So I guess that's one answer to the question. The unclassifieds that I'm looking at is at was it 76?
Right. So we got 104 classified unclassified. I'm sorry? Unclassified currently employees one hundred and four

Senator Telo Taitague: It it's still showing you know 105 for unclassifieds and then you go to FY20 2027 and it's 12. Dulce can you?

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: Yes. sorry when we prepared this we prepared this since last last last year.
Yeah. So of course there is already some attorneys that retired also or some classified employees that retired and they already left also with the agency. And we stick with that because you know it's um takes time to to update it every time there is a changes with our staffing patterns.

Senator Telo Taitague: So we need that changed.
Mr. Chair regarding this section it it it does need to be a readjusted on this one right?
Yeah. We'll send it to you. Also there was a letter I sent to your office regarding the leave and et cetera. Can you explain that Dulce what you submitted to the which I will be giving to the chairman of OFB?

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: Do you want me to explain to you the attachment A or the attachment B?

Senator Telo Taitague: Well what I the request there were three questions I asked and then you submitted your answers just the other day.
Leave. It talks about leave and yeah that way.

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: Yes. Okay. So the first question is the spending the s the annual leave liability. So right now we have for You asked for the about the 320 hours and above. And our with our staff right now we have 40 total employees that had that have 620 hours of leave exists.
And then the total amount for that is $596,222.94.

Senator Telo Taitague: There was other questions. there were three I believe.

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: That's Yes. And then the second the the other question that you asked is about the spending capacity. So for the spending capacity for the fiscal year 2026. So right now with right now with our GFMIS expenditure we do a the one that they posted. We have around 13 million that is posted already that we already spent it. So we are projected another 13 million at the end of this fiscal year and that gonna be projecting remaining budget will be our the lapses that what we're talking about is gonna be 1.6.

Senator Telo Taitague: Okay. Thank you. And the last the PBB?

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: Eight people from our office. Okay. Can we increase that if we needed to? Okay.

Senator Telo Taitague: Okay. Absolutely. So Mr. Chair the that letter is coming to you this afternoon. We received it yesterday so I'll send it to you. lastly and I really hate to put this on your plate Mr. Attorney General with all that you have but there is a movement in technology on AI cybersecurity as well as you know deep fake media that's deceptive to our community cyberbullying our children being bullied and you know unfortunately you find some of them who've who've taken their lives because of something like this.
There's a a huge you know the task force of course that's available. I know that you've been very busy and I I didn't see anything in here on your Can you kind of explain your IT setup down at the attorney general's office? Do you use your information into the cloud? And I'm definitely gonna need your help when it comes to you know creating legislation as well as guidelines definitions on cybersecurity and how AI is moving into our industry so quickly that we need to to make these guidelines for safer for our people our children and also protect the jobs of our employees right now.
That's that's very important.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Yes Senator .

Senator Telo Taitague: So any funding that you've put aside for that?

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Madam Chairwoman what we are doing right now we've got a good team in our IT support. We have not our system we just upgraded to eProsecutor. We're in line with the court and their move to the the eCourts and and what the former Chief Justice Robert Torres had been presenting to the legislature.
So Our system has been upgraded after 20 years and that's an accomplishment by my IT team that did that. The use of AI and it's I was kinda smiling when you were saying that. We're in the process of helping out your I guess your committee for assisting you in that regard. But I have to tell you that I just sent out a memo to all our lawyers we better not find them using AI on drafting legal briefs.
Judge Iriarte made the news with one of the attorneys in the bar for having an attorney relying on the AI and not checking what AI generated for the legal brief that was submitted. You know we as lawyers we're supposed to make sure that the documents that we sign are of proper caliber and standard that it meets the court's procedures and rules.
It's a big thing among lawyers right now to supplement your capabilities by using AI software. But so your your question to me am I integrating to the office? I've actually prohibited AI from being used by lawyers because of the fear of getting an order to show cause and having your license sanctioned because you didn't read what AI kicked out. And again it we made a news article I find that interesting in the past six months. One judge called out an attorney in private practice and was looking to sanction the attorney according to the news article. So but thank you for the question.

Senator Telo Taitague: Yeah. Well I just hope that there's some people in your agency that can actually you know generate some type of commission within the attorney general's office because it's gonna get very big.
It's moving forward. And regardless you know w whatever generates out of AI is what is put online. You know AI is only as good as that.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Yes. I agree with you. And if it's not put online I have to tell you. Yeah that probably anyone that's younger than 28 here.
Senator Telo Taitague: Oh no. I would say anybody is educating me younger than 40.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Well anyone These guys grew up with AI.

Senator Telo Taitague: Good.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: You know I see And by the way don't watch the internet anymore 'cause the people you're thinking Yeah are alive are actually AI generated right? Yeah. But I mean it is the wave of the future. It is influencing our office. I know on the graphics side AI has been tremendous but on the old school legal we're being very careful. Well with using AI

Senator Telo Taitague: Yeah it's more like prosecuting individuals who you know deepfake put out false narratives on the internet using if you want your. Yeah turn. Yes please. Do you know anything about Because that's the Yeah
that's the one that you need to .

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Thank you Senator Taitague

Senator Telo Taitague: We'll get the response But if he can respond. Absolutely. Yeah. Thank you Mr. Chair.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Thank you Senator Taitague.

Neil Bonavita, Deputy of General Crimes, OAG: Yes. my name is Neil Bonavita for the committee's record. That is an emerging issue yes ma'am. It certainly is. And while we haven't seen any specific charges come in related to that we we are keeping an eye. It's definitely something that that will that will continue to permeate some of the fraud charges that we deal with and we'll see overlap in that particular regard. But to the to your point to the extent that that that you need assistance in terms of trying to generate the appropriate rules and definitions so that we can create meaningful legislation we're ready to assist.

Senator Telo Taitague: Thank you so much. And thank you Mr. Chair for the opportunity to ask these questions and of course give my great thanks to those hardworking individuals at the attorney general's office. Thank you.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Thank you Senator Taitague At this time I recognize Senator Gumataotao.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Thank you so much Mr. Chair and thank you to AG Moylan and the entire office of the attorney general that has made their way down to the Guam Congress building.
I'm just gonna jump right in and talk a little bit about GPD. Attorney General during the Guam Police Department's April 27th 2026 budget hearing for FY 2027 I asked the Chief of Police Stephen Ignacio how GPD's engagement with the attorney general's office has been relative to the provision of legal services for his department. Now on the record Chief Ignacio replied that while he was thankful for your continued assistance in designating a lawyer from the AG's office multiple lawyers have for at least the last six months started at the department but eventually resigned and accepted employment elsewhere. Now I will say that during the public hearings for the body cam policy that was created by GPD I got to meet one of your attorney generals and was good to see them support of GPD.
So I just wanna get your your take on this. Recognizing that he just stated last week that he's still advocating for an inhouse legal counsel who would work with the attorney general's office would you support at this point authorizing GPD to employ and pay for an attorney who's appointed by the AG and their scope of work would be defined by your respective office?

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Thank you for the question Senator Gumataotao. Let me preface my response by saying that Steve Ignacio is a friend of mine. We work we have worked well for the last three years together. as a lawyer and in a position that the Congress created there can only be one attorney general. There can only The people only have one legal representative.
That was made clear by Congress when it said the attorney general shall be the chief legal officer of the Government of Guam. Since when does the attorney general that took the election advertised his legal policy to the people allow any other lawyer into the government of Guam so that lawyer can set legal policy can decide legal questions can give a legal opinion to any government employee without having been endorsed by the people of Guam?
So it's with respect but with the legal acumen to say that this the system has not been elevated to a constitutional level to allow Chief Ignacio the ability to hire his own attorney general. If he needs an attorney general and which has always been the course he asks the attorney the elected attorney general I don't care who it is me or some other person "Please assist us."
And in this money attorneys they go together hence why I'm here. Mr. Sermons Attorney Sermons is under the solicitor's division and is providing the services. He's the one that appeared before the body cam public hearings. He put together all the the logistics of it. That's how the system works.

Three reasons why attorney generals throughout the United States and all states to my knowledge and territories now have elected attorney generals. First reason protect the public interest. Second reason Create uniform legal policy. How would you guys like it funding Department of Revenue and Taxation fighting against the Department of Parks and Recreation or Department of Administration?
Here you guys here's a $200,000 attorney for you and here's a $200,000 attorney for you. Go to town and go create years of litigation in the Superior Court and the Appellate Court and fight among yourselves. It's like a dysfunctional family. That was the second point create uniform legal policy. That's why you have one attorney general.
Third point how would you like creating many law firms throughout the united throughout the the Government of Guam? Does the chief of the Guam Police Department chief is he gonna hire an attorney an investigator a law clerk a clerk when you've got the attorney general's office that has everything?
You have economies of scale when you have one law firm hence my asking for our resources. You have multiplicity of additional budget requests in the millions of dollars to pay for the attorney and support staff for every government department. And get ready for the circus to begin 'cause it will. When the attorney general is one attorney for the people elected chosen and then you got Chief Aguigui I'm sorry Chief Ignacio who's not even an elected official choosing to select an attorney.
And by the way the public auditor over the years has come and I don't wanna misstate his statement he's questioning why is it that the autonomous agencies have their own highly paid legal counsels? Why aren't they using the attorney general's office? Because the people elected me for four years to be their attorney.
Those boards and directors are not elected. Port Authority Airport Authority you name it. We're hurting ourselves in many different ways and it's just not money. When you have an attorney pushing the agenda of a cabinet member and not the people agenda.
Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: So Attorney General you do not support that?

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Absolutely not. And it will be taken into court. Okay. And it's not a threat but I will do what we're in the process of doing.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Okay that's.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: I'm gonna challenge EPA. EPA has no right to have that attorney they just hired.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Hold on hold on 'cause I don't have a lot of time so let me. And I get it. Go. but also for me as the Public Safety Chair I just wanna make sure that as we are de deliberating this budget That moving forward that the general orders of Guam's premier law enforcement entity gets the support from the Office of the Attorney General and no offense not in words but in but in practical support.
The the processing of general orders the support of the contracts looking to make sure that they're helping train. I know right now they have a GPD guy that's working with their team but they they need the support of the Office of the Attorney General.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Yes.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: I'm only asking the policy's before us right AG Moylan but I'm I'm hoping that after this discussion today and going into the next fiscal year that the Guam Police Department gets just that you know help.
I know that it's been there in the past. I'm not don't wanna debate with you. I I get it a and you've made those public statements multiple times but I appreciate

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: But it it's more than public statements and Senator Gumataotao I will assure you.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Oh no no and you testified. No I I no I I understand.
I'm not I'm not trying to debate it here 'cause I wanna just focus on the number. So I'm hoping that we get some support budgetarily for this particular and important role of the Guam Police Department. I only have one other question Mr. Chair and this is regarding the office rent at the ITC building and the Citadel build building in Hagåtña.
It's a request of $1.7 million. Does the AG's office intend to continue occupying the ITC building for the balance of FY2027 and is the rented space just down the street here the rented space in the Citadel building in Hagåtña sufficient to accommodate approximately 7,000 square feet of office space for your human resources and family divisions which are currently located in Tamuning?

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: There are three functions of the AG's office remaining in the ITC building: child support family division and the personnel office. They're on a monthtomonth contract renewal which is by the way less than the rent that we would be paying if we were to go into a different location including this current building there.

As you may know there's some infirmities with that building. The most important one is parking. I cannot allow child support to be in our building when all the moms and dads out there and their kids that come with them cannot see the attorney general's office child support. That's why a decision was made.
We cannot move the child support out of there. Family it's got a lesser rent right now there. We've maxed out our current space the fourth floor all part of the fourth floor all of the third floor for the remaining six divisions are operating out of the building down there. So at some point we're gonna have to look at who's available.
We know the PDN's available but PDN has not good parking. That's why the ITC building with that all that parking in the back has remained for the moms and dads out there.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Okay got it. No listen I I'm just trying to understand this for this budget process. I do appreciate your candor. I do appreciate all of your engagement.
Even the way if we don't agree but you've been super generous with your time Thank you and very how can I say? Honest about the engagement. So the budget process for us is about trying to make sure that you have the resources that you need. But I also as you can appreciate you are elected.
I'm elected but we also a as Committee on Public Safety chair I just wanna make sure that especially to help support your efforts

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Yes.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: Because you made you made mention of it about half an hour ago about that effort to fight crime.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Yes.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao: And the people in this room. So I'm just wanna make sure that the the front lines to that are also s also supported and I know you do.
I'm not gonna beat the dead horse. But I do appreciate you AG Moylan and your team for coming down to the Guam Congress building today and thank you Mr. Chair for the time. Thank you.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Si Yu'os ma'åse Senator Gumataotao. next is Vice Speaker Ada.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: Thank you Mr. Chair and I'd like to thank AG Moylan and the entire staff of the Attorney General's office for being down here to present your budget. I think we've heard a lot of the the things that the Attorney General has office has done throughout the the years and the budget process as well.
Hoping that we'd be able to come to a a good compromise on this budget hearing and how we can continue to support the Attorney General's office. I think the perhaps the only qquestion I have Mr. Chair and and Attorney General Moylan is the continuing support and Senator Gumataotao has brought it up not just for public safety but I think for all the department and agencies that require an attorney from the Attorney General's office and how is that working and how are we continue to give those departments and agencies the support that they need with the limited sources that you have and how do we make it better to increase the the support?

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Thank you Mr. Vice Speaker. How we've done it is well the first thing is prioritization. So I just want to put on the record I literally 24/7 take the police officers' calls including the chief of police get the briefings talk to CID because that's how much criminals and protecting the crime victims mean to this AG.
I was elected because of the crime problems. Now the civil side of where the chairman Governor Tauke Tau had talked about that's with the solicitors division. We're talking about adverse actions dealing with civil matters. The criminal matters I deal with directly. And my team the chief prosecutor and the deputy chief prosecutor they're available 24/7.
In the past two weeks we literally have been talking to the CID people let alone that recent double shooting that went on that's going on. So what do we do when we don't have enough? We don't come up with excuses. We identify the problems which are moneydriven get money in and then lawyerdriven find the lawyers to do the legal work and we come up with creative solutions.
That's why I invite the senators look at the two submissions that we gave. This isn't just colored photos. These are actual work product that we've been doing to try to cover all the needs. We cited earlier and that's why the quick facts on page one of the the 32page handout it identifies we need 96 lawyers.
We're not gonna get 96 lawyers in 12 months. I'm looking at 45 lawyers. The solicitors division deals with a lot of those contracts. I literally get WhatsApp messages calls from different departments making their case. "We got a triage situation here. We're gonna lose money." about a year, year and a half ago two years ago we had Fred Nishihara and I think it was Graham Botham.
They worked the entire weekend to help DOE save some of that money. since that time I think they have three lawyers there by the way at DOE. This newspaper article

that they've lost so much money for lapsing federal funds we weren't involved in that to my knowledge. So what am I doing? I'm as an attorney general elected official like you guys are answering to the people "Hey if the senior citizens need this and they're gonna lose the money or you know Manamko are angry " that's where I come in.
I talk to the team Lee the supervisors and solicitors and I say "What can we do to move this along?" In our website we have it published the report of the procurements that Deputy Miller talked about. It's literally on the the website. So I What what do we do when you don't have enough money and enough enough personnel?
None of them and I gotta say it's not our fault we don't have enough attorneys and it's not our fault that we don't have enough money and hence are asking for a small amount of money for the next 12 months. Attorney Vanderbilt.

Curtis Vanderbilt, Chief Prosecutor, OAG: Thank you. Curtis Vanderbilt. Part of the problem with having a singular attorney for an entity like the Guam Police Department is is that some of the legal issues that that lawyer would deal with they have conflicts of interest that would occur.
And if that one singular person is not available either for travel or or health reasons then there's no one to pick up the ball and carry it forward. Mr. Miller his division operates completely separate from my division. We we do exchange some information from time to time but for the for the greatest portion of time his activities are operated under his control and I don't know what's going on.
The One of the biggest problems is we need to recruit more lawyers. Being able to do that requires removal of the requirement for the governor to approve the contracts of the Office of the Attorney General. That will allow us to get more staff more staff for Mr. Miller's division more staff for my division more staff for other divisions.
And a and Mr. Miller is very capable about taking a problem if it comes in and assigning it amongst the various people in his division. And when the calls from the police come relative to matters of a criminal nature they come to me or to Mr. Bonavita for re resolution. And that keeps the ethical concerns in place and we protect against any problems that would arise because of that ethical concern.
Thank you.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Thank you. Attorney Miller do you want to make some comments?

Lee Miller, Deputy of Solicitors, OAG: Yes Mr. Chairman members. I would simply add to what my colleagues have said is is I think the simplest cheapest thing the legislature could do to enhance the efficiency of the procurement process enhance the efficiency of Guam government agencies being able to act on on federal

grant opportunities is if the legislature would would direct the executive branch to reinstate the procurement training program for government agencies across the board that has been inactive for quite some time.
Our principal challenge in my division in in acting on procurements and acting on grant agreements i is simply coordinating with the the various agencies to get all the documents that are required for evaluation and consideration. And just as we have turnover and and and I have to train and educate people on what their own responsibilities are candidly many of the procurements we get in many of the grant requests we get in the information isn't sufficient and isn't organized in a way that allows us to do our job.
And I and I would suggest that that that inefficiency is largely the product of in the lack of training the lack of education at the agency level and if the if the government simply reinstated the the procurement training program that used to exist I Ithink my division could could be much more efficient.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: Yeah. Thank you for that and that's why you know I asked right Attorney General Moylan about you know working with the different agencies. You know the Land Management and Chamorro Land Trust they really need attorneys and you know a lot of the issues that are held up are because of the lack of support for their agencies.
But I think as we continue to work together and continue to find the the solutions and come down to something that will be amicable to both the Attorney General's office and to the depa different department and agencies that solutions can be can be worked out
Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: and process and procedures can continue to move forward.
And Mr. Vice Speaker may I offer this to the senators here today? Allowing us to use the money that you've given us giving the Attorney General the ability to control our funds from payroll to procurement to all function and taking it away from the department administration like you did with the hiring authority for an elected official consistent with your own having unclassifieds in the Attorney General's office give us the ability to control our money.
Your $22 million investigation I suspect is because certain officials in this government have not been telling us that there's no money in certain accounts. That's what kind of worries me. Why is it that they're not letting us use our fiscal year 2026 budget in addition to all these other allegations of possible meandering and and slowing us down?
Do we really have the money? If you could give us like the judiciary has I think the public auditor controls his money. I have a full staff of accounting professionals able to do our own payroll able to do our procurement to be answerable to you senators

that we're properly and to be audited by the public auditor but to to give us the ability to control the money.
I think that would be a tremendous help on getting our lawyers quickly.

Vice Speaker Tony Ada: Okay. Thank you. Thank you sir. Thank you Mr. Chair. That's the only questions that I had for the office. thank you everyone for being here this morning.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: *Si Yu'os ma'åse* Vice Speaker Ada. Senator Lujan you're recognized.

Senator Jesse Lujan: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Morning General and to your staff your attorneys and your staff thank you very much.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Good morning senator.

Senator Jesse Lujan: I want to publicly thank each and every one of you as well for the tremendous help that you've provided over the years to our to our committee. As one that oversees all of tourism every form of transportation be it air maritime and ground transportation all utilities and customs and quarantine and federal and foreign affairs I think our our committee on a weekly basis contacts your office of some sort of assistance from from these agencies.
But thank you very much for that. And you know and I know the the overwhelming work that you guys have on a daily basis. I know private attorneys as well that they take on only so many cases and then say "Hey stop because I can't handle it." But you know the tremendous amount of work that you guys have to to undergo as the the people's law firm, but thank you very much to each and every one and and know not all of them are represented here. I'm sure they're back in their your their offices or the courts representing the the the people of Guam and just say thank you again. This is the first budget hearing where we have a s overwhelming amount of folks supporting this budget hearing.
One one thing I'm gonna ask Attorney General and I wanna go on the record with with this. and it's three years ago the committee on aviation extended a contract for the airport authority a concession contract based on contract that was expiring but because of the situation of COVID and Mawar and all that that contract will be expiring here in July.
Okay?

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Yes.

Senator Jesse Lujan: And it was a contract that was extended by the the through a public law through the 37th Guam legislature. Now assistance haven't have not been asked by the administration of the airport for a further assistance. I'm extremely worried that we would be in a situation like Saipan is as well.
There's been talk that they're asking this particular vendor to stay until December. Okay? And I repeat it and I will re constantly repeat that that contract was extended by the legislature by law and therefore the airport itself cannot extend that contract out because it was not done through their board.
It was done through public law. If again that vendor is extended out are they again I mean would the airport expect a payment from them? and would they be expected to pay past their expired contract if no action is taken by the legislature.
ouglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Given the facts as as plainly stated and without getting into it further

Senator Jesse Lujan: Sure.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Without any additional facts I think the the answer is obvious that the legislature controls the airport.
It is the people's property. And if the legislature sets the parameter to extend it to a a date certain without any ability for the contract to be extended then they would be subject to investigation by the public auditor and by the AG's office for 'cause it's it's ratepayer taxpayerfunded types of monies right?
So without getting too into the details of it as stated I believe that it would warrant an investigation and then hopefully counseling. and of course the legislature could do the oversight hearing establish facts swear in the witnesses demand documents to substantiate the fact pattern. But I would believe that under the way you've presented it that it would be ultra vires it would be outside the legislative authority.
They'd have to come up with a different authority which you guys have pretty wellregulated I understand the the the vendor contract. So procurement they'd have to follow the procurement law. If you gave a a The legislature got involved gave a procurement exception for them to the normal procurement law and didn't extend it any further then the normal procurement rules would have to be in play. Bid out that sort of thing. So yeah it That would raise a red flag and it should cause the public auditor to want to to conduct an audit of them.

Senator Jesse Lujan: Well thank you very much and I just want to be on record with with that because that is what I constantly repeat.
I said "You know it doesn't look like our intervention is needed." But again you know should this happen just know that Thank you sir you know there's red flags. But thank you. And that's all really I have Mr. Chairman. And again thank you very

much to to your your attorneys and your staff for again constantly I mean a again you know on on on a weekly basis one of my agencies are are needing assistance and you guys are always there for that.
So thank you very much for all that you do.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Thank you very much. Thank you Chairman Lujan.
Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'asi* Senator Lujan. Senator Perez you're recognized.

Senator Sabina Perez: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Good morning to everyone here. thank you for all your time and participation. so in just hearing the testimony that was provided so your request is for 40 to increase your attorneys to 45.
You currently have 30 and I was looking at the budget submittal. most of them are in the families I'm sorry in the crimes division. so those additional 15 attorneys where would they where would you assign them to?

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: We need 96 15 more attorneys. we need at least 21 in the general crimes division. The government corruption division would need at least one attorney. child support we have one referee. I have one of the attorneys that is helping out there. family we probably need at least three or four of them.
So where would I put them? We don't I'm serving as the consumer protection attorney right now with solicitors on dealing with that. We don't even have a consumer protection attorney because we don't have the money for it. so where would we put them? prosecution would be primary. Then obviously the the solicitors is critical towards the functioning of government.
So yeah that that's how we would be managing it probably.

Senator Sabina Perez: Okay. and then in regards to let's say environmental you know cases.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: This was a. Senator Perez thank you for your question. One of our former attorneys was went to EPA. So EPA has a former attorney general's office employee attorney working for them right now. So like the Dihedron claims that have started from Yigo down into the AG's office the solicitors division is meeting with EPA's council for that because those those cases have to be managed with the numbers. I think we're Lee we're at 300? How many.

Lee Miller, Deputy of Solicitors, OAG: Very close to 300.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Right. There's about 300 government claims relating to that Dihedron incident that went up in Yigo area so.

Senator Sabina Perez: Okay. Thank you. And then you know the what's the status of the PFAS multidistrict litigation as well as any other litigation that's federally being being managed? is the Ordot consent decree that lawsuit has that been closed already?

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Deputy Miller discuss that

Lee Miller, Deputy of Solicitors, OAG: Mr. Chairman, Senator as you read in the paper the the Ordotuh Situation continues. It is everybody's hope including the receiver that the receiver will fully exit their responsibilities on Guam during 2026. we have an indication from US EPA that they are tentatively on board with with that choice. that will leave Ordot completely under the responsibility of various government of Guam agencies.
The litigation over whether the remediation program at Ordot is correct or not will continue. separately from that you know GWA has a consent decree with US EPA over water quality. they are GWA is hard at work executing their responsibilities under that consent decree. we see procurements from them on a regular basis that indicate they are doing the various things they are doing in order to meet their responsibilities under that consent decree.
So I have every reason to believe that that GWA is substantially in compliance with with their responsibilities. I think the you know dieldrin will And PFAS are um I guess I'll describe them as continuing questions at the moment. The United States government has been working on PFAS regulations for a decade and ththose regulations are are still not finalized.

Senator Sabina Perez: I think Actually they were finalized under the Biden administration in April of '25 I believe or 20 s '24. It was it was finalized. PFAS was.

Lee Miller, Deputy of Solicitors, OAG: I will take your word for it. I will also note that the environmental lawyers both at Guam EPA and and our outside environmental council that I speak to indicate that discussion I'll just describe it as discussion continues on on how to implement those PFAS regulations, but the good news is on Guam GWA and and related agencies understand what their roles and responsibilities will be and are working towards bringing Guam into compliance with the PFAS regulations.

Senator Sabina Perez: Okay yeah. And there there was a multidistrict lawsuit. I believe that was GWA is taking the lead on that one.

Lee Miller, Deputy of Solicitors, OAG: GWA is is the the named plaintiff on behalf of of the government of Guam. That litigation continues. I guess The best way to describe it is you know sort of similar to the to the tobacco litigation and the opioid litigation. practically every jurisdiction in the United States is part of that lawsuit and there are a wide array of of defendants in the suit.
And you know different defendants are reaching different agreements with the collective plaintiffs groups as as time moves along.

Senator Sabina Perez: Okay so the AG's office is not involved in this or are you guys involved in it?

Lee Miller, Deputy of Solicitors, OAG: We are involved at at at as we monitor and participate in discussions with our fellow attorneys general organizations, but as you know PFAS is is an issue from one end of the United States to the other all of our our our colleagues in in the other jurisdictions have a similar interest and candidly they are taking the lead in in how PFAS is addressed nationally.

Senator Sabina Perez: So your division is in charge of the environmental litigation in addition to procurement?

Lee Miller, Deputy of Solicitors, OAG: To the extent that there is environmental litigation yes it would be the responsibility of the solicitor's division. the the large scale environmental litigation that's going on on Guam we have outside counsel in the States that is principally responsible for that. But yes on on local issues that Guam EPA requires attention for and to the extent Guam EPA wants to issue citations and and those those concerns require hearings we support all of that activity.

Senator Sabina Perez: Yeah I guess my concern is that you know you only have 4.5 attorneys under your division. You have a huge responsibility you know ranging from procurement all the way to environmental. You know these are historic environmental cases by the way. the one with the Guam versus United States of America in regards to the Ordot the Navy's I guess responsibility in the contamination of that site.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Right. That's why Lee just went to the I think San Francisco recently to attend some mediation discussions. But the San Francisco attorneys Are they from San Francisco?

Lee Miller, Deputy of Solicitors, OAG: The our outside counsel on these historic cases as you describe them Senator is the national law firm of Kelly Drye.
And we interact with attorneys in both Kelly Drye's Houston Texas office as well as their New York office

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Right. My my understanding Madam Senator is that this government is wellprotected. They're the ones that went to the US Supreme Court and had the favorable ruling. so I believe that category of cases is well taken by a national law firm that's agreed to represent the government.

Senator Sabina Perez: They did they did really well with the partial settlement but you know there's there's there's another phase to this that's really critical I think. okay so in regards to procurement training yeah I know there were two bills that were recently introduced. We had a public hearing on them Bill 300 and Bill 301 to shore up that part of the statute to improve procurement training.
You know one of the things that one of the issues is the Guam Procurement Advisory Council hasn't you know properly met or hasn't met enough times to really give some guidance into this procurement training. the AG's office is one of the members of that council. and you know this is really critical because the the two bills are very take take two different approaches.
One is coordination with you know the entities that are going to teach procurement and another one has a bifurcated approach. So where one entity can teach and so but what can hold it together is the Procurement Advisory Council and so this is something that just maybe you know can advocate for this.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Thank you. The governor through the Department of Administration has twice convened the members. due to open government law notice deficiencies they had to stop when all the members got together. My understanding is they're in the process of again trying to put together the the council.

Senator Sabina Perez: Yeah so perhaps when you reconvene take a look at these bills and maybe there's some recommendations to help strengthen up procurement. Because I know with Attorney Brown he was one of the pioneers right of procurement training. And you know now we're in a phase where we have to you know l look at how we're going to unify unify training because if we have different

entities and different approaches my my belief is that it's not it's going to create complications.
Yes. so that's one thing. the other thing is so you were talking about training attorneys and the Protech Award Protech scholarships. You know I would suggest you know s meeting if you haven't already meet with University of Guam the scholarship office just to maybe reconnect with them.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Yes.

Senator Sabina Perez: As far as ensuring there's a slot or funding for lawyers.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Madam Senator and I've I hope I've shared this because we've had other public hearings on this. If you guys can mandate the University of Guam 'cause I was told that they have the ability to hire or to You know I was a Protech recipient for law, but they I think it was 90 nine was it 1988 they stopped it for the lawyers. So if the legislature mandated it that they offer the PROTEC for the certain numbers for the legal community that would be helpful. I don't know of anyone that's gotten since the PROTEC for the law.

Senator Sabina Perez: So basically we would also budget an amount too as well. If we mandated there we would have to support it by the budget.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: I don't wanna I I'm not sure how they're getting their funding. They may already have the budget selfgenerating. I don't know specifically but yes. whatever it took. But to mandate that they not select it but the legislature come in and say that we need more homegrown lawyers.

Senator Sabina Perez: Yeah. And so considering your need what would be your projected amount for that?

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: I would say at least 10.

Senator Sabina Perez: 10.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Yeah 10 every year.

Senator Sabina Perez: Okay. All right. so this thank you. And so the question in regards to child support is there a cap on the amount the federal government gives or it's basically limited by the amount we can we can match?

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: Whatever the the legislator appropriate we have 66 perc federal share is 66%. So they they give 66% and 34 is local.

Senator Sabina Perez: Okay so there's no cap on that? Like let's say

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: There's no cap.

Senator Sabina Perez: We were to give more

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: As long as we spend it they will give it.

Senator Sabina Perez: And so have we been spending that amount or is there s has it been lapsing?

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: No we don't have lapse on that. No lapse on that one. Yes.

Senator Sabina Perez: Okay. And what is the need? What what do you identify as the need with child support? Because right now you have six.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Enforcement officers and attorneys.

Senator Sabina Perez: Oh sorry. One more time.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Enforcement officers and attorneys. Yes. I think one or two of them just retired but there's only one referee but there's so many child support cases.
So the enforcement officers assist in preparing the cases. The attorneys obviously they review it. but a lot of it's guidelinedriven unless there's an exception.

Senator Sabina Perez: And so what you have in the budget represents that the enforcement officers and attorney?

Sophia Geisner, Child Support Director, OAG: Hi Sofia Geisinger Reyes. I am the acting director for child support. So yes the budget does represent the need for enforcement officers as well as attorneys. Right now we do have as Attorney General Moylan said we have one attorney in child support along with the help of one attorney from solicitors.

As far as enforcement officers we do have five with four actively in office two on extended leave. And the caseload right now we have around, one moment
For our enforcement officers as well as paralegals the caseload is around 1100 cases each. We have a total caseload as of May 4th at 5400 cases for child support.

Senator Sabina Perez: Yeah.

Sophia Geisner, Child Support Director, OAG: So each enforcement officer as well as paralegal handles 1100 cases each. That does not include our one enforcement officer who handles offisland cases and that's at 700 almost 800 cases.

Senator Sabina Perez: Is, how is that possible? That seems like a lot for one individual. 1100.
Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: When you have one referee at the court it's like the funnel right? So that's why I'm building up. Without having enough lawyers and I as I said Lee's o Lee's division's having to share one of his civil litigators with child support.
I have to beef up the enforcement officers because and the paralegals and enforcement officers prepare the cases and a lot of it is guideline driven. So you punch in the numbers and then you come up with a a figure of what each parent pays for their child support.

Senator Sabina Perez: Yeah so I'm trying to get at what I'm trying to get at here is like what is the true need as far as staffing because that 1100 seems quite a bit.
So I mean you know the attorney general is saying we need 96 attorneys so I mean you know obviously we I don't know if we can afford 96 attorneys at this time but

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Five five attorneys in child support has been kind of the norm in which they've been able to manage it. So I would be looking at five attorneys and then supplementing it with the numbers we gave for the the enforcement officers and support staff.

Senator Sabina Perez: So every attorney gets five enforcement officers? Is that your ratio or ?

Sophia Geisner, Child Support Director, OAG: For every attorney there is an enforcement officer assigned to that attorney.

Senator Sabina Perez: Okay.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: But ideally you'd have several enforcement officers funneling the cases to that one attorney. So it'd probably be I would think about maybe three to five.

Sophia Geisner, Child Support Director, OAG: Yes. That's accurate.

Senator Sabina Perez: Okay. Thank you. And then the law enforcement management system that has been down. So is there funding that's needed to upgrade the system or what was the situation with that the the being down? Was it a cyberattack or was it something else?

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: It it was Guam Police Department driven.
It's their records section. My understanding is they were going through an upgrade phase and then the system collapsed for at least a week total.

Curtis Vanderbilt, Chief Prosecutor, OAG: Several times.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Yeah several times. So several times

Neil Bonavita, Deputy of General Crimes, OAG: If you don't mind on the ground there's been systems issues with LERMS. And to to the general's point are you able to hear me better?
My throat's a little little shot. Sorry about that. so yes it's it's had It appears to be leveling off. I think that the issue though for a period of sseveral weeks and several times we've not been able to retrieve the records. We've actually had to either have officers physically bring their handwritten reports rather than the digital reports that they would normally create and then fuse and then be uploaded to our offices or in some cases have had to speak directly with police officers to get the information necessary to be able to charge.
Perhaps Mr. Vanderbilt would have a a different view in terms of what how recent that's been though.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: And Senator Perez in that backdrop we're talking about the magistrates primarily. My team literally has four hours and that's why I said they range from like today we have three people arrested that have to go through a magistrate evaluation.
But we have had 14 literally 14 arrests. So within four hours I need to have the prosecutors the support staff review these documents submit it to the court by 12 so

they can make the 3:00 hearing. But what's worse is the when you don't have the police reports by 8:00 AM ready we literally start our day at 7:00 in the morning every morning with the staff downloading LERMS police reports having it ready for the prosecutors to start reviewing at 8:00 AM.
That's the perfect world.

Neil Bonavita, Deputy of General Crimes, OAG: I was gonna just add that it also that is that's a significant issue but then when LERMS is down that is also the means in which we get information from the police department. So if the crime lab is processed and determine whether or not the drugs that have been submitted are in fact methamphetamine and they produce a report that has to be uploaded through LERMS.
So when LERMS is down it also out also continues to impact our ability to be able to manage the discovery that we're obligated to provide to the defense in these cases as well.

Senator Sabina Perez: So hat's the police department is control.

Neil Bonavita, Deputy of General Crimes, OAG: Yes ma'am.

Senator Sabina Perez: Has control over that one.

Neil Bonavita, Deputy of General Crimes, OAG: Yes ma'am.

Senator Sabina Perez: Okay. So that's something that we need to follow up.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Thank you Senator. That that's your time. Sorry.

Senator Sabina Perez: Is there can I just ask one more question? Thank you Senator.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Yes. I'll allow that.

Senator Sabina Perez: Okay thank you. But that will be your last question. Thank you. So the criminal injuries compensation I know I saw the budget it basically listed the staff but as far as the funds for compensation how do how do we get that money or how is that created? And should that be included in the budget?

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: Yes sir. yes ma'am. It's already included in the budget. So all the salary and benefits it's already included in the budget.

Senator Sabina Perez: Yeah but what we're gonna give to the the the victims Victims you know do we have

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: Oh an amount that we need to appropriate?

Senator Sabina Perez: Yes.

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: This for this budget for this FY 2023 they're asking 78,000.

Senator Sabina Perez: Was that just for personnel though? I believe that was personnel. They Or does that include the fund for the.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Thank you Senator.

Senator Sabina Perez: That'll be your question compensation.

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: Yes.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Thank you Senator.

Senator Sabina Perez: Yes that's all for the compensation for the victims?

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: For the victims yes.

Senator Sabina Perez: Yeah.

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: The the personnel is it's part of our budget but the 78 is only for that CICP. It's only just for the victim.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Thank you Senator. Senator San Agustin you're recognized.

Senator Sabina Perez: Sorry. Attorney Vanderbilt was raising his hand.

Curtis Vanderbilt, Chief Prosecutor, OAG: Well I just wanted to point out that sometimes the amount of money comes from the court because for the victims

because as part of the sentence imposed upon a defendant the court may direct that the fine or restitution go to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund. So there is an alternate manner by which it gets funded.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Thank you Attorney Vanderbilt.

Senator Sabina Perez: Thank you so much.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Senator San Agustin you're recognized.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Attorney General morning. thank you for all your staff and panel for being here and all your employees that are here. I know there's no 100 there's no 100 employees here but good support.
I'm happy they're here to support you. Simple question. I see in your budget I see I read your booklet. Nice looking booklet pretty pictures. But page one and page Gosh Page one and page I guess four Four.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Roman numeral

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: Yeah. I'm I'm looking at the budget side.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Yeah. Okay. Yeah.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: And then at the same time I'm looking at the the spreadsheet that I know you were all provided. I'm just curious. Page one identifies you basically asking for $24 million correct? Just keeping it simple okay?

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Right.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: 24 million. You get the 24 million you get your 45 attorneys you move on. Then in the back it says 24 million also but when you look at the spreadsheet it said you got 22 and 26 but really you got 26 million.
Am I correct? Maybe you're.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Is this the attorneys we're talking about? 26.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: No I'm just I'm just looking at the I'm just looking at the numbers. I'm not looking at attorneys or anything. Just looking at the numbers

and we can all just follow each other. So just make very simple right? And she can answer it.
Your booklet says 24 million or 22 and 26 but in actuality you got funded 26 correct?

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: Yes sir. This is already included the 66% of child support the federal funding.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: I'm not asking So the I'm not asking about anything. I'm just looking at the numbers okay? I'm not asking the details of it. It says 24, 22 on your booklet.
Spreadsheet says 26. You just tell me why the $4 million difference just so I'll know.

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: Yes sir. That's the 66% of child support federal funding. So our local there is a local the 22 million is a local.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: Right.

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: That's what you're asking for FY 2026. And then we have a federal match of 4 million.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: 4 million.

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: Yes. So that's equal to 26.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: Okay. Then at and at the same token you're asking them basically for 3.6 million increase correct? Not talking about any lapse okay? I don't I don't wanna hear the word lapse. We're talking about what the attorney general's asking for. He's asking for $3.6 million more for '27.
Am I correct?

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: Yes sir.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: Okay. Now I'm gonna go to the Does does your does the Attorney General's office know what it's costing the government of Guam in the executive branch or anywhere else in government of Guam what it's costing the people of Guam to hire all these other attorneys in these other offices?
Do you know the total amount? I'm just curious. Because some agencies got three some got two some got I don't know what number but they're paying a pretty penny

and I'm just curious if we know that dollar amount. Thank you. And the reason why I ask that Attorney General.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Yes.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: Before you answer is because when we look at the budget we have to take a look at everybody.
So we wanna be able to say if somebody has four or five attorneys and you ma you made it clear earlier General Moylan you're the legal officer. You represent the people of Guam. When somebody's hired in an agency and they wanna speak as an attorney are you a private attorney? And if you're a government attorney who do you work for?
"I work for this agency." are you the legal officer? 'Cause I've heard this. You know I I may have came in late but I watched YouTube the whole time you guys were talking.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Yes.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: And I'm like okay who do they represent? They're getting paid by the government of Guam and if they're not coming from your office and they're not appointed deputized deputized as an attorney general assistant attorney general then do you know what it's costing the people of Guam?
That's a great I'm just curious.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: It's in the millions. I can have my staff figure this out 'cause we already know where those attorneys are at. I But it's in the obviously it's in the millions given the numbers that are out there. So I agree with you and thank you for highlighting that who are they working for?
It's usually who signed their contract and that's usually like in EPA situation either the director of EPA or the board that signed her contract.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: But when the Attorney Miller has to get involved you got two attorneys working same EPA.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Yeah.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: Some don't some is not matching

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: It absolutely because what happens is that you have their position represented by an attorney then you have Mr.

Miller's position which is represented by the elected attorney general and if they clash then the taxpayers are paying on both ends.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: That's correct on the interpretation. And and that's why I was just curious if if you if your office knew what it's costing the people of Guam.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Thank you. It's a good question. I'll ask my staff to calculate that.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: Okay. Thank you. I only got one more question. I'm a little bit more simpler than the rest of my colleagues and the reason why is because I dealt with the budget before.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Yes.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: You're paying two point or you're asking for $2.3 million for rental correct?
Or 2.4. Oh wait wait I'm trying 2.3
Please just say yes 'cause it's it's in your booklet.

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: Yes sir.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: Okay. Has a thought ever crossed the minds in the attorney general's office? Because it had in the previous attorney generals Thought of pursuing lease to own and stop paying rent. I mean I'm just curious because $2.3 million can pay a building and everything where you now don't have to be separated.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Absolutely.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: And you own it in maybe 20 years and then you figure out the maintenance. And I'm just curious it hasn't been brought to the.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Thank you Senator San Agustin The last legislature where you were the chair of the the finance area we had a public hearing and that building the the justice building.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: Yes.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: 20 years ago Pedro's Plaza the Chinese guy over there wanted to talk it. I think you even brought this up in the last legislature. We could pay rent for five years and we'd own it. I think it was actually three years. And then you talked also about the open lot where department administration used to be to lend lease or whatever the the DOE is using right now. I agree 100%. To this day I still agree. We're wasting our money with rent. We shouldn't be paying this rent. But to get a office size that we need because we're the largest law firm we need a consolidated law office and even now we have to separate the two functions. 20 years ago I brought it all into that building over there.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: Yeah Pedro's Plaza.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Yeah right we're too big. We can't bring it into one building. But if we built a building had a contract authorization from the legislature to solicit somebody to put a building together for the Department of Law that would be the bestcase scenario. Save the taxpayers money create equity for our people use the property that we already own.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: Well if not there anywhere else.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Yes.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: I'm just I'm hoping that the attorney general's office can come up with a plan.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: I have a bill. It was sent Present it. I have the bill. It was sent the proposed bill it was sent to the last legislature. I still have it in my computer.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: Resubmit it.
Thank you. And then and if and if they won't move I'll introduce it.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Thank you.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: I just I just want to get you guys going because $2.3 million a year?

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Yes.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: You'll probably pay a lot less on a lease to own.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Yes.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: Maintenance free.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Absolutely.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: And you're done. I'm hoping we can do that for revenue and tax.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Right.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: 'Cause they're paying almost the same amount.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Right.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: And they're the office that brings in all the money.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Thank you.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: 3.6 million I mean I got some reservation about the 3.6 but we'll figure it out. Yeah. With the chairman we'll figure out where the money can come from. But you know rest assured that everybody's gonna be everybody's asking for money.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: 100% behind you.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: So we'll just do We're wasting that rent.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Yes.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: And that that could save you and give you the money. And we and you know as I know my colleagues were asking where would the where would you fill use the money for whatever money you get. Honest believe you're gonna get a blank check whatever the budget is.
Maybe after the budget is passed you brief the legislation and says "This is where we're gonna spend it." So that we don't come back and says "I need 45 more attorneys." And then I'll say "You said that and we gave you a little bit. Did you hire at least 10 or " You know just brief us.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Like update yes.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin: Just give us an update.
That's all we're asking. That's all we ever asked for right? And thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* Senator San Agustin. So I just got a couple of questions and then we'll close. So who prepared the budget? is your ASO next to you Mr. Chair?

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: I did sir.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Okay. Thank you. So what is your current tracking on budgeted vacancies?
How many budgeted vacancies do you currently have?

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: We have right now 8 million.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: 8 million in budgeted vacancies.

Dulce Taladoc, Comptroller, OAG: Yes.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Okay. So yeah so really that's kind of where I wanna cap this off and I wanna be clear that in our discussions and our ask in terms of what the budget reflected we did not I wanna be ultra clear on this. We did not have a question particularly on what the lapses we're tracking and what we wanted to do on your request going forward into the new fiscal year based on that discussion overall 'cause as I think we've concluded now that the actual representation is an increase.
Let's just leave lapses out of it because that's it's not it's either gonna be a a straight out appropriation in the new budget as opposed to recognizing carryover because that's that's terminated for this fiscal year for sure. So Yeah.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Yeah. Sure.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: That's the danger we're in because these lawsuits that we're having to pay we got the money in the bank.

October 1 is approaching. If we don't pay it out 'cause DOA isn't letting us pay it out it's gonna end up as a what is that a lapse? It's it's an account payable to our books
Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Yes.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: And we're gonna get a lawsuit. We already have one lawsuit of a a a Mr. Vanderbilt has his claim that he's probably gonna f file with us.
There's at least three government claims for money that we haven't paid them because DOA doesn't wanna pay us. It's if we get to October 1 we're gonna need to pay that so I'm gonna have to make sure that we account for this moving target as we move closer to the end of fiscal year. yeah. 'Cause there's something unusual happening to the attorney general's office because of the governor's DOA okay?

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: So I understand. I understand. And I'm following you and I'm following you on the basis of like I'm saying our questions were the 5.9 and the 5.2 respectively from 2025 and 2026 current tracking and the current $8 million in budgeted vacancies. So the point I'm making is we're gonna meet you.
We're gonna meet you at the place we need to meet you. The thing is that the discussion in terms of how we get towards the end of the fiscal year follow the lapses and follow what the obligations are is a representation of an authorized budget for '27 as opposed to continuously talking about the lapses.
'Cause if we do that and represent that then we will be asked by other agencies that Why not them? are coming before us. We're giving everybody what we believe their budget ceiling is gonna end up being and based on their request and based on what we see in terms of what the overall budget appropriation amount is and then divide it out into all of the respective agencies and entities.
So that's why we're just trying to be clear here. Well I understand you're up against a situation where you've got to attempt to exhaust this current tracking of lapses get to September 30 and look at what that is. We will be watching that as well.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Yeah

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: As we go through to deliberate the budget.
And then when we discuss what is gonna end up being the budget amount it will be based on how it's tracking and what budget is adopted as a represented whatever the the new number is as your budget. That should account for your expenditures going forward because even if you carried forward right now let's just be honest even if you just carried forward this budget right now and nothing changed between now and September 30 other than your obligations that would total up.

I don't think that's gonna total $8 million So the reality is is that I just wanna let everybody once again here know that what's based on your fixed costs of your salaries and benefits if I just go through that right now and start from the top in terms of your actual request on your salaries and benefits you have. If you go to your your budget digest in the back you have 12 million 823 and then you've got your overtime pegged at 5 million 211 totaling 18 million. And then you of course your contractual that will be below that. What I'm saying is if you track that with your budgeted vacancies you you you would have no inability to pay your people.
But I understand where you're coming from in terms of what you need to do do going forward. That's what I wanted to walk away from the table with today. That will all be considered and it but it will be considered so that we understand each other as an increase in the budget for fiscal year '27 as opposed to carryover.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Right so it's clean slated.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Exactly.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: Don't talk about lapses just how much do you need?

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Exactly. Because I And that's where I actually get concerned also because if you're already having difficulty with your ability to work with Department of Administration whether it's coming as a directive from the governor's office or whether it's just internal I don't know that.
The only God knows the answer to that question more than likely.

Douglas Moylan, Attorney General of Guam, OAG: I presume the new But administration might be different.

Chairman Christopher M. Duenas: Yeah. And that's another thing. And that's another thing and I've been telling agencies this. I mean this is just a reality. This is not even a political statement it's a reality of what's happening.
We're discussing the fiscal year 2027 budget. That budget will only be one quarter of a transition between a governor's office and a legislature. We we will all be in transition. And so the fact is is is is that your that you you have to factor you don't kn we none of us know what that relationship is gonna be like what that ability to manage cash is gonna be like going forward.
Of course I think we all hope for improvement but the fact of the matter is is that's also on the table. So that's why we're basically putting all of these factors into the equation at looking at what is your sustainability number right? What is gonna make

sure that you can operate? You can pay your bills you can pay your rent you can pay your utilities you can pay your people.

And then you can you you can get to where you need to get to in terms of your your increase. Your federal match is covered. That that's And and to answer the senator's question earlier in terms of what we're doing for child support that's going up by $2 million. And that's that's a you know a great work on your guys' part being able to realize that.

And obviously that means that you're getting those benefits out because that's why you're continuing to increase it 'cause there's no cap So we'll continue to match the local on that. That only makes sense. That that's let's pull in as much federal money as we can by matching it with local cash. So we're we're on point you know with with with basically 98% of what we're talking about here.

It's we gotta bullseye that number in order to make sure that we understand where you're coming from and what your needs are. And we're c we'll make a close watch like next month again you know We'll update it I would say work hard but I don't know if it's you're being held back or what but do your best to spend that money 'cause that's where the CRER is gonna continue to report that.

That's just a fact. That is it's like you're going into your bank statement. Every month you're gonna get a bank statement and you're gonna go in there and you know the wife is gonna say "What's this?" I'm sorry. No that's that's a different issue. But but you're gonna It's it's like looking at your ba every month that that statement basically says you know "Here's your account.

This is what you spent last month. Here's what's in your saving. Here's what's in your checking." And so the more you can pump the gas to get you know to get that money spent we've been telling everybody that. If you can't spend your money that's a problem for us too. But we're we'll continue to work with you General and your team.

We wanna thank you all for being here this morning. I wanna thank everyone who's you know asked their very valuable questions. And thank your office once again for the for the good representation and being here and and and understanding what your needs are going forward to be the chief legal officer of of our island and carry out those duties and responsibilities to keep us safe.

Thank you once again our colleagues. And with that the budget hearing for the attorney general's office has been heard and we are adjourned at 11:20. *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* God bless you.

The Budget Hearing was adjourned at [11:20 AM]..

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

COMMITTEE VOTE SHEET

Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Introduced by Committee on Rules by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam, "AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS."

Committee Members	Signature	TO DO PASS	TO NOT PASS	TO REPORT OUT ONLY	TO ABSTAIN	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE
Senator Christopher M. Dueñas *Chairperson*	CMD			X		
Senator V. Anthony Ada *Vice Chairperson*	E-Vote 6/23/26			X		
Senator Frank F. Blas, Jr. *Member*						
Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane *Member*						
Senator Jesse A. Lujan *Member*	E-Vote 6/23/26			X		
Senator Vincent A.V. Borja *Member*	E-Vote 6/23/26			X		
Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes *Member*	E-Vote 6/23/26			X		
Senator Joe S. San Agustin *Member*	E-Vote 6/23/26			X		

OFFICE OF SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS
259 Martyr Street, Hagatna Guam 96910 | Tel: 671-989-9554 | senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov
Like and follow @senatorduenas

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

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

URGENT REQUEST for EVOTE: BIll No. 266-38 (COR)

6 messages

Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov> Tue, Jun 23, 2026 at 10:16 AM
To: cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

Hafa adai Committee Members:

Please see the attached committee report on Bill No. 266-38 (COR) - Committee on Rules by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam -- AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

Please indicate your preferred action, based on the following options:

- 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.

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

Committee Report Bill No.266-38 (COR) As Intro…

Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com> Tue, Jun 23, 2026 at 11:09 AM
To: Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc: cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

To report out. Thank you.

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

***Electronic Privacy Notice**: This e-mail and any attachment(s), contains information that is, or may be, covered by electronic communications privacy laws and legal privileges, and is also confidential and proprietary in nature. If you are not the intended recipient, please be advised that you are legally prohibited from retaining, using, copying, distributing, or otherwise disclosing the information in this e mail or any attachment in any manner. Instead, please*

reply to the sender that you have received this communication in error, and then immediately delete it. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

[Quoted te t hidden]

Senator Tina Rose Muña-Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov> Tue, Jun 23, 2026 at 11:52 AM
To: Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc: cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

To report out only
[Quoted te t hidden]

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov> Tue, Jun 23, 2026 at 12:03 PM
To: Senator Tina Rose Muña-Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc: Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

To report out

> On Jun 23, 2026, at 11:52 AM, Senator Tina Rose Muña-Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov> wrote:
>
> [Quoted text hidden]

Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com> Tue, Jun 23, 2026 at 12:04 PM
To: Senator Tina Rose Muña-Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc: Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

Håfa Adai,

To report out only.

Respectfully,

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

T +1 (671) 969-8423

E contact@senatorvinceborja.com

[Quoted te t hidden]

Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov> Tue, Jun 23, 2026 at 12:18 PM
To: Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>
Cc: Senator Tina Rose Muña-Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

Hafa Adai!

To report out only.

Have a good day!
[Quoted te t hidden]
--

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

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2026 (SECOND) REGULAR SESSION

Bill No. 266-38 (COR)

Introduced by: **Committee on Rules**
by request of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam.

AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, MAKING OTHER APPROPRIATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Short Title. This Act *shall* be known as the ***"General Appropriations Act of 2027"***. *Except* as otherwise provided by this Act, the appropriations made by this Act identifying Fiscal Year 2027 shall be available to pay for obligations incurred on *or* after October 1, 2026 but *no later than* September 30, 2027. *If* any appropriation in this Act is found contrary to federal law, all other portions of this Act *shall* remain valid.

Section 2. Business Privilege Tax. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, rule, or regulation, beginning on October 1, 2026, the business privilege tax rate *shall* be four and a half percent (4.5%).

Section 3. § 26202(a), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j) of Chapter 26, Title 11 of Guam Code Annotated are hereby amended to read:

"§ 26202. Rates. The following rates shall apply in computing, assessing and collecting the business privilege tax:

(a) Tax on the Business of Selling Tangible Personal Property. Upon every person engaging or continuing within Guam in the business of selling any tangible property whatsoever (not including however, bonds or other evidence of indebtedness or stocks), there shall be a tax equivalent to four and a half percent (4.5%) effective October 1, 2025, of gross proceeds of sales; except that on the gross proceeds of the operation of poker machines, there shall be a tax equivalent to eight percent (8%) on the gross proceeds of each machine, as determined by subtracting the winnings, pay-outs and malfunction refunds from total receipts of each machine.

(1) Provided, that gross proceeds of export sales of tangible property in foreign commerce shall not constitute a part of the measure of the tax imposed. Although not constituting a part of the measure of the tax imposed, all such sales shall be reported in the manner provided for the reporting of the tax imposed by § 26202(a).

(2) Provided, that any person engaging or continuing in business as a retailer and a wholesaler shall pay the tax required solely on the gross proceeds of sales of the retail business, and his books must be kept so as to show separately the gross proceeds of sale of each business.

(3) Provided, that a manufacturer or producer engaging in the business of selling his manufactured products at retail in Guam shall be required to make returns of the gross proceeds of such retail sales and pay the tax imposed by this Chapter for the privilege of engaging in the business of selling such products at retail in Guam; and

(4) Provided, that a manufacturer or producer, other than a manufacturer of alcoholic beverages, engaging in the business of selling his products to manufacturers, wholesalers, or licensed retailers, or persons actually selling the products to the United States Government, shall not be required to pay the tax imposed in this Act for the privilege of selling such products at wholesale. Nor shall any such manufacturer or producer, other than a manufacturer of alcoholic beverages, be required to pay the tax imposed in this Act for the privilege of selling products for delivery to the purchaser outside of Guam. The point of delivery for a purchaser outside of Guam may be on Guam, if the product's ultimate destination or consumption is outside of Guam.

(b) (1) [Repealed.] (2) [Repealed.] (3) Tax upon boxing. The tax levied and assessed under Subsections (b)(1) and (b)(2) (repealed) of this Section shall not apply to boxing for which a tax equivalent to twelve percent (12%) of the gross income of such boxing business is hereby levied and assessed.

(c) Tax on service business. Upon every person engaging or continuing within Guam, in any service business or calling not otherwise specifically taxed under this Section, [there shall be] a tax equivalent to four and a half percent (4.5%) effective October 1, 2025, of the gross income of such business.

(d) Professions. Upon every person engaging or continuing within Guam in the practice of a profession, excluding those expounding the religious doctrines of any church, [there shall be] a tax equivalent to four and a half percent (4.5%) effective October 1, 2025, of the gross income of such practice.

(e) Tax on Contractors. There shall be levied, assessed and collected a tax rate of four and a half percent (4.5%) effective October 1, 2025, measured against the gross income of any

contractor; provided, that there shall be deducted from the gross income of the taxpayer so much thereof as has been included in the gross income earned from another taxpayer who is a contractor as defined in § 26101(b) and who has already paid the tax levied under this Subsection for goods and services that include the deductible gross income of the taxpayer who is a contractor; provided, that any person claiming a deduction under this Subsection shall be required to show in the person's return either the name and the contractor's license number issued by the Guam Contractors License Board, or the Guam business license number, or the registration number for a professional engineer, architect or land surveyor, or the Certificate of Authorization (COA) number for a business authorized to provide engineering, architecture or land surveying services by the Guam Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, Architects, and Land Surveyors of the person paying the tax on the amount deducted by the person.

(f) Tax on banks, banking institutions, small lenders and building and loan associations. Upon every person engaging or continuing within Guam in the business of operating any bank, banking institutions, building and loan association, small lending business, or lending institutions, there shall be a tax equivalent to four and a half percent (4.5%) effective October 1, 2025, of the net income received from business.

(1) Net Income. For the purpose of this Section, net income shall mean the gross income of such taxpayer received from all sources less the following deductions there from:

(A) Salaries or bonuses paid and other compensation from personal services.

(B) Interest or discount paid.

(C) Rents paid.

(D) Ordinary operating expenses such as supplies, utility services, insurance premiums other than for life insurance, provided that any deductible insurance expense shall be allowable only to the extent that such a premium is applicable to the tax period against which it is claimed.

(E) Loans or obligations charged off the books of the bank as losses unless charged against reserves then in existence.

(F) Losses other than loan losses, such as those occasioned by fire or other casualty, theft, embezzlement, and the like, but only to the extent not covered by insurance proceeds collected.

(G) Transfers from earnings to reserve for bad debts or other contingencies provided for.

(H) Miscellaneous direct expenses such as legal, advertising, auditing, and the like.

(I) Loss on property sold and depreciation on property owned.

(2) A person liable for the payment of taxes levied under this Section shall be required to file an annual return and shall not be required to file monthly returns. The tax year shall be calendar year except that the taxpayer may use his annual accounting period when prior permission is obtained from the Tax Commissioner. The annual return under this Subsection shall be filed not later than ninety (90) days following the close of the taxpayer's tax year.

(g) Dealing in foreign currency. Upon every person engaging or continuing within Guam in the business of purchasing and selling foreign money, there shall be a tax equivalent to four and a half percent (4.5%) effective October 1, 2025, of the gross profit of such business

represented by the difference between the cost and selling price of the foreign currency measured in United States dollars.

(h) Tax on other business. Upon every person engaging or continuing within Guam in any business, trade, activity, occupation or calling not specifically included in any other provision of this Article, there shall likewise be a tax equivalent to four and a half percent (4.5%) effective October 1, 2025, of the gross income of such business. This Section shall apply to the gross income of persons taxable under other provisions of this Chapter but which gross income is not derived from the exercise or privilege taxable thereunder.

(i) Insurers. Upon every person engaged or continuing within Guam in the business of an insurer, there shall be a tax at the rate of four and a half percent (4.5%) effective October 1, 2025, of gross income received as premium for the writing of insurance, less returned premiums and less all commissions attributable to the sale and purchase of an insurance policy or policies of the insurer paid by said insurer to agents of the same, and four and a half percent (4.5%) effective October 1, 2025, of any other gross income earned or derived on Guam.

(j) Tour Agencies.

(1) Upon every person engaging or continuing within Guam in the business of a tour agency or travel agency, where tourism-related services are furnished to consumers by independent vendors through arrangements made by a travel agency, or tour packager, and the gross income is divided between the provider of the services on the one hand and the travel agency or tour packager on the other hand, a tax equivalent to four and a half percent (4.5%) effective October 1, 2025, shall be imposed on each person with respect to such person's respective portion of the proceeds, and no more.

(2) Where transient accommodations are furnished through arrangements made by a travel agency or tour packager, the gross income is divided between the provider of the transient accommodations on the one hand and the travel agency, or tour packager, on the other hand, a tax equivalent to four and a half percent (4.5%) effective October 1, 2025, shall be imposed on each person with respect to such person's respective portion of the proceeds, and no more.

(A) As used in this Subsection, tourism related services shall mean dinner cruises, transportation included in a tour package, sightseeing tours, dinner shows, extravaganzas, cultural and educational facilities, and other services rendered directly to the customer or tourist.

(B) As used in this Subsection 'transient accommodations' shall mean hotel, lodging facility, or similar facility located on Guam and subject to the provisions of 11 GCA § 30101."

Section 4. Estimated Revenues for Fiscal Year 2027. Notwithstanding § 22436, Chapter 22, Title 5 Guam Code Annotated, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, the Guam Legislature, adopts the following revenue estimates for Fiscal Year 2027 as the basis for the appropriations contained in this Act.

I. GENERAL FUND REVENUES	**AMOUNT**
A. TAXES	
Income Tax	
Individual (*not* including the Additional Child Tax Credit)	$115,353,000
Corporate	$143,244,600
Withholding Taxes, Interest, and Penalties	$333,036,063
Provision for Tax Refund Payments (net of the Additional Child Tax Credit)	($25,359,760)

TOTAL INCOME TAXES	**$566,273,903**
Business Privilege Tax	$380,295,869
GMHA Pharmaceuticals Fund	
(§ 26208, Article 2, Chapter 26 of Title 11 GCA)	($23,540,314)
Tax Credits:	
GMHA Medical Supplies (P.L. 35-138)	($1,000,000)
Guam National Youth Football Federation (P.L. 36-129)	($500,000)
Other Taxes	$8,529,125
Guam National Youth Football Federation (P.L. 36-129)	($375,000)
TOTAL BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX	**$363,409,680**
TOTAL TAXES	**$929,683,583**
B. FEDERAL SOURCES	
Federal Income Tax Collection	
Section 30 Funds (Net of War Claims Deduction)	$85,187,739
Immigration Fees and Other Federal Sources	$2,507,408
TOTAL FEDERAL SOURCES	**$87,695,147**
C. USE OF MONEY AND PROPERTY	**$4,277,561**
D. LICENSES, FEES, AND PERMITS	
Licenses, Fees, and Permits	$5,053,075
Licenses, Fees, and Permits (Better Public	
Service Fund) (Chapter 161 of Title 11 GCA)	($505,308)
TOTAL LICENSES, FEES, AND PERMITS	**$4,547,767**
E. DEPARTMENT CHARGES	**$1,366,617**

	TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE		**$1,027,570,675**
	RAINY DAY FUND		**($6,868,536)**
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE		
	AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATION		**$1,020,702,139**
II.	**SPECIAL FUND REVENUES**		
	A.	Banking and Insurance Enforcement Fund	$504,183
	B.	Better Public Service Fund	$1,465,286
	C.	Chamorro Land Trust Operations Fund	$1,032,313
	D.	Chamorro Land Trust Survey and Infrastructure Fund	$10,934
	E.	Corrections Inmate Revolving Fund	$1,121,084
	F.	Customs, Agriculture, and Quarantine Inspection Services Fund	$7,696,311
	G.	Enhanced 911 Emergency Reporting System Fund	$1,850,622
	H.	Environmental Health Fund	$1,812,482
	I.	Fire, Life, and Medical Emergency Fund	$733,466
	J.	GMHA Pharmaceuticals Fund	$23,540,314
	K.	Guam Ancestral Lands Commission Survey, Infrastructure, and Development Fund	$444,396
	L.	Guam Board of Accountancy Fund	$699,600
	M.	Guam Contractors License Board Fund	$862,027
	N.	Guam Educational Facilities Fund	$35,566,403
	O.	Guam Environmental Trust Fund	$352,488
	P.	Guam Highway Fund (GHF)	$14,250,808

		(a) GHF (Better Public Service Fund; Chapter 161 of Title 11 GCA)	($959,978)
		(b) GHF (GIAA – Pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 79, 66282)	($1,066,323)
		Total Guam Highway Fund	$12,224,507
Q.		Guam Invasive Species Inspection Fee Fund	$1,690,985
R.		Guam Plant Inspection and Permit Fund	$109,515
S.		Health Professional Licensing Office Revolving Fund	$344,376
T.		Healthy Futures Fund	$23,114,705
U.		Host Community Fund	$300,000
V.		Indirect Cost Fund	$1,391,474
W.		Land Survey Revolving Fund	$2,519,784
X.		Limited Gaming Fund	$1,091,062
Y.		Manpower Development Fund	$11,536,138
Z.		Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Fund	$416,750
AA.		Office of Vital Statistics Revolving Fund	$221,035
AB.		Police Patrol Vehicle and Equipment Revolving Fund	$345,081
AC.		Police Services Fund	$1,142,044
AD.		Professional Engineers, Architects, and	
		Land Surveyors Board Fund	$292,525
AE.		Public Recreation Services Fund	$71,958
AF.		Public School Library Resources Fund	$1,129,478
AG.		Rabies Prevention Fund	$55,827
AH.		Safe Streets Fund	$29,701
AI.		Sanitary Inspection Revolving Fund	$510,221

AJ.	School Lunch/SAE/Child Nutritional Meal Reimbursement	
	Fund – Federal Sources (100% Federal Grant)/Cash Collections	$12,504,000
AK.	Solid Waste Operations Fund	$24,472,081
	Host Community Fund (§ 51405, Article 4,	
	Chapter 51 of Title 10 GCA)	($300,000)
	Total Solid Waste Operations Fund	$24,172,081
AL.	Street Light Fund	$4,190,000
AM.	Tax Collection Enhancement Fund	$1,130,978
AN.	Tourist Attraction Fund	$34,868,794
AO.	Water Research and Development Fund	$83,974
TOTAL SPECIAL FUND REVENUE		**$213,178,902**
III.	**FEDERAL MATCHING GRANTS-IN-AID REVENUES**	
	Federal Grants-In-Aid Requiring Local Match:	
A.	Customs and Quarantine Agency	$1,875,000
B.	Department of Integrated Services for	
	Individuals with Disabilities	$2,771,127
C.	Department of Labor	$47,000
D.	Department of Military Affairs	$2,178,570
E.	Department of Public Health and Social Services	$188,801,303
F.	Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency	$426,950
G.	Guam Police Department	$4,202,656
H.	University of Guam	$6,742,835
TOTAL FEDERAL MATCHING GRANTS-		

IN-AID REVENUE **$207,045,441**

REVENUE SUMMARY:

TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE

AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATION **$1,020,702,139**

TOTAL SPECIAL FUND REVENUE **$213,178,902**

TOTAL FEDERAL MATCHING GRANTS-IN-AID REVENUE **$207,045,441**

GRAND TOTAL **$1,440,926,482**

Section 5. Debt Service Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2027. The following are continuing appropriations for debt service requirements:

A. GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (GDOE),
SERIES 2013A CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION
(OKKODO HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT)
(Chapter 58B of Title 5 GCA; § 50103, Chapter 50 of Title 12 GCA; and Title 13 GCA; due FY 2030 as final year; to include additional rent [Insurance and Maintenance to be reimbursed by the GDOE]) $3,061,060 **1/**

1/ General Fund (Principal & Interest: $2,411,060) and Guam Educational Facilities Fund (Insurance & Maintenance: $650,000)

B. LIMITED OBLIGATION BONDS
BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX, SERIES 2015D
(Refunding of GOB, Series 2007A, and a portion of GOB, Series 2009A; final maturity FY 2040) $1,000,000 **2/**

2/ General Fund

C. LIMITED OBLIGATION (SECTION 30) BONDS, SERIES 2016A

(Refunding of LO [Section 30] Bonds, Series 2009A; refinancing of Series 2013B Guam Education Financing Foundation II, Inc. Certificates of Participation [Okkodo High School Expansion Project]; financing certain working capital costs of the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, including the refinancing of an outstanding loan from the Bank of Guam) $17,767,875 **3/**

3/ General Fund

D. GUAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 2016 USDA LEASE

(To finance the construction, expansion renovation, and hardening of GCC Gregorio G. Perez Crime Lab and Building #100) $200,400 **4/**

4/ Guam Educational Facilities Fund

E. GUAM EDUCATION FINANCING FOUNDATION (GEFF), SERIES 2016A AND 2016B CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION

(To refund the Guam Education Financing Foundation (GEFF) Certificates of Participation Series 2006A and Series 2006B, and the GEFF Certificates of Participation Series 2008; Compact Impact Funds pledged from FY 2017 through FY 2023; Government of Guam to cover remainder of obligation through final maturity on FY 2027) $1,000,000 **5/**

5/ General Fund

F. GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2019A

(To finance the expansion of the Layon Landfill) $2,994,875 **6/**

6/ Solid Waste Operations Fund

G. GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,

SERIES 2020A CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION

(JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT)

(To refinance the GDOE Series 2010A, Certificates of

Participation for JFK High School) $7,095,325 **7/**

7/ General Fund (Principal & Interest: $5,527,325) and Guam Educational Facilities Fund (Insurance & Maintenance: $1,568,000)

H. LIMITED OBLIGATION BONDS BUSINESS

PRIVILEGE TAX, SERIES 2021E AND SERIES 2021F

(Series 2021E: Refunding of a portion of BPT Bonds, Series 2015D;

final maturity FY 2027; and Series 2021F: Refunding of all or

a portion of BPT Bonds, Series 2011A and Series 2012B-1;

final maturity FY 2042) $15,930,138 **8/**

8/ General Fund

I. LIMITED OBLIGATION HOTEL

OCCUPANCY TAX (HOT) REFUNDING

REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2021A

(Refunding of LO HOT Bonds, Series 2011A;

final maturity FY 2041) $2,943,250 **9/**

9/ Tourist Attraction Fund

J.	**LIMITED OBLIGATION BONDS**	
	BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX, SERIES 2025G	
	(Series 2025G: Refunding of a portion of BPT Bonds, Series 2015D;	
	final maturity FY 2040)	$13,498,450 **10/**
	10/ General Fund	
	TOTAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS	**$65,491,373**

CHAPTER II

APPROPRIATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE BRANCH OPERATIONS

Section 1. Executive Branch Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2027. Three Hundred Eighty-Four Million Three Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars **($384,355,765)** are appropriated for the operations of the Executive Branch for fiscal year ending September 30, 2027. This sum is composed of Two Hundred Ninety-One Million Five Hundred Ninety-Four Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Dollars **($291,594,390)** from the General Fund, Sixty-Four Million Nine Hundred Twenty-Eight Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-Four Dollars **($64,928,284)** from Special Funds, and Twenty-Seven Million Eight Hundred Thirty-Three Thousand Ninety-One Dollars **($27,833,091)** from Federal Matching Grants-in-Aid. The appropriations *shall* be expended as follows:

	General Fund	Special Fund	Federal Fund Match	Total
I. GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
A. Offices of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* and *I Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*	$ 5,851,424	$ 293,825 **1/**	$ -	$ 6,145,249
B. Medical Referral Assistance Office	$ 665,849	$ -	$ -	$ 665,849
C. Offices of Homeland Security / Civil Defense	$ 1,502,252	$ -	$ -	$ 1,502,252
D. Bureau of Women's Affairs	$ 323,845	$ -	$ -	$ 323,845

	General Fund	Special Fund	Federal Fund Match	Total
E. Bureau of Budget and Management Research	$ 1,342,956	$ 373,194 **1/**	$ -	$ 1,716,150
F. Civil Service Commission	$ 1,710,590	$ -	$ -	$ 1,710,590
G. Administration	$ 12,613,752	$ 779,008 **2/**	$ -	$ 13,392,760
H. Office of Technology	$ 6,876,644	$ -	$ -	$ 6,876,644
I. Public Works	$ 4,101,392	$ 17,101,546 **3/**	$ -	$ 21,202,938
J. Revenue and Taxation	$ 16,599,950	$ 3,100,447 **4/**	$ -	$ 19,700,397
K. Land Management	$ 1,789,944	$ 2,519,784 **5/**	$ -	$ 4,309,728
L. Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, Architects, and Land Surveyors (PEALS)	$ 84,127	$ 292,525 **6/**	$ -	$ 376,652
M. Contractors License Board	$ -	$ 862,027 **7/**	$ -	$ 862,027
N. Veterans Affairs	$ 1,246,443	$ -	$ -	$ 1,246,443
O. Guam Ethics Commission	$ 552,680	$ -	$ -	$ 552,680
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	**$ 55,261,848**	**$ 25,322,356**	**$ -**	**$ 80,584,204**

	General Fund	Special Fund		Federal Fund Match	Total
II. PROTECTION OF LIFE & PROPERTY					
A. Corrections	$ 38,187,127	$ 1,132,964	**8/**	$ -	$ 39,320,091
B. Youth Affairs	$ 8,313,184	$ -		$ -	$ 8,313,184
C. Guam Fire	$ 39,967,637	$ 2,584,088	**9/**	$ -	$ 42,551,725
D. Guam Police	$ 55,621,088	$ 4,818,217	**10/**	$ 4,202,656	$ 64,641,961
E. Office of Post-Mortem Examinations	$ 1,056,911	$ -		$ -	$ 1,056,911
F. Customs and Quarantine Agency	$ 14,542,426	$ 6,426,931	**11/**	$ 1,875,000	$ 22,844,357
G. Guam Environmental Protection Agency	$ 5,107,987	$ 436,462	**12/**	$ -	$ 5,544,449
TOTAL PROTECTION OF LIFE & PROPERTY	**$ 162,796,360**	**$ 15,398,662**		**$ 6,077,656**	**$ 184,272,678**
III. PUBLIC HEALTH					
A. Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center	$ 15,773,851	$ 8,704,684	**13/**	$ -	$ 24,478,535
B. Public Health and Social Services	$ 29,983,042	$ 2,888,114	**14/**	$ 16,331,788	$ 49,202,944
TOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH	**$ 45,756,893**	**$ 11,592,798**		**$ 16,331,788**	**$ 73,681,479**

	General Fund	Special Fund		Federal Fund Match	Total
IV. COMMUNITY SERVICES					
A. Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities	$ 4,397,961	$ 3,846,612	**15/**	$ 2,771,127	$ 11,015,700
B. Guam Regional Transit Authority	$ 2,840,499	$ -		$ -	$ 2,840,499
TOTAL COMMUNITY SERVICES	**$ 7,238,460**	**$ 3,846,612**		**$ 2,771,127**	**$ 13,856,199**
V. RECREATION					
A. Parks and Recreation	$ 4,942,112	$ 417,461	**16/**	$ -	$ 5,359,573
TOTAL RECREATION	**$ 4,942,112**	**$ 417,461**		**$ -**	**$ 5,359,573**
VI. INDIVIDUAL & COLLECTIVE RIGHTS					
A. Commission on Decolonization	$ 380,870	$ -		$ -	$ 380,870
B. *CHamoru* Affairs	$ 2,579,633	$ -		$ -	$ 2,579,633
C. Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities	$ 772,866	$ -		$ 426,950	$ 1,199,816
D. *Hagåtña* Restoration and Redevelopment Authority	$ 443,589	$ -		$ -	$ 443,589

	General Fund	Special Fund		Federal Fund Match	Total
E. Commission on *CHamoru* Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam	$ 864,566	$ -		$ -	$ 864,566
F. Labor	$ 408,409	$ 3,460,841	**17/**	$ 47,000	$ 3,916,250
G. Military Affairs	$ 1,442,579	$ -		$ 2,178,570	$ 3,621,149
TOTAL INDIVIDUAL & COLLECTIVE RIGHTS	**$ 6,892,512**	**$ 3,460,841**		**$ 2,652,520**	**$ 13,005,873**
VII. PUBLIC EDUCATION					
A. Guam Educational Telecommunications Corporation (PBS Guam)	$ 703,283	$ 1,101,155	**18/**	$ -	$ 1,804,438
B. Guam Public Library System	$ -	$ 1,932,072	**19/**	$ -	$ 1,932,072
TOTAL PUBLIC EDUCATION	**$ 703,283**	**$ 3,033,227**		**$ -**	**$ 3,736,510**
VIII. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT					
A. Bureau of Statistics and Plans	$ 1,973,531	$ -		$ -	$ 1,973,531
B. Agriculture	$ 6,029,391	$ 1,856,327	**20/**	$ -	$ 7,885,718

TOTAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	**$ 8,002,922**	**$ 1,856,327**	**$ -**	**$ 9,859,249**
GRAND TOTAL	**$ 291,594,390**	**$ 64,928,284**	**$ 27,833,091**	**$ 384,355,765**

NOTES:

1/ Indirect Cost Fund

2/ Indirect Cost Fund **($724,455)** and Limited Gaming Fund **($54,553)**

3/ Guam Highway Fund **($9,193,988)** and Guam Educational Facilities Fund **($7,907,558)**

4/ Tax Collection Enhancement Fund **($1,130,978)**, Better Public Service Fund **($1,465,286)**, and Banking and Insurance Enforcement Fund **($504,183)**

5/ Land Survey Revolving Fund

6/ Professional Engineers, Architects and Land Surveyors Board Fund

7/ Guam Contractors License Board Fund

8/ Corrections Inmate Revolving Fund **($1,121,084)** and Safe Streets Fund **($11,880)**

9/ Enhanced 911 Emergency Reporting System Fund **($1,850,622)** and Fire, Life, and Medical Emergency Fund **($733,466)**

10/ Police Services Fund **($1,142,044)**, Police Patrol Vehicle and Equipment Revolving Fund **($345,081)**, and Tourist Attraction Fund **($3,331,092)**

11/ Customs, Agriculture, and Quarantine Inspection Services Fund

12/ Guam Environmental Trust Fund **($352,488)** and Water Research and Development Fund **($83,974)**

13/ Healthy Futures Fund **($8,287,934)** and Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Fund **($416,750)**

14/ Environmental Health Fund **($1,812,482)**, Office of Vital Statistics Revolving Fund **($221,035)**, Health Professional Licensing Office Revolving Fund **($344,376)**, and Sanitary Inspection Revolving Fund **($510,221)**

15/ Healthy Futures Fund

16/ Public Recreation Services Fund **($71,958)** and Limited Gaming Fund **($345,503)**

17/ Manpower Development Fund

18/ Guam Educational Facilities Fund

19/ Guam Educational Facilities Fund **($1,593,229)** and Public School Library Resources Fund **($338,843)**

20/ Guam Plant Inspection and Permit Fund **($109,515)**, Guam Invasive Species Inspection Fee Fund **($1,690,985)**, and Rabies Prevention Fund **($55,827)**

CHAPTER III

MISCELLANEOUS APPROPRIATIONS

Section 1. Appropriation to the Guam Department of Education for *CHamoru* Studies. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Five Hundred Thirteen Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Four Dollars **($513,824)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Guam Department of Education for the *CHamoru* Studies Division to be expended for personnel salaries and benefits, contractual services, professional development and training, supplies and materials, and equipment for the support and the implementation of the Content Standards and Performance Indicators of the course syllabi for the emphasis of fluency and for the promotion of the proficiency skills in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the *CHamoru* language.

Section 2. Appropriation to the Guam Department of Education for Menstrual Hygiene Products for Guam Public Schools. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Guam Department of Education for the purchase of menstrual hygiene products for Guam public schools. All public schools on Guam that serve students in grades five (5) through twelve (12) *shall* provide menstrual hygiene products, such as tampons and sanitary pads, in the nursing or counselor's offices of such schools; and, such products *shall* be provided to students at no charge to them.

Section 3. Appropriation to the Guam Department of Education for School Maintenance and Repairs. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Ten Million Dollars **($10,000,000)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) for school facilities maintenance, school facilities maintenance staff, and repairs of the GDOE schools.

Section 4. Miscellaneous Healthy Futures Fund Appropriations to the Guam Department of Education.

(a) **Interscholastic Sports Fund.** For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Six Hundred Fourteen Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars **($614,165)** is appropriated from the Healthy Futures Fund to the Guam Department of Education for the Interscholastic Sports Fund to be expended pursuant to § 7108, Chapter 7, Title 17 GCA. The appropriation made in this Subsection *shall* be available to fund sports programs, to include the payment of head coaches, assistant coaches, league fees, busing services, and other expenses normally associated with interscholastic sports.

(b) **Health and Physical Education Activities.** For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Two Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Nine Dollars **($277,589)** is appropriated from the Healthy Futures Fund to the Guam Department of Education for health and physical education programs, intramural sports, and similar activities.

Section 5. Appropriation to the Guam Department of Education for Alternative Dispute Resolution/Mediation Services. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars **($40,000)** is appropriated from the Guam Educational Facilities Fund to the Guam Department of Education to obtain and provide Alternative Dispute Resolution/Mediation Services to all public schools on Guam.

Section 6. Appropriation to the Guam Department of Education for Grounds Maintenance for Schools. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Three Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Twenty-Two Dollars **($385,022)** is appropriated from the Guam Educational Facilities Fund for the grounds maintenance of Guam Department of Education schools.

Section 7. Guam Department of Education Summer School Fund. Pursuant to § 6119, Article 1, Chapter 6, Division 2, Title 17 of the Guam Code Annotated which established the Summer

School Fund, such sums as are necessary to fund the operations of the Fiscal Year 2027 Summer School Program are hereby appropriated to the Guam Department of Education. The Superintendent of Education *shall* submit a detailed report to *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* and the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* regarding the receipt and expenditure of said funds *no later than* thirty (30) days after the close of summer school and post the same on the GDOE website. Such report *shall* include the following:

(a) total revenues received, including identification of each revenue source;

(b) total expenditures and encumbrances by object classification and by school; and

(c) the fund balance.

Section 8. Appropriations to the University of Guam. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Five Million Four Hundred Eighty-Four Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Four Dollars (**$5,484,244**) is appropriated from the General Fund to the University of Guam for the following purposes:

(a) **Student Scholarships, Financial Assistance Programs, and Program Administration**. Such appropriation in this Section from the General Fund is for: Merit Awards, Student Loans, the Nursing Training Program (Health Professions Training Scholarship), Jesus U. Torres Professional and Technical (PROTECH) Awards, the Access to Higher Education Financial Assistance Program, the Pedro "Doc" Sanchez Scholarship, John F. Quan Memorial Scholarship Program, the Dr. Antonio C. Yamashita Educator Corps, and the Every Child is Entitled to a Higher Education Scholarship Program, for Fiscal Year 2027. The President of the University of Guam *shall* allocate this appropriation to fund student scholarships and financial assistance programs. No more than ten percent (10%) of the total appropriation in this Section *shall* be used for the administration of these programs. The President of the University of Guam *shall* post on the University of Guam's website all reports mandated by this Act and existing law

regarding the Dr. Antonio C. Yamashita Educator Corps, the student scholarships, and financial assistance programs.

(1) The University of Guam *may* submit to *I Liheslatura* a proposed realignment plan or recommendations to amend statutory student scholarships and financial assistance programs consistent with community, workforce, and economic recovery needs.

(2) The University of Guam *may* allocate from such appropriation in this Section any additional sums toward any other types of scholarships or financial assistance programs that it deems necessary, including, but not limited to, Regent Scholarships, the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), Marine Lab Graduate Assistance Programs, and Early High School Admission Programs.

(3) Nothing in this Section *shall* affect any multi-year scholarship awarded prior to enactment of this Act.

(b) **Aquaculture Development and Training Center.** Such appropriation in this Section from the General Fund is for the purpose of funding the continued operations of the Aquaculture Development and Training Center.

(c) **WERI's Guam Hydrologic Survey.** Such appropriation in this Section from the General Fund is for the purpose of funding the Guam Hydrologic Survey (GHS) administered by the Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific (WERI). WERI *shall* continue to administer the GHS for those purposes previously established by Guam law.

(d) **WERI's Comprehensive Water Resource Monitoring Program.** Such appropriation in this Section from the General Fund *shall* be used to fund the Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific (WERI) for the *sole* purpose of matching the federal funding for the Comprehensive

Water Resource Monitoring Program. WERI *shall* continue to administer the Comprehensive Water Resource Monitoring Program for those purposes previously established by Guam law.

(e) **Northern and Southern Soil and Water Conservation Districts Program.** Such appropriation in this Section from the General Fund is for operations and activities of the Northern and Southern Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) Program and *shall* be equally divided between the Northern and Southern Soil Conservation Districts. Expenditures from this appropriation *shall* be made upon the approval of the District Directors, with the consent of the SWCD Board and *shall not* require further approval by the University of Guam *or* any other government entity.

(f) **KPRG (Public Radio).** Such appropriation in this Section from the General Fund is for KPRG (Public Radio) operations. The President of the University of Guam *shall* disburse the funds to KPRG. *No later than* thirty (30) days after the close of each fiscal quarter of Fiscal Year 2027, the General Manager of KPRG *shall* submit to the President of the University of Guam, and post on KPRG's website, all reports mandated by this Act.

(g) **Guampedia Foundation.** Such appropriation in this Section from the General Fund is for the operations of the Guampedia Foundation.

(h) **University of Guam Press (Publishing House).** Such appropriation in this Section from the General Fund is for the operations and activities of the University of Guam Press. Such sum appropriated in this Section are authorized for use as the local matching requirement for Federal Grants-in-Aid. The University of Guam Press is to assist the Guam Department of Education with their textbooks and collateral materials for the development. Localization, production, reproduction and/or purchase of textbooks, instructional materials, curriculum guides, and/or other print, digital, and audio resources, as well as for the development and facilitations of professional development programs to support the implementation and success of these resources.

Section 9. Appropriations to the University of Guam Capital Improvements Fund.

(a) For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of One Million One Hundred Fifty-Eight Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-Three Dollars **($1,158,283)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the University of Guam Capital Improvements Fund for the purpose of paying rental payments due under the leaseback agreement pursuant to Public Law 31-229:18, as repealed and reenacted by Public Law 31-277.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars **($500,000)** is appropriated from the Guam Educational Facilities Fund to the University of Guam Capital Improvements Fund for the purpose of paying for the debt service pursuant to § 16132, Chapter 16, Division 3, Title 17 of the Guam Code Annotated.

Section 10. Appropriation to the University of Guam for the Guam Cancer Trust Fund. Notwithstanding § 26603(d)(5)(B), Chapter 26, Article 6, Title 11 of the Guam Code Annotated, for Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Four Million Dollars **($4,000,000)** is appropriated from the Healthy Futures Fund to the University of Guam for the administration of the Guam Cancer Trust Fund. This appropriation *shall* be used to fund cancer screening, treatment, educational outreach programs, and support services for qualified applicants.

Section 11. Appropriation to the University of Guam for the Guam Green Growth (G3) Initiative. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (**$500,000**) is appropriated from the General Fund to the University of Guam to fund the Research Corporation of the University of Guam (RCUOG) for the *sole* purpose of supporting the Guam Green Growth (G3) Initiative administered by the UOG Center for Island Sustainability. Aligned with the seventeen (17) United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, G3 cultivates an ecosystem for transformative action to achieve a more sustainable, prosperous, and equitable future for Guam. Activities will stimulate island circular economy industries to contribute to a new green economy, reduce the production of waste, reduce reliance on imports, and

promote sustainable actions throughout the community. The expenditures authorized in this Section *shall* be used for G3 initiative operations and administrative costs, supplies and equipment, membership in regional and global sustainability organizations, and to support educational and outreach activities. Said funds *shall not* be transferred or used for any other purpose. The sum appropriated herein is authorized for use as a local matching requirement for Federal Grants-in-Aid and *shall* be prioritized for the local matching requirement of the UOG Sea Grant Program.

The UOG Center for Island Sustainability *shall* prepare and submit an expenditure plan for said use of these funds for the Guam Green Growth (G3) Initiative to the Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA) Board of Directors, who *shall* review the expenditure plan no later than thirty (30) days upon receipt of the plan. The UOG Center for Island Sustainability *shall not* expend funds allocated herein prior to the approval of the expenditure plan and must meet all applicable rules and regulations.

Section 12. Appropriation to the University of Guam for the Sea Grant Program. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars **($500,000)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the University of Guam Sea Grant Special Fund (established by Public Law 35-114) to fund the Sea Grant Program administered by the University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability. UOG has been a Land Grant institution since 1972, and the status has brought significant opportunities for UOG, Guam, and the region in agriculture, terrestrial resources management, and development of the community. Having received a formal notice to review from the National Sea Grant Director, UOG now has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to achieve "Sea Grant Status" and bring similar opportunities to Guam and the region in marine resource management, environmental stewardship, and the community development of coastal communities. The National Sea Grant College Program is a partnership between universities and the federal government's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), an agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce. The UOG Sea Grant applies research, extension, and

educational activities that sustain and develop island environments while integrating the knowledge and culture of island people. The UOG Sea Grant provides local workforce development training in marine and environmental sciences through research funding, internships, fellowships and grants; funds research competitions among faculty, colleges, and nonprofit organizations to promote understanding and better management of coastal resources in Guam and Micronesia; and, perpetuates traditional local knowledge in navigation and fisheries through teaching, research, outreach, and apprenticeships. The expenditures authorized in this Section *shall* be used for UOG Sea Grant operations and administrative costs, hiring of faculty and administrative staff, facility improvement, and supplies and equipment. The sum appropriated herein is authorized for use as a local matching requirement for Grants-in-Aid and *shall* be prioritized for use as the local matching requirement to achieve and maintain Sea Grant Institutional Status, which has the potential to garner a 1:2 federal contribution of up to One Million Dollars ($1,000,000) in federal funds to UOG per year.

The President of the University of Guam *shall* post on UOG's website and *shall* submit to *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* and the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, in a Microsoft Excel file and written report, annual reports for the UOG Sea Grant Special Fund. At a minimum, said reports *shall* include: program mission statements, objectives, sources of revenue, expenditures by budget classification, number of employees, and contracts, and *shall* describe program accomplishments in the fiscal year reported.

Section 13. Appropriations to the Guam Community College. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of One Million One Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand Three Hundred Forty-Nine Dollars **($1,189,349)** is appropriated from the General Fund and Eight Million Seventy-Five Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-Seven Dollars **($8,075,297)** is appropriated from the Manpower Development Fund to the Guam Community College for the following training programs:

(a) **Licensed Practical Nursing and Vocational Guidance Programs.** Such appropriation in this Section from the General Fund is to support the operations of the Licensed Practical Nursing Program and Vocational Guidance Program.

(b) **Lodging Management Program/ProStart.** Such appropriation in this Section from the General Fund is for the Lodging Management Program/ProStart Program.

(c) **Apprenticeship Program.** Such appropriation in this Section from the Manpower Development Fund is for the Guam Community College Apprenticeship Program. In addition to the authorization contained in § 7120, Chapter 7, Title 22 of the Guam Code Annotated, the appropriation herein *shall* be available and authorized to be used by the Guam Community College to fund the operations of other programs at the College, as approved by the Board and Administration of the College, after all the Apprenticeship Program requirements and obligations have been fully funded.

Section 14. Appropriation to the Guam Community College for the WICHE Scholarship Office. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Seventy-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Dollars **($78,500)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Guam Community College to fund the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) Scholarship Office to administer the WICHE Professional Student Exchange Program for qualified Guam residents.

Section 15. Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars **($300,000)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Guam Community College for the purpose of funding the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission operations.

Section 16. Appropriation to the Department of Corrections for Cost of Care and Custody for Prisoners Confined in Federal Facilities. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars **($700,000)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Corrections for

the payment of current year obligations for prisoners confined in federal facilities of the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Section 17. Appropriation to the Department of Corrections for Cost-Sharing Initiative Related to the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Integration Report. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Eighty-Seven Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Dollars **($87,690)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Corrections for its share of the total annual cost of message switch maintenance and National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) membership pursuant to the Multi-Agency Agreement to Facilitate a Cost Sharing Initiative of May 2013 entered into by the Chief of Police, the Director of the Department of Corrections, the Attorney General of Guam, and the Administrator of the Courts.

Section 18. Appropriation to the Department of Corrections for Corrections Management System. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Two Hundred Ninety-Four Thousand Six Hundred Ten Dollars **($294,610)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Corrections (DOC) for the annual fee for user access and maintenance of the Corrections Management System pursuant to the "Software As A Service Agreement (SAAS)" between the DOC and Tyler Technologies, Inc.

Section 19. Appropriation to the Department of Corrections for Corrections Officer Recruits. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of One Million Five Hundred Eighty-One Thousand One Hundred Eighty Dollars **($1,581,180)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Corrections for its Fiscal Year 2027 cycle of twenty (20) Corrections Officer Recruits.

Section 20. Department of Corrections Modernization Act Appropriation. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Five Million Dollars **($5,000,000)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Corrections and *shall* be expended for the costs associated with the financing, design,

construction, maintenance and related expenses of the new Department of Corrections facility as established by Public Law 36-57, the Department of Corrections Modernization Act of 2021.

Section 21. Appropriation to the Department of Youth Affairs for Youth Programs. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars **($200,000)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Youth Affairs to fund programs contracted out to non-governmental organizations for services to youths who are runaways, homeless, or victims of abuse.

Section 22. Appropriation to the Department of Youth Affairs for Summer Employment and Training Programs for Youth. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of One Million Seven Hundred Seventy-Nine Thousand One Dollars **($1,779,001)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Youth Affairs to carry out the Summer Employment and Training Programs for Youth contained in Chapter 21, Title 19 of the Guam Code Annotated.

Section 23. Appropriation to the Department of Youth Affairs for the Sanctuary Incorporated of Guam. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars **($300,000)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Youth Affairs for the Sanctuary Incorporated of Guam or other contract services for continuing programs and services, to include the COED Shelter, Strengthening Families Program, Parenting Support and Parenting Skills Groups, Adult Anger Management and Youth Anger Management, and Tobacco Cessation.

Section 24. Appropriation to the Guam Fire Department for Firefighter Recruits. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of One Million One Hundred Ten Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-One Dollars **($1,110,781)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Guam Fire Department for its Fiscal Year 2027 cycle of twenty (20) Firefighter Recruits.

Section 25. Appropriation to the Guam Police Department for Cost-Sharing Initiative Related to the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Integration Report. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Eighty-Seven Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Dollars **($87,690)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Guam Police Department for its share of the total annual cost of message switch maintenance and National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) membership pursuant to the Multi-Agency Agreement to Facilitate a Cost Sharing Initiative of May 2013 entered into by the Chief of Police, the Director of the Department of Corrections, the Attorney General of Guam, and the Administrator of the Courts.

Section 26. Appropriation to the Guam Police Department for Safe Schools Initiative. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of One Hundred Forty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars **($142,585)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Guam Police Department for its Safe Schools Initiative.

Section 27. Appropriation to the Guam Police Department for Police Officer Trainees. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of One Million Two Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars **($1,255,800)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Guam Police Department for its Fiscal Year 2027 cycle of twenty (20) Police Officer Trainees.

Section 28. Appropriation to the Guam Police Department for Guam Crime Stoppers. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars **($100,000)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Guam Police Department for the Guam Crime Stoppers at the discretion of the Chief of Police.

Section 29. Appropriation to the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency for Customs and Quarantine Trainees. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of One Million Two Hundred Sixty-Nine Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Dollars **($1,269,380)** is appropriated from the Customs, Agriculture and Quarantine

Inspection Services Fund to the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency for its Fiscal Year 2027 cycle of ten (10) Customs and Quarantine Trainees.

Section 30. Appropriations to the Guam Environmental Protection Agency. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for Fiscal Year 2027, the following are appropriated to the Guam Environmental Protection Agency:

(a) **Beach Monitoring.** The sum of Forty-Six Thousand Nine Hundred Three Dollars **($46,903)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Guam Environmental Protection Agency for the *sole* purpose of beach monitoring. This appropriation is *not* subject to transfer or use for any other purpose.

(b) **Landfill Costs.** The sum of Two Hundred Two Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-Two Dollars **($202,992)** is appropriated from the Solid Waste Operations Fund to the Guam Environmental Protection Agency for costs in the closure, monitoring and opening of the island's landfills.

Section 31. Appropriation to the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center Detoxification and Rehabilitation Services. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Three Million Two Hundred Sixty-Two Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Six Dollars **($3,262,476)** is appropriated from the Healthy Futures Fund to the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center to fund drug and alcohol detoxification, rehabilitation, and prevention services programs, which may be contracted out to non-governmental organizations; provided, that the expenditure of such funds *shall* comply with § 1421b(p) of 48 United States Code.

Section 32. Appropriation to the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center Focus on Life Suicide Prevention Program. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Eighty-One Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars **($81,750)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center to fund the Focus on Life Suicide Prevention Program.

Section 33. Appropriation to the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center Inpatient Detox Program (New Beginnings). For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Two Million Two Hundred Sixty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars **($2,266,285)** is appropriated from the Healthy Futures Fund to the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center to fund inpatient services of drug and alcohol detoxification, rehabilitation, and prevention services programs.

Section 34. Appropriation to the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center Youth Mental Health First Aid. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Two Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand One Hundred Seventy Dollars **($285,170)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center to fund the Youth Mental Health First Aid Program.

Section 35. Appropriation to the Department of Public Health and Social Services for Medically Indigent Program (MIP). For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of One Million Four Hundred Thirty-One Thousand Four Hundred Thirty-Five Dollars **($1,431,435)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Health and Social Services for the Medically Indigent Program Payment Revolving (MIPPR) Fund for the MIP. No more than ten percent (10%) of the appropriations from local fund sources in this Section is authorized to pay for the Fiscal Year 2026 obligations of the MIP.

Section 36. Appropriation to the Department of Public Health and Social Services for Medicaid Program. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Thirty-Two Million Six Hundred Thirteen Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-One Dollars **($32,613,381)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) as the local matching requirement for the Medicaid Program. The sum of One Hundred Seventy-Two Million Four Hundred Sixty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Fifteen Dollars **($172,469,515)** is authorized from Federal Matching Grants-in-Aid to DPHSS for said purpose for Fiscal Year 2027.

No more than thirty percent (30%) of the appropriation from local fund sources in this Section is authorized to pay for the Fiscal Year 2026 obligations of the Medicaid Program. The funds appropriated and authorized in this Section are not subject to *I Maga'hågan Guåhan's* transfer authority. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all or any of the amounts appropriated in this Section may be authorized to pay for Medically Indigent Program (MIP) for FY 2027, in addition to the authorization for MIP in this Act.

Section 37. Appropriation to the Department of Public Health and Social Services for Guam Cancer Registry. Pursuant to § 26603(d)(5)(D), Article 6, Chapter 26, Title 11 of the Guam Code Annotated, for Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Three Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand One Hundred Forty-Four Dollars **($389,144)** is appropriated from the Healthy Futures Fund to the Department of Public Health and Social Services to maintain the Guam Cancer Registry pursuant to § 3201.1, Article 2, Chapter 3, Title 10 of the Guam Code Annotated.

Section 38. Appropriations to the Department of Public Health and Social Services for the Division of Children's Wellness. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for Fiscal Year 2027, the following are appropriated to the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), Division of Children's Wellness:

(a) **Bureau of Social Services Administration.** For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Seven Million Nine Hundred Thirty-Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-Eight Dollars (**$7,938,928**) is appropriated from the General Fund to the DPHSS for the operations of the Bureau of Social Services Administration.

(b) **Insurance Premiums for Foster Children.** For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Two Million Three Hundred Fifty-Nine Thousand Two Hundred Fifteen Dollars **($2,359,215)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the DPHSS for the purpose of paying the premiums for health insurance. The DPHSS

Bureau of Social Services Administration *shall* be the subscriber for foster children covered under Public Law 32-189 and *shall* remit payments to the Department of Administration or to the insurance provider for the purpose of paying premiums.

(c) **Child Protective Services Program.** Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of One Million Eight Hundred Thirty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Sixteen Dollars **($1,839,416)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the DPHSS for the Child Protective Services Program.

(d) **Foster Care Group Home.** For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Nine Hundred Fifty Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-Eight Dollars (**$950,558**) is appropriated from the General Fund to the DPHSS for the operation of the *I Guma Mina'åse'* Sister Mary Brigid Perez, RSM, Group Child Care Home.

Section 39. Appropriation to the Department of Public Health and Social Services for the Medical Cannabis Program. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Three Hundred Three Thousand Eight Hundred Forty-Nine Dollars **($303,849)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Health and Social Services for the Medical Cannabis Program.

Section 40. Appropriation to the Department of Public Health and Social Services for Homeless Coalition Grants. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars **($500,000)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Health and Social Services for grants to the Homeless Coalition or to provide shelter, food, and medical care for homeless individuals.

Section 41. Appropriations to the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority for Operations.

(a) For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Twenty Million Ten Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-Two Dollars **($20,010,862)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority for its operational expenses.

(b) Pursuant to §§ 26208 and 26208.1, Article 2, Chapter 26, Title 11 of the Guam Code Annotated, for Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Twenty-Three Million Five Hundred Forty Thousand Three Hundred Fourteen Dollars **($23,540,314)** is appropriated from the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority Pharmaceuticals Fund to the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority.

Section 42. Appropriation to the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority for the Department of Corrections Consolidated Agreement. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Four Million Two Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Six Hundred Fifteen Dollars **($4,255,615)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) per the Memorandum of Understanding between GMHA and DOC for providing health services to inmates.

Section 43. Appropriations to the Department of Parks and Recreation for Public Restrooms and Pool Facilities. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Four Hundred Thousand Dollars **($400,000)** is appropriated from the Tourist Attraction Fund to the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) for the following programs:

(a) **Maintenance and Repair of Public Restrooms.** Such appropriation in this Section is for the maintenance, utilities and repair of restroom facilities in public parks island-wide. *No later than* thirty (30) days after the end of every fiscal quarter, the Director of DPR *shall* submit a quarterly report of the expenditures from this appropriation to the Public Auditor and post the same on DPR's website.

(b) **Maintenance of Pool Facilities.** Such appropriation in this Section is for the maintenance, utilities, and repair of pool facilities. These funds *shall* be used for the northern pool and the *Hagåtña* pool. *No later than* thirty (30) days after the end of every fiscal quarter, the Director of DPR *shall* submit a quarterly report of the expenditures from this appropriation to the Public Auditor and post the same on DPR's website.

Section 44. Appropriation to the Department of Parks and Recreation for Civilian Volunteer Territorial Park Patrol Officer Reservists. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Ninety Thousand Dollars **($90,000)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Parks and Recreation for the payment of allowances of Civilian Volunteer Territorial Park Patrol Officer Reservists to defray the costs of maintenance of their equipment and uniforms, as set forth in Public Law 36-3.

Section 45. Appropriation to the Department of Parks and Recreation for the Guam Historic Resources Division. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Eight Hundred Twenty-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Eight Dollars **($828,588)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) for its Guam Historic Resources Division. Such appropriation from this Section *shall* be expended exclusively for historic preservation positions and projects as advised by the Guam State Historic Preservation Officer and approved by the DPR Director.

Section 46. Appropriation to the Department of Labor for Worker's Compensation Fund. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of One Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars **($1,400,000)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Labor (DOL) for the Worker's Compensation Fund for Worker's Compensation payments pursuant to § 9144, Chapter 9, Title 22 of the Guam Code Annotated, including obligations incurred in past years and in the future. Said appropriation may be used to pay for medical, surgical, and other treatment; nurses; hospital services; medical travel and per diem costs; medicine; crutches; and equipment required by a claimant for such period as his injury and the recovery therefrom may require. Said appropriation *shall not* be expended for disability compensation payments for Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) funded by this Act. The Director of the DOL may use *no more than* Forty Thousand Dollars ($40,000) from said appropriation to pay for legal services for Workers' Compensation hearings.

Section 47. Appropriation to the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency for the Guam Territorial Band. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Forty-Five Thousand Dollars **($45,000)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency for the Guam Territorial Band.

Section 48. Appropriation to the Department of Chamorro Affairs for the Guam Cultural Repository. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of One Million Six Hundred Twenty-Seven Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Six Dollars (**$1,627,126**) is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Chamorro Affairs to fund the operations of the Guam Cultural Repository. The Guam Cultural Repository *shall* submit a written report to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* at the end of each quarter of Fiscal Year 2027, which *shall* include all expenditures and encumbrances of its Fiscal Year 2027 appropriations.

Section 49. Appropriation to the Department of Agriculture for Animal Shelter Operations. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of One Hundred Forty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars **($142,585)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture to fund the operations of the animal shelter.

Section 50. Department of Agriculture Civilian Volunteer Conservation Officers Program. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars **($200,000)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture to fund the needs of the Civilian Volunteer Conservation Officers Program, including procurement of critical equipment and supplies.

Section 51. GAIN Spay and Neuter Program. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Four Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars **($450,000)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture to fund the Guam Animals In Need (GAIN) Spay and Neuter Program.

Section 52. Appropriation to the Department of Administration for Support of Child in Custody. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars **($150,000)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Administration for the *sole* purpose of paying orders of the court pursuant to § 5116, Chapter 5, Title 19 of the Guam Code Annotated.

Section 53. Appropriation to the Department of Administration for Residential Treatment Fund. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Three Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars **($3,500,000)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Administration (DOA) to pay the expenses of persons under the jurisdiction of the Superior Court of Guam who require residential care because of physical, mental *or* emotional disabilities *or* severe emotional disturbances. All such persons and their escorts referred off-Guam for treatment and care *shall* submit to the Director of DOA appropriate documentation to justify and receive reimbursement of their travel expenses. The Director of DOA *shall* submit reports to *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* and the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* describing all expenditures made pursuant to this appropriation *no later than* thirty (30) days after the end of each quarter of Fiscal Year 2027 and post the same on the DOA website.

Section 54. Appropriation to the Department of Administration for Government Claims Fund. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars **($100,000)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Administration (DOA) for the Government Claims Fund for payment of approved government claims. The Director of DOA *shall*, *no later than* thirty (30) days after the close of each quarter of Fiscal Year 2027, submit to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, in a Microsoft Excel file and written report describing expenditures made pursuant to the appropriations herein, and post the same on the DOA website.

Section 55. Appropriations to the Department of Administration for Government of Guam's Audit Reports. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for Fiscal Year 2027, the following are appropriated to the Department of Administration:

(a) The sum of Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars **($700,000)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Administration for the Fiscal Year 2026 Government of Guam's Basic Financial Statements Audit and Single Audit Report. The Public Auditor *shall* administer said funds and *shall* oversee the annual audit.

(b) The sum of Twenty Thousand Five Hundred Dollars **($20,500)** is appropriated from the Tourist Attraction Fund to the Department of Administration for the Fiscal Year 2026 Audit of the Financial Statements of the Tourist Attraction Fund. The Public Auditor *shall* administer said funds and *shall* oversee the annual audit.

(c) The sum of Twenty Thousand Five Hundred Dollars **($20,500)** is appropriated from the Healthy Futures Fund to the Department of Administration for the Fiscal Year 2026 Audit of the Financial Statements of the Healthy Futures Fund. The Public Auditor *shall* administer said funds and *shall* oversee the annual audit.

Section 56. Appropriations to Retirees for Supplemental Annuity Benefits and Other Costs.

(a) For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Six Million Forty-Two Thousand Dollars **($6,042,000)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Supplemental Annuity Benefits Special Fund, for direct payments to Government of Guam retirees who retired *prior* to October 1, 1995, or their survivors, for the continuing payment of Four Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-Eight Dollars ($4,238) per year in supplemental annuity benefits, consisting of the sum of One Thousand Two Hundred Dollars ($1,200),

One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($1,500), Seven Hundred Dollars ($700), and Eight Hundred Thirty-Eight Dollars ($838) in annual benefits authorized by various General Appropriation Acts.

(b) *No* retiree who is eligible for Retiree Supplemental Annuity Benefits provided for in Subsection (a) hereof *shall* receive said Benefits *if* his annual retirement annuity, *excluding* survivor benefits and excluding the Supplemental benefits authorized herein, is *greater than* Forty Thousand Dollars ($40,000). No retiree who is eligible for Retiree Supplemental Annuity Benefits *shall* receive *more than* the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars ($40,000) in combined retirement annuities and Supplemental Annuity Benefits in any one Fiscal Year.

(c) The Director of the Department of Administration (DOA) *shall* coordinate with the Director of the Government of Guam Retirement Fund (GGRF) and *shall* disburse to the retirees, or their survivors, the supplemental annuity benefits provided for in Subsection (a) of this Section. The GGRF *shall* provide the Director of DOA with the information needed to affect disbursement. To realize savings associated with the cost of preparing separate checks and mailing separate checks for the supplemental annuity for retirees, the Director of DOA may enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the GGRF in which the Director of DOA remits the supplemental annuity payments to the GGRF for disbursement to the retiree at the same time the regular annuity check is issued, or by including the supplemental annuity in the regular annuity check issued by the GGRF.

(d) Funds held in the Supplemental Annuity Benefits Special Fund *shall not* be commingled with the General Fund *or* any other fund, *shall* be held in a separate bank account that *shall* continue to be administered by the Director of DOA, and *shall not* be subject to *I Maga'hågan Guåhan's* transfer authority.

(e) For Fiscal Year 2027, the Guam Power Authority, the A.B. Won Pat International Airport Authority, the Guam Economic Development Authority, the Guam Housing Corporation, the Government

of Guam Retirement Fund, the Jose D. Leon Guerrero Commercial Port, the Guam Waterworks Authority, and the Guam Visitors Bureau *shall* remit to DOA an amount equal to the number of retirees eligible pursuant to Subsection (a) hereof who have retired from that entity multiplied by Four Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-Eight Dollars ($4,238). Said remittances *shall* be paid in two (2) equal installments on or before October 10, 2026, and April 15, 2027. Said remittances *shall not* be subject to *I Maga'hågan Guåhan's* transfer authority.

(f) For Fiscal Year 2027, the Guam Power Authority, the A.B. Won Pat International Airport Authority, the Guam Economic Development Authority, the Guam Housing Corporation, the Government of Guam Retirement Fund, the Jose D. Leon Guerrero Commercial Port, the Guam Waterworks Authority, and the Guam Visitors Bureau *shall* remit to the GGRF payments for medical, dental, and life insurance payments for retirees who have retired from those respective agencies. Said remittances *shall* be paid in two (2) equal installments on or before October 10, 2026, and on or before April 15, 2027, respectively. The agencies' remittances for medical, dental, and life insurance benefits mandated herein are *ex gratia* payments, and are for Fiscal Year 2027.

(g) For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Six Million Two Hundred Sixty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty-Five Dollars **($6,262,835)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Government of Guam Retirement Fund, to pay the cost of Medicare premiums, inclusive of premiums for Medicare Parts B and D, for government of Guam retirees and their survivors domiciled on Guam who are eligible to receive Social Security income benefits, and who are eligible to enroll in the Government of Guam Group Health Insurance Program. No government of Guam retiree or their survivor *shall* be required to enroll in the Government of Guam Health Insurance Program in order to receive the reimbursement. For those government of Guam retired employees and their survivors who do participate in the Government of Guam Group Health Insurance Program and are enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B, and elect either Class I,

Class II, Class III, or Class IV coverage, reimbursement *shall only* be made to those who opt for the Retiree Supplemental Plan.

(h) For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Three Hundred Twenty-One Thousand Six Hundred Forty-Three Dollars **($321,643)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Government of Guam Retirement Fund for *I Maga'låhi* and *I Sigundo Maga'låhi/I Sigundo Maga'håga* pensions.

(i) For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Two Hundred Twenty-Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars **($228,965)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Government of Guam Retirement Fund for retirement annuities for former judges and justices of the Superior Court and Supreme Court of Guam.

(j) The Government of Guam Retirement Fund Board of Trustees *shall* enact and, *if* necessary, amend administrative regulations that establish procedures to ensure the proper submission, receipt, and accounting of all sums remitted pursuant to Subsections (e) and (f) hereof.

Section 57. Survivor Supplemental Annuity Additions. § 8135(d) (6), Article 1, Chapter 8, Title 4 of the Guam Code Annotated is *amended* to read:

"(6) the prospective payment of supplemental benefits for the period of October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027 for Fiscal Year 2027 for survivors of those employees who retired prior to October 1, 1995, to be paid in the following manner:

(A) Four Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-Eight Dollars ($4,238) in Retiree Supplemental Annuity Benefits, known as the sum of One Thousand Two Hundred Dollars ($1,200), One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($1,500), Seven Hundred Dollars ($700), and Eight Hundred Thirty-Eight Dollars ($838) in annual benefits formerly contained in various General Appropriation Acts.

(B) No person eligible for Retiree Supplemental Annuity Benefits provided for in this Section *shall* receive such benefits if her/his regular annual retirement annuity, exclusive of the supplemental amounts authorized hereby, exceeds Forty Thousand Dollars ($40,000). No persons eligible for Retiree Supplemental Annuity Benefits *shall* receive more than the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars ($40,000) in combined retirement annuities and supplemental retirement annuities.

(C) Any retiree or survivor eligible to receive the supplemental annuity may waive their supplemental annuity payment authorized herein by the filing of a notarized affidavit waiving such payment with the Retirement Fund.**"**

Section 58. Disability Supplemental Annuity Additions. § 8129(g), Article 1, Chapter 8, Title 4 of the Guam Code Annotated is *amended* to read:

"(g) Any disability retirement annuitant who commenced receiving a disability retirement annuity *prior* to October 1, 1995, and who is entitled to disability retirement benefits under this Chapter *shall* receive, during the period commencing on October 1, 2026 and ending on September 30, 2027, for Fiscal Year 2027, prospective non-cumulative supplemental annuity benefits as follows:

(1) Four Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-Eight Dollars ($4,238) in Retiree Supplemental Annuity Benefits, known as the sum of One Thousand Two Hundred Dollars ($1,200), One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($1,500), Seven Hundred Dollars ($700), and Eight Hundred Thirty-Eight Dollars ($838) in annual benefits formerly contained in various General Appropriation Acts.

(2) (A) No persons eligible for Retiree Supplemental Annuity Benefits provided for in Paragraph (g) of this Section *shall* receive such benefit if their regular annual retirement annuity,

excluding survivor benefits, prior to the supplemental amounts herein exceeds Forty Thousand Dollars ($40,000).

(B) No persons eligible for Retiree Supplemental Annuity Benefits *shall* receive more than the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars ($40,000) in combined retirement annuities and supplemental retirement annuities.

(3) Any disability retirement annuitant eligible to receive the supplemental annuity may waive their supplemental annuity payment authorized herein by the filing of a notarized affidavit waiving such payment with the Retirement Fund.**"**

Section 59. Retirees Supplemental Annuity Additions. § 8122(d) (6), Article 1, Chapter 8, Title 4 of the Guam Code Annotated is hereby *amended* to read as follows:

"(6) Any retirement annuitant who commenced receiving a retirement annuity *prior* to October 1, 1995, and who is entitled to retirement benefits under this Chapter, *shall* receive, during the period commencing on October 1, 2026 and ending on September 30, 2027, for Fiscal Year 2027, prospective, non-cumulative supplemental annuity benefits as follows:

(A) Four Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-Eight Dollars ($4,238) in Retiree Supplemental Annuity Benefits, known as the sum of One Thousand Two Hundred Dollars ($1,200), One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($1,500), Seven Hundred Dollars ($700), and Eight Hundred Thirty-Eight Dollars ($838) in annual benefits formerly contained in various General Appropriation Acts.

(B) No retiree who is eligible for Retiree Supplemental Annuity Benefits provided for in this Section *shall* receive such benefit if her/his regular annual retirement annuity, excluding the supplemental amounts authorized herein and survivor benefits, exceeds Forty Thousand Dollars ($40,000). A retiree who is eligible for Retiree Supplemental Annuity Benefits *shall* receive no

more than Forty Thousand Dollars ($40,000) in combined retirement annuities and supplemental retirement annuities.

(C) Any retiree or survivor eligible to receive the supplemental annuity may waive the supplemental annuity payment authorized herein by the filing of a notarized affidavit waiving such payment with the Retirement Fund.**"**

Section 60. Appropriation for Cost of Living Allowance (COLA).

(a) *I Maga'hågan Guåhan shall* provide by a single lump sum payment, a "Cost of Living Allowance" (COLA) of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($2,500) to each retiree of the Government of Guam Retirement Fund (GGRF) who is retired as of September 30, 2026, *or* his/her survivor, *no later than* November 1, 2026. If a retiree is a Defined Benefit and a Defined Contribution retiree, the retiree or his/her survivor *shall only* be entitled to a single COLA payment. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Twenty-One Million Nine Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Dollars **($21,929,400)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Administration to pay said COLA.

(b) The Guam Power Authority, the A.B. Won Pat International Airport Authority, the Guam Economic Development Authority, the Guam Housing Corporation, the Government of Guam Retirement Fund, the Jose D. Leon Guerrero Commercial Port, the Guam Waterworks Authority, and the Guam Visitors Bureau *shall* pay a COLA in a single payment of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($2,500) to every Government of Guam Retirement Fund retiree who retired from each respective aforementioned agency as of September 30, 2026, *or* his survivor, *no later than* November 1, 2026 for Fiscal Year 2027.

(c) Each agency mentioned in Subsection (b) *shall* reimburse the General Fund for any COLA paid by the Fund in Fiscal Year 2027 to retirees who have retired from that agency and their survivors *no later than* December 31, 2026.

(d) Any retiree or survivor eligible to receive the COLA may waive their payment authorized herein by filing a notarized affidavit waiving such payment with the entity responsible for the Retirement Fund.

(e) *If* a retiree is both a Defined Benefit and a Defined Contribution Retiree, her or his survivor *shall only* be entitled to a single COLA payment.

Section 61. Appropriation to Government of Guam Retirement Fund (GGRF) for Retiree Medical, Dental, and Life Insurance Expenses. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Fifty-Nine Million Eight Hundred Ninety-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-Nine Dollars **($59,899,529)** is appropriated from the General Fund to pay the following items for current retirees:

(a) Retiree group medical, dental, and life insurance premiums, including premiums and coverage for Judiciary of Guam retirees, to continue existing programs currently contained in the semi-monthly payments.

(b) Retiree life insurance subsidy, including subsidy for Judiciary of Guam retirees, to continue existing programs currently contained in the semi-monthly payments.

Section 62. Appropriations to the Department of Administration for the *Tiyan* Lease. For Fiscal Year 2027, the following sums are hereby appropriated from the Guam Educational Facilities Fund to the Department of Administration for the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) lease of *Tiyan* facilities:

(a) *Tiyan* High School - Three Million Nine Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Nine Dollars **($3,995,889)** for base rent, and One Million Four Thousand One Hundred Eleven Dollars **($1,004,111)** for insurance and maintenance;

(b) GDOE Office Building - Two Hundred Sixty-Six Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Seven Dollars **($266,987)** for base rent, and Eighty-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Six Dollars **($88,586)** for insurance and maintenance;

(c) GDOE Warehouse I - Seventy-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars **($74,750)** for base rent, and Twenty-Eight Thousand Seventeen Dollars **($28,017)** for insurance and maintenance;

(d) *Tiyan* High School Gymnasium - Four Hundred Fifty-One Thousand Three Hundred Fifty-Six Dollars **($451,356)** for base rent, and One Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-Three Dollars **($124,863)** for insurance and maintenance;

(e) New GDOE Office Building - Two Million Two Hundred Forty Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-Three Dollars **($2,240,253)** for base rent, and Six Hundred Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-Nine Dollars **($600,739)** for insurance and maintenance;

(f) New GDOE Warehouse II - One Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand Thirty-Two Dollars **($126,032)** for base rent, and Forty-Six Thousand Six Hundred One Dollars **($46,601)** for insurance and maintenance;

(g) GDOE Warehouse I Mezzanine – Forty-Nine Thousand Six Hundred Forty-Nine Dollars **($49,649)** for base rent, and Eighteen Thousand Three Hundred Fifty-Eight Dollars **($18,358)** for insurance and maintenance;

(h) Lot for New GDOE Office and Warehouse II - Forty-Four Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Seven Dollars **($44,667)** for base rent; and

(i) *Tiyan* 3 Building and Facilities - Seven Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Eight Dollars **($732,768)** for base rent, and Two Hundred Twenty Thousand Three Hundred Two Dollars **($220,302)** for insurance and maintenance.

Section 63. Appropriation to the Department of Administration for the Simon A. Sanchez High School Pre-Development, Construction, and Leaseback Period. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Sixteen Million Three Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars **($16,377,125)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Administration for the Simon A. Sanchez High School pre-development, construction, and leaseback period.

Section 64. Appropriation to the Department of Administration for the Guam Academy Charter Schools Council Administrative Support. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of One Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Nine Dollars **($152,689)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Administration (DOA) to fund the clerical and administrative support provided by DOA, including, but not limited to, full-time staff to prioritize the Guam Academy Charter Schools Council's operational requirements, an administrative office, conference room, office equipment, furnishings, and supplies.

Section 65. Appropriation to the Department of Administration for the Annual Membership Fee for WICHE. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of One Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars **($189,500)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Administration for the annual membership fee for the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE).

Section 66. Appropriation to the Department of Administration for the Guam Autism Center. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars **($150,000)** is appropriated from the Healthy Futures Fund to the Department of Administration for the Guam Autism Center.

Section 67. Appropriation to the Department of Administration for the Guam Basketball Confederation. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars **($200,000)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Administration for the Guam Basketball Confederation.

Section 68. Appropriation to the Department of Administration for the Fishermen's Co-op. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars **($300,000)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Administration for the Fishermen's Co-op to fund part of the reconstruction and renovation of the Guam Fishermen's Co-op facility, and its operational costs at the temporary facility.

Section 69. Appropriation to the Guam Unique Merchandise and Art for Financial Support of the Business Program. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars **($500,000)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Guam Unique Merchandise and Art (GUMA) for the purpose of helping aspiring entrepreneurs and incubate graduates of their business program with mentoring and start-up financial support. The Guam Economic Development Authority *shall* assist GUMA in the administration of the funds. The funds appropriated by this Act *shall not* lapse nor be subject to any transfer authority and *shall* be available until the funds appropriated by this Act and any former and future act are fully expended. Said appropriation *shall not* preclude GUMA from receiving other aid or grants to pursue the aims of this Act.

Section 70. Appropriations to the Department of Administration for Public Streetlights. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for Fiscal Year 2027, the following are appropriated to the Department of Administration:

(a) One Million Thirty Thousand Five Hundred Nineteen Dollars **($1,030,519)** is appropriated from the Guam Highway Fund to the Department of Administration to pay the Guam Power Authority for the installation and operation of the public streetlights.

(b) Four Million One Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars **($4,190,000)** is appropriated from the Street Light Fund to the Department of Administration to pay the Guam Power Authority for the installation and operation of the public streetlights.

Section 71. Appropriations to the Department of Public Works for Village Streets and Roads Resurfacing and Repairs. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for Fiscal Year 2027, the following are appropriated to the Department of Public Works (DPW):

(a) Ten Million Dollars **($10,000,000)** is appropriated from the General Fund to DPW for the purpose of funding village streets and roads resurfacing and repairs for Fiscal Year 2027.

(b) Two Million Dollars **($2,000,000)** is appropriated from the Guam Highway Fund to DPW for the purpose of funding village streets and roads resurfacing and repairs for Fiscal Year 2027.

Section 72. Appropriation to the Department of Administration for the FMIS.

(a) For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Three Million Five Hundred Sixteen Thousand Four Hundred Forty-Six Dollars **($3,516,446)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Administration for the fifth-year term of the contract for the Financial Management Information System (FMIS).

(b) For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Five Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars **($560,000)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Administration for the FMIS software licensing requirements.

Section 73. Appropriation to the Guam Solid Waste Authority. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Twenty Million Nine Hundred Seventy-Four Thousand

Two Hundred Fourteen Dollars **($20,974,214)** is appropriated from the Solid Waste Operations Fund to the Guam Solid Waste Authority for its operations.

Section 74. Appropriations to the Unified Judiciary of Guam. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of One Million Seven Hundred Fifty-Seven Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Six Dollars **($1,757,476)** is appropriated from the General Fund and Seventeen Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-One Dollars **($17,821)** is appropriated from the Safe Streets Fund to the Unified Judiciary of Guam for the following programs:

(a) **Adult and Juvenile Drug Courts.** Such appropriation in this Section from the General Fund is for the operations of the Adult and Juvenile Drug Courts, the Mental Health Court, and other therapeutic court program(s) approved by the Judicial Council in Fiscal Year 2027.

(b) **Family Visitation Center.** Such appropriation in this Section from the Safe Streets Fund is for the operation of the Family Visitation Center, pursuant to § 8404.1, Chapter 8, Title 19 of the Guam Code Annotated, in Fiscal Year 2027.

(c) **Electronic Monitoring Program.** Such appropriation in this Section from the General Fund is for the operations of the Electronic Monitoring Program for Guam's pretrial and criminal offender populations in Fiscal Year 2027.

Section 75. Appropriation to the Unified Judiciary of Guam for the Guam Criminal Law and Procedure Review Commission. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Three Hundred Seventy-Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Forty-Five Dollars **($378,845)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Unified Judiciary of Guam to carry out the purposes of the Guam Criminal Law and Procedure Review Commission Act pursuant to Public Law 36-119.

Section 76. Appropriations to the Public Defender Service Corporation. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Four Million Four Hundred Thirty Thousand

Four Hundred Ninety-Two Dollars **($4,430,492)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Public Defender Service Corporation for the following programs:

(a) **Alternate Public Defender.** Such appropriation in this Section from the General Fund is for the operations, including personnel services, of the Alternate Public Defender for Fiscal Year 2027.

(b) **Civil Law Center.** Such appropriation in this Section from the General Fund is for the operations, including personnel services, of the Civil Law Center for Fiscal Year 2027. Such appropriation *shall* be contingent upon the lifting of any moratorium currently in effect, with future limitations based upon the capacity and the priorities of the Civil Law Center to provide legal services to indigent senior citizens, victims of domestic violence, and veterans.

(c) **Private Attorney Panel.** Such appropriation in this Section from the General Fund is for the operations, including personnel services, of the Private Attorney Panel for Fiscal Year 2027.

Section 77. Appropriation to the Office of the Attorney General for Cost-Sharing Initiative Related to the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Integration Report. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Eighty-Seven Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Dollars **($87,690)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Office of the Attorney General for its share of the total annual cost of message switch maintenance and National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) membership pursuant to the Multi-Agency Agreement to Facilitate a Cost Sharing Initiative of May 2013 entered into by the Chief of Police, the Director of the Department of Corrections, the Attorney General of Guam, and the Administrator of the Courts.

Section 78. Appropriations to the Mayors' Council of Guam (MCOG). Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Four Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Six Dollars **($422,126)** is appropriated from the General Fund, the sum of Three Hundred Seven Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars **($307,375)** is appropriated from the Guam

Educational Facilities Fund, and the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars **($300,000)** is appropriated from the Host Community Fund to the Mayors' Council of Guam for the following programs:

(a) **Streets Maintenance and Beautification.** Such appropriation in this Section from the General Fund is for the maintenance and beautification of non-routed public roads, and for the operations of Mayors' offices, but *not* for personnel costs. Said funds *shall not* be subject to any transfer authority of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* and *shall* be divided among the Village Mayors as follows:

(1) each Mayor *shall* receive up to the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars ($20,000); and

(2) the remaining balance of the fund *shall* be distributed to each Mayor *pro rata* based on the total road mileage in his village as a percentage of Guam's total road mileage in the most current report of the Guam Roads Pavement Inventory of the Department of Public Works.

(b) **Island-wide Village Beautification Projects.** Such appropriation in this Section from the General Fund is for Island-wide Village Beautification Projects to include:

(1) the maintenance and repair of the village's recreational facilities under the jurisdiction of the Mayor;

(2) the maintenance and repair of each village's main roads; and

(3) the planting and maintenance of each village's official flower and other flowering plants, shrubs, and trees adjacent to the village's main roads, public restrooms, and recreational facilities. A Mayor may contract with a private entity to provide the services authorized by this Section subject to the Guam Procurement Law, Chapter 5, Title 5 of the Guam Code Annotated.

(c) **Public Safety and Social Education Programs.** Such appropriation in this Section from the Guam Educational Facilities Fund is to the MCOG for Fiscal Year 2027, to be expended in accordance with plans approved by the MCOG *or* the respective village municipal planning council and filed with the Director of Administration, to fund public safety and social education programs that enforce alcohol regulations, reduce underage drinking, support traffic safety, reduce drug-related violence and abuse, to support government of Guam substance abuse prevention programs, and to support organized sports programs in the community.

(d) **Appropriation to the Mayors' Council of Guam for Host Community Premiums.** Such appropriation in this Section from the Host Community Fund is to the Municipal Planning Council Funds of the villages of *Ordot* and *Inarajan* pursuant to § 51405, Article 4, Chapter 51, Title 10 of the Guam Code Annotated, as added by Public Law 30-165.

Section 79. Appropriation for the Guam Youth Congress. For Fiscal Year 2027, the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars **($15,000)** is appropriated from the General Fund to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* for the Guam Youth Congress.

Section 80. Competitive Wage Act Study. *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* is hereby authorized to expend such funds necessary to procure the services of a consulting expert on classification and compensation in public employment to conduct a study of all government of Guam positions, to include positions covered under the Nurse and Educator Pay Plans. The scope of work provisions of the contract *shall* include the conducting of compensation training for the human resources staff throughout the government of Guam.

Section 81. Pacific Islands Development Bank. *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* is hereby authorized to deposit such funds necessary into the Pacific Islands Development Bank as authorized under Public Law 22-148.

Section 82. Real Property Triennial Re-valuation. *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* is hereby authorized to expend such funds necessary to procure the services for the real property tax triennial re-valuation.

Section 83. Allocation of Funds for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The sum of Four Hundred Ninety Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Six Dollars (**$490,876**) *shall* be allocated from Chapter II, Section 1(VI)(F) of this Act for the sole purpose of funding the Bureau of Labor Statistics Program for Fiscal Year 2027. Notwithstanding any other provision of law and this Act, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* and the Bureau of Budget and Management Research *shall not* be authorized to transfer the allocation to any other division within the Department of Labor, or any other department or agency of the government of Guam.

Section 84. GPD Headquarters in *Tiyan*. *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* is hereby authorized to expend such funds necessary for the costs associated with the financing to include lease-leaseback agreement, design, construction, maintenance and related expenses of the new Guam Police Department's headquarters to be located in *Tiyan*.

Section 85. Sports Field in *Tiyan*. *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* is hereby authorized to expend such funds necessary for the costs associated with the financing to include lease-leaseback agreement, design, construction, maintenance and related expenses of the new Sports Field to be located in *Tiyan*.

CHAPTER IV

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 1. Retirement Option for Government of Guam Employees. A member of the Government of Guam Retirement Fund (GGRF) who is eligible for retirement may retire upon the complete remittance of his/her outstanding individual contributions to the Fund, including the employee and employer retirement contributions. Any and all fees, interest at actuarial rates, and penalties required by the GGRF *shall* be paid by the Government of Guam.

This Section *shall not* restrict the continuing remittance of existing GGRF contributions as required by law *or* by the GGRF. By the fifteenth (15th) day of each month, the Director of the GGRF *shall* provide a detailed report to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* regarding said remittances and the number of retirements pursuant to this Section during the previous month. Nothing herein *shall* be construed to abrogate any provision of § 8137(h) of Article 1, Chapter 8, Title 4 of the Guam Code Annotated.

Section 2. Government of Guam Health Insurance Program Enrollment for Employment Pursuant to § 8121(a), Article 1, Chapter 8 of Title 4 GCA. Any employee hired pursuant to § 8121(a), Article 1, Chapter 8, Title 4 of the Guam Code Annotated may only be eligible to enroll in the Government of Guam Health Insurance Program as an active employee.

Section 3. Temporary Employment of Retired Corrections Officers. The Department of Corrections (DOC) may hire retired Guam corrections officers *if* a critical need arises because of military activation of corrections officers, *or* absence due to a long-term disability status which has been certified by a medical doctor. Retired DOC corrections officers hired under this Section may receive their retirement annuity while employed on this temporary basis. The DOC may exercise this hiring authority provided its authorized budget for personnel is *not* exceeded. The retiree hired *shall* fill such a vacant

position and *shall* be terminated when the incumbent returns from military service or absence. Retired corrections officers may be hired *only* in the ranks of Corrections Officer Supervisor I and below, *only* at Step 1, and *shall not* receive annual leave. Officers hired under this Section *shall* meet the requirements for the position in question, *except* for written examinations. The Director of DOC *shall* certify that every retiree hired is fit for duty. Notwithstanding § 8121(a), Article 1, Chapter 8, Title 4 of the Guam Code Annotated, retirees hired temporarily pursuant to this Section may continue to receive retirement benefits. Any employee hired under this Section *shall only* be eligible to enroll in the Government of Guam Health Insurance Program as an active employee. The DOC Director *shall* submit a report to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* on July 1, 2027, and again thirty (30) days after the end of the fiscal year, of the number of retired officers hired pursuant to this Section, the positions filled, the length of employment, the cost of said hiring, and the nature of the critical need that was filled.

Section 4. Temporary Employment of Retired Guam Police Officers. The Guam Police Department (GPD) may hire retired Guam police officers *if* a critical need arises because of military activation of GPD police officers, *or* absence due to a long-term disability status which has been certified by a medical doctor. The GPD may exercise this hiring authority *provided* its authorized budget for personnel is *not* exceeded. The retiree hired *shall* fill such a vacant position and *shall* be terminated when the incumbent returns from military service or absence. Retired officers may be hired *only* at the ranks of Sergeant I and below, *only* at Step 1, and *shall not* receive annual leave. Officers hired under this Section *shall* first meet the requirements for the position in question, *except* for written examinations. The Chief of Police *shall* certify that every retiree hired is fit for duty. Notwithstanding § 8121(a), Article 1, Chapter 8, Title 4 of the Guam Code Annotated, retirees hired temporarily pursuant to this Section may continue to receive retirement benefits. The GPD may pay for Civilian Volunteer Police Reserve stipends to a Police Reserve Officer to provide temporary services of a regular police officer. Any employee hired

under this Section *shall only* be eligible to enroll in the Government of Guam Health Insurance Program as an active employee. The Chief of Police *shall* submit a report to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* on July 1, 2027, and again thirty (30) days after the end of the fiscal year, of the number of retired officers hired pursuant to this Section, the positions filled, the length of employment, the cost of said hiring, and the nature of the critical need that was filled.

Section 5. Temporary Employment of Retired Guam Firefighters. The Guam Fire Department (GFD) may hire retired GFD firefighters *if* a critical need arises because of military activation of GFD firefighters, *or* absence due to a long-term disability status which has been certified by a medical doctor. The GFD may exercise this hiring authority *provided* its authorized budget for personnel is *not* exceeded. The retiree hired *shall* fill such a vacant position and *shall* be terminated when the incumbent returns from military service or absence. Retired firefighters may be hired *only* at the ranks of Fire Service Specialist and below, *only* at Step 1, and *shall not* receive annual leave. Retired firefighters hired under this Section *shall* first meet the requirements for the position in question, *except* for written examinations. The Fire Chief of GFD *shall* certify that every retiree hired is fit for duty. Notwithstanding § 8121(a), Article 1, Chapter 8, Title 4 of the Guam Code Annotated, retirees hired temporarily pursuant to this Section may continue to receive retirement benefits. Any employee hired under this Section *shall only* be eligible to enroll in the Government of Guam Health Insurance Program as an active employee. The Fire Chief of GFD *shall* submit a report to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* on July 1, 2027, and again thirty (30) days after the end of the fiscal year, of the number of retired firefighters hired pursuant to this Section, the positions filled, the length of employment, the cost of said hiring, and the nature of the critical need that was filled.

Section 6. Temporary Employment of Retired Customs and Quarantine Officers. The Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA) may hire retired customs and quarantine officers *if* a critical need arises as a result of military activation of customs officers, *or* absence due to a long-term disability status which has been certified by a medical doctor, *or* when vacancies *cannot* be filled within six (6) months because of the lack of qualified applicants. The CQA may exercise this hiring authority *provided* its authorized budget for personnel is *not* exceeded. The retired officer *shall* fill such a vacant position and *shall* be terminated when the incumbent returns from military service, *or* when a fully-qualified applicant is available. The retiree hired *shall* fill such a vacant position and *shall* be terminated when the incumbent returns from military service or absence. Retired officers may be hired *only* in the ranks of Customs Officer III and below, *only* at Step 1, and *shall not* receive annual leave. Retirees hired pursuant to this Section *shall* meet the requirements for the position in question, *except* for written examinations. The Director of CQA *shall* certify that every retiree hired is fit for duty. The requirements of Chapter 51, Title 17 of the Guam Code Annotated are waived for employment pursuant hereto, *except* for § 51104(b)(4). Notwithstanding § 8121(a), Article 1, Chapter 8, Title 4 of the Guam Code Annotated, retirees hired temporarily pursuant to this Section may continue to receive their retirement benefits. Any employee hired under this Section *shall only* be eligible to enroll in the Government of Guam Health Insurance Program as an active employee. The Director of CQA *shall* submit a report to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* on July 1, 2027, and again thirty (30) days after the end of the fiscal year, of the number of retired officers hired pursuant to this Section, the positions filled, the length of employment, the cost of said hiring, and the nature of the critical need that was filled.

Section 7. Temporary Employment of Retired Department of Revenue and Taxation Employees. The Department of Revenue and Taxation (DRT) may hire retired DRT employees *when* a critical need arises. Examples of a critical need may include temporary staff shortages due to challenges

with recruitment due to a limited pool of qualified individuals, military activation of DRT employees, or absence due to a long-term disability status which has been certified by a medical doctor, and instances where additional programs or mandates are required to be executed. The DRT may exercise this hiring authority in the following divisions: Taxpayer Services Division, Tax Enforcement Division, Real Property Tax Division, Director's Office (Executive Direction), Regulatory Division, and Motor Vehicle Division, provided its authorized budget for personnel is *not* exceeded. The retiree hired *shall* fill such a vacant position and *shall* be terminated when the incumbent returns from military service or absence, when there is successful recruitment for the position, or within a reasonable time after the additional program or mandate for which the employee was hired is completed. Said retirees *shall* be hired at a minimum of Step 1 for the position in question, and *shall not* receive annual leave. Notwithstanding § 812l(a) of Article 1, Chapter 8, Title 4 GCA, retirees hired temporarily pursuant to this Section may continue to receive retirement benefits. Any employee hired under this Section *shall only* be eligible to enroll in the Government of Guam Health Insurance Program as an active employee. The DRT Director *shall* submit a report to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* on July 1, 2027, and again thirty (30) days after the end of the fiscal year, of the number of retired employees hired pursuant to this Section, the positions filled, the length of employment, the cost of said hiring, and the nature of the critical need that was filled.

Section 8. Temporary Employment of Retired Government of Guam Social Workers. The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) may hire retired government of Guam social workers *if* a critical need arises. DPHSS may exercise this hiring authority for social workers in the Child Protective Service, provided its authorized budget for personnel is *not* exceeded. Said retirees *shall* be hired at a minimum of Step 1 for the position in question, and *shall not* receive annual leave. Notwithstanding § 8121(a), Article 1, Chapter 8, Title 4 of the Guam Code Annotated, retirees hired temporarily pursuant to this Section may continue to receive retirement benefits. Any employee hired

under this Section *shall only* be eligible to enroll in the Government of Guam Health Insurance Program as an active employee. The Director of DPHSS *shall* submit a report to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* on July 1, 2027, and again thirty (30) days after the end of the fiscal year, of the number of retired employees hired pursuant to this Section, the positions filled, the length of employment, the cost of said hiring, and the nature of the critical need that was filled.

Section 9. Temporary Employment of Retired GDOE Teachers. The Guam Department of Education (GDOE) may hire retired GDOE teachers who are not eligible for Medicare Parts A and B, and who *shall* remain covered under the Government of Guam Group Health Insurance Program as a retired person, *if* a critical need arises as a result of military activation of GDOE teachers or absence due to a long-term disability status which has been certified by a medical doctor. The GDOE may exercise this hiring authority provided its authorized budget for personnel is not exceeded. The retiree hired *shall* fill such a vacant position and *shall* be terminated when the incumbent returns from military service or absence. Retirees *shall* be hired at a minimum of Step 1 for the position in question and *shall not* receive annual leave. Notwithstanding § 812l(a) of Article 1, Chapter 8, Title 4 Guam Code Annotated, retirees hired temporarily pursuant to this Section may continue to receive retirement benefits. The Superintendent of GDOE *shall* report to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* on July 1, 2027, and again thirty (30) days after the end of the fiscal year, the number of retired employees hired pursuant to this Section, the positions filled, the length of employment, the cost of said hiring, and the nature of the critical need that was filled.

Section 10. Temporary Employment of Retired Attorneys. The Attorney General of Guam, the Unified Judiciary of Guam, the Public Defender Service Corporation, and the Alternate Public Defender may hire retired government of Guam attorneys on a full or part-time basis when a critical need arises. These entities may exercise this hiring authority for attorneys, provided that the authorized budget for personnel for these entities are *not* exceeded. Said attorneys *shall* be hired at a maximum salary of up

to Step 5 of the Attorney 4 pay scale, and *shall not* receive annual leave. Notwithstanding § 8121(a), Article 1, Chapter 8, Title 4 of the Guam Code Annotated, retirees hired temporarily pursuant hereto may continue to receive retirement benefits. Any attorney hired under this Section *shall only* be eligible to enroll in the Government of Guam Health Insurance Program as an active employee. Such employment *shall not* close vacancies to qualified applicants. Each entity *shall* report to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* on July 1, 2027, and again thirty (30) days after the end of the fiscal year, the number of retired attorneys hired pursuant to this Section, the positions filled, the length of employment, the cost of said hiring, and the nature of the critical need that was filled.

Section 11. Temporary Employment of Retired Office of the Attorney General (OAG) Staff. The Attorney General of Guam may hire retired government of Guam non-attorneys on a full or part-time basis when a critical need arises. The OAG may exercise this hiring authority for non-attorneys provided that the authorized budget for personnel for the entity is not exceeded. Said retirees *shall not* receive annual leave. Notwithstanding § 58121(a) of Article 1, Chapter 8, Title 4 Guam Code Annotated, retirees hired temporarily pursuant to this Section may continue to receive retirement benefits. Any staff hired under this Section *shall only* be eligible to enroll in the Government of Guam Health Insurance Program as an active employee. Such employment *shall not* close vacancies to qualified applicants. The Office of the Attorney General of Guam *shall* report to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* on July 1, 2027, and again thirty (30) days after the end of the fiscal year, of the number of retired staff hired pursuant to this Section, the positions filled, the length of employment, the cost of said hiring, and the nature of the critical need that was filled.

Section 12. Temporary Employment of Retired Department of Public Works Employees.

(a) The Department of Public Works (DPW) may hire retired Guam DPW employees when a critical need arises because of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*'s declaration of a state of public health emergency on Guam.

(1) Identified Areas. The DPW may exercise this hiring authority in the areas of engineering and construction, building permits and inspection, construction quality control, design and analysis, project coordination and quality control, highway planning, highway programming, coordination and control, highway maintenance and construction, and building construction and facilities maintenance.

(2) Special Rules for Hiring of Retired Employees. Any retiree hired pursuant to this Act *shall* fill a vacant position and *shall* be terminated upon the lifting of the declaration of a state of public health emergency. Such retirees *shall* be hired at Step 1 for the position in question and *shall not* receive annual leave. Notwithstanding § 8121(a) of Article 1, Chapter 8, Title 4 Guam Code Annotated, retirees hired pursuant to this Section may continue to receive retirement benefits.

(b) The DPW Director *shall* submit a report to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* on July 1, 2027, and again thirty (30) days after the end of the current fiscal year, of the number of retired employees hired pursuant to this Section, the positions filled, the length of employment, the cost of said hiring, and the nature of the critical need that was filled.

Section 13. Temporary Employment of Retired Government of Guam Employees by the Mayors' Council of Guam. The Mayors' Council of Guam (MCOG) may hire retired government of Guam employees when a critical need arises. Examples of a critical need may include staff shortages due to recruitment challenges, absence due to a long-term disability status which has been certified by a medical doctor, and military activation of MCOG employees. The MCOG may exercise this hiring

authority provided its authorized budget for personnel is not exceeded. The retiree hired *shall* fill such a vacant position and *shall* be terminated when the incumbent returns from military service or absence. Said retirees *shall* be hired at a minimum of Step 1 for the position in question and *shall not* receive annual leave. Notwithstanding § 8121(a) of Article 1, Chapter 8, Title 4 Guam Code Annotated, retirees hired temporarily pursuant to this Section may continue to receive retirement benefits. Any employee hired under this Section *shall only* be eligible to enroll in the Government of Guam Health Insurance Program as an active employee. The MCOG Executive Director *shall* submit a report to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* on July 1, 2027, and again thirty (30) days after the end of the fiscal year, of the number of retired employees hired pursuant to this Section, the positions filled, the length of employment, the cost of said hiring, and the nature of the critical need that was filled.

Section 14. Temporary Employment or Detail, Absence Due to Military Service or Long-Term Disability. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 4117 of Article 1, Chapter 4, Title 4 Guam Code Annotated, in the event a classified employee will be absent from work in excess of thirty (30) consecutive work days due to active military service or a long-term disability certified in writing by a medical doctor, the appointing authority for an agency may temporarily assign or detail another employee to assume the responsibilities of the absent employee. Such detail or assignment may be in effect for up to the same number of days of the consecutive absence due to active military service or medical disability. The appointing authority may also fill such vacancies by limited term appointment; any such appointment may be in effect for up to the same number of days of the consecutive absence due to active military service or medical disability.

Section 15. Temporary Employment of Retired Certified Water and Wastewater Operators (operators) and Engineers. The Guam Waterworks Authority (GWA) may hire retired Certified Water and Wastewater Operators (operators) and Engineers if a critical need arises because of

military activation, or absence due to a long-term disability status which has been certified by a medical doctor, or when vacancies cannot be filled within six (6) months because of the lack of qualified applicants. The GWA may exercise this hiring authority provided its authorized budget for personnel is not exceeded. The retired operators and engineers *shall* fill such a vacant position and *shall* be terminated when the incumbent returns from military service, or when a fully qualified applicant is available. Retired Operators may be rehired only for positions requiring an Operator Level III or Operator Level IV certification. Retired Operators and Engineers may be hired exclusively at Step I and will not be eligible for annual leave. Retired operators and engineers hired pursuant to this Section *shall* meet the requirements for the position in question. Notwithstanding§ 8121(a) of Article 1, Chapter 8, Title 4, Guam Code Annotated, retirees hired temporarily pursuant to this Section may continue to receive their retirement benefits. Any employee hired under this Section *shall* only be eligible to enroll in the Government of Guam Health Insurance Program as an active employee. The General Manager of GWA *shall* submit a report to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* on July 1, 2027, and again thirty (30) days after the end of the fiscal year, of the number of retired operators and engineers hired pursuant to this Section, the positions filled, the length of employment, the cost of said hiring, and the nature of the critical need that was filled.

Section 16. Locum Tenens Exemption During the Absence of the Chief Medical Examiner. The Office of Post-Mortem Examinations is exempt from the Government of Guam Procurement Law in contracting for the professional services of a qualified medical examiner to be provided when the Chief Medical Examiner is absent from work.

Section 17. Advance Payments for Medical Services. In order to expedite acceptance of Medically Indigent Program (MIP) clients by facilities in California, Hawaii, or Manila for medical treatment approved by the MIP, the Director of Public Health and Social Services may advance payments for said medical treatment, and may establish escrow accounts for immediate and advance payment of

medical treatment at those Joint Commission Accredited hospitals determined by the Director to be best able to serve Medically Indigent Program clients.

Section 18. Transfer of Employees.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and in recognition of personnel shortages in certain areas, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* is authorized to transfer employees during Fiscal Year 2027 within *or* between any line department *or* agency of the government of Guam, *except* that:

(1) This Section *shall not* apply to any employee of the Legislative *or* Judicial Branches, or any employee within the Mayors' Council of Guam and Village Mayors' Offices;

(2) The transfer of an employee *shall not* result in a loss of pay *or* salary;

(3) *No* employee *shall* be transferred if the employee has filed a viable grievance with the Civil Service Commission for discrimination based on political affiliation, gender, *or* sexual harassment, *unless* the employee consents to such transfer;

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation, no employee of an autonomous agency may be transferred to a line department *or* agency;

(5) *I Maga'hågan Guåhan shall* transfer the funding authorized for that employee's position from the transferor agency to the transferee agency, including the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, the Department of Public Health and Social Services, and the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, *unless* the transfer is from a line agency to an autonomous agency;

(6) This Section *shall not* be used to transfer employees acting in good faith who report *or* expose bad business practices, illegal activities, *or* inappropriate conduct by public officials; and

(7) No employee who has filed a whistleblower complaint as provided for in statute *shall* be transferred, *unless* the employee consents to such transfer.

(b) *I Maga'hågan Guåhan shall* submit a report to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* of the transfer of each employee pursuant to this authorization with the name and position of the employee being transferred, the line department or agency the employee is being transferred from, the line department or agency the employee is being transferred to, the time duration of the transfer, and whether the transfer is permanent, by the twentieth (20th) day after each month of the fiscal year.

Section 19. Competitive Wage Act Employee Appeals Pay. Pursuant to the authority under § 6218.1 of Article 2, Chapter 6, Title 4, Guam Code Annotated, relative to allowing retroactive pay adjustments, all executive branch departments and agencies are hereby authorized to utilize their entity's operational budgets to make retroactive pay adjustments for employees whose appeals were adjudicated and affirmed by the Competitive Wage Act appeals process conducted by the Department of Administration; provided, that it does not negatively impact current operational needs. This authorization *shall* be applied retroactively to January 26, 2014 for affected employees.

Section 20. Board and Commission Stipends. Any compensation or stipend owed to a board or commission member for attending a regular or special meeting in Fiscal Year 2027 *shall* be paid from appropriations in this Act by the department or agency responsible for the administrative support and operations of such board or commission. Board and commission members may elect to *not* receive said compensation. *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* may, by Executive Order, waive the payment of meeting stipends owed to any board or commission member.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each member of the Guam Parole Board *shall* be compensated Two Hundred Fifty Dollars ($250) for every meeting the member attends. No member *shall* be compensated more than One Thousand Dollars ($1,000) per month, irrespective of the number of meetings that a member attends in any given month.

Section 21. Contracts. Positions in the classified and unclassified service of the government of Guam *shall not* be filled pursuant to a contractual arrangement, *except* as provided in this Section, for Fiscal Year 2027:

(a) Subject to Chapter 5, Title 5 of the Guam Code Annotated, government of Guam departments and agencies may contract with independent contractors; *provided*, that no agency may contract for services customarily provided by employees in the classified service, *except* as provided by law.

(b) Government of Guam departments and agencies that *do not* customarily obtain professional services, such as licensed health professionals, licensed architects, licensed engineers, legal services, actuarial services, and auditing services through an employee in the classified service in that department or agency may contract to obtain such services.

(c) The Office of the Attorney General, the Public Defender Service Corporation, and the Alternate Public Defender are authorized to contract with attorneys as independent contractors to provide services in areas in which it is impracticable or impossible for the office to proceed. Such contracts *shall* be in accordance with the procurement laws of Guam. No such independent contractor hired pursuant to this Section may receive from the government of Guam any remuneration in any form other than in payment for the position into which such person is hired. The Office of the Attorney General, the Executive Director of the Public Defender Service Corporation, and the Executive Director of the Alternate Public Defender *shall* file a copy of every such contract with the Chief Procurement Officer and the Director of Administration together with a written certification stating why it is impracticable to handle the matter within the office as otherwise constituted.

(d) This Section *shall not* apply to the Guam Department of Education, the University of Guam, the Guam Community College, and the Unified Judiciary of Guam when filling positions of

justices and judges *pro tem*, law clerks, and legal interns; the Department of Revenue and Taxation when filling the position of legal counsel; *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*; the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, the Department of Public Health and Social Services, and the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center when filling positions of licensed health professionals.

(e) Any instrumentality of the government of Guam that fills any classified or unclassified positions by contractual arrangement in accordance with this Section *shall* file a copy of every such contract with the Chief Procurement Officer and the Director of Administration together with a written certification stating why it is impracticable to handle the matter within the instrumentality as otherwise constituted.

Section 22. Program Reporting Requirements for Employment, Employment Placement, and Job Training Programs at the University of Guam, the Guam Community College, and the Guam Department of Labor.

(a) The President of the University of Guam, the President of the Guam Community College, and the Director of the Guam Department of Labor *shall* transmit a report to *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* and the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan no later* than June 30 of each year of the actual number of programs completed and/or certificates issued for each employment, employment placement, and job training program; and employment data for said program completed for the two (2) years following completion of their respective programs, to include salary levels, job location, or whether the job is in the same field as the program.

(b) The report mandated in Subsection (a) of this Section *shall* also be posted on each agency's respective website.

Section 23. Authorization for Legal Services for the Department of Public Works, the Guam Building Code Council, the Contractors License Board, and the Board of Registration for PEALS. The Department of Public Works (DPW), the Guam Building Code Council (GBCC), the Guam Contractors License Board (GCLB), and the Guam Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, Architects and Land Surveyors (PEALS) may enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly fund an Assistant Attorney General to specifically provide legal services to DPW, GBCC, GCLB, and PEALS Board *only*.

Section 24. Consolidated Revenue and Expenditure Reporting Requirement. Notwithstanding §§ 4105(f) and 4109(c)(3) of Chapter 4, Title 5 of the Guam Code Annotated, and § 13109(a)(1), Chapter 13, Title 2 of the Guam Code Annotated, relative to General Fund revenue reporting, the Director of the Bureau of Budget and Management Research, in collaboration with the Director of Revenue and Taxation, and the Director of Administration, *shall* prepare a monthly Consolidated Revenue and Expenditure Report (CRER) which *shall* report and recognize revenues on a cash basis with the exception of Section 30 revenues, which *shall* be reported as collected in full in October of each year; and *shall* for each month, identify and note any and all non-recurring revenues by General Fund revenue category, by month collected, and by amount; and *shall* compare the budgeted and actual departmental program appropriations with expenditures and encumbrances. The Director of the Bureau of Budget and Management Research, the Director of Administration, and the Director of Revenue and Taxation *shall* certify said reports, which *shall* be transmitted to *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* and the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan no later than* twenty (20) days after the end of each month. The reports *shall* include, at a minimum, the following components relative to General Fund revenues:

(a) comparison of revenues for the preceding month contrasted with the same month for the prior fiscal year;

(b) comparison of year-to-date revenues for the preceding month contrasted with the same period for the prior fiscal year;

(c) comparison of adopted revenues allocated for the preceding month contrasted with the actual revenues collected for the month;

(d) comparison of quarterly adopted revenues allocated for the preceding quarter contrasted with actual quarterly revenues collected;

(e) comparison of year-to-date adopted revenues contrasted with actual year-to-date revenues collected; and

(f) comparison of adopted revenues for the fiscal year contrasted with actual year-to-date revenues collected plus the remaining projected revenues to be collected for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Section 25. Payment of Civil Service Commission Settlements or Judgements and Decisions by the Judiciary of Guam. Any obligations of back pay owed to compensate employees by a judgment or by a settlement agreement action of the Civil Service Commission or judgement and decision of the Judiciary of Guam is hereby appropriated from the Fiscal Year 2027 budget of the respective agency to which such action is directed.

Section 26. Prevention of Disproportionate Reductions in Allotments. The Department of Administration and the Bureau of Budget and Management Research *shall not* disproportionately reduce the budget allotments to the University of Guam and the Guam Community College from other units of the government of Guam.

Section 27. Restrictions on Hiring of Unclassified Employees. Unless otherwise authorized by this Chapter, no government funds of any kind or description may be expended for the employment or

hiring of unclassified employees in the Executive Branch of the government of Guam, *except* for the following:

(a) certified persons at the Guam Department of Education as identified in § 715(1), Chapter 7, Title 1 GCA;

(b) any academic teaching positions at the University of Guam and the Guam Community College;

(c) nurses, doctors, licensed health professionals, contact tracers and investigators, and ancillary health employees necessary for clinical purposes at the Department of Public Health and Social Services, the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, the Guam Police Department, and the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities;

(d) Department of Labor Survey Workers;

(e) Systems and Programming Administrator, Junior Systems Programmer, Senior Programmer Analyst, Junior Application Analyst, Junior Programmer Analyst, and Junior Application Programmer; and positions dealing with reporting, tax audits, tax investigations, tax collections, and processing of taxes at the Department of Revenue and Taxation;

(f) federally-funded positions (matching and up to 100%);

(g) persons filling temporary vacancies created by the call to active military duty of employees who are members of the reserve components of the Department of Defense and the Department of Transportation, including, but not limited to, the United States Army, United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Air Force, the Guam Army National Guard, the Guam Air National Guard, and the United States Coast Guard, or created by absence due to a long-term disability status which has

been certified by a medical doctor. Departments may exercise this hiring authority provided its authorized budget for personnel is not exceeded;

(h) positions within the Office of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan,* the Office of *I Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan* and the Guam State Clearinghouse, and department or agency heads, and private secretaries;

(i) positions within the Mayors' Council of Guam;

(j) positions within the Guam Election Commission;

(k) limited-term, part-time substitute teachers of the Guam Department of Education;

(l) professional engineers required to fill Chief Engineer positions;

(m) positions within the Business Office of the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) which *shall* consist of certified coders and billers;

(n) Victim Advocates within the Office of the Attorney General;

(o) the Executive Director and staff positions of *I Kumision i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'na'guen i Historia yan Lina'la' i Taotao Tano'* (the Commission on *CHamoru* Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam);

(p) Child Protective Services social workers at the Department of Public Health and Social Services;

(q) labor law enforcement specialists;

(r) senior law clerks [§9A106.1(a)(2) Title 7 Guam Code Annotated] with pay grade M, step 1 of the Competitive Wage Act of 2014, General Pay Plan, and law clerks [§9A106.1(a)(1) Title 7 Guam Code Annotated] with pay grade K, step 1 of the Competitive Wage Act of 2014, General Pay Plan;

(s) the chief financial officer for the Department of Administration;

(t) customer service representatives at the Guam Department of Labor; and

(u) all persons employed pursuant to this Section, effective October 1, 2026, *shall* meet the minimum Knowledge, Abilities, and Skills (KAS) associated with such position.

Section 28. GDOE Consolidated Expenditure Report Requirement. Within thirty (30) days following each fiscal quarter, the Superintendent of the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) *shall* provide to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, and post on the GDOE website, a consolidated expenditure report which *shall* include the authorized spending levels, encumbrances, and expenditures (quarterly and year-to-date) of GDOE, enumerated by school or division within the department. Such report *shall* also be transmitted, by hand-delivery or electronically, to each school principal.

Section 29. Alignment of Hospital Rates and Fees. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) is authorized to formulate a fee and rate schedule of applicable hospital fees and rates. Upon the completion of a fee study, GMHA *shall* submit the adjusted fee and rate schedule to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* by June 30, 2027. Nothing herein *shall* affect GMHA's authority to regularly adopt or increase fees.

Section 30. Re-employment of Former Classified Employees in Education, Health, and Public Safety. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for Fiscal Year 2027, former classified teachers, nurses, and public safety first responders of the government of Guam who were in good standing at the time of resignation may be re-employed at *not less than* the salary they earned at their former position if they apply for the same or comparable job in the same department regardless of the timespan that the employee left their position. The employee may waive this privilege.

Section 31. Excess Annual Leave for Nurses, Employees Working in Nursing Services, and Peace Officers. Notwithstanding § 4109(c) of Chapter 4, Title 4, Guam Code Annotated, employees working in nursing services at the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, nurses employed at the Department of Public Health and Social Services, and Peace Officers, as defined in § 51101(b), Chapter 51, Title 17,

Guam Code Annotated, who have accumulated annual leave in excess of three hundred twenty (320) hours as of September 30, 2026, may carry over their excess and *shall* use the excess amount of leave, prior to retirement or termination from service. At the time of retirement or termination of service, that portion permitted to be credited to sick leave *shall* be so credited and the remainder of the excess leave, if any, *shall* be lost. Nothing herein *shall* allow lump sum compensation or retirement credit for annual leave in excess of three hundred twenty (320) hours. Nothing herein *shall* limit registered nurses from accruing leave in accordance with § 4109.1, Chapter 4, Title 4, Guam Code Annotated.

Section 32. Authorization to Extend the Gas Tax Relief Act. *Except* for liquid fuel used for commercial aviation purposes, all levy of excise taxes, automotive surcharges, and mass transit automotive surcharges on liquid fuel *shall* be reported but payments *shall* be waived for Fiscal Year 2027, ending September 30, 2027.

Section 33. Inclusion of GDOE in the Central Accounting Act. § 22205 of Article 2, Chapter 22 of Title 5 Guam Code Annotated is hereby amended to read:

"**§ 22205. Exceptions.** The provisions of this Act *shall not* apply to the accounting operations of the Guam Waterworks Authority, the Guam Power Authority, the A. B. Won Pat International Airport Authority Guam, the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority, the Guam Housing Corporation, the Guam Economic Development and Commerce Authority, the Judicial Branch, the Legislative Branch, the Guam Community College, ~~the Department of Education~~ the University of Guam and the Guam Mass Transit Authority."

Section 34. Inclusion of GDOE under the Purview of the Guam State Clearinghouse. § 2101.1 of Article 1, Chapter 2 of Title 5 Guam Code Annotated is hereby amended to read:

"§ **2101.1. Duties and Responsibilities of the Guam State Clearinghouse.**

In addition to the duties and responsibilities of the Guam State Clearinghouse as may be prescribed by *I Segundu Na Maga'lahi* [the Lieutenant Governor], or by law, the Guam State Clearinghouse *shall* also have the following duties and responsibilities:

(a) Administer the initiation, coordination and review process of all governmental activities within the government of Guam involving Federal financial assistance.

(b) Ensure that government grant proposals for Federal assistance are in accordance with plans, policies, programs, objectives and procedures of the government of Guam.

(c) Ensure that proposed government projects for which Federal financial assistance is sought are fiscally and environmentally sound and are in compliance with all applicable Federal laws.

(d) Ensure that the government of Guam complies with all applicable Federal laws relating to Federal financial assistance and that there exists sound tracking, management, and financial accountability for all Federal programs awarded to the government of Guam.

(e) Perform cost analysis on all Federal aid programs, grants, loans, contracts, contributions, advances, direct Federal development or other Federal funding for the financial impact on the government of Guam's General Fund or special funds used to fund the local matching requirement as prescribed by Federal law; and the financial impact on the government of Guam of continuing the Federal program by the government of Guam if the Federal funding expires. Said analysis *shall* describe the indirect costs the grantee government agency is eligible for, the amounts applied for and received from each grant, the previous year's funding level and funding estimate for future years. Said analyses *shall* be performed as an integral part of the state clearinghouse process and submitted to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, the Chairperson of the Special Accounting Service, the Chairperson of the Special Economic Service, and the Director of the Bureau of Budget and Management Research within fifteen (15) days after completion.

The cost analyses required hereby *shall* be included in *I Maga'lahi*'s Executive Budget request pursuant to Title 5 GCA § 4107(b).

(f) With the exception of the Judiciary of Guam, the Guam Community College, and the University of Guam, ~~and the Guam Department of Education~~, and notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, no application for any Federal aid programs, grants, loans, contracts, contributions, advances, direct Federal development, or other Federal funding *shall* be submitted or deemed approved on behalf of the government of Guam or any agency, division, office, department or instrumentality thereof, or any public corporation, without the final approval of the Director of the Guam State Clearinghouse.

(g) The Judiciary of Guam, the Guam Community College, and the University of Guam, ~~and the Guam Department of Education~~ *shall* provide a courtesy electronic or written copy of each grant application to the Guam State Clearinghouse and *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*. Copies of all communications between the Federal government grantor agency relative to the grant application process with the Judiciary of Guam, the Guam Community College, or the University of Guam, ~~or the Guam Department of Education~~, including all subsequent communications regarding the implementation and execution of the grant award, *shall* also be provided to the Guam State Clearinghouse and *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*."

Section 35. Inclusion of GDOE under the Purview of the Guam State Clearinghouse. § 2101.3 of Article 1, Chapter 2 of Title 5 Guam Code Annotated is hereby amended to read:

"**§ 2101.3. Judiciary of Guam, UOG, and GCC ~~and DOE~~ Exemptions.**

The Judiciary of Guam, the University of Guam, and the Guam Community College, ~~and the Guam Department of Education~~ *shall* be exempted from the provisions prescribed in Title 5 GCA §§ 2101, 2101.1 and 2101.2. However, the Administrator of the Courts, and the Presidents of the University of

Guam and the Guam Community College, ~~and the Superintendent of the Guam Department of Education~~ *shall* separately perform the following duties and responsibilities:

(a) administer the initiation, coordination and review process of all activities within the institution involving Federal financial assistance;

(b) ensure that grant proposals for Federal assistance are in accordance with plans, policies, programs, objectives and procedures of the government of Guam;

(c) ensure that proposed projects for which Federal financial assistance is sought are fiscally and environmentally sound and are in compliance with all applicable Federal laws;

(d) ensure that the institution complies with all applicable Federal laws relating to Federal financial assistance, and that there exists sound tracking, management, and financial accountability for all Federal programs awarded to the institution;

(e) perform a cost analysis on all Federal aid programs, grants, loans, contracts, contributions, advances, direct Federal development, or other Federal funding that the institution is applying for, for the financial impact on the institution and the government of Guam's General Fund or special funds used to fund the local matching requirement as prescribed by Federal law; and the financial impact on the institution and the government of Guam for the continuation of the Federal program should the Federal funding expire and require the government of Guam to financially assume the program's operation one hundred percent (100%);

(f) provide a courtesy electronic or written copy of each grant application to the Guam State Clearinghouse and *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, including all communications between the Federal government grantor agency relative to the grant application process and the subsequent implementation and execution of the grant award; and

(g) the Administrator of the Courts, and the Presidents of the University of Guam and the Guam Community College, ~~and the Superintendent of the Guam Department of Education~~ may delegate any of the foregoing duties and responsibilities to any officers or employees of their respective institution."

Section 36. Duties of the Attorney General. § 5150 of Chapter 5, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, is *amended* to read as follows:

§ 5150.

"The Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General or such Assistant Attorneys General, or such Special Assistant Attorneys General as the Attorney General may designate, *shall* serve as legal counsel and provide necessary legal services to the Policy Office and the General Services Agency. Whenever the Chief Procurement Officer, the Director of Public Works, or the head of any executive branch agency, autonomous agency, instrumentality or public corporation of the government of Guam conducts any solicitation or procurement which is estimated to result in an award of Five Million ~~Hundred Thousand~~ Dollars ($5,000,000 ~~$500,000~~) or more, the Attorney General or his designees, including one (1) or more Special Assistant Attorneys General who may be so designated or appointed by the Attorney General and subject to any reasonable requirements or conditions determined by the Attorney General, *shall* act as legal advisor during all phases of the solicitation or procurement process. The Attorney General, or his designee, including one (1) or more Special Assistant Attorneys General *shall*, in addition, when he approves contracts, determine not only the correctness of their form, but their legality. In making such a determination of legality, he may require any or all agencies involved in the contract to supply him with evidence that the required procedures precedent to executing the contract were carried out. He or his designees may prescribe the forms and format required to be followed by the agencies in aiding him in his determination of form and legality."

Section 37. § 4301.1(g) of Chapter 4, Title 4, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *amended* to read as follows:

§ 4301.1. Definitions.

(g) "Qualified proposal" means a proposal from a health care provider or Third Party Administrator (TPA) that submits either an exclusive and/or a non-exclusive proposal or as stated in the RFP and meets the minimum requirements specified in the RFP in response to any request for proposals for the Government of Guam Health Insurance program.

Section 38. § 4302(c)(8), § 4302(c)(8)(B), § 4302(c)(9), and § 4302(e) of Chapter 4, Title 4, Guam Code Annotated, are hereby *amended* to read as follows:

§ 4302. Same: Health Insurance or Provision of Health Care.

(c)(8) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each fiscal year or on a multi-year basis, not to exceed three (3) years, the Negotiating Team *shall* solicit for either an exclusive and/or non-exclusive proposals from each Health Insurance Provider or Third Party Administrator and enter into negotiations with up to the top three (3) ranked Health Insurance Providers or Third Party Administrators submitting qualified proposals for health insurance coverage for qualified active employees and qualified retirees, survivors, and foster children, of the government of Guam. The proposal submitted for a Third Party Administrator *shall* be an exclusive proposal.

§ 4302(c)(8)(B) The Director *shall* announce, electronically and/or in print, in publications of general circulation in Guam and in top publications nationally ~~and in leading publications internationally~~, a Request for Proposal from Health Care Insurance Providers for health insurance coverage for qualified active employees and qualified retirees, and foster children, of the government of Guam.

§ 4302(c)(9) The Negotiating Team upon selection and review of the best available proposal by participating healthcare respondent(s)/provider(s), or Third Party Administrator(s) which reflect the most economical and beneficial healthcare insurance proposal plans for government of Guam employees and retirees, survivors, and foster children, *shall* forward up to the three (3) highest ranking qualified proposals to *I Maga'hågan/Maga'låhen Guåhan* for consideration and selection of the most economical and beneficial health insurance plan, and transmit to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* for its review no later than July 31, and prior to the annual legislative sessions wherein the upcoming fiscal year budget for the government of Guam is before *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* for consideration. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, rule, or regulations, of the remaining qualifying plans, if a non-exclusive option is selected, the employee or retiree may choose one (1) of the remaining qualified plans, and any difference in premiums *shall* be paid by the employee or retiree at their own cost. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, rule, or regulations, the most economical and beneficial healthcare insurance proposal plan for government of Guam employees and retirees, survivors, and foster children, *shall* be defined as the lowest cost option.

§ 4302(e) Effective October 1, 1986, the contract period for health insurance or provision of health care *shall* coincide with the fiscal year, or fiscal years if on a multi-year contract, which *shall not* exceed three (3) years, of the government of Guam. To that end, the contract period preceding the one for FY1987 may be for less than twelve (12) months.

Section 39. § 5118 of Chapter 5, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *amended* to read as follows:

§ 5118. Procurement Counsel.

The Department of Administration may employ an attorney to assist and represent the DOA/General Services Agency, in all procurement and civil matters, to be called the Procurement

Counsel. The Director of Administration *shall* set the terms and conditions of employment for the attorney and determine his or her compensation consistent with the laws of Guam. The attorney *shall* be a full-time employee, and *shall* be admitted to practice before the courts of Guam under the same conditions as are attorneys employed by the government pursuant to Title 7 GCA, §§ 9A114 and 9A114A. The Procurement Counsel *shall* assist and ~~advise~~ represent the Chief Procurement Officer on all civil matters in which the General Services Agency is legally interested, provided that the Office of the Attorney General *shall* represent the General Services Agency, and provided that the Attorney General *shall* designate the Procurement Counsel for the General Services Agency as a Special Assistant Attorney General for this purpose. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, whenever the Chief Procurement Officer conducts any solicitation or procurement on behalf of the General Services Agency, the Procurement Counsel *shall* act as legal advisor during all phases of the solicitation or procurement process.

Section 40. § 13102(c), § 13107, § 13108, § 13110(b) and § 13115(d)(11) of 2 GAR, Div. 4, Chapter 13, are hereby *amended* to read as follows:

§ 13102. Membership.

(c) The Attorney General or his designee or the Procurement Counsel *shall* act as legal advisor during all phases of the solicitation or procurement process for group health insurance benefits for employees and retirees of the government.

§ 13107. Quorum.

The Negotiating Team may conduct official business if a quorum of its ~~voting~~ members is present at any properly noticed meeting. A quorum of the Negotiating Team is seven (7) ~~voting~~ members.

§ 13108. Decisions.

(a) At any properly notice meeting of the Negotiating Team where a quorum is present, the Negotiating Team *shall* make decisions based upon an affirming vote of at least five (5) of the ~~voting~~ members present, after a motion is made by any member, and seconded by any other member.

(b) In any circumstance, a failure to get an affirming vote of at least five (5) of the ~~voting~~ members present *shall* mean that the motion being voted on fails for lack of majority.

(c) Upon the casing of votes, team members *shall* sign off on a voting sheet or recite their names and positions on a virtual meeting recording to document the decision made. With a quorum being met, the members may motion to electronically vote on a motion.

§ 13110. Communication by Offerors and Sub-contractors.

(b) Prior to disqualification, the Negotiating Team *shall* request the Attorney General's Office or Procurement Counsel to conduct an investigation to verify the veracity of such communication and *shall* provide its recommendation to the negotiating team for action.

§ 13115. Roles of Team Members.

(d)(11) the final recommendation, after obtaining guidance from the Consultant, ~~Insurance Commissioner~~ and Attorney General or Procurement Counsel, to the Governor for approval.

CHAPTER V

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Section 1. Authorization for Matching Requirements for Federal Grants-In-Aid. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all departments are authorized to expend funds appropriated in this Act for matching requirements of Federal grants for Fiscal Year 2027. *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* is authorized to transfer from any appropriations from Chapter II of this Act for matching funds for federal grants.

Section 2. Carryover of Local and Federal Matching Program Funds for Grants. The Local and Federal Matching Funds for programs, whose expiration dates extend *beyond* September 30, 2027, *shall not* lapse and may be expended throughout the period of the grant award.

Section 3. Government of Guam Retirement Fund Rate of Contribution. In accordance with § 8137(e), Article 1, Chapter 8, Title 4 of the Guam Code Annotated, the government rate of contribution to the Retirement Fund throughout Fiscal Year 2027 *shall* be thirty and seventy hundredths percent **(30.70%)**.

Section 4. Autonomous Agency Revenues and Expenditures Reported to *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* and *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, every autonomous and semi-autonomous agency *or* public corporation in the government of Guam *shall* report all revenues and expenditures for all funds under its purview and administration to *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* and the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, in a Microsoft Excel electronic file and a written report, on a monthly basis and post the same on its website. Each monthly report *shall* be due *no later than* thirty (30) days after the end of each month.

Section 5. Facilities Insurance Requirements. Every department and agency of the government of Guam through the Department of Administration *shall only* expend such sums as

necessary, from the department's or agency's appropriations for operations contained in this Act, for insurance of government-owned facilities built or repaired with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant funds, where such insurance is required by FEMA.

Section 6. Reporting Requirements for Non-Profit Organizations. All non-profit organizations that receive funds pursuant to this Act *shall* maintain financial records that accurately account for said funds and *shall* provide a budgetary breakdown by object category to the department *or* agency that oversees the appropriation. The non-profit organization *shall* be provided a copy of this Section by the department or agency overseeing such appropriation, but failure of the department or agency to fulfill this duty *shall not* prevent any non-profit organization from carrying out its responsibilities under this Section. The non-profit organization *shall* also provide to said department:

(a) A quarterly report describing its activities during the reporting period and the results it achieved *no later than* twenty (20) days after the end of each quarter;

(b) Notification of all procurement of equipment and services of Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000) *or* more prior to awarding the contract therefore;

(c) Access to the overseeing department's *or* agency's duly authorized representative, and government of Guam auditors to appropriate records for the purpose of audit and examination of books, documents, papers, and records of funds expended under the appropriation;

(d) Submission of a detailed inventory listing of each year's purchases, as certified by its certifying officer; and

(e) A final report to the overseeing department *or* agency for submission to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* containing a full disclosure of all expenditures of funds appropriated by this Act *no later than* November 15, 2027, for Fiscal Year 2027. The overseeing department *or*

agency *shall* submit said report to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, in a Microsoft Excel electronic file and a written report, and *shall* post the same on its website.

Section 7. Fund Reversions. *Unless* otherwise specified in this Act:

(a) **General Fund Reversion.** All unexpended *or* unencumbered appropriations made from the General Fund by a GG-1, purchase order, or contract pursuant to this Act *shall* revert to the General Fund on the last day of Fiscal Year 2027.

(b) **Healthy Futures Fund Reversion.** All unexpended *or* unencumbered appropriations made from the Healthy Futures Fund by a GG-1, purchase order, or contract pursuant to this Act *shall* revert to the Healthy Futures Fund on the last day of Fiscal Year 2027.

(c) **Guam Educational Facilities Fund Reversion.** All unexpended *or* unencumbered appropriations made from the Guam Educational Facilities Fund by a GG1, purchase order, or contract pursuant to this Act *shall* revert to the Guam Educational Facilities Fund on the last day of Fiscal Year 2027.

(d) **Guam Highway Fund Reversion.** All unexpended *or* unencumbered appropriations made from the Guam Highway Fund by a GG-1, purchase order, or contract pursuant to this Act *shall* revert to the Guam Highway Fund on the last day of Fiscal Year 2027.

Section 8. Transfer Authority of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*. Full transfer authority is authorized for *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* between Fiscal Year 2027 General Fund and Special Fund Executive Branch appropriations of departments and agencies. This Section does not apply to appropriations made to the Unified Judiciary of Guam and *I Liheslaturan Guåhan.*

Section 9. Uniform Allowances. Notwithstanding any provision of law, uniform allowances authorized in this Act *shall not* be less than One Hundred Fifty Dollars ($150.00) for the fiscal year and *shall* be issued to the employees *no later than* the end of the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2027.

Section 10. Government Staffing Pattern.

(a) *No later than* thirty (30) days after the end of each quarter of Fiscal Year 2027, every director, administrator, or head of a government of Guam agency, excluding line agencies, *shall* submit to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* in a Microsoft Excel file and written report, and post the same on the agency website, a current staffing pattern in the format of the Executive Branch Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Call as of the previous quarter's ending. The agencies required to submit are autonomous and semi-autonomous agencies, public corporations, the Mayors Council of Guam, and the Unified Judiciary of Guam. Said staffing pattern *shall* include, at minimum, the name of every current employee and his/her position title, most recent hire date, salary, increment costs and benefit costs, the funding source for his/her salary and benefits, and the gross salary and benefits paid for during the quarter.

(b) *No later than* thirty (30) days after the end of each quarter of Fiscal Year 2027, the Director of the Department of Administration *shall* post the government-wide line agency staffing pattern on the designated budget website in a Microsoft Excel file and written report. The format of the report *shall* be the current staffing pattern in the format of the Executive Branch Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Call as of the previous quarter's ending. Said staffing pattern *shall* include, at minimum, the name of every current employee and his/her position title, most recent hire date, salary, increment costs and benefit costs, the funding source for his/her salary and benefits, and the gross salary and benefits paid for during the quarter.

Section 11. Funding Source. The following departments are authorized to expend up to the level of revenues collected for their respective special revenue funds for Fiscal Year 2027 and unexpended carryovers in revolving funds authorized by law only for the purposes authorized by statute for those funds:

(a) Guam Police Department - Police Services Fund; and Police Patrol Vehicle and Equipment Revolving Fund;

(b) Department of Corrections - Corrections Revolving Fund;

(c) Customs and Quarantine Agency - Customs, Agriculture, and Quarantine Inspection Services Fund;

(d) Guam Environmental Protection Agency - Air Pollution Control Special Fund; Guam Environmental Trust Fund; Pesticide Management Fund; Water Protection Fund; Water Research and Development Fund; and Recycling Revolving Fund;

(e) Department of Land Management - Land Survey Revolving Fund;

(f) *CHamoru* Land Trust Commission - Chamorro Land Trust Operations Fund / Chamorro Land Trust Commission Survey and Infrastructure Fund

(g) Department of Agriculture - Guam Plant Inspection and Permit Fund; Guam Invasive Species Inspection Fee Fund; and Rabies Prevention Fund;

(h) Guam Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, Architects, and Land Surveyors - Professional Engineers, Architects and Land Surveyors (PEALS) Fund;

(i) Guam Fire Department - Enhanced 911 Emergency Reporting System Fund; and Fire, Life and Medical Emergency Fund;

(j) Guam Contractors License Board - Contractors License Board Fund;

(k) Department of Revenue and Taxation - Tax Collection Enhancement Fund; Banking and Insurance Enforcement Fund; and Alcoholic Beverage Compliance Fees and Fines Fund;

(l) Department of Public Health and Social Services - Guam Environmental Health Fund; Health Professional Licensing Office Revolving Fund; Office of Vital Statistics Revolving Fund; and Sanitary Inspection Revolving Fund;

(m) Guam Department of Education and the Guam Public Library System - Public School Library Resources Fund;

(n) Department of Labor and the Guam Community College - Manpower Development Fund;

(o) Office of the Attorney General - Victim/Witness Travel-Housing Fund; Consumer Protection Fund; Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund; and Notary Public Revolving Fund;

(p) Department of Parks and Recreation - Public Recreation Services Fund;

(q) Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center - Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Fund;

(r) Guam Ethics Commission - Government Ethics Fund;

(s) Guam Solid Waste Authority - Solid Waste Operations Fund;

(t) Guam Ancestral Lands Commission - Guam Ancestral Lands Commission Survey, Infrastructure, and Development Fund; and

(u) Guam Visitors Bureau - Tourist Attraction Fund.

Section 12. Government of Guam Health Insurance Program Reporting.

(a) All health insurance carriers for the government of Guam *shall* submit a monthly written report, and corresponding Microsoft Excel file of said report, aggregating the data relative to (1) enrollees, both subscribers and dependents, by active employee and retiree subscriber counts, by plan, by class, by groups, supported/paid by the General Fund, detailed by agency/department; and (2) enrollees, both subscribers and dependents, by active employee and retiree subscriber counts, by plan, by class, by groups, supported/paid by autonomous agencies of the government of Guam, detailed by autonomous agency.

For purposes of this Subsection, autonomous agencies *shall* include the Guam Power Authority, the Guam Waterworks Authority, the Port Authority of Guam, the A.B. Won Pat International Airport Authority, the Guam Housing Corporation, the Guam Economic Development Authority, the Government of Guam Retirement Fund, and the Guam Visitors Bureau.

This report and corresponding Microsoft Excel file *shall* be submitted to the Department of Administration, the Office of Finance and Budget, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* and the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan no later than* twenty (20) days after the end of each month of Fiscal Year 2027.

(b) All health insurance carriers for the government of Guam *shall* submit a monthly written report detailing each individual health insurance premium payment received by the government of Guam health insurance carrier from the government of Guam, by date and by agency, to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan no later than* twenty (20) days after the end of each month of Fiscal Year 2027.

Section 13. Quarterly Reports of Medical Referral Offices. Each of the Medical Referral Offices funded by this Act *shall* provide quarterly reports on its activities and expenditures, to include, but not be limited to:

(a) number of referred patients served;

(b) number of patient escorts or accompanying family members served;

(c) average cost per patient referral incurred during that quarter;

(d) actual office expenditures for the quarter, including fuel costs; and

(e) a description of services provided during the quarter.

The quarterly reports required by this Section *shall* be submitted to *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* and the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan no later than* thirty (30) days after the end of each quarter of the fiscal year and *shall* be posted on the Offices' websites.

Section 14. Audited Financial Statements Supplementary Information. The Public Auditor and the Director of the Department of Administration *shall* ensure that the Fiscal Year 2026 audit of the government of Guam financial statements contains the following supplementary information:

(a) a schedule of personnel count indicating the number of filled positions by department, fund source, and amount expended as of September 30, 2026; and

(b) a combined schedule of expenditures, encumbrances, and continuing appropriations by department, fund source, and object classification as of September 30, 2026.

Section 15. Reporting Requirements for Travel. All governmental entities (including line and autonomous agencies), instrumentalities, and public corporations *shall* submit a quarterly report of all off-island government travel that is publicly funded during Fiscal Year 2027. This report *shall* be submitted to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and *shall* include:

(1) the name of the traveler;

(2) the source of funds;

(3) the purpose of the travel;

(4) the cost of the travel; and

(5) individual or group reports from the travelers highlighting the impact the information gathered at the conference or meeting has on the agency, and how the information acquired will be beneficial to the agency's function.

A presentation of the information obtained from the meetings and conferences may be required at the discretion of the agency's director.

Section 16. Guam Police Department (GPD), Guam Fire Department (GFD), Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA), and Department of Corrections (DOC) Overtime Reporting Requirements. The GPD, GFD, CQA and DOC *shall* submit a written report to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan no later than* twenty (20) days after the end of each quarter in Fiscal Year 2027 which *shall* include the amount of overtime owed to each employee at each respective agency, by fiscal year in which such overtime was incurred, by division, and by employee name, for the previous quarter.

Section 17. Independent Contractors. The Office of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the Office of *I Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*, and the Guam State Clearinghouse may enter into agreements with independent contractors pursuant to Guam procurement laws.

Section 18. Authorization for Payment of Prior Years' Obligations. Appropriations made in this Act may be expended for the payment of prior years' obligations, provided it does not negatively impact the current operational needs of the department or agency requesting such prior years' payment, and that five (5) days prior to payment, written notice is given to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* with the total amount, funding source, and the prior years' obligation to be paid for by the department or agency.

Section 19. Department of Revenue and Taxation (DRT) Authorization to Utilize the Better Public Service Fund for Tax Collection. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Department of Revenue and Taxation is hereby authorized to use its appropriation in this Act from the Better Public Service Fund for the purpose of tax collection.

Section 20. Funds Available to Guam Cancer Trust Fund.

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of Title 11 Guam Code Annotated, Chapter 26, § 26603(e)(2)(b), all funds available to the Guam Cancer Trust Fund in Fiscal Year 2027 are not subject to the seventy-five percent (75%) allocation limitation imposed by said Section, and may be expended for the purposes provided therein. All other provisions in Title 11 Guam Code Annotated, Chapter 26, § 26603(e)(2)(b), including the ten percent (10%) limitation on education and outreach, are not waived and continue to apply.

(b) All funds of the Guam Cancer Trust Fund, including funds appropriated by this Act, are not subject to any transfer authority provided for in this Act or any other provision of law.

(c) The provisions of Title 11 Guam Code Annotated, Chapter 26, Article 6, § 26603(e)(6) are not waived.

Section 21. Off-island Travel by Executive Security of the Guam Police Department. The Guam Police Department is authorized to expend from its appropriation in this Act for off-island travel and per diem expenses for Police Officers assigned to Executive Security functions under the Guam Police Department for the purpose of providing executive security to *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, the First Gentleman, and *I Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan* when traveling off-island to represent the people of Guam at meetings and functions determined critical to the welfare of Guam.

Section 22. Government-Funded Travel Prohibited. Funds appropriated by this Act *shall not* be expended for off-island travel or per diem expenses by government employees and officials, except for:

(a) travel that is federally-funded;

(b) travel that is specifically required to administer or secure federal grants;

(c) travel to promote tourism on Guam; provided, that such travel is paid for by the Tourist Attraction Fund and is restricted to the GVB General Manager or his/her designee, and appropriate GVB staff and cultural performers as are identified by the Board of Directors as necessary to accomplish the goal of the travel;

(d) travel by law enforcement personnel conducting an official investigation and law enforcement personnel providing escort services for criminal suspects, detainees, and convicted felons being returned to Guam for judicial proceedings or being transferred to off-island correctional facilities;

(e) travel by medical personnel providing escort services for patients requiring off-island medical treatment and other escorts as specifically authorized by the Department of Public Health and Social Services pursuant to Guam law;

(f) travel necessary for the enforcement of court orders;

(g) travel under the Residential Treatment Fund;

(h) travel required for witnesses testifying on behalf of, and government attorneys representing the government or the people of Guam in a criminal or civil case;

(i) travel to attend conferences and official meetings with national and regional government officials or national and regional organizations of which the entity is an official member where attendance is necessary to advancing Guam's interests during Fiscal Year 2027 and as approved by governing board or Director;

(j) Executive Security functions under the Guam Police Department for the purpose of providing Executive Security to *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* and *I Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan* when traveling off-island to represent the people of Guam at meetings and functions determined critical to the welfare of Guam;

(k) travel to testify on issues related to Guam's political status; or

(l) travel to testify at the invitation of the U.S. Congress.

Section 23. Wireless Communications Restrictions.

(a) No government of Guam funds, regardless of source and including funds expended by autonomous agencies, *shall* be expended for the use of cellular telephones, cellular telephone services, and other wireless telephone services, unless the government of Guam will be reimbursed from federal funds or other grants. This Section *shall not* apply to *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*; *I Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*; the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*; the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Guam; the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Guam; the Crisis Hotline Program of the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center; law enforcement officials; on-call attorneys of the Office of the Attorney General and the Public Defender Service Corporation; on-call health professionals of the Guam Memorial Hospital

Authority, the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, and the Department of Public Health and Social Services; village Mayors and Vice Mayors; Guam Fire Department and EMS officials; on-call emergency management personnel; the Chief Medical Examiner; the Guam Election Commission; and the Guam Visitors Bureau. The restrictions in this Section *shall not* apply to wireless internet services, stationary (non-mobile) wireless telephone, and wireless voice over internet protocol (VOIP) services.

(b) No appointing authority, manager, supervisor, or public officer in any branch of the government of Guam *shall* require or exert undue influence on any classified or unclassified employee of any branch of the government of Guam to maintain or utilize for employment-related duties, at such employee's personal expense, any form of wireless and/or internet communications, phone, tablet, or desktop or laptop computer. Nothing herein, however, *shall* be construed to prevent an employer from calling an employee at a wireless phone/radio if the employee designates such wireless phone/radio as a personal contact number. Nothing herein *shall* be construed as to prevent an employee, voluntarily and on his own accord, from using personal funds or resources for wireless telephone services. An employee in violation of this Subsection is subject to a fine not to exceed Fifty Dollars ($50.00) for the first violation, and One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) for subsequent violations.

Section 24. Purchasing First Class or Business Class Airfare Prohibited. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, the government of Guam *shall* not purchase first class or business class airfare. The traveler *shall* be authorized to purchase only coach or economy airfare. Any traveler electing to upgrade their airline seat *shall* be required to either use their personal mileage or pay the incremental difference in the cost. This Section *shall not* apply to *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*; *I Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*; the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*; the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Guam; and the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Guam.

Section 25. Restriction on the Home Use of Government of Guam Vehicles. Except as expressly permitted by § 1103(c), Chapter 1, Title 4 GCA, or any other law, no government of Guam owned, leased, or rented vehicle may be driven home by an employee *unless* such employee is on call as an emergency first responder.

Section 26. Annual Procurement Plan Requirement. Pursuant to § 5010 of Chapter 5, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, departments and agencies *shall* submit to the General Services Agency a projected annual procurement plan at the start of each fiscal year. Plans *shall* include equipment, services, and supplies (e.g., vehicles, copiers, computers, heavy equipment, security, ground maintenance, janitorial and construction supplies, food supplies, etc.), by category, together with appropriate specifications or scope of work.

Section 27. Severability. *If* any provision of this Act or its application to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the invalidity *shall not* affect other provisions or applications of this Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are severable.