

*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
<b>58-38 (COR)</b>	Vincent A. Borja Joe S. San Agustin Christopher M. Dueñas Tina Rose Muña Barnes Jesse A. Lujan Shelly V. Calvo Eulogio S. Gumataotao	AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$5,750,984) FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND REVENUES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE ADOPTED LEVELS ENUMERATED IN PUBLIC LAW 37-125 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATIONS, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND ACCREDITATION RELATED PRIORITIES.	2/10/25 4:34 p.m.	2/14/25	Committee on Finance and Government Operations.	Request: 2/14/25  2/20/25	2/28/25 2:00 p.m.	3/12/25	



Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

March 11, 2025

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

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

RE: Committee Report on Bill No. 58-38 (COR)

Buenas yan Håfa Adai Speaker,

Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report on Bill No. 58-38 (COR) - Vincent A.V. Borja / Joe S. San Agustin/ Christopher M. Dueñas/ Tina Rose Muña Barnes/ Jesse A. Lujan/ Shelly V. Calvo/ Eulogio S. Gumataotao - An Act To Appropriate Five Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand And Nine Hundred Eighty-Four Dollars (\$5,750,984) From The Fiscal Year 2025 General Fund Revenues Collected In Excess Of The Adopted Levels Enumerated In Public Law 37-125 To The University Of Guam For The Purpose Of Operations, Repairs, Maintenance, Capital Improvement Projects And Accreditation Related Priorities.

Committee votes are as follows:

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



COMMITTEE ON RULES

RECEIVED:

March 11, 2025 4:57 p.m.
Kamarin Nelson

Senseremente,

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



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

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Bill No. 58-38 (COR)** – Vincent A.V. Borja / Joe S. San Agustin/ Christopher M. Dueñas/ Tina Rose Muña Barnes/ Jesse A. Lujan/ Shelly V. Calvo/ Eulogio S. Gumataotao - AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$5,750,984) FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND REVENUES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE ADOPTED LEVELS ENUMERATED IN PUBLIC LAW 37-125 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATIONS, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND ACCREDITATION RELATED PRIORITIES



# Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

March 11, 2025

## **MEMORANDUM**

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

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

**Subject:** Committee Report on Bill No. 58-38 (COR)

Transmitted herewith for your consideration is the Committee Report on **Bill No. 58-38 (COR)** - "Vincent A.V. Borja / Joe S. San Agustin / Christopher M. Dueñas / Tina Rose Muña Barnes/ Jesse A. Lujan / Shelly V. Calvo / Eulogio S. Gumataotao - An Act To Appropriate Five Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand And Nine Hundred Eighty-Four Dollars (\$5,750,984) From The Fiscal Year 2025 General Fund Revenues Collected In Excess Of The Adopted Levels Enumerated In Public Law 37-125 To The University Of Guam For The Purpose Of Operations, Repairs, Maintenance, Capital Improvement Projects And Accreditation Related Priorities."

This report includes the following:

- Copy of COR Referral of Bill No. 58-38 (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. 58-38 (COR), As Introduced
- Fiscal Note/Fiscal Note Waiver

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

Respectfully,

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



# COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

February 14, 2025

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

**Attorney Darleen Hiton**  
Legislative Legal Counsel

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

**Subject:** **Referral of Bill No. 58-38 (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. 58-38 (COR)** – Vincent A. Borja., Joe S. San Agustin, Christopher M. Dueñas, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Jesse A. Lujan, Shelly V. Calvo, Eulogio S. Gumataotao – “AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$5,750,984) FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND REVENUES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE ADOPTED LEVELS ENUMERATED IN PUBLIC LAW 37-125 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATIONS, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND ACCREDITATION RELATED PRIORITIES.”

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 forwarded to the Prime Sponsor of the subject bill, to the Office of Finance and Budget (OFB) and to Management Information Services (MIS) for posting on our website

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

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





Senator Chris Duenas &lt;senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov&gt;

---

**FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing February 28, 2025**

3 messages

---

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

Fri, Feb 21, 2025 at 8:13 AM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 21, 2025

**MEMORANDUM****To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media****From: Senator Christopher M. Duenas**  
**Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations****Re: FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on February 28, 2025**

---

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a public hearing on **Friday, February 28, 2025** beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

**2:00 pm:**

- **Bill No. 58-38 (COR)** – Vincent A.V. Borja / Joe S. San Agustin/ Christopher M. Dueñas/ Tina Rose Muña Barnes/ Jesse A. Lujan/ Shelly V. Calvo/ Eulogio S. Gumataotao - AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$5,750,984) FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND REVENUES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE ADOPTED LEVELS ENUMERATED IN PUBLIC LAW 37-125 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATIONS, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND ACCREDITATION RELATED PRIORITIES

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

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

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

--



**Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas**

*Chairman, Committee on Government Finance and Operations*

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

(671) 989-9554

**2 attachments**



**Senator Duenas Headshot.jpg**

70K



**2.28.25 First Notice.pdf**

306K

**Ed Pocaigue** <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

Fri, Feb 21, 2025 at 8:20 AM

To: Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@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."

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

Fri, Feb 21, 2025 at 8:46 AM

To: Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

Thank you!

[Quoted text hidden]



# Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 21, 2025

### MEMORANDUM

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

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

**Re: FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearings on February 28, 2025**

---

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a public hearing on **Friday, February 28, 2025** beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

#### **2:00 pm:**

- **Bill No. 58-38 (COR)** – Vincent A.V. Borja / Joe S. San Agustin/ Christopher M. Duenas/ Tina Rose Muña Barnes/ Jesse A. Lujan/ Shelly V. Calvo/ Eulogio S. Gumataotao - AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$5,750,984) FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND REVENUES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE ADOPTED LEVELS ENUMERATED IN PUBLIC LAW 37-125 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATIONS, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND ACCREDITATION RELATED PRIORITIES

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

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

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

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

**OFFICE OF SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS**

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

LIKE AND FOLLOW @SENATORDUENAS


# FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on February 28, 2025

 PRINT

## FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on February 28, 2025

**PUBLIC HEARING**




 **Posted on:** 02/21/2025 08:15 AM

 **Posted by:** Ashley Shinohara

 **Public Hearing Date:** 02/28/2025 02:00 PM

 **Department(s):** GUAM LEGISLATURE (/notices?department\_id=92)

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

 **Notice Topic(s):** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?topic\_id=74)

 **Types of Notice:** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?type\_id=7)

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

 **Share this notice**

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 21, 2025

### MEMORANDUM

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

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

**Re: FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on February 28, 2025**

---

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a public hearing on **Friday, February 28, 2025** beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

#### **2:00 pm:**

##### **Bill No. 58-38 (COR)**

**([http://guamlegislature.gov/38th\\_Guam\\_Legislature/Bill\\_History\\_38th/STATUS%20Bill%20No.%2058-38%20\(COR\).pdf](http://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bill_History_38th/STATUS%20Bill%20No.%2058-38%20(COR).pdf))** – Vincent A.V. Borja / Joe S. San Agustin/ Christopher M. Dueñas/ Tina Rose Muña Barnes/ Jesse A. Lujan/ Shelly V. Calvo/ Eulogio S. Gumataotao - AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$5,750,984) FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND REVENUES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE ADOPTED LEVELS ENUMERATED IN PUBLIC LAW 37-125 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATIONS, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND ACCREDITATION RELATED PRIORITIES

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

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

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



Guam Educational Telecommunications Corporation


P.O. Box 21449  
 GMF, Guam 96921  
 Phone # 671-734-5483

# Invoice

Date	Invoice No.
3/6/2025	2025-14

Bill To
Office of Senator Christopher Duenas Calvo Arriola Bldg. Ste 101-13 259 Martyr St. Hagatna, Guam 96910

P.O. No.	Due Date	Rep	MOU No.
2538PO083	4/6/2025	CDC	

Item	Description	Qty	Rate	Amount
Air-Time	Public Notices for Feb. 21 & 28, 2025 Hearing		500.00	500.00
Certified to be true and correct:  Ina Marie V. Carillo General Manager				

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING PUBLIC TV!! IF PBS DOESN'T DO IT, WHO WILL? WE WILL TOGETHER!	<b>Total</b>	\$500.00
---	--------------	----------



Senator Chris Duenas &lt;senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov&gt;

---

**SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on February 28, 2025**

1 message

---

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

Wed, Feb 26, 2025 at 8:29 AM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 26, 2025

**MEMORANDUM****To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media****From: Senator Christopher M. Duenas  
Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations****Re: SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on February 28, 2025**

---

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a public hearing on **Friday, February 28, 2025** beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

**2:00 pm:**

- **Bill No. 58-38 (COR)** – Vincent A.V. Borja / Joe S. San Agustin/ Christopher M. Dueñas/ Tina Rose Muña Barnes/ Jesse A. Lujan/ Shelly V. Calvo/ Eulogio S. Gumataotao - AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$5,750,984) FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND REVENUES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE ADOPTED LEVELS ENUMERATED IN PUBLIC LAW 37-125 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATIONS, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND ACCREDITATION RELATED PRIORITIES

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

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

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

--



**Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas**

*Chairman, Committee on Government Finance and Operations*

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

(671) 989-9554

---

**2 attachments**



**Senator Duenas Headshot.jpg**

70K



**2.28.25 Second Notice.pdf**

306K



# Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 26, 2025

### MEMORANDUM

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

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

**Re: SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on February 28, 2025**

---

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a public hearing on **Friday, February 28, 2025** beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

#### **2:00 pm:**

- **Bill No. 58-38 (COR)** – Vincent A.V. Borja / Joe S. San Agustin/ Christopher M. Duenas/ Tina Rose Muña Barnes/ Jesse A. Lujan/ Shelly V. Calvo/ Eulogio S. Gumataotao - AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$5,750,984) FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND REVENUES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE ADOPTED LEVELS ENUMERATED IN PUBLIC LAW 37-125 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATIONS, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND ACCREDITATION RELATED PRIORITIES

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



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

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

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

**OFFICE OF SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS**

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

  LIKE AND FOLLOW @SENATORDUENAS


# SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on February 28, 2025

 PRINT

## SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on February 28, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING



 **Posted on:** 02/26/2025 08:30 AM

 **Posted by:** Ashley Shinohara

 **Public Hearing Date:** 02/28/2025 02:00 PM


 **Department(s):** GUAM LEGISLATURE (/notices?department\_id=92)

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

 **Notice Topic(s):** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?topic\_id=74)

 **Types of Notice:** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?type\_id=7)

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

 **Share this notice**

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 26, 2025

### MEMORANDUM

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

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

**Re: SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing on February 28, 2025**

---

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations will conduct a public hearing on **Friday, February 28, 2025** beginning at **2:00 pm** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

#### **2:00 pm:**

##### **Bill No. 58-38 (COR)**

**([http://guamlegislature.gov/38th\\_Guam\\_Legislature/Bill\\_History\\_38th/STATUS%20Bill%20No.%2058-38%20\(COR\).pdf](http://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bill_History_38th/STATUS%20Bill%20No.%2058-38%20(COR).pdf))** – Vincent A.V. Borja / Joe S. San Agustin/ Christopher M. Dueñas/ Tina Rose Muña Barnes/ Jesse A. Lujan/ Shelly V. Calvo/ Eulogio S. Gumataotao - AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$5,750,984) FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND REVENUES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE ADOPTED LEVELS ENUMERATED IN PUBLIC LAW 37-125 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATIONS, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND ACCREDITATION RELATED PRIORITIES

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

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

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



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

**PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA**

**Friday, February 28, 2025 – Guam Congress Building**

**2:00PM:**

- **Bill No. 58-38 (COR)** – Vincent A.V. Borja / Joe S. San Agustin/ Christopher M. Dueñas/ Tina Rose Muña Barnes/ Jesse A. Lujan/ Shelly V. Calvo/ Eulogio S. Gumataotao - AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$5,750,984) FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND REVENUES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE ADOPTED LEVELS ENUMERATED IN PUBLIC LAW 37-125 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATIONS, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND ACCREDITATION RELATED PRIORITIES

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

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

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



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

## Invitation to Public Hearing for Bill No. 58-38

2 messages

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

Mon, Feb 24, 2025 at 10:40 AM

To: "Dr. Anita Enriquez" <abe@triton.uog.edu>

### *Buenas yan Hafa Adai!*

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations invites you to participate in a public hearing on Bill No. 58-38, scheduled for Friday, February 26, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in the Guam Congress Building.

Your input is valuable, and we encourage you to attend and share your testimony. If you are unable to participate in person, we welcome written testimony, which may be submitted via email to [senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov).

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our office at (671) 989-9554.

### *Si Yu'os Ma'ase!*

--



### Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas

Chairman, Committee on Government Finance and Operations

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

[senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov)

(671) 989-9554

### 2 attachments

**2.28.25 First Notice.pdf**  
311K

**Bill No. 58-38 (COR).pdf**  
1710K

Dr. Anita Enriquez <abe@triton.uog.edu>

Mon, Feb 24, 2025 at 11:26 AM

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

Cc: Sharleen Santos-Bamba <sbamba@triton.uog.edu>, "Randall V. Wiegand" <wiegandr@triton.uog.edu>, Jonas Macapinlac <jmac@triton.uog.edu>, Lesley-Anne Leon Guerrero <leonguerrero18543@triton.uog.edu>, Mike Naholowaa <naholowaam@triton.uog.edu>, JULIE ANN LIMBAGA LAXAMANA <laxamanaj14250@gotritons.uog.edu>, "Diaz, Pete" <pete.diaz@aecom.com>, Rachel Field <rfield@triton.uog.edu>

Buenas, yan Un dangkulo na Si Yu'os Ma'àse' for this notice and support! We look forward to providing written and oral testimony.

*Kon respetu* (With respect),  
Anita

Anita Borja Enriquez, D.B.A.  
President

*Diplomatic Entrepreneur*

**UNIVERSITY OF GUAM**

*Unibetsedat Guåhan*

Phone: (671) 735-2990, [www.uog.edu](http://www.uog.edu)

The University of Guam is a U.S. Land Grant and Sea Grant Institution accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission. UOG is an equal opportunity provider and employer committed to island wisdom values of *inadahi yan inagofli'e*: respect, compassion, and community.

Get Outlook for Android

---

**From:** Senator Chris Duenas <[senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 24, 2025 10:40:31 AM

**To:** Dr. Anita Enriquez <[abe@triton.uog.edu](mailto:abe@triton.uog.edu)>

**Subject:** Invitation to Public Hearing for Bill No. 58-38

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - Please use caution when opening attachments or clicking links.]

[Quoted text hidden]



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

---

## Invitation to Public Hearing for Bill No. 58-38

---

Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>  
To: lester.carlson@bbmr.guam.gov, admin@bbmr.guam.gov

Mon, Feb 24, 2025 at 11:07 AM

### *Buenas yan Hafa Adai!*

The Committee on Finance and Government Operations invites you to participate in a public hearing on Bill No. 58-38, scheduled for Friday, February 26, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in the Guam Congress Building.

Your input is valuable, and we encourage you to attend and share your testimony. If you are unable to participate in person, we welcome written testimony, which may be submitted via email to [senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov).

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our office at (671) 989-9554.

### *Si Yu'os Ma'ase!*

--



### **Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas**

*Chairman, Committee on Government Finance and Operations*

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

[senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov)

(671) 989-9554

---

### 2 attachments

**2.28.25 First Notice.pdf**  
311K

**Bill No. 58-38 (COR).pdf**  
1710K

*I Mina trentai'ocho na Liheslaturan Guahân | 38th Guam Legislature*  
**Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas**

Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Date:

Friday, February 28, 2025

Time:

2:00 p.m.

Bill No. 58-38 (COR) - Vincent A.V. Borja - AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$5,750,984) FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND REVENUES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE ADOPTED LEVELS ENUMERATED IN PUBLIC LAW 37-125 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATIONS, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND ACCREDITATION RELATED PRIORITIES.

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Cris Perez	UOG	[REDACTED]	perezcg@triton.uog.edu	✓	✓	✓	
2	Richard Salas	UOG	[REDACTED]				✓	
3	MARIELLE MARTINEZ	UOG	[REDACTED]	martinezml2777@triton.uog.edu			✓	
4	Ansa Borgonia	UOG	[REDACTED]	borgoniaa12612@triton.uog.edu			✓	
5	Zemy Asuncion	UOG	[REDACTED]	zasuncion.nava@bdyguam.com	✓	✓	✓	
6	Ante F. Enriquez	UOG	[REDACTED]	abe@triton.uog.edu	✓	✓	✓	
7	Kalyne Roberto	UOG	[REDACTED]	Robertok@triton.uog.edu			✓	
8	KEANA ARDIENTE	UOG / SGIA	[REDACTED]	sgancepresident@triton.uog.edu			✓	
9	JULIE LAYAMANA	UOG / BOR		LAYAMANA JI4250@triton.uog.edu			X	
10	Edward Ulloa	UOG / BOR	[REDACTED]	edward.ulloa@triton.uog.edu			✓	

*I Mina trentai'ocho na Liheslaturan Guahån* | 38th Guam Legislature  
Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas

Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Date:

Friday, February 28, 2025

Time:

2:00 p.m.

Bill No. 58-38 (COR) - Vincent A.V. Borja - AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$5,750,984) FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND REVENUES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE ADOPTED LEVELS ENUMERATED IN PUBLIC LAW 37-125 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATIONS, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND ACCREDITATION RELATED PRIORITIES.

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Sharlén Santos Borja	UOG	[REDACTED]	sharlens@triton.gu			✓	
2	MARY CRUZ	UOG	[REDACTED]	mtfcruz@triton			✓	
3	Nicole Guerrero	UOG	[REDACTED]	sgapresident@triton		✓	✓	
4	Dorcen <sup>Crisostomo</sup>	UOG	[REDACTED]		✓		✓	
5	Chris Garcia-Santos	UOG	[REDACTED]	cgarcia@triton.uog.edu			✓	
6	Michael Conner	UOG	[REDACTED]	connem@triton-uog.edu			✓	
7	Lesley Leon Guerrero	UOG	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]			✓	
8	Anita Borja Enrique	UOG	[REDACTED]	abe@triton.uog.edu		✓	✓	
9	Randy Wreyand	UOG	[REDACTED]	wiegandr@triton.uog.edu		✓	✓	
10	Brendan Traverso	UOG	[REDACTED]	brendent@us.edu			✓	

*I Mina trentai'ocho na Liheslaturan Guahån* | 38th Guam Legislature  
Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas

Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Date:

Friday, February 28, 2025

Time:

2:00 p.m.

Bill No. 58-38 (COR) - Vincent A.V. Borja - AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$5,750,984) FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND REVENUES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE ADOPTED LEVELS ENUMERATED IN PUBLIC LAW 37-125 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATIONS, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND ACCREDITATION RELATED PRIORITIES.

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	Rachael Leon Guerrero	UOG	[REDACTED]	rachael.Hg@tr.fon.uog.edu			X	
2	Bob Barber	UOG	[REDACTED]	bbarber@tr.fon.uog.edu			X	
3	Tanisha Aflague	UOG	[REDACTED]	taflague@tr.fon.uog.edu	X	X	X	
4	Valene Leon Guerrero	UOG	[REDACTED]	leonguerrero15031@gotritions.uog.edu			X	
5	Edison P. Munoz	OPM	[REDACTED]	edisonmu@uog.edu	X		X	
6	Mike Nakolouza	UOG	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]			X	
7	Agapito Diaz	UOG	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]			X	
8	UNGACTA, Daeshu	UOG	[REDACTED]	ungactad@gotritions.uog.edu			X	
9	Katrina Perez	UOBEF	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	X	X	X	Yes
10	Jesse Leon Guerrero	UOBEF	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]			X	Yes
11	Sophie Forsyth	UOG	[REDACTED]	forsyth@gotritions.uog.edu			X	
12	Jonas Macapinlac	UOG	[REDACTED]	jmc@tr.fon.uog.edu			X	Yes

*I Mina trentai'ocho na Liheslaturan Guahân* | 38th Guam Legislature  
Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas

Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Date:

Friday, February 28, 2025

Time:

2:00 p.m.

Bill No. 58-38 (COR) - Vincent A. V. Borja - AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$5,750,984) FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND REVENUES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE ADOPTED LEVELS ENUMERATED IN PUBLIC LAW 37-125 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATIONS, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND ACCREDITATION RELATED PRIORITIES.

	Name	Agency / Address	Contact No.	Email	Type of Testimony		Support	
					Oral	Written	Yes	No
1	DAVID I UCCOY						<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
2	ALICIA C. ASUON						YES	
3	GENEVIEVE FLORES						YES	
4	Delsherae M. Garcia						yes	
5	Nolan Moxa			manan16684@gotritons.uog.edu	oral		yes	
6								
7	Marie B. Mendonça						yes	
8	J-Lyn Singeo Marikus Manabat Jr.			manabat jr. m@gotritons.uog.edu			yes	
9	Evander DeGuzman						yes	
10	Valerie Gamba MEDITH Guithart						yes	

March 5, 2025

The Honorable Senator Christopher M. Duenas  
 Chair, Committee on Finance and Government Operations  
 38<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature  
 Calvo Arriola Building Suite 101-B  
 259 Martyr St.  
 Hagåtña, Guam 96910

The Honorable Senator Vincent A.V. Borja  
 Chair, Committee on Education, Libraries and Public Broadcasting  
 38<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature  
 DNA Building Suite 502  
 238 Archbishop Flores Street  
 Hagatna, Guam 96910

Håfa Adai Senator Duenas and Senator Borja,

Transmitted herewith is the University of Guam’s intended spending plan for the amount appropriated in Bill 58-38. These costs ensure we continue supporting faculty and staff, provide essential student services like advising, financial aid, and academic resources, meet accreditation and compliance standards, and sustain facilities and critical campus operations. Please let us know if you have any further concerns regarding this matter.

---

**BILL NO. 58-38 (COR):** AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$5,750,984) FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND REVENUES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE ADOPTED LEVELS ENUMERATED IN PUBLIC LAW 37-125 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATIONS, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND ACCREDITATION RELATED PRIORITIES.

Capital Improvements	1,000,000
Repairs, Maintenance	392,686
Accreditation Related Priorities	4,358,298
	5,750,984

Capital Improvements. This includes roof repairs for the Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) Memorial Library building, roof repairs for the Residence Halls buildings, and skylight repairs for both the Humanities and Social Sciences building and the Tan Lam Pek Kim English and Communications building.

Repairs, Maintenance. This includes 46 employees from the Facilities Management & Services Division who conduct repairs and maintenance for university facilities.

T: +1 671.735.2990 F: +1 671.734.2296 W: [www.uog.edu](http://www.uog.edu)

Mailing Address: 303 University Drive UOG Station Mangilao, Guam 96913

*The University of Guam is a U.S. Land Grant and Sea Grant Institution accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission and is an equal opportunity employer and provider.*

Accreditation Related Priorities. This includes 289 employees from the School of Business and Public Administration, School of Education, School of Health, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, School of Engineering, Enrollment Management & Student Success, RFK Library, Marine Laboratory, Micronesian Area Research Center, Office of Information Technology, Center for Online Learning, Senior Vice President & Provost Office, and Office for Institutional Effectiveness.

Sincerely,



Anita Borja Enriquez, D.B.A.  
President

Cc: The Honorable Speaker Frank Blas, Jr.

T: +1 671.735.2990 F: +1 671.734.2296 W: [www.uog.edu](http://www.uog.edu)

Mailing Address: 303 University Drive UOG Station Mangilao, Guam 96913

*The University of Guam is a U.S. Land Grant and Sea Grant Institution accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission and is an equal opportunity employer and provider.*

Dear Members of the 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill 58-38, which proposes allocating \$5,750,984 to the University of Guam (UOG). This funding is crucial for the university's operations, maintenance, capital improvement projects, and accreditation-related priorities.

This reduction in funding has led to challenges in sustaining academic quality and supporting student success. The proposed appropriation in Bill 58-38 would help address these challenges by providing necessary resources for repairs, staffing, maintenance, and essential projects that would ensure a safe and effective learning environment.

Investing in UOG is an investment in Guam's future. University plays a vital role in educating our workforce, our future leaders, and driving economic development. By supporting this bill, we affirm our commitment to higher education and the prosperity of our island community.

Thank you for your consideration and reading my testimony.

Sincerely,

Manz Lio G. Santos

[https://www.guampdn.com/opinion/letter-putting-uog-compensation-in-perspective/article\\_2f60e920-f80e-11ef-958f-03119fcac0b7.html](https://www.guampdn.com/opinion/letter-putting-uog-compensation-in-perspective/article_2f60e920-f80e-11ef-958f-03119fcac0b7.html)

## LETTER: Putting UOG compensation in perspective

By Arun Swamy

Mar 4, 2025



The Guam Congress Building’s public hearing room is filled to capacity with University of Guam students, faculty members and others to list or present testimony on the UOG bailout Bill 58-38 on Feb. 28, 2025.

Rick Cruz/Pacific Daily News



On Monday, the Pacific Daily News ran an article on salaries and benefits at the University of Guam. The article gives the total compensation of many UOG administrators and faculty.

As president of the Faculty Union, I represent the faculty on salary matters and I am writing this on behalf of the Union. The Union believes the article gives a misleading impression about faculty salaries. I offer two factors to consider when evaluating these figures.

The first factor is the huge gap between total compensation and actual salaries. This is because these numbers included benefits, mainly the University's contribution to the retirement fund and health insurance, the cost of which kept rising.

I use myself as an example. My benefits are 47% of my base salary, which makes my total compensation one and a half times my actual base salary. This includes 30.77% of my salary going to the Government of Guam Retirement Fund, which does not go to my individual retirement account. It goes into a general fund GGRF uses to pay current retirees as well as future ones.

Both retirement and health insurance contributions have gone up since last year (FY 2024) and will go up again. My benefits went from 41.6% of my salary in FY 2024 to nearly 47% in FY 2025.

In 2011, when I joined UOG, my benefits were 27.4% of my salary. Anyone can check my statements by looking up the staffing pattern for every quarter on UOG's website.

The second factor has to do with faculty salaries. Before the 20% raise in 2023, the faculty salary scale had gone up a total of only 11% since 1991, well behind all other government of Guam employees. The consumer price index increased 124% in that time so the real value of faculty salaries in 2023 was less than half what it was in 1991. This made it difficult to hire or keep faculty.

When our 20% increase was approved, the Legislature asked for an external study to justify it. The University hired Alan Searle and Associates, who had conducted salary studies for other GovGuam agencies. Their study shows that, after the 20%

increase, the median faculty salary at all ranks below professor/extension specialist were on par with the median salaries for their rank nationwide.

The comparison matters because most faculty positions require a doctorate, which means they are hired from off-island. Unless most classes are taught by Ph.D.'s we risk losing accreditation.

Even faculty with roots in Guam consider how our salaries compare to other options. Even with the higher salaries, it is often difficult to recruit from the United States because candidates consider the cost of living in Guam before they accept a salary offer. Keeping them is also difficult.

Since the current U.S. administration will likely grant fewer work visas, more and more new faculty will need to be hired from the mainland U.S.

UOG faculty carry out a wide range of activities that bring tremendous benefit to our island.

We are teaching faculty, upholding high quality educational programs that train our future workforce at a fraction of the cost of a university on the mainland; scholars doing high impact research high quality programs relevant to the island's needs; extension faculty bringing the fruits of new knowledge to help every facet of our island community; and librarians curating that knowledge for the community. The University has recently been awarded the status of a research university and had its accreditation renewed for eight years.

Faculty members understand the University's budgetary difficulties and we know the challenges facing other GovGuam agencies, which affect all of us.

But we should also recognize that a good portion of the increasing compensation bills, at UOG and across GovGuam, has been the rising cost of benefits.

And when it comes to UOG faculty, our current salaries reflect a very recent increase that brings us in line with national averages and will allow us to continue to carry out our mission.

---

*Arun Swamy, PhD, is a professor at the University of Guam and president of the UOG Faculty Union.*

I am writing to express my strong support for University of Guam's supplemental budget request, particularly for the School of Health. Guam is facing a severe nursing workforce shortage, with a high turnover rate and increasing reliance on costly travel nurses to fill critical gaps in our healthcare system. To address this crisis, we must invest in nursing education to develop and retain a strong local workforce that is committed to serving our island.

The UOGs School of Health, nursing program is the only nationally accredited nursing program on the island. Over the past 8 years, we have maintained an outstanding 96% or above NCLEX pass rate, ensuring that our graduates are well-prepared for professional practice. Additionally, we have a 100% employment rate for our graduates, demonstrating the immediate need for more locally trained nurses.

Despite our commitment to excellence, we are significantly limited by budget constraints. To increase enrolment and train more nurses, we need additional faculty. We are also working toward establishing a Master's in Nursing program, which will allow us to develop masters-prepared nurses who can serve as faculty for the BSN program ensuring long-term sustainability of our nursing workforce. However, without adequate funding, these critical initiatives remain unattainable.

In addition to faculty and program expansion, we urgently need funding to enhance our Learning Resource Center and computer lab, which are essential for student success. We also require resources for preceptor training, which is vital for clinical education, and to maintain our accreditation standards. These investments are crucial to providing high-quality education, ensuring our students have access to the best learning experiences, and meeting national nursing standards.

Investing in UOGs nursing program is an investment in the future of healthcare in Guam. I request your support in securing the necessary funding to sustain and grow our nursing education programs. The health and well-being of our island depend on it.

Sincerely,

Annamma Varghese, DNP, RN

Assistant Professor, Nursing division, School of Health

University of Guam

February 28, 2025

To: Senator Christopher M. Duenas  
Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations  
Members of the Sponsoring Committee  
Sen. Vincent A. Borja  
Sen. Joe S. San Agustin  
Sen. Tina Rose Muna Barnes  
Sen. Jesse A. Lujan  
Sen. Shelly V. Calvo  
Sen. Eulogio S. Gumataotao

Subject: Bill No. 58-38 (COR) – An Act to Appropriate Five Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand and Nine Hundred Eighty-Four Dollars (\$5,750,984) from the Fiscal Year 2025 General Fund Revenues Collected In Excess of the Adopted Levels Enumerated in Public Law 37-125 to the University of Guam for the Purpose of Operations, Repairs, Maintenance, Capital Improvement Projects and Accreditation Related Priorities.

Hafa Adai Honorable Senators!

I support Bill No. 58-38.

My name is Dr. Zeny Asuncion, a CPA from State of California and in Guam, a Certified Government Financial Manager, a Certified Fraud Examiner, a Certified Forensic Accountant, and an Accredited Investment Fiduciary with over 25 years of professional experience.

I currently teach at the University of Guam, School of Business and Public Administration having taught since 2008 on subjects like Auditing, Fraud Examination, Fraud Investigation and Forensics, and 2 of the 4 parts of the CPA examination course, namely Auditing and Business Economic Concepts.

I come before you to support Bill No. 58-38, specifically on the Accreditation Related Priorities. UOG has a long history of academic excellence having earned the distinguished accreditation thru Year 2032 bestowed by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Senior College and University Commission (WASCUC) for all of its academic programs.

The School of Business educators team has long been staffed with local professionals who have earned both solid experience and exposure to Guam's cultural diversity and economic landscape. These qualities of instructors have contributed to attaining UOG's prestigious accreditation. The University of Guam has been instrumental in building the professional workforce for all industries, including those serving in higher education as faculty members.

I support the effort of this Committee to consider prioritizing hiring qualified LOCAL candidates to fill faculty vacancies; i.e., local professionals be utilized first in filling University teaching positions before searching outside of Guam.

I thank the Committee for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Dr. Zeny Asuncion, CPA CGFM CFE CrFA AIF



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

---

## Support for 58-38

1 message

---

**Leah Mae Mijares** <[REDACTED]>  
To: "senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov" <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>  
Cc: rbaguon@triton.uog.edu, goodalli14650@triton.uog.edu

Fri, Feb 28, 2025 at 1:05 PM

Dear Senator Christopher Duenas,

I hope you're doing well! My name is Leah Mae Mijares and I am currently a sophomore at the University of Guam. I am writing to you in regard to my full support of Bill 58-38 that appropriates \$5.7 million to the University of Guam to sustain operation expenses and maintenance, repairs, and improvement projects.

The University of Guam serves more than just an educational institution. The University of Guam provides various career opportunities for students and graduates that impact not just the student themselves, but the overall community as a whole. Investing in our university means a prosperous outcome for students and a positive incline to the island's economy. Bill 58-38 will ensure quality education for students in the long run, and I look forward to seeing a better future for the University of Guam.

Thank you!

Regards,  
Leah Mae Mijares

# Deborah D. Leon Guerrero



---

February 28, 2025

Honorable Christopher M. Dueñas, Senator, 38<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature  
259 Martyr St.  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Hafa Adai!

I respectfully submit this letter in support for Bill No. 58-38 (COR): TO APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$5,750,984) FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND REVENUES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE ADOPTED LEVELS ENUMERATED IN PUBLIC LAW 37-125 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATIONS, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND ACCREDITATION RELATED PRIORITIES

My understanding is that the purpose of this bill stems from the University's FY2025 budget request was for \$44m+ to cover operations. Additional amounts were requested for special appropriations (e.g., Guam Cultural Repository, WERI, Sea Grant match, G3, etc.). Unfortunately, UOG was only appropriated \$32m+ for operations, in effect shortchanging their local budget ask by about \$12m. Moreover, UOG was advised that UOG should fund the Guam Cultural Repository out of their local funding. The \$5.75m from bill 58-38 will primarily be enough to cover payroll. Meanwhile, UOG continues to implement efficiencies to cut costs (while maintaining academic quality) and seek other revenue streams to support operations.

The University needs this supplemental funding to carry out its most important mission of "Ina, Deskubre, Setbe; To Enlighten, to Discover, to Serve. The University of Guam empowers the region by uniting island wisdom with universal sources of enlightenment to support exceptional education, discovery, and service that respect and benefit local and global communities."

Senseramente yan si Yu'os ma'ase,



Deborah Leon Guerrero

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill No. 58-38, which seeks to allocate \$5,750,984 from the excess Fiscal Year 2025 General Fund revenues to the University of Guam. My name is K'Con Andon, I am from Pohnpei, part of the FSM nation. As a student from Pohnpei, FSM, I am deeply grateful for the opportunities that UOG provides, not only to students from Guam but also to those of us from across Micronesia and beyond. This bill is essential in ensuring that UOG continues to offer a high-quality education, maintain its facilities, and meet accreditation standards, all of which are crucial for student success. By investing in the university's operations, infrastructure, and academic programs, this funding will enhance the learning environment for all students, regardless of where they come from. UOG serves as a hub of higher education for the entire region, shaping the future of students from FSM, the CNMI, the Marshall Islands, Palau, and other Pacific nations. The knowledge and skills we gain here will not only benefit us individually but will also empower us to contribute to the development of our home islands. On behalf of my fellow FSM students and all those who have come to Guam in pursuit of higher education, I sincerely thank the Guam Legislature for recognizing the importance of investing in UOG. Your support allows us to grow academically, develop professionally, and ultimately give back to our communities. I urge you to pass Bill No. 58-38 and continue fostering educational opportunities that reach far beyond Guam, strengthening the entire Micronesian region.

Sincerely,  
K'Con Andon

Shawn Guerrero

3/4/25

PA-210-01

Testimony in Support of Bill 58-38

Håfa Adai Honorable Senators,

I am writing in support of Bill 58-38, which would provide \$5.7 million to the University of Guam. UOG plays a vital role in giving students access to quality higher education, and this funding is crucial to keeping the university strong in academics, accessibility, and innovation.

As Guam's main higher education institution, UOG helps students gain the skills they need to contribute to our island's workforce and economy. For many students, including myself, UOG offers opportunities that would otherwise require expensive travel off-island. Proper funding will improve campus facilities, academic programs, and student services.

This money will also help UOG with important challenges like keeping qualified faculty, supporting research, and improving technology. Investing in UOG means investing in Guam's future, as many graduates go on to work in education, healthcare, and public service.

I strongly urge the legislature to pass Bill 58-38 and make education a priority for our island.



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

---

## Bill 58-38: Appropriations bill for UOG

1 message

---

**RAYMOND DENNIS SEYMOUR ANDERSON** <rdanderson@triton.uog.edu>

Thu, Feb 27, 2025 at 7:04 AM

To: "senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov" <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>

Hafa Adai,

I am writing in support of bill 58-38. Over the past few months UOG has come under increased financial pressure with the loss of several grants. This has complicated a financial crunch that started several years ago when funding had been reduced for the institution and its reserves began to dwindle. Although recent appropriations have been stepped up, they have not been enough to buffer inflation and return the University to stability lost in previous years.

The university has made significant attempts at cuts and efficiency improvements over the past few years, but even with those changes our financial stability is currently precarious, to say the least. The situation we face is the most serious it has been over the past 10 years.

I am requesting your positive consideration for this bill to help UOG over this hump as we continue to find other ways to reduce costs.

sincerely

Raymond Anderson



---

**RAYMOND D.S. ANDERSON, PhD**  
***Professor of Communication & Media***  
Cell: (671) 488-0602



Senator Chris Duenas &lt;senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov&gt;

---

**Written Testimony Supporting Bill 58-38**

1 message

**SARAH CABALTERA** <cabalteras@gotritons.uog.edu>

Fri, Feb 28, 2025 at 6:00 PM

To: "senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov" &lt;senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov&gt;

Cc: [REDACTED], RONALD B AGUON &lt;rbuguon@triton.uog.edu&gt;, Isabel-Emma Goodall &lt;goodalli14650@triton.uog.edu&gt;

Dear Senator Christopher M. Duenas,

My name is Sarah Cabaltera and I'm a sophomore attending the University of Guam. I am sending you this email as I was not able to attend the hearing regarding Bill 58-38 due to my class colliding with the time of the hearing. However, I would like to express my utmost support for Bill 58-38.

Bill 58-38 seeks to allocate \$5.7 million for the University of Guam. This funding is essential for the repair and acquisition of necessary equipment and infrastructure across the University of Guam. Some repairs and purchases would be crucial to UOG as it would be used to repair our institution such as our school buildings and dorms, and the air conditioning and bathroom leaks. This would also benefit our upcoming buildings such as the School of Health, Engineering, WERI building, and the Student Success Center which would need furniture, beneficial for our future students who will occupy the buildings for their education.

The University of Guam is not just here to educate the students of today, but also the students in future generations. Bill 58-38 is part of the stepping stone to providing students with well-maintained facilities, resources needed to help develop and succeed their knowledge, and drive their growth within the community.

Although I was not able to support Bill 58-38 with the rest of my fellow tritons, I hope that our commitment within our voices and messages will come through. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

Sarah Mae Cabaltera

University of Guam

Senator Christopher M. Duenas

March 4, 2025

Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

Dear Senator Duenas,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my immense support and gratitude for the University of Guam and its pivotal role in shaping the professional I am today. I earned my Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Public Administration from the University of Guam in 2012 and 2013, respectively. I am also a U.S Army Special Operations Veteran and Hoover Veteran Fellow.

During my time at the university, I embarked on a transformative journey which molded my career path in the national security sector and fueled my passion for human rights advocacy. Participating in the Mock United Nations spurred my interest in diplomacy, while engaging with professors on counter-human trafficking initiatives opened my eyes to pressing global issues. These experiences not only informed my worldview but laid the foundation for my future endeavors.

Inspired by my time at the University of Guam, I co-founded the Guam Human Rights Initiative, a non-profit organization aimed at addressing critical human rights challenges through research. The skills and knowledge I acquired during my academic years became the bedrock of my efforts, fostering collaboration and promoting impactful change within our communities.

The robust academic environment also propelled me to pursue a Doctorate degree in the mainland, allowing me to delve deeper into human rights research, particularly for Guam and the broader Micronesian region. This academic achievement traces its roots back to the university's commitment to excellence and community empowerment. The faculty's dedication and the university's nurturing environment instilled in me the values of perseverance, empathy, and advocacy. Their guidance has been instrumental in my ongoing work, and I remain grateful for the lessons learned under their tutelage.

I wholeheartedly support the continued advancement and recognition of the University of Guam as a crucial institution for education and social progress in our region. President Dr. Anita B. Enriquez and faculty at the University of Guam continue to empower students, enabling them to make meaningful contributions locally and globally. The rigorous academic opportunities are pivotal in sectors such as the defense industry, healthcare, engineering, and the arts. Continued partnerships with the University of Guam and industry leaders, creates valuable internship opportunities for grads to excel in the workforce.

Thank you, Senator Duenas, for your attention to and support of the university and its mission. I am hopeful that stories like mine underline its impact and the significance of maintaining robust educational opportunities for future generations.

Warm regards,



Dr. MaryKate Soliva



# UNIVERSITY OF GUAM UNIBETSEDÁT GUAHAN

**HIRO KURASHINA, Ph.D.**

**PRESIDENT**

**SOCIETY OF EMERITUS PROFESSORS AND RETIRED SCHOLARS  
UOG STATION, MANGILAO, GUAM 96923**

## **TESTIMONY FOR BILL 58-38 (COR)**

Date: February 28, 2025

The Honorable Christopher M. Dueñas  
Senator, 38<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature  
Chairperson, Committee on Finance and Government Operations  
259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910  
Email: [senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov)

My name is Hiro Kurashina, Ph.D. I am a concerned retired UOG professor/administrator and I am the President of the Society of Emeritus Professors and Retired Scholars (SEPRS) at the University of Guam.

I am testifying in support of the passage of Bill 58-38 with the spirit of endorsing the critical need of the University of Guam to carry out its mission as the only accredited locally based institution of higher learning that grants undergraduate and graduate degrees to our students.

The University of Guam is disparagingly in need of \$5,570,984 from the Fiscal Year 2025 General Fund Revenues for the purpose of operations, repairs, maintenance, capital improvement projects, and accreditation related priorities, including the furniture for the Schools of Health and Engineering and the Student Success Center.

These critical needs are real and the ultimate beneficiaries of Bill 58-38 are the students who are investing their time and life for higher education which will help them to achieve their academic goals. Producing better educated students is an important key to create brighter futures for our island society. Your consideration and attention to my testimony is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hiro Kurashina'.

Hiro Kurashina, Ph.D.

President, UOG Society of Emeritus Professors and Retired Scholars (SEPRS)

cc: UOG President Anita Borja Enriquez

UOG Senior Vice President and Provost Sharleen Santos-Bamba

Ms. Christine Mabayag, Executive Secretary, Office of the UOG President

## **Honorable Senator Christopher M. Dueñas and Members of the 38th Guam Legislature,**

I am writing in support of Bill 58-38, which seeks to appropriate \$5.7 million to the University of Guam (UOG). This funding is critical to ensuring the university's ability to sustain its operations and fulfill its mission of providing quality higher education to the people of Guam.

From the outset, it has been clear that the Legislature did not allocate enough funding for UOG's operations. The University has been systematically underfunded, leaving it in a position where it is struggling to meet even its most basic financial obligations. This appropriation is not an excess request—it is merely enough to cover salaries. The faculty and staff at UOG are dedicated professionals who contribute to the intellectual and economic growth of our island, yet they are expected to operate with insufficient resources.

One common misunderstanding is the assumption that federal grants can be used to sustain daily operations. However, federal grants are typically designated for specific projects and research initiatives, not for covering operational costs. The university cannot rely on these funds to pay faculty salaries, maintain facilities, or support student programs. Additionally, while tuition contributes to the budget, it is not enough to cover the full cost of operations. Keeping tuition affordable is essential for accessibility, but without adequate legislative funding, the financial burden on students will only increase in the future.

UOG is not just another government agency—it is the only institution on Guam that fulfills three vital functions that no other entity provides: **teaching, research, and public service**. It is the sole accredited four-year institution of higher education in Guam, educating and preparing students to become future leaders. It is also a research hub, producing critical work in areas like environmental sustainability, marine science, regional health issues, and cultural preservation—research that directly benefits our island and the broader Pacific region. Lastly, UOG's extension and public service programs provide essential training, outreach, and resources that support the island's economic, social, and environmental well-being. Without proper funding, these services—and their direct impact on our community—are at risk.

Another critical point to consider is faculty and administrative compensation. The public often questions what PhDs and highly credentialed professors should be paid, but the reality is that UOG's faculty are underpaid compared to their counterparts elsewhere. Many government employees earn significantly more despite not holding terminal degrees or the same level of expertise. If we do not adequately compensate our educators, we risk discouraging future generations from pursuing advanced degrees or from contributing their expertise to Guam's educational institutions.

Administrative salaries are another area of concern. Contrary to common belief, UOG's administrators are not overpaid—they are actually underpaid relative to their responsibilities and the demands of their positions. A well-functioning university requires strong leadership, yet without competitive salaries, we risk losing qualified administrators to other institutions or sectors.

UOG is an essential institution that drives workforce development, research, and economic progress for our island. Underfunding it only hinders Guam's growth. I urge the Legislature to recognize the importance of this appropriation and to invest in the future of higher education by fully supporting Bill 58-38.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rian-Anne Santos Guzman



TO: Senators Vincent Borja, Joe San Agustin, Christopher Dueñas, Tina Muña Barnes, Jesse Lujan, Shelly Calvo, and Eulogio Gumataotao  
Sponsors, Bill 58-38

FROM: Yvette C. Paulino  
Dean, Margaret Perez Hattori-Uchima School of Health

DATE: March 5, 2025

Buenas yan Håfa Adai, distinguished Senators of the 38<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature! I am grateful for the opportunity to submit this testimony on behalf of the Margaret Perez Hattori-Uchima School of Health (MPHU-SOH) in support of Bill 58-38 “an Act to appropriate \$5,750,984 from FY 2025 General Fund revenues collected in excess of the adopted levels enumerated in P.L. 37-125 to the University of Guam for the purpose of operations, repairs, maintenance, capital improvement projects and accreditation related priorities.” Our school is home to three major academic programs: Social Work, Nursing, and Health Science (Exercise Science & Health Promotion, Pre-Physical Therapy, Public Health). We have 429 students declared representing over 16% of the University’s total enrollment. Over the past five years, we supported approximately 350 students through internships, field practicum, and clinical and leadership courses working with health partners within the Government of Guam (e.g., Guam Behavioral Health & Wellness Center, Department of Public Health & Social Services, Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, and others) and across other non-government organizations including private clinics, health and healthcare related businesses, and non-profit organizations.

Bill 58-38 will direct funds to accreditation related priorities. Two of our three academic programs are nationally recognized and accredited externally by professional bodies. First, our Social Work Program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Accreditation. I am pleased to report that as of October 2024, our Social Work Program was granted reaffirmation for another eight years. This is a testament to the work and dedication of our amazing Social Work faculty and staff. The second nationally accredited program we offer is our Nursing Program recognized by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. We have been ranked among the top programs for bachelor’s level nursing education in the nation based on our high NCLEX pass rates ranging from 90-100%. Over the years, our nursing graduates have received job offers even before they graduated. Our Nursing Program is up for reaffirmation next year. We are working on our self-study report due later this year followed by an ACEN site visit tentatively set for Spring 2026. This is a critical time for us, and we must demonstrate a steady commitment of resources to support the operations, facilities, and staffing needed to maintain the nursing education the University offers. Staffing support covers faculty and clinical educators (including adjuncts and mentors) and administrative staff that are vital to the operations of our Nursing Program.

Additionally, our Nursing Annex, one of the four buildings under construction at the University, is on track for completion in November 2025. The annex is funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration. In that proposal, the University committed to increasing program admission to 50 students within the first year and up to 60 students within two years of building completion. This means that we would increase our admission by more than 80%, from 33 students when I assumed deanship in 2023 to 60 students in 2027. My faculty and I can demonstrate to ACEN that we are achieving the academic standards defined by the accrediting body, but we need your help in demonstrating that we have resources to furnish our

new building and maintain adequate faculty and staff support to continue delivering high quality teaching and learning.

In closing, on behalf of the MPHU-SOH, we support Bill 58-38 which allocates \$5,750,984 from FY 2025 General Fund to the University of Guam thereby supporting the operations, facilities and new annex furnishings, and faculty and staffing needs essential for professional accreditation. Our academic programs are critical to filling the shortage of nurses, social workers, and other health professional manpower on our island.

Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'os Ma'åse',

*Yvette C. Paulino*

Yvette C. Paulino, PhD, CPH

# University Impact through the Power of Community Engagement!

February 27, 2025

Honorable Chris M. Duenas  
Chairman, Committee on Finance & Government Operations  
38th Guam Legislature  
259 Martyr Street  
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Subject: Strong Support for Bill No. 58-38 (COR) for the University of Guam

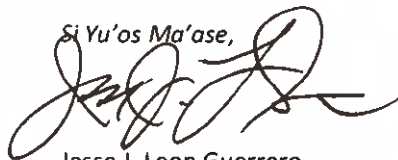
Dear Honorable Chris Duenas,

On behalf of the Board of Directors for the University of Guam Endowment Foundation, I write to express our full and unwavering support for the proposed bill to allocate supplemental budgetary funds to the University of Guam (UOG) for operations, repairs, maintenance, capital improvement projects, and accreditation-related priorities. This funding is critical to ensuring that UOG continues to fulfill its mission as the region's premier higher education institution, fostering academic excellence, economic development, and cultural preservation.

The University of Guam serves as an essential pillar of our community, not only by providing high-quality education and workforce development opportunities but also by driving research, innovation, and regional collaboration. However, as with any institution of higher learning, maintaining the quality and functionality of its infrastructure and academic programs requires sustained investment. The challenges posed by aging facilities, increased operational costs, and the need to meet accreditation standards necessitate immediate financial support from the government.

It is extremely crucial that Guam lawmakers unequivocally provide unconditional support for the only institution of higher learning throughout the Western Pacific. I urge your esteemed office and the legislative body to prioritize this funding request, recognizing the profound and lasting impact that it will have on the University of Guam and the communities it serves. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to advancing higher education in our region.

Should you require any additional information or wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Si Yu'os Ma'ase,*  


Jesse J. Leon Guerrero  
Chairman, University of Guam Endowment Foundation



## Board of Directors

Chairman

Mr. Jesse Leon Guerrero

Vice Chairman

Mr. John Calvo

Treasurer

Mr. George Chiu

Executive Secretary

Dr. Anita Borja-Enriquez

Directors

Hon. Joseph Ada

Mr. David John

Dr. Saied Safabakhsh

Ms. Ramona Jones

Ms. Flo Martinez

BG Roderick Leon Guerrero, USA,

Retired

Ms. Lesley Anne Leon Guerrero

## Foundation Team

Ms. Katrina Perez

Executive Director

Ms. Shawn Wegner

Associate Director

Ms. Jenei Agnon

Development Coordinator

Ms. Erika Pagsisihan

Marketing Assistant

Ms. Theodora Helgenberger

Staff Accountant

Ms. Valerie Perez

Accounting Clerk

Ms. Clara Grace Diaz

Administrative Assistant

UOG Endowment Foundation

303 University Dr.

UOG Station

Mangilao, Guam 96923-9000

tel. 671.735.2957

fax. 671.734.2952

email: [info@uogendowment.org](mailto:info@uogendowment.org)

[www.give.uog.edu](http://www.give.uog.edu)



Vice President

**Keana Ardiente**

University of Guam 63rd Student Government Association

*Students First!*



February 28, 2025

To: **The Honorable Christopher M. Dueñas**  
Chairperson on Finance and Government Operations

**The Honorable Vincent A.V. Borja**  
Chairperson, Committee on Education, Libraries, and Public Broadcasting

From: Keana Ardiente  
Vice President, University of Guam Student Government Association

Subject: Written and Oral Testimony in support of Bill No. 58-38

***Buenas yan Håfa Adai Chairperson Dueñas and Oversight Chair Borja and members,***

My name is Keana Ardiente and I currently serve as the Vice President of the Student Government Association at the University of Guam. I am also a veteran and above all, a proud Triton, and the University of Guam has provided me with invaluable opportunities. That's why I stand before you today in strong support of Bill 58-38, which proposes a \$5.7 Million appropriation for critical maintenance and capital projects at our university.

My experience at UOG has been transformative. It has honed my leadership, problem-solving, and interpersonal skills, all of which are essential in moving the island forward. We, the students, are deeply invested in the well-being of our community. Contrary to some beliefs, we are acutely aware of the challenges facing Guam: affordable housing, infrastructure, and rising utility costs. These are not abstract issues; they directly impact our lives and futures, and frankly, they cause us significant anxiety.

However, we are indeed progressing forward, and that's exciting. We are seeing the construction of four new buildings: the WERI Research Center, the Dr. Lucio C. Tan Student Success Center, the Margarete Perez Hattori-Uchima School of Health, and School of Engineering. As a double major in Public Administration and Communication, I am deeply invested in the success of all our programs, even those outside my immediate field. While I am excited about the new School of Engineering, a crucial question remains: where will the students sit? What materials and equipment will students be able to use at the new school of engineering building?



## Vice President

# Keana Ardiente

University of Guam 63rd Student Government Association

*Students First!*

These new buildings highlight the urgent need for investment in our university's infrastructure. It's not just about erecting structures; it's about maintaining them effectively. We've seen a concerning trend: as our campus grows, our custodial staff shrinks. We had more custodians when we had fewer buildings. This bill offers a vital opportunity to address this staffing shortage and ensure our facilities are properly maintained.

Furthermore, we cannot ignore the existing maintenance issues plaguing our campus. Leaky roofs, faulty air conditioning, and deteriorating window seals are not conducive to a productive learning environment. Not only do students deserve a clean and operational space to study and attend classes, but our dedicated faculty and staff deserve it as well.

Financial pressures affect many of our students, particularly those in the middle class who don't qualify for aid. Yet, the high value placed on a UOG education makes the sacrifices necessary for many students to succeed. We cannot expect our students to thrive if their learning environment is neglected.

At UOG, we are taught to be Tritons – individuals who identify problems, take action, and see those actions through to completion. This bill presents a clear opportunity to address critical infrastructure needs at our university. I understand that many of you are UOG alumni or have taught at UOG, and I implore you to embrace that Triton spirit once more. Recognize the pressing need for these funds, act decisively by supporting Bill 58-38, and follow through by ensuring that the university has the resources it needs to thrive. This investment is an investment in the future of Guam, and in the students who will lead it.

I'd like to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to Senator Vincent Borja for his tireless dedication to our island community and his unwavering commitment to advancing higher education on Guam. I'd also like to extend my appreciation to the co-sponsors of this bill, including Senators Joe San Agustin, Christopher Dueñas, Tina Muña Barnes, Jesse Lujan, Shelly Calvo, and Eulogio Gumataotao, as well as the entire 38th Legislature, for their collective efforts to make a positive impact on our island home.

I'd like to extend an invitation to all members of the 38th Legislature to join us at the University of Guam's 57th Charter Day celebration. This special event will feature a showcase of traditional huts crafted by our cultural student organizations, highlighting the rich diversity of our campus community. I'd be delighted to have you join us and experience the unique cultural heritage of our island.



Vice President

**Keana Ardiente**

University of Guam 63rd Student Government Association

*Students First!*



And, if you do intend to go, I will treat you all to a meal. I look forward to seeing you all there

Very respectfully,

Keana Ardiente,

Vice President, UOG 63rd Student Government Association - ***Students First***

ALINE A. YAMASHITA, PhD



February 28, 2025

Senator Christopher Duenas  
Chairman, Committee on Finance & Government Operations  
38<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature  
Hagatna, Guam 96913

Dear Senator Duenas and All Honorable Senators,

Please consider this letter in full support of Bill No. 58-38 (COR) AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND NINE HUNDRED EIGHT FOUR DOLLARS (\$5,750,984) FROM FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND REVENUES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE ADOPTED LEVELS ENUMERATED IN PUBLIC LAW 37-125 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATIONS, REPAIRS, MAINTNANCE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND ACCREDITAITON RELATED PRIORITIES

As President Trump and his team assert effort to accomplish what they campaigned on, it is wise to strengthen our local capabilities – preparing for all possibilities. While Bill 58-38 does not necessarily address consequences of federal funding cuts, it does fortify our home-based University – where Tritons become our workers, leaders, change agents, visionaries, economic base, family structure. While Guam is home to many, the Tritons are the catalyst for our life – now and the future. While not all 19000 graduates live in Guam, many do. That 11% makes the difference.

Strengthening our education systems fortifies authority for what we are already responsible for – and perhaps what we may regain fuller responsibility for.

For decades, the federal government, through the U.S. Department of Education, has determined our programs in exchange for funds. From GOALS 2000, No Child Left Behind, Every Student Succeeds set the rules. While the funding was appreciated, we know best what every student should know, do and care about. We also know how to train, perform, assess in relevant and meaningful ways. Cultural competency and island wisdom are essential more than ever.

The \$5, 750, 984.00 is a start. Further investment to ensure needed programs – to include early childhood education – is a steppingstone to a high-quality standard of living. The Guam Genius is unparalleled in all realms. The University of Guam is in the position to provide walking leadership to best support the revitalization and discovery of opportunities to high quality of living from cradle to cane, sunrise to sunset. Let us fully support the best mechanism that is ours – UoG - and reap the benefits – visible and invisible – that is sure to better life for all. That is the vision. It is ours to realize.

Thank you,  
  
ALINE A. YAMASHITA, PhD

**Buenas yan Hafa Adai Honorable Senators of the 38<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature,**

My name is Cris Perez, and I am proud to serve as a staff member, alongside I am also an alumnus, and current graduate student at the University of Guam.

First, I want to sincerely thank Senators Vincent A. Borja, Joe S. San Agustin, Christopher M. Duenas, Tina Muna Barnes, Jesse A. Lujan, Shelly A. Calvo, and Shawn Gumataotao for sponsoring Bill 58-38.

I also want to extend my gratitude to Senator Christopher M. Duenas, Chairman of the Committee on Finance and Government Operations, along with the dedicated staff members who organized this public hearing.

Lastly, I appreciate the opportunity to share my testimony in support of Bill 58-38, which is vital for sustaining the University of Guam's operations through the end of fiscal year 2025.

Having been involved at multiple levels within the University, I have witnessed the honest commitment of our people to the mission of the University to Enlighten, Discover, and Serve. With the guidance of our strategic plan, Tulos Mo'na (Propelling Forward Together in Unison), the University empowers our students and the entire community of Guam and beyond, with high-value education, research, and outreach programs.

The relentless dedication of our university students and employees profoundly transforms our island home, Guam, and the surrounding region. The University of Guam has enlightened many, including myself, my family, friends, and colleagues, by offering countless opportunities to discover knowledge and build skills. This transformation is made possible through our unique people, quality degrees, innovative research, and impactful outreach programs, all led by our students, faculty, staff, and administrators in collaboration with local, federal, and regional partners such as the Guam Legislature for their continued support.

I firmly believe that education is essential for fostering knowledge, wisdom, skills, and abilities among our people. It empowers us all, ensuring we can compete and thrive together while preventing stagnation in our society.

Many of our people, students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and stakeholders, are actively involved in public agencies, non-profit organizations, and private businesses within our community, bringing with them the valuable experience gained from their time at the University. Our contributions greatly impact the lives of many individuals and our environment.

This bill represents an investment not only in the present and future of the University of Guam, but also in the hopes, dreams, and aspirations of the people of Guam who call this island HOME.

Moreover, this bill serves as a crucial economic lifeline for our students, many of whom dream of transforming their lives, and becoming future leaders and responsible citizens who can make meaningful contributions to our society. This bill will also sustain the livelihoods of about 580 full-time and over 400 part-time public servants, as well as the families who rely on our support in serving the community, our students, and the island at large. Without this bill, many students may face reduced services, and numerous employees will struggle to provide the necessary support for their families' health and well-being.

The University has a proven track record of delivering positive returns on investments in Guam through job creation, increased tax revenues, and meaningful contributions to our economy, education, governance, and more.

This investment will significantly enhance the University of Guam's capacity to nurture an environment, where everyone can succeed, maintain a healthy community for all stakeholders involved, and continue to be an accessible institution of higher learning that serves our people, our island, our home, our Guam. BIBA UOG! BIBA GUAHAN!

Thank you for taking the time to listen.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas  
Chairman, Comm on Finance & Government Operations.  
259 Martyr St.  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
Senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

Re. Testimony in Support of Supplemental Funding for the University of Guam

Hafa Adai Senator Duenas,

February 28, 2025

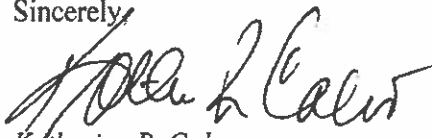
Mr. Speaker, esteemed members of the Guam Legislature,  
I offer testimony today to express my unwavering support, as a former UOG Board of Regent, for Bill No.58-38(COR) appropriating Five million seven hundred fifty thousand and nine hundred eighty-four dollars to the University of Guam (UOG) from the Fiscal Year 2025 general fund revenues collected in excess of adopted levels. This funding is not merely a request; it is a necessity for the sustainability of our institution and, by extension, for the future of our community.

For many years, the University of Guam has been the cornerstone of higher education in our region, nurturing the minds of our students and providing them with the tools to succeed in an increasingly complex world. However, the University is at a critical juncture. The reality is that UOG has faced consistent underfunding in fiscal years 2025 and beyond. This persistent challenge has strained our capacity to continue to deliver the high-quality education and services our students and faculty deserve.

The appropriated funds will allow the University to address pressing operational expenses that have been exacerbated by limited financial resources. It will support essential repairs and maintenance, safeguarding our facilities and ensuring they remain conducive to learning. These funds will also be pivotal for capital improvement projects that are long overdue and necessary for our infrastructure to keep pace with educational demands. Moreover, accreditation-related priorities are paramount for UOG, ensuring that our programs meet rigorous standards of excellence. This funding will enable us to meet those critical benchmarks, thus protecting the integrity of our degrees and the futures of our graduates.

In closing, I implore your support of this critical measure and the sustainability of Guam's highest institution of learning.

Sincerely,



*Katherine R. Calvo*  
Former Board of Regent  
University of Guam



Dear Senators of the 38th Guam Legislature,

My name is Tanisha Franquez Aflague, PhD, RDN. I am writing and speaking to express my strong support for Bill 58-38, which seeks to appropriate \$5.7 million in funding for the University of Guam (UOG). This investment is not only crucial for the sustainability of the university but also vital for the continuity of our work efforts towards continued growth and development of our community at large.

My primary role as Extension faculty uniquely bridges Research and Teaching to carry out the University's Land Grant mission of extending the University's intellectual resources into the community to address community needs. UOG Extension does this by building and nurturing partnerships with local government and community groups that identify needs, secure resources, and leverage efforts to ensure relevant community-based programs and meaningful impact. To continue and expand this critical work, we need and operate from the core UOG base of human capacity and physical infrastructure supported by appropriated funds from the Legislature. Operating from the UOG core base, Extension and Research faculty can secure grants and external funding that enables us to implement and expand community-based programs.

From the perspective of my teaching role, I incorporate real-time scenarios of community-based programs into the classroom as well as provide opportunities for student experiential learning and employment that addresses emerging issues. UOG graduates have consistently proven to be valuable assets to Guam, contributing to various sectors and positively impacting our society that is evidenced by the number of UOG graduates within the Government of Guam itself. Therefore, UOG Extension, Research, and Teaching programs are structured as professional workforce readiness. With your support, we can reinforce our commitment to providing quality academic programs that prepare students for the ever-evolving professional job market.

I believe UOG has demonstrated our ability to effectively manage and leverage funds and as a result UOG is regularly sought out as a partner for implementing community programs. Through various programs, we have fostered collaboration, self-sufficiency, and progress within our community that is pivotal in fostering the intellect and skills of our community members.

Our Extension Services, mandated by our land grant status, plays a significant role in educating our communities about healthy living, agriculture, youth development, and food security. UOG is committed to critical issues such as nutrition, diabetes and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), subsistence agriculture, local food promotion, youth empowerment, and community development. Partnerships with the Department of Public Health and Human Services addressing food and nutrition security and NCDs include the implementation of SNAP-Ed, EFNEP, cancer outreach and prevention programs, prediabetes and diabetes

T: +1 (671) 735-2003 F: +1 (671) 734-4600 W: [uog.edu/extension](http://uog.edu/extension)

Mailing Address: 303 University Drive, Mangilao, GU 96923-9000

*The University of Guam is a U.S. Land Grant and Sea Grant institution accredited by the WASC Senior College & University Commission.*

*UOG is an equal opportunity provider and employer committed to*

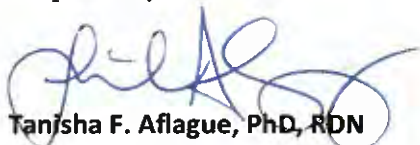
*island wisdom values of inadahi yan inagoffi'e: respect, compassion, and community.*

lifestyle programs, and senior congregate meals to include local produce. Agriculture Extension professionals have provided direct one to one farm-based technical support, promotion of home gardening and subsistence agriculture, value-added product development, partnered with agricultural industry groups such as Farmers' Coop, Micronesian Chefs Association, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and local and federal agencies in agriculture professional training. Our keystone youth development program, 4-H, actively engages and cultivates the next generation of leaders by working closely with youth in hands-on learning experiences that build practical skills and foster personal development in diverse settings, like classroom-based enhancement activities, school gardens, summer camps (e.g., fisheries program), youth organizations, and cultural clubs.

In conclusion, your immediate support of Bill 58-38 will ensure our operations throughout this fiscal year, so these essential programs and initiatives remain uninterrupted. Your support will directly contribute to enhancing food security, promoting health and wellness, and creating opportunities for our youth, ultimately enriching the lives of all residents in Guam.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this legislative hearing.

Respectfully,



**Tanisha F. Aflague, PhD, RDN**  
*Associate Professor of Nutrition / EFNEP & SNAP-Ed Coordinator*

**Cooperative Extension & Outreach, CNAS**

Office: +1 (671) 735-2026

taflague@triton.uog.edu

<https://www.uog.edu/extension/community-nutrition-education-program>

T: +1 671.735.2005 F: +1 671.734.4600 W: [cnas-re.uog.edu](http://cnas-re.uog.edu)

Mailing Address: 303 University Drive UOG Station Mangilao, Guam 96913

*The University of Guam is a U.S. Land Grant Institution accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission and is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



February 28, 2025

The Honorable Christopher M. Dueñas  
Chair, Committee on Finance and Government Operations  
38<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature  
Calvo Arriola Building Suite 101-B  
259 Martyr St.  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

RE: UOG Testimony on Bill No. 58-38

Dear Senator Duenas and Members of the Committee on Finance and Government Operations,

Thank you for holding this hearing to receive our testimony on Bill No. 58-38.

Since I was first appointed a Regent in 2020, the University has been under extreme budget pressure. In Fiscal Year 1998, the appropriation for the University was \$27 million. Twenty years later the appropriation had grown to \$30.7 million or \$3.7 million – an increase that seems small for a twenty-year period. Unfortunately, that was the point where the appropriation started to decrease. The net appropriation got as low as \$22.6 million in Fiscal Year 2022. The University survived by stretching every dollar and taking advantage of some pandemic funding.

Now, the pandemic funds are behind us and there has been a government-wide 22% pay increase for classified staff and a 20% increase for faculty and in addition, the island went through a period of the highest inflation in 40 years and the University is not able to continue without a significant budget increase.

The University has done its best to preserve its facilities, but there are some buildings that have passed their useful lives. We have a list of deferred maintenance projects totaling more than \$17 million that we have not been able to address as a result of the budget reductions we have had in recent years. We have generators that have broken down that we are unable to repair or replace due to funding issues. We have computer equipment that has been stretched beyond its limits. We have elevators in need of replacement. This bill isn't addressing any of those needs but is only funding the critical operating cost shortfall to help us pay salaries and utilities and other minimum costs needed to keep the University in operation throughout the fiscal year.

We have four buildings that are scheduled to be completed later this year. Inflation has eaten up available funding and we have been left without sufficient budgets for furniture, fixtures and equipment, but we are working on solutions for these needs.

President Enriquez has presented some responsible and resourceful programs to support the financial health of the University. However, these have not offset the increases we have seen in other areas.

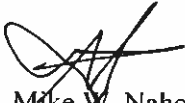
T: +1 671.735.2995 F: +1 671.734.2296 W: [www.uog.edu/administration/board-of-regents](http://www.uog.edu/administration/board-of-regents)

Mailing Address: 303 University Drive UOG Station Mangilao, Guam 96923

*The University of Guam is a U.S. Land Grant and Sea Grant Institution accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission UOG is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion through island wisdom values of inadahí yan inagofli'e: respect, compassion, and community.*

We are grateful for the actions on this bill and we look forward to its passage and we look forward to working with the 38<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature to address funding challenges of the University in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mike W. Naholowaa', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mike W. Naholowaa  
Treasurer



**UNIVERSITY OF  
GUAM**  
UNIBETSEDÁT GUÁHAN

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 28, 2025

Honorable Senator Christopher M. Dueñas  
Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations  
Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas  
259 Martyr Street  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Subject: Support for Bill No. 58-38, University of Guam

Dear Honorable Committee Chair Duenas, Vice Chair Ada and Members of the  
Committee on Finance and Government Operations:

*Būenas yan Hafa Adai!* On behalf of the University of Guam, Sen Dangkulo na Si Yu'os  
Maase for giving us an opportunity to testify on Bill No. 58-38, an act to appropriate  
\$5,750,984 from the fiscal year 2025 general fund revenues collected in excess of the  
adopted levels enumerated in Public Law 37-125 to the University of Guam for the  
purpose of operations, repairs, maintenance, capital improvement projects and  
accreditation related priorities.

Thank you, Chairman Duenas, for agreeing to prioritize our supplemental funding need at  
today's hearing. We extend our extreme gratitude to the co-sponsors of this bill, including  
yourself, Education Chair Senator Vincent Borja, Senator Joe San Agustin, Education Vice  
Chair Senator Tina Muña-Barnes, Senator Jesse Lujan, Senator Shelley Calvo and Senator  
Eulogio Gumataotao, to assist our university, your university, with a much-needed  
supplemental investment to sustain our core operations for this 2025 fiscal year. We are  
grateful to others as well who will be supporting this legislation. I know our students and  
colleagues join me in expressing gratitude to our senators who made recent past efforts to  
try to include the university in the FY2025 supplemental budget (Bill No. 37-135) with  
strong advocacy among our student leaders from the UOG Student Government  
Association, the Student Regent, and from the Guam Youth Congress. It has been evident  
their recognition of the sustainable value of their university, our university.

Allow me to explain our current fiscal situation which has led to the critical request for  
today's public hearing. Since 2018, the university's appropriation began to decrease  
initially due to the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017, and subsequently due to the Covid-19  
global pandemic. Through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, we were blessed  
to receive federal pandemic assistance to support our students and the institution  
through some of UOG's low appropriation years where the gaps were approximately \$10  
million for the respective fiscal year. We knew our island's situation and understood

T: +1 671.735.2990 F: +1 671.734.2296 W: [www.uog.edu](http://www.uog.edu)

Mailing Address: 303 University Drive UOG Station Mangilao, Guam 96913

The University of Guam is a U.S. Land Grant Institution accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges  
Senior College and University Commission and is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Support for Bill No. 58-38, University of Guam

competing government agency interests that appeared more important than the university during those periods. Yet, the university pivoted each time, prioritized and made spending sacrifices to sustain local operations.

Operational costs at UOG have increased. Salaries for classified employees were adjusted by 22 percent, increasing personnel costs by \$2.1 million. This, coupled with a long overdue faculty salary adjustment of \$3.6 million, increased the local personnel costs by approximately \$5.7 million. The annual increase in utilities costs as well as healthcare and retirement contributions have contributed to the fiscal challenges. This fiscal year, we were asked to include the operational budget needs for the Guam Cultural Repository, which widened our operational budget gap.

The balance of meeting our mission of quality and service, as well as factors beyond our control, have impacted basic costs of personnel and utilities and have exacerbated our fiscal situation. Yet, we continued to navigate through challenging waters, grow, and advance the mission of UOG. Allow me to share the value the University of Guam has and continues to provide our multiple community stakeholders, industry sectors, and region.

We deliver high quality offerings to support the professional industries. . Specialized accreditation of our professional programs in education, nursing, engineering, social work, business, and public administration speak to the high-quality programs and faculty at UOG. The pass rate for the National Council Licensure Examination for Nurses (NCLEX) has consistently been one of the highest in the nation for the last decade.

We have graduated over 20,000 professionals. To give the breadth and depth of the professions our graduates hold, they include teachers, counselors, nurses, social workers, environmental specialists, accountants, journalists, therapists, psychologists, medical doctors, dentists, lawyers, social scientists, conservationists, financial analysts, planners, public servant leaders, small business owners, archaeologists, institution leaders, IT and computer experts, mathematicians, chemists, anthropologists, investment specialists, business, government and non-profit managers, and so much more.

We are strategic partners and builders of the middle class, and our graduates feed into this economy. A study conducted by economist Dr. Claret Ruane revealed that UOG contributed \$1 of every \$17 in Guam's economy, 1 in every 15 jobs in Guam, and generated \$1 of every \$8 of GovGuam tax revenues – this is an excellent and worthy return on this investment. With 25 bachelor's degree programs, 18 master degrees, our first doctoral degree, and 17 certificate offerings, we have been supporting the aspirations of students and the professional needs of our industries at large. Giving our students access to better paying jobs to keep them on island, and to support our communities and

T: +1 671.735.2990 F: +1 671.734.2296 W: [www.uog.edu](http://www.uog.edu)

Mailing Address: 303 University Drive UOG Station Mangilao, Guam 96913

*The University of Guam is a U.S. Land Grant and Sea Grant Institution accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission and is an equal opportunity employer and provider.*

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Support for Bill No. 58-38, University of Guam

our economy is a strategic intent that drives our passions to sustain our institution. The groundbreaking research conducted by our faculty researchers, scientists and participating students span across social, health, natural resources, marine protections, cultural preservation, sustainability, among many other research agendas that support policies, much-needed data that drive sound decision-making. Our extension services bring valuable support for agriculture and aquaculture solutions and advancement for food security, youth and nutrition programs for healthy families and communities, mitigation of invasive species, among other types of support with leveraged federal funds round up some of the incredible add. value to our general public.

The University has very broad and far-reaching activities beyond the teaching part of our mission. As a Land Grant University and a Sea Grant university, we bring in and leverage millions of dollars to the island to help farmers improve crop production, support communities, and safeguard coastal resources. We recently were formally recognized as a Carnegie research university, which further elevates our recognition as a credible and respected institution that delivers relevant and high quality research.

The Cancer Research Center produces research findings to support one of Guam's pressing health challenges.

The Center for Excellence in Development Disabilities Education, Research and Service (CEDDERS) is the backbone of services to the disabled and is a leader in training and bringing new technologies to this community.

Our nationally recognized Marine Laboratory is a leader in coral research, invasive marine species, fisheries, and marine resource management among others. It is a lab that contributes to capacity building in Marine science and highly sought after by graduate students from around the globe.

The Water and Environmental Research Institute (WERI) partners with GWA, the Navy and USGS for the monitoring and management of the aquifer in order to sustain life on the island. In addition, the water quality testing done at our lab helps to keep our island's drinking water safe for consumption. Wastewater and meteorological research are critical to our island society in typhoon alley.

The Western Pacific Tropical Research Center manages and provides studies on solutions related to mitigating invasive species and protecting our natural resources.

The Small Business Development Center obtains grants from the Small Business Administration and provide resources to entrepreneurs to start up new businesses on the island.

T: +1 671.735.2990 F: +1 671.734.2296 W: [www.uog.edu](http://www.uog.edu)

Mailing Address: 303 University Drive UOG Station Mangilao, Guam 96913

*The University of Guam is a U.S. Land Grant and Sea Grant Institution accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission and is an equal opportunity employer and provider.*

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Support for Bill No. 58-38, University of Guam

The Micronesia Area Research Center (MARC) houses many historical documents and artifacts for the island and the region, and serves as the primary source for genealogy resources for Micronesia, including our UOG Press that has provided learning resources for the Guam Department of Education so that our cultural heritage can be passed on to our children.

The Center for Island Sustainability has been working in tandem with partners across the island in effort to create a green future for Guam.

This broad portfolio has impacts all across the island, but none of it can happen without a strong University core. We shall continue to meet the relevant teaching, research and service needs to support our island's growth and development. We hope the social contract continues to be strengthened through the support of our 38<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature, as it was envisioned in our 1952 charter. The investment is well worth it.

As appropriations diminished, the university has had to make tough decisions to scale down plans in addition to deferred maintenance, deferred hiring, combining administrator positions for dual hatted roles, and have been relying on part-time adjuncts over full-time permanent faculty that limits student engagement and student success.

Responsible measures have already been taken to improve cost efficiencies and grow our enrollment. This includes strengthening our solar energy, lighting and air conditioning systems. We have prioritized hiring replacements toward high need areas. Our student enrollment has increased We have increased enrollment by 3%, which is difficult to do during springs semesters when high schools have not graduated until June. And while the 3% may be small, consider that nationwide universities are facing an enrollment cliff. We have responded to the pulse of our students and identified new activities that respond to increasing retention and persistence to graduation. However, although we have reassigned workloads and optimized production, we are still severely lacking in filling our vacancies.

In closing, honorable senators, this bill will only provide funding for the salaries and benefits of people currently employed at the University. Our hardworking employees are committed to UOG's mission to serve as we all work to uplift the trajectory of our students and improve the quality of life for the people of our island and region.

We are very appreciative to all of you for your incredible support and the efforts that have been made to bring this bill this far and address this exigent funding shortfall at the University. We are committed to work with the priorities of the 38<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature to prioritize revenue enhancement and diversified revenue streams, realizing improved

T: +1 671.735.2990 F: +1 671.734.2296 W: [www.uog.edu](http://www.uog.edu)

Mailing Address: 303 University Drive UOG Station Mangilao, Guam 96913

*The University of Guam is a U.S. Land Grant and Sea Grant Institution accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission and is an equal opportunity employer and provider.*

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Support for Bill No. 58-38, University of Guam

processes and cost efficiencies, and pivoting responsibly as we navigate the turbulent federal and local uncertainties within our waters and the path ahead. The success of our university, your university, will continue to strengthen the future for generations to come.

*Si Yu'os ma'ase' yan Kon respetu,*



Anita Borja Enriquez, DBA

T: +1 671.735.2990 F: +1 671.734.2296 W: [www.uog.edu](http://www.uog.edu)

Mailing Address: 303 University Drive UOG Station Mangilao, Guam 96913

*The University of Guam is a U.S. Land Grant and Sea Grant Institution accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission and is an equal opportunity employer and provider*



Senator Chris Duenas &lt;senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov&gt;

---

**Written Testimony to Support Bill 58-38**

1 message

**ZYRA SHANAE SANTOS QUINTANILLA** <quintanillaz@gotritons.uog.edu>

Wed, Mar 5, 2025 at 1:31 PM

To: "senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov" &lt;senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov&gt;

Cc: RONALD B AGUON &lt;rbaquon@triton.uog.edu&gt;, ISABEL-EMMA GOODALL &lt;goodalli14650@gotritons.uog.edu&gt;, [REDACTED]

Honorable Members of the Legislature,

Si Yu'us Ma'ase for the opportunity to present this written testimony, which supports Bill 58-38, whose purpose is to appropriate \$5.7 million to the University of Guam (UOG).

I am a second-year student at the University of Guam. My major is Pre-Social Work, hoping to be admitted into the BSW (Bachelor of Social Work) Program in April of this Spring (Fañomnåkan) 2025 Semester. With your support of Bill 58-38, I can continue to further my education. Higher education is made less possible with the freezes to our funding. Tuition at the University of Guam is increasing. With your help, students like me, who struggle to pay for courses out of our own pockets, can continue to go to school. We can continue to further our education. We can get the degree that will help us be accepted into higher-level jobs. With your help, us students at the University of Guam, and those that plan to attend here in the near future, can make this island better, one step at a time.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase para i tiempo-mu yan mina'ase'-mu!

Thank you for your time and generosity!

Regards,

Zyra Quintanilla

Second-Year UOG Student  
[REDACTED]

February 28, 2025

**The Honorable Senator Christopher M. Dueñas**  
Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations  
*I Mina 'Trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guahan*  
163 Chalan Santo Papa Juan Pablo Dos  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

**Re: In Support of Bill No. 58-38 (COR)**

Bill No. 58-38 (COR). AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$5,750,984) FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND REVENUES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE ADOPTED LEVELS ENUMERATED IN PUBLIC LAW 37-125 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATIONS, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND ACCREDITATION RELATED PRIORITIES

*Håfa Adai*, Honorable Chairman Senator Christopher M. Dueñas, Members of the Committee on Finance and Government Operations, and Fellow Senators,

My name is Doreen T. Crisostomo-Muña, Vice President of the 24th Faculty Senate at the University of Guam (UOG). I appreciate the opportunity to speak in support of Bill No. 58-38 (COR), which allocates about \$5.8 million to help with the existing staffing costs and to cover the operational costs for the Guam Cultural Repository (GCR) for fiscal year 2025. In the past, GCR received its funding separately from UOG.

These funds are critical for maintaining the quality of our academic programs and cultural initiatives that benefit our students, faculty, and the community. Our dedicated faculty and staff are necessary to provide a world-class education. The GCR helps preserve and share Guam's rich cultural heritage, housing valuable artifacts and documents that connect us to our island's traditions and history.

While this bill helps with some critical needs, it does not cover other ongoing challenges, like updating technology, filling staffing vacancies, or addressing building maintenance. The rising costs of running the university have outpaced available funding, creating a gap that affects our ability to offer essential services. I respectfully request an additional \$6.6 million to keep providing excellent education and services, and here's why:


1. **IT Modernization:** Technology is constantly changing, and UOG needs to keep up. Updating our IT systems will help create a better and more effective learning environment. These changes will improve student outcomes and better prepare graduates for the future. Our planned upgrades include moving to cloud-based services, upgrading equipment, and enhancing cybersecurity. Additionally, we need to implement digital syllabus software to improve communication among students, faculty, and administrators for consistency across campus. This will cost about \$2.4 million.

2. **Staffing Vacancies:** As a proud UOG graduate, I can attest that our accreditation is a significant source of pride. It assures students receive a high-quality education recognized both nationally and internationally. As a faculty member, I witness firsthand the importance of upholding these standards, from curriculum development to faculty qualifications. To remain competitive and maintain the reputation of our degrees, we aim to fill at least 50% of current vacancies and implement the faculty phase-in adjustments. This initiative will lessen the workload for current faculty while ensuring the delivery of high-quality education. The cost is estimated at \$3.2 million.
3. **Maintenance and Repairs:** UOG must keep its facilities in good condition to provide a safe and functional learning environment. Well-maintained buildings are critical for teaching, and neglecting maintenance can lead to more significant, more expensive problems down the line. When budgets are tight, maintenance often takes a backseat, resulting in deteriorating infrastructure and negatively impacting the learning environment, reputation, and student experience. We need to upgrade fire alarm systems and replace generators, which will cost around \$1 million.

For many of us, UOG is not just a university—it's an important part of the community. It supports local businesses, trains professionals who contribute to our island and helps address our unique challenges. As a faculty member, I am committed to our students' success and the ongoing growth of UOG. Our graduates go on to make meaningful contributions across diverse sectors— from healthcare to business, public service, education, social work, engineering, science, and beyond. These individuals are the backbone of Guam's economy and society. The success of UOG has a direct and lasting impact on our future community.

I fully support the \$5.8 million proposal and ask for an additional \$6.6 million to help with IT upgrades, staffing, and maintenance. Your support will help us provide top-notch education while preserving our cultural heritage. Thank you for your time and support of this critical legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Doreen T. Crisostomo-Muña, Ph.D.  
Vice President, 24th Faculty Senate  
Professor of Accounting  
University of Guam



February 28, 2025

The Honorable Christopher M. Dueñas  
Chair, Committee on Finance and Government Operations  
38<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature  
Calvo Arriola Building Suite 101-B  
259 Martyr St.  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

RE: University of Guam Testimony on Bill No. 58-38

Håfa Adai Senator Duenas and Members of the Committee on Finance and Government Operations,

Thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of the University of Guam Board of Regents in strong support of Bill 58-38. This bill is about investing in the future of our island and our students, who will become Guam's next nurses, engineers, teachers, and legislators. It recognizes the power of knowledge, research, and creativity in driving our community forward.

Our vision is *Transforming Lives, Advancing Communities*. As Regents, we are part of the process of launching students toward greatness, with many achieving prestigious graduate program acceptances and national recognition. We are proud of our designation by U.S. News and World Report as one of the top colleges for social mobility, helping students from humble beginnings transition to higher economic levels.

However, the University is in dire need of help. In September of last year, the University, after much effort, could not provide the board with a balanced budget. Existing employee costs, rising insurance premiums, software licensing, audit fees, and utility costs exceeded the funding level appropriated by over five million dollars. With classes started and tuition accepted, the University could not meet its commitments. The Board accepted a rollover budget and continued last year's expenditure levels while working with the Guam Legislature to secure additional funding. Today, those efforts continue, and it is why we are here today.

We are grateful for the efforts of Senators Borja, San Agustin, Duenas, and others who have supported this legislation. We hope this marks the beginning of a productive relationship to enable UOG to continue to fulfill our mission of Ina, Deskubre, Setbe - to Enlighten, to Discover, and to Serve - developing Guam's workforce and the next generation of leaders.

T: +1 671.735.2995 F: +1 671.734.2296 W: [www.uog.edu/administration/board-of-regents](http://www.uog.edu/administration/board-of-regents)

Mailing Address: 303 University Drive UOG Station Mangilao, Guam 96923

*The University of Guam is a U.S. Land Grant and Sea Grant Institution accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission. UOG is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion through island wisdom values of inadahi yan inagofli'e: respect, compassion, and community.*

The University of Guam is not just an institution of learning; it is a pillar of our community, shaped by the passion of our students, the dedication of our faculty and staff, and the unwavering support of our alumni. Our graduates have gone on to lead, innovate, and give back to this island in countless ways – some of which many of you can personally attest to. The nurses saving lives in our hospitals, the small business entrepreneurs driving our economy, the educators shaping young minds and the policymakers guiding our island's future—UOG alumni have proven time and again that an investment in education is always a good investment in Guam.

Today, you will witness the spirit of young leadership in action. Our student leaders, many of which are here today, have consistently advocated for their university, demonstrating the critical thinking we need in our community. Although it is disheartening that they must fight for access to a strong, well-funded education, it has taught them valuable lessons in advocacy and leadership. Now, I ask that we show them the system works by committing to work together and exploring new, innovative ways to continue to shape the institution that Guam has so many reasons to be proud of.

Thank you and Si Yu'os Ma'ase.

Sincerely,



Lesley-Anne Leon Guerrero  
Chairperson

T: +1 671.735.2990 F: +1 671.734.2296 W: [www.uog.edu/administration/board-of-regents](http://www.uog.edu/administration/board-of-regents)

Mailing Address: 303 University Drive UOG Station Mangilao, Guam 96923

*The University of Guam is a U.S. Land Grant and Sea Grant Institution accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission. UOG is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion through island wisdom values of inadahi yan inagofli'e: respect, compassion, and community.*

To the Honorable Members of I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan,

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill No. 58-38 (COR), which proposes a supplemental appropriation of \$5,750,984 to the University of Guam for operations, repairs, maintenance, capital improvement projects, and accreditation-related priorities. As stated by our school's 63<sup>rd</sup> Student Government Association President, Nicole Guerrero, certain student activities have been scaled back, and most importantly, had to implement looming increases in student fees and tuition to supplement the deficit in the budget appropriations. Senior and UOG Board of Regents student member Julie Laxamana also made a point that local funds hold lots of significance for UOG students since almost 60% of the student demographic is made up of low-income or Pell-Grant-dependent students who rely on local and federal assistance to attend school.

The proposed funding is essential to sustain UOG's core operations, ensure compliance with accreditation standards, and address critical infrastructure needs. Through the university, each graduate is equipped to make a lasting impact in their respective community and industry. This investment will enable the university to continue providing quality education and contribute to the socioeconomic development of our island.

I urge the Legislature to pass Bill No. 58-38 (COR) to reaffirm our commitment to higher education and the future of Guam.

Sincerely,

Catheline Wang (University of Guam Student)



# Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

## COMMITTEE VOTE SHEET

**Bill No. 58-38 (COR)** - “Vincent A.V. Borja / Joe S. San Agustin/ Christopher M. Dueñas/ Tina Rose Muña Barnes/ Jesse A. Lujan/ Shelly V. Calvo/ Eulogio S. Gumataotao - An Act To Appropriate Five Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand And Nine Hundred Eighty-Four Dollars (\$5,750,984) From The Fiscal Year 2025 General Fund Revenues Collected In Excess Of The Adopted Levels Enumerated In Public Law 37-125 To The University Of Guam For The Purpose Of Operations, Repairs, Maintenance, Capital Improvement Projects And Accreditation Related Priorities.”

Committee Members	Signature	TO DO PASS	TO NOT PASS	TO REPORT OUT ONLY	TO ABSTAIN	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE
<b>Senator Christopher M. Dueñas</b> <i>Chairperson</i>				✓		
<b>Senator V. Anthony Ada</b> <i>Vice Chairperson</i>	E-Vote 3/11/25			✓		
<b>Senator Frank F. Blas, Jr.</b> <i>Member</i>						
<b>Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane</b> <i>Member</i>	E-Vote 3/11/25			✓		
<b>Senator Jesse A. Lujan</b> <i>Member</i>	E-Vote 3/11/25			✓		
<b>Senator Vincent A.V. Borja</b> <i>Member</i>	E-Vote 3/11/25	✓				
<b>Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes</b> <i>Member</i>	E-Vote 3/11/25	✓				
<b>Senator Joe S. San Agustin</b> <i>Member</i>						



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

## URGENT REQUEST for E-VOTE: Committee Report Bill No. 58-38

6 messages

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

Tue, Mar 11, 2025 at 4:26 PM

Hafa adai Committee Members:

Please see attached **Bill No. 58-38 (COR) by the Committee on Finance and Government Operations** – Vincent A.V. Borja - “AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$5,750,984) FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND REVENUES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE ADOPTED LEVELS ENUMERATED IN PUBLIC LAW 37-125 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATIONS, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND ACCREDITATION RELATED PRIORITIES,” in which your action is respectfully requested.

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.

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

Respectfully,

--



**Office of Senator Christopher M. Duenas**

*Chairman, Committee on Government Finance and Operations*

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

[senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov)

(671) 989-9554

**CR 58-38.pdf**  
19618K

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>  
To: Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>  
Cc: cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

Tue, Mar 11, 2025 at 4:32 PM

To report out

On Mar 11, 2025, at 4:26 PM, Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]  
<CR 58-38.pdf>

**Office of Senator Vince Borja** <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>  
 Reply-To: Office of Senator Vince Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>  
 To: senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov  
 Cc: cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov

Tue, Mar 11, 2025 at 4:33 PM

Hi Chris,

To do pass.

**Respectfully,****Sheryl Cruz****Committee Director****Office of Senator Vincent A.V. Borja**Chairman, 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](mailto:contact@senatorvinceborja.com)

On Tue, 11 Mar at 2:27 AM , Chris Duenas <[senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov)> wrote:  
 Hafa adai Committee Members:

Please see attached **Bill No. 58–38 (COR) by the Committee on Finance and Government Operations** – Vincent A.V. Borja - “AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$5,750,984) FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND REVENUES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE ADOPTED LEVELS ENUMERATED IN PUBLIC LAW 37-125 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATIONS, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND ACCREDITATION RELATED PRIORITIES,” in which your action is respectfully requested.

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.

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

Respectfully,

--



**Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas**

*Chairman, Committee on Government Finance and Operations*  
259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910  
[senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov)  
(671) 989-9554

**Senator Jesse Lujan** <[senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov)>  
To: Senator Chris Duenas <[senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov)>  
Cc: [cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov)

Tue, Mar 11, 2025 at 4:35 PM

Report Out Only.  
[Quoted text hidden]

--



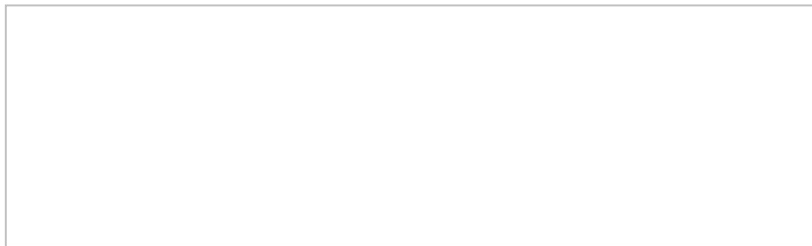
**Office of Majority Leader Jesse A. Lujan**

*Chairman, Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs*  
259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910  
[senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov)  
(671) 969-6525

**Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane** <[office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov)>  
To: Senator Chris Duenas <[senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov)>  
Cc: [cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov)

Tue, Mar 11, 2025 at 4:36 PM

Report out only



The email message is intended only for the individual or entity named above and may contain confidential and privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, any disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of the information contained in this transmission is strictly PROHIBITED. If you have received this transmission in error, please immediately notify me by replying to [office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov) and delete the message immediately. Thank you.

[Quoted text hidden]

**Senator Tina Muna Barnes** <[senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov)>  
To: Senator Chris Duenas <[senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov)>  
Cc: [cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:cmdcommittee@guamlegislature.gov)

Tue, Mar 11, 2025 at 4:47 PM

to do pass

On Tue, Mar 11, 2025 at 4:26 PM Senator Chris Duenas <[senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov)> wrote:  
[Quoted text hidden]

## **COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST**

*Committee on Finance and Government Operations*

Senator Christopher M. Dueñas, Chairman

**BILL NO. 58-38 (COR) – VINCENT A.V. BORJA – AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$5,750,984) FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND REVENUES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE ADOPTED LEVELS ENUMERATED IN PUBLIC LAW 37-125 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATIONS, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND ACCREDITATION RELATED PRIORITIES.**

### **I. OVERVIEW**

**Bill No. 58-38 (COR)** was introduced on **February 10, 2025** by **Senator Vincent A.V. Borja**, and was subsequently referred by the Committee on Rules to the **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** on **February 14, 2025**.

The **Committee on Finance and Government Operations** convened a Public Hearing for Bill No. 58-38(COR) on **February 28, 2025** at **2:00PM** 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 **February 21, 2025** (5-Day Notice), and again on **February 26, 2025** (48-Hour Notice).

### **SENATORS PRESENT**

Christopher M. Dueñas, Chairman

Vice Speaker, V. Anthony Ada, Vice Chairman

Vincent A.V. Borja, Member, Bill Sponsor

Shelly Vargas Calvo

Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao  
Jesse A. Lujan, Member  
Sabrina Salas Matanane, Member

**ORAL TESTIMONY:**

Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez, DBA – President, UOG  
Dr. Edison Manaloto  
Lesley-Anne Leon Guerrero – Chairperson, UOG Board of Regents  
Nicole Guerrero  
Julie Laxamana  
Keana Ardiente – VP, UOG 63rd Student Govt Association  
Chris Perez  
Dr. Zeny Asuncion, CPA – Todu Guam Foundation  
Doreen T. Crisostomo-Muna. PhD – UOG  
Christopher Santos  
Tanisha F. Aflague, PhD RDN – UOG  
Agapito Diaz  
Nolan Muña  
Katrina T. Perez – ED, UOG Endowment Foundation  
Dr. Judy Guthertz

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY:**

Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez, DBA – President, UOG  
Annamma Varghese, DNP, RN – UOG  
Raymond D.S. Anderson, PhD – UOG  
Dr. Zeny Asuncion, CPA – Todu Guam Foundation  
Hiro Kurashina, Ph.D. – UOG  
Katherine R. Calvo – Former Board of Regent, UOG  
Deborah Leon Guerrero – UOG  
Aline Yamashita Ph.D.  
Leah Mae Mijares – Student, UOG  
Arun Swamy – PhD, UOG  
Catheline Wang – Student, UOG  
K’Con Andon – Student, UOG

Dr. Mary Kate Soliva

Manz Lio G. Santos

Sarah Cabaltera – Student, UOG

Shawn Guerrero

Mike Naholowaa – Treasurer, UOG Board of Regents

Doreen T. Crisostomo-Muna. PhD – UOG

Lesley-Anne Leon Guerrero – Chairperson, UOG Board of Regents

Jesse J. Leon Guerrero – Chairman, UOG Endowment Foundation

Katrina T. Perez – ED, UOG Endowment Foundation

Keana Ardiente – VP, UOG 63rd Student Govt Association

Cris Perez – Student, UOG

Katherine R. Calvo – Former UOG Board of Regents

Tanisha F. Aflague, PhD RDN – UOG

Zyra Quintanilla – Student, UOG

## II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The public hearing for Bill No. 58-38 (COR) began at **2:10PM**.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** *Håfa Ådai* and *Buenas Tåtdes* and Good Afternoon! Today’s public hearing is conducted by the Committee on Finance and Government Operations and is called to order at this time—it is 2:10(PM). We’re a little bit tardy today because it looks as though the University of Guam has descended on your Guam Congress Building. Thank you for all being here. First notice of this public hearing was disseminated to all senators and media outlets on February 21, 2025 with its second notice disseminated on February 26, 2025. 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.

This afternoon, the committee will hear testimony on Bill No. 58-38 (COR) introduced by Senator Vincent A.V. Borja – an act to appropriate five million seven hundred fifty thousand and—excuse me—seven—an act to appropriate seven hundred—this...this is written wrong. Let me...an act to appropriate five million

seven hundred and fifty thousand nine hundred and eighty four dollars from the fiscal year 2025 general revenues collected in excess of the adopted levels enumerated in Public Law 37-125 to the University of Guam (UOG) for the purpose of operations, repairs, maintenance and capital improvement projects and accreditation related priorities.

At this time I would like to wel-welcome my colleagues who have shown up for this hearing this afternoon. Of course, the Author, Senator Vince Borja. Also, Senator Jesse Lujan, Senator Shawn Gmataotao and that's it for today at this time.

(Senator Jesse A. Lujan: Senator Sabrina)

Oh Sabri–Sabrina Salas Matanane–sorry. I guess all these university people have made me a little nervous 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 nature of the bill and the agenda. Personal inferences to the character or motive of any Senator or individual testifying is not permitted. The Chairperson of the Committee may order the removal from the hearing of any member of *I Liheslaturan Guhan* or the general public audience who fails to observer–observe proper decorum pursuant to the 38th Guam Legislature Standing Rules. Any violation of this General Rule of Conduct will result in the immediate removal from this public hearing room. With that, we will now proceed to hear testimony on 58-38. Before we do that, though, we're gonna' hear an opening statement from the bill's author. Senator Borja, you may proceed.

**SENATOR VINCENT A.V. BORJA:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. *Håfa Ådai*. First and foremost, I want to take the time to personally thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your partnership on this matter. When I was sworn in, I made the priority to meet with the agencies under my oversight, and the University of Guam was one of the first institutions I engaged with. I met with President, Anita Bor–Borja Enriquez, Senior

Vice President and Provost, Charlene Santos Bamba, Vice President of Administration and Finance, Randy Wiegand, Interim Chief of Staff, Mark Mendiola, and Associate Budget and Processing Officer Finance Administrator, Ms. Rachel Field. During these discussions, they provided a comprehensive overview of UOG's financial challenges. Specifically, they explained how UOG had initially been included in the supplemental budget proposed by the previous OFB chairman, only to be removed in the substitute version that was passed by this body. While I may be a new Senator, it's evident that the political maneuvering played a role in this decision, leaving Guam's premier institution of higher learning in a precarious financial situation. The reality is that the University of Guam is facing a significant financial crisis. As outlined in their January 30, 2025 letter to my office, UOG had requested a budget of \$44.9 million, but was only appropriated \$34.2 million, forcing them to absorb the cost of operating the Guam Cultural Repository. This reduced their net appropriation to under \$32.6 million. However, the minimum required to meet their core operational expenses included faculty salaries, IT modernization, and critical repairs is a \$39.9 million, leaving them with a \$5.75 million shortfall. Without intervention, the University will run out of funds by July of this year. The ramifications of this funding gap are severe; faculty and staff positions remain vacant, necessary infrastructure repairs are delayed and accreditation related improvements are at risk. Furthermore, the University has been forced to divert funds intended for essential furniture and equipment for the newly constructed School of Health and Engineering, the Water and Environmental Research Institute and the Student Success center, an additional \$2.7 million need that remains unaddressed.

Bill 58-38 seeks to correct this injustice. This measure appropriates \$5.750 thousand–\$5.7 million from the Fiscal Year 2025 General Re–General Fund revenues collected in excess of the adopted levels enumerated in Public Law 37-125 to UOG for operations, repairs, maintenance, capital improvement projects and accreditation related priorities. The funds will help ensure that the University remains functional, competitive and fully accredited. And I want to make it clear, this is not about politics. This is about investing in Guam's future. UOG plays a vital role in our economy, workforce development and regional leadership. Every dollar invested in UOG generates additional revenue through tuition, research

grants and federal funding benefiting the entire island. If we do not act now, we risk undermining the very institution that has helped shape our island's leaders, professionals and workforce for over 70 years. I also want to take this time to thank Senator San Agustin for advocating to correct this injustice last term. His efforts in introducing Bill 38-38 this term and now being my first co-sponsor for Bill 58-38. As a Triton myself, *Si Yu'os Ma'åse* for advocating for the University and your partnership on this matter. For these regions—reasons—I urge my colleagues to support Bill 58-38 and provide the University of Guam with the funding it desperately needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** *Si Yu'os Ma'åse* and I agree with you. I agreed to hear this bill today. As you will note in the fiscal note, currently there are requests for appropriations that are over \$38 million dollars in excess of what's currently available for funding. But I myself was disappointed in the last fiscal year when UOG was removed. However, given the time and the realities of the political situation and having to pass something to make sure that we got through with helping the hospital, helping Department of Education, I endeavored in my mind, in my heart, and we're here now to make good on the promise that I had also made to UOG to get the supplemental funding to them. But they're here now and so we'd rather hear from them than us to support this measure and get this public hearing underway. So I'll first start on the first list and there's quite a list—with our President Anita Enriquez. Please identify yourself and provide your testimony.

**DR. ANITA ENRIQUEZ, PRESIDENT, UOG:** Dear Honorable Committee Chair, Dueñas, Honorable Members of the 38th Guam Legislature. *Buenas yan Håfa Ådai. Guahu si Anita Borja Enriquez, i Presidente ginen i Unibetsedåt Guåhan.* Joining me this afternoon are members of our illustrious board of regents, as well as our student leaders, members of the alumni, our faculty, our staff, administrators and friends. Thank you to all of them for joining us. *Sen Dangkulu na Si Yu'os Ma'åse* for giving us an opportunity to testify on bill number 58-38, An act to appropriate \$5,750,984 from the fiscal year 2025 general fund revenues collected in excess of the adopted levels enumerated in Public Law 37-125 to the

University of Guam for the purpose of operations, repairs, maintenance, capital improvement projects and accreditation related priorities.

*Si Yu'os Ma'ase*, Chairman Dueñas, and our Oversight Chair Borja, for agreeing to prioritize our supplemental funding need at today's hearing. We extend our extreme gratitude to the co-sponsors of this bill, including all those present and you know who you are. Thank you so much to assist our University, your university, with a much needed supplemental investment to sustain our core operations for this FY 2025. We are grateful to others as well who will be supporting this legislation. I know our students and colleagues join me in expressing gratitude to our Senators who have made recent past efforts to try to include the University in the FY2025 supplemental budget bill number 37-135 with strong advocacy among our student leaders from the UOG Student Government Association, our Student Regent, and from the Guam Youth Congress. It has been evident that recognition of the sustainable value of their University, our University, is—is in check.

Allow me to explain our current fiscal situation which has led to the critical request for today's public hearing. Since 2018, the university's appropriation began to decrease initially due to the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017 and subsequently due to the COVID 19 global pandemic. Through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, we were blessed to receive federal pandemic assistance to support our students and the institution through some of UOG's low appropriation years where the gaps were approximately \$10 million dollars for the respective fiscal year. We knew our island's situation and understood competing government agency interests that appeared more important than the University during those periods. Yet the University pivoted each time, prioritized and made spending sacrifices to sustain local operations. Operational costs at UOG have increased. Salaries for classified employees were adjusted by 22%, increasing personnel costs by \$2.1 million dollars. This, coupled with a long overdue faculty salary adjustment of \$3.6 million dollars, increased the local personnel costs at the University of Guam by approximately \$5.7 million dollars. The annual increase in utility costs as well as health care and retirement contributions have contributed to the fiscal challenges.

This fiscal year we were asked to include the operational budget needs for the Guam Cultural Repository which widened our operational budget gap. The balance of meeting our mission of quality and service, as well as factors beyond our control, have impacted basic costs of personnel and utilities and have exacerbated our fiscal situation. Yet, we continue to navigate through challenging waters, grow and advance the mission of UOG. Allow me to share the value of the University of Guam has and continues to provide to our multiple community stakeholders, industry re-sectors and regions.

We deliver high quality offerings to support the professional industries. Specialized accreditation of our professional programs in education, nursing, engineering, social work, business and public administration speak to the high quality programs and faculty at UOG. The pass rate of the National Council Licensure Examination for Nurses, or NCLEX, has consistently been one of the highest in the nation for the past—for the last decade. We have graduated over 20,000 professionals to give the breadth and depth of the professions our graduates hold. They include teachers, counselors, nurses, social workers, environmental specialists, accountants, journalists, therapists, psychologists, medical doctors, dentists, lawyers, social scientists, conservationists, financial analysts, planners, public servant leaders, small business owners, archaeologists, institution leaders, ID-IT and computer experts, mathematicians, chemists, anthropologists, investment specialists, business, government and non profit managers, and so much more.

We are strategic partners and builders of the middle class and our graduates feed into this economy. A study conducted by economist Dr. Claret Ruane revealed that UOG contributed \$1 of every \$17 in Guam's economy, 1 in every 15 jobs in Guam and generated \$1 of every \$8 of GovGuam tax revenues. This is an excellent and worthy return on this investment. With 25 Bachelor's degree programs, 18 Master's degrees and our first doctoral degree including 17 certificate offerings, we have been supporting the aspirations of students and professional needs of our industries at large. Giving our students access to better paying jobs to keep them on island and to support our communities and our economy is a strategic intent that drives our passions to sustain our institution. The groundbreaking research conducted by our faculty researchers, scientists and participating students span across social health, natural resources, marine protections, cultural preservation, sustainability,

among many other research agendas that support policies. Much needed data that drives sound decision making are ever real. Our extension services bring valuable support for agriculture and aquaculture solutions and advancement for food security, youth and nutrition programs for healthy families and communities, mitigation of invasive species among other types of support with leverage federal funds round up some of the incredible added value to our general public. The University has a very broad and far reaching activities beyond the teaching part of our mission. As a land grant and sea grant university, we bring in and leverage millions of dollars to the island to help farmers improve crop production, support communities and save our coastal resources. We recently were formally recognized as a Carnegie Research University, which further elevates our recognition as a credible and respected institution that delivers relevant and high quality research. The Cancer Research center produces research findings to support one of Guam's pressing health challenges. The Center for Excellence in Development of Disabilities Education, Research and Service is the backbone of services to the disabled and is a leader in training and bringing new technologies to this community. Our nationally recognized Marine Laboratory is a leader in coral research, invasive marine species, fisheries and marine resource management among others. It is a lab that contributes to capacity building in marine science and highly sought after by graduate students from across the globe. The Water and Environmental Research Institute partners with GWA and the Navy, among others, for the monitoring and management of the aquifer in order to sustain life on the island. In addition, the water quality testing done at our lab helps to keep our island's drinking water safe for consumption. Wastewater and meteorological meteorological research are critical to our island society. In Typhoon Alley, the Western Pacific Tropical Research center manages to provide studies on solutions related to mitigating invasive species of protecting our natural resources. The Small Business Development center builds the capacity of entrepreneurs on island the Micronesian Area Research center houses many historical documents and artifacts for the island and the region and serves as a primary source for genealogy resources from Micronesia, including our UOG Press that has provided learning resources for the Guam Department of Education so that our cultural heritage can be passed on to our children. The center for Island Sustainability has been working

in tandem with partners across the island in efforts to create a green future for Guam.

This broad portfolio has impacts all across the island, but none of it can happen without a strong university core. We shall continue to meet the relevant teaching, research and service needs to support our island's growth and development. We hope the social contract continues to be strengthened through the support of our 38th Guam Legislature as it was envisioned in our 1952 charter. The investment is well worth it. As appropriations diminish, the University has had to make tough decisions to scale down plans. In addition to deferred maintenance, deferred hiring, combining administrative positions for dual headed roles and have been relying on part time adjuncts over full time permanent faculty that limits student engagement and student success. Responsible measures have already been taken to improve cost efficiencies and grow our enrollment. This includes strengthening our solar energy, lighting and air conditioning systems. We have prioritized hiring replacements toward high need areas. Our student enrollment has increased. We've increased enrollment by 3% which is difficult to do during spring semester when high schools have not graduated until June and while the 3% may appear small, consider that nationwide universities are facing an enrollment cliff. We have responded to the pulse of our students and identify new activities that respond to increasing retention and persistence to graduation. However, although we have reassigned workloads and optimized production, we are still severely lacking in filling our vacancies.

In closing, honorable senators, this bill will only provide funding to the salaries and benefits of people currently employed at the university. Our hard working employees are committed to UOG's mission to serve as we all work to uplift the trajectory of our students and improve the quality of life for the people of our island and region. We are very appreciative to all of you for your incredible support and the efforts that have been made to bring this bill this far and address this exigent funding shortfall of the university.

We are committed to work with the priorities of the 38th Guam Legislature to prioritize revenue enhancement and diversified revenue streams, realizing

improved processes and cost efficiencies and pivoting responsibly as we navigate the turbulent federal and local uncertainties within our waters and the path ahead. The success of our university, your university, will continue to strengthen the future for generations to come. *Si Yu'os Ma'åse' yan sen respetu.*

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* Dr. Enrique. Madam President, for your testimony. So I noticed some of my sign in sheets is a little bit out of order. So Randy, I'm going to go with you, then continue to my left, then come back to Leslie and go to my right. So Randy, please proceed.

**RANDALL V. WIEGAND:** I'm just here for questions answered. Okay, questions. Thank you very much.

**DR. ANITA ENRIQUEZ, PRESIDENT, UOG:** Mr. Chairman, if you don't mind, may I ask one of our valedictorians, Dr. Edison Manaloto, to. He's only here to provide oral testimony but he's got to go back to the hospital by 2:30. May I?

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** Sure. Absolutely. Randy, maybe you can take your seat for a moment.

Doc, please proceed.

**DR. EDISON MANALOTO:** Hi, good afternoon. Chairman Duenas, members of the committee, thank you for giving this opportunity to testify today. You'll hear a lot of testimony, a lot of figures of why the university deserves this money. A lot of these facts or these statements could be debated. I'm going to speak today of what I know to be the truth and I'll share to you guys a story. In 1990, a young family came to Guam. Father was a construction worker getting a job at Fletcher Pacific. And the mother was, you know, she's a teacher but because her coming from the Philippines, the credentials, she couldn't be a teacher here. Worked as a secretary, had four little boys. Those four little boys went to public school. Three of them, you know, times are hard. 1990, you had super typhoon Omar during those times when you had aid, you know, the food stamps, they were like little play money, very colorful so to say times are tough for this family was and understanding. Now

fast three of them end up going to university and Fast forward to 2025. One of them is a doctor, one of them is a nurse at GMH. Another one is a lieutenant colonel with the Guam Army National Guard. That story is the story of my family. It's something I know to be true. To say that the impact of the University, has been significant on our family is an understatement. It's been quite transformative to say the least. And the story of my family reflects not just us, but a similar story to the 20,000 plus graduates of this university and how it has transformed the lives not just economically of these families, but lifted them off from poverty, from assistance and more importantly, the values of the university, I always go back to them. It's to discover, to enlighten. But I think the most important value that this university impacts on us. And you know there's a lot of smart people. The university not only teaches minds, but shapes hearts, but is to serve, it is to serve the community. And that's why I stand here today in full support of this measure.

I thank the author and all the co sponsors because I think we tend to forget that within the confines, you know, numbers could be on a sheet, on a spreadsheet contained within these. It's a beautiful build, very simple, very elegant are the hopes, dreams and opportunities. And it is precisely this mission to serve that I purposely made it a point to come down here to give every little boy or girl the same opportunity that we were given, which is affordable higher education. Because frankly, without the resources that this university needs, they will have to raise tuition, which would mean pushing that dream, those hopes, those aspirations on pause for a lot of families and for whom much is given, much is expected. And that's the reason why I come down here pleading with you guys to support the university, its mission and any investment in our people is a worthwhile investment. *Si Yu'os Ma'ase*.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** *Si Yu'os Ma'ase'* to you, Dr. Manaloto, that very compelling and excellent testimony. We thank you for becoming a doctor and serving on Guam. And now we know patients are waiting for you. So God bless you and thank you for coming and we appreciate your testimony.

Ma'am, please proceed. Identify yourself for the record and receive your testimony.

**SHARLENE SANTOS BAMBA, SENIOR VP, UOG:** Mr. Chair, I'm here for questions also after testimony. Thank you.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay, Leslie, you're up.

**LESLIE LEON GUERRERO:** Okay. *Hafa Adai* Chair Duenas, Senator Lujan, Senator Guamtaotao, Senator Borja, and Senator Saldus Mantanani. And I believe we were just joined by Senator Calvo. Thank you for making time for us this afternoon. Thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of the University of Guam Board of Regents in strong Support of Bill 58-38. This bill is about investing in the future of our island and our students who will become Guam's next nurses, engineers, teachers and legislatures. It recognizes the power of knowledge, research and creativity in driving our community forward. Our vision is transforming lives, advancing communities. As Regents, we are part of the process of launching students towards greatness, with many achieving prestigious graduate program acceptances and national recognition. We are proud of our Designation by the U.S. news & World Report as one of the top colleges for social mobility, helping students from humble beginnings transition into higher economic levels. However, the university is in dire need of help.

In September of last year, the university, after much effort, could not provide the board with a balanced budget. Existing employee cost, rising insurance premiums, software licensing, audit fees, and rising utility costs exceeded the funding levels appropriated by over more than \$5.7 million. With classes started and tuition accepted, the university could not meet its commitments. The board accepted a rollover budget and continued last year's expenditure levels while working with the Guam legislature, many of who are here today to secure additional funding. Today, those efforts continue, and that is what brings us before you.

We are grateful for the efforts of Senator Borja, Senator San Agustin, Senator Duenas, and everybody here today who have supported this legislation. We hope this marks the beginning of a productive relationship to enable UOG to continue to

fill our mission of *ina discupri yan sati* to enlighten, to discover and to serve developing Guam's workforce in the next generation of leaders. The University of Guam is not just an institution of learning. It is a pillar of our community, shaped by the passion of our students, the dedication of our faculty and staff, and the unwavering support of our alumni. Our graduates have gone on to lead, to innovate, and to give back to this island in countless ways, some of which many of you can personally attest to. The nurses saving lives in our hospitals. And now, just the words of Dr. Maniloto, the doctor in our hospitals, saving lives. The small business entrepreneurs driving our economy, the educators shaping our young minds, and the policymakers, such as yourselves, guiding our island's future. UOG alumni have proven time and time again that an investment in education is always a good investment for Guam. Today you will witness the spirit of young leaders in action. Our student leaders, many of which are here today actually sitting to my left, have consistently advocated for their university, demonstrating the critical thinking we need in our community. Although it is disheartening that they must fight for access to strong, well funded education, it has taught them valuable lessons in advocacy and leadership. Now I ask that we show them that the system works by committing to work together and exploring new innovative ways to continue to shape the institution that Guam has so many reasons to be proud of. Thank you. *Si Yu'os Ma'ase*.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** *Si Yu'os Ma'ase'* Leslie. And so we'll continue now with the next person signed up to testify. Please proceed.

**NICOLE GUERREO, SGA PRESIDENT, UOG:** Honorable senators of the 38th Guam Legislature, my name is Nicole Guerrero, the 63rd Student Government Association President for the University of Guam. My testimony today reflects my utmost support for bill number 58-38, which stands to appropriate 5.7 million to the University of Guam in order to address the long time deferred projects at the University and support maintenance of basic operations in order to keep the University afloat.

First, I would like to take the time to thank our Oversight Chairperson, Senator Borja for introducing this bill, as well as the bill's co sponsors, Chairperson Duenas, Senator Lujan, Senator Calvo, Senator Gumataotao, Senator Muña Barnes and Senator San Agustin for leading the initiative in supporting the University of Guam. Bill number 58-38 comes at a critical time for the university. In the months that I have served as the Student Government Association President, I have given testimony in two public hearings and held a student rally advocating for the need to fund the only four year accredited university in the Western Pacific. I have sat in countless meetings with the leadership, faculty and staff of the University of Guam discussing on how we will continue operations with what we have been given. The bottom line is this. For years, the students at the University of Guam have been acutely aware of the financial struggles the University faces given the continued decline in budget appropriations for the University. Critical repair and maintenance projects have gone unaddressed dating back to Typhoon Mawar. There have been delays and freezes on hiring much needed faculty and staff. We have had to reevaluate and scale back certain student activity offerings. And most importantly, we have had to address and implement looming increases in student fees and tuition to supplement the deficit in our budget appropriation.

The need for additional funding is something that impacts everyone at the university, not just our administration, not just our faculty, not just our staff. And I hope that you can agree with me when I say that students should not have to constantly worry about the financial situation of their university, nor should they be concerned that their campus, that the maintenance projects of their campus is going unaddressed. But unfortunately, that is the reality we are facing and our students are aware of the dire financial situation that the university is in and how it directly impacts them. That's why we're all here today.

To share a little about me. I graduated from Okkodu High School in 2021. I was fortunate enough to have received admission into off island colleges. But instead, instead of going off island, leaving my home, I chose to stay here. Since then, I have been a loud advocate for the university and how there is no need to leave your home to pursue a better future. You can pursue a better future here on our island through the University of Guam. We have produced some of the best and brightest

students that have gone on to have exceptional careers and achievement both here and off island. Our students are competitive applicants when they apply to off island jobs, internships and scholarships. We have brought back awards and accolades that put us up to par with some of the most recognizable colleges in the nation. But in order to maintain this, in order to ensure our university is competitive, to ensure that it can continue to provide for our students and to ensure that we can keep growing and improving as community, we need to support, we need the support of our government. I have heard time and time again from our leaders that the youth and our students are the future of our island. Well, we're here today and we're asking for our legislature to pay attention to us, to show up for us and to listen to us. The University of Guam is a cornerstone of our island community. It is a place of innovation and progress. It is this island's future. This bill doesn't just mean funding the University of Guam. It means supporting our island's future. It means showing our students and the youth that they matter in this island. And it means showing them that they are also a priority. Which is why I greatly urge the passage of bill number 58-38. Please show the youth that they are also a priority in our island. *Si Yu'os Ma'ase*.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** *Si Yu'os Ma'ase'*, Nicole. Very nice testimony and we'll continue.

**JULIE LAXAMANA, GRADUATING SENIOR, UOG:** Yes, thank you. Chairperson and honorable senators on the floor. First of all, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to come before you to testify on this bill. My name is Julie Laksamana and I'm a graduating senior of the University of Guam and a student member of the board of Regents.

In 2024, alongside the student government association, we organized a student led rally in hopes of reaching our senators on the importance of the \$4 million that was withdrawn from the substitute bill. And since then, the University has looked and enacted different avenues to increase its local revenue. With the current federal administration causing a lot of uncertainty with its federal aid, these local funds hold a lot more significant weight and impact for our students. Give or take almost 60% of our student demographic consists of low income or Pell Grant dependent

individuals who need to lean on local and federal assistance to go through their Bachelor's journey. I am one of those students who had to heavily rely on my merit scholarship to complete my last four years. And just like many of them, when I came to the university in 2021, I enrolled because my parents simply wanted me to. And looking back on it now, I have no regrets about investing in my higher education, even if it started initially to please my parents. Like any typical student, I came to UG seeking change and now I'm leaving with a clear sense of purpose. And it was through the guidance of my faculty mentor, the unique opportunities offered and the endless hours invested from this community ensuring that I meet my graduation goals, that shaped me to be the person that I am today, which is the 2024 Truman Scholar and a former White House intern. And through this community, I found my sense of belonging and purpose which is to give back to our island.

Like many of you who are UAG alumni or have been involved in the University in some way, shape or form and have done remarkable things for our island, I want to use my passion to make a difference here on Guam. Measures like these impact students who come from similar beginnings to mine and limit the potential they could have reached if they had more resources. Choosing to support UOG means investing in the next generation of talented, competent professionals for Guam and beyond. And ultimately, when bills like these are on the floor, it's for the students and the quality and resources available to them. One of the things we're looking forward to this at the end of this year is the four buildings going to be active. With this we expand our expertise that allows for the locals to stay on island while developing their knowledge in engineering, other areas of nursing, and further their research in marine biology. We've been receptive to the constructive criticism of our stakeholders and have proven that we have been capable and responsible for fostering these kinds of positive changes.

We look towards this new administration now to be the one that fulfills the promise of supporting our local and regional students so they too can be productive members in the community, leading with merit and pride for our island. When I exit out of this university, I hope that those after me are also able to experience the true value of what it means to be a Triton and the quality of academics and

opportunities that it offers. With this, I fully support Bill 58-38. And I'm deeply grateful for the oversight, Chairperson Borja and the co-sponsors, Chairperson Duenas, Senator Lujan, Senator Calvo, Senator Gumataotao, Senator Muña Barnes, and Senator San Agustin for championing this measure for our students and for prioritizing higher education. Thank you.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'*, Julie. Thank you for your testimony. Please proceed.

**KIANA ARDENTE, SGA VICE PRESIDENT, UOG:** Test. *Buenas yan Hafa Adai* Chairman Duenas and the honorable Senators on the floor. My name is Kiana Ardenite and I currently serve as the Vice President of the Student Government Association. I am also a veteran and above all, a proud Triton. And the University of Guam has provided me with invaluable opportunities. That's why I stand before you today in strong support of Bill 58-38, which proposes a 5.7 million appropriation for critical maintenance and capital projects at our university.

My experience at UOG has been transformative. It has honed my leadership, problem solving and interpersonal skills, all of which are essential in moving the island forward. We, the students, are deeply invested in the well being of our community. Contrary to some beliefs, we are acutely aware of the challenges facing Guam. Affordable housing infrastructure and rising utility costs. These are not abstract issues. They directly impact our lives and futures and frankly, they cause us significant anxiety. However, we are indeed progressing forward, and that's exciting. We are seeing the construction of four new buildings. The WERI Research center, the Dr. Lucille C. Tan Student Success center, the Margaret Perez Satori Uchima School of Health Nursing Annex, and the School of Engineering. As a double major in public administration and communication, I am deeply invested in the success of all the programs, even those outside my immediate field.

While I'm excited about the new School of Engineering, a crucial question remains. Where will the students sit? What materials and equipment will students be able to use at the new School of Engineering building? These new buildings highlight the urgent need for investment in our university's income infrastructure.

It's not just about erecting structures. It's about maintaining them effectively. We've seen a concerning trend as our campus grows, our custodial staff shrinks. We've had more custodians when we had fewer buildings. This bill offers a vital opportunity to address this staffing shortage and ensure our facilities are properly maintained.

Furthermore, we cannot ignore the existing maintenance issues plaguing our campus. Leaky roofs, faulty air conditioning systems and deteriorating window sills are not conducive to a productive learning environment. Not only do students deserve a clean and operational space to study and attend classes, but our dedicated faculty and staff deserve it as well. Financial pressures affect many of our students, particularly those in the middle middle class who don't qualify for aid. Yet the high value placed on a UOG education makes the sacrifices necessary for many students to succeed. We cannot expect our students to thrive if their learning environment is neglected. At UOG, we are taught to be Tritons, individuals who identify problems, take action, and see those actions through to completion. This bill presents a clear opportunity to address critical infrastructure needs at our university.

I understand that many of you are UOG alumni or have taught at UOG, and I implore you to embrace that Triton spirit once more. Recognize the pressing needs for these funds, act decisively by supporting Bill 58-38 and follow through by ensuring that the university has the resources it needs to thrive. This investment is an investment in the future of Guam and in the students who will lead it.

I'd like to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to Senator Vincent Borja for his tireless dedication to our island community and his unwavering commitment to advancing higher education on Guam. I'd also like to extend my appreciations to the co sponsors of this bill, including Senators Joe San Agustin, Christopher Duenas, Tina Muña Barnes, Jesse Lujan, Shelly Calvo, and Senator Gumataotao, as well as the entire 38th legislature for their collective efforts to make a positive impact on our island home.

I'd also like to extend an invitation to all of the members of the 38th legislature to join us at the University of Guam's 57th charter day celebration Celebration. This special event will feature a showcase of tradition traditional huts crafted by our cultural student organizations, highlighting the rich diversity of our campus community. And I feel I we'd be delighted to have you join us and experience the unique cultural heritage of our island. And if you do intend to go, food's on me. And that's pretty much it. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to testify and thank you for your leadership, guidance and continued advocacy for the University of Guam. *Biba* UOG!

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** *Biba* UOG! *Si Yu'os Ma'ase*, Kiana. At this time, if we can make room for at least three more of the next that are coming up to testify. However you want to arrange yourselves. So I got Chris Perez, please come forward. Also Arisa Borja and Dr. Zeny Asuncion. Please come forward.

Mr. Perez.

**CHRIS PEREZ, STAFF MEMBER, UOG:** Mr. Thank you Mr. Chairman, *Buenas yan Hafa Adai* Honorable Senators of the 38 Guam Legislature. My name is Chris Perez and I'm a Proud I'm proud I'm proud to serve as a staff member at the University of Guam alongside I'm also a alumnus and a current graduate student at the University.

First, I want to sincerely thank the Senators Vincent Bora, Joe San Agustin, Christopher Duenas, Tina Muña Barnes, Jesse Lujan, Shelly Cavo, and Shawn Gumataotao for sponsoring Bill 58-38. I also want to extend my gratitude to Senator Christopher Duenas, Chairman of the Committee on Finance and Government Operations, along with the dedicated staff members who organized this public hearing. Lastly, I appreciate the opportunity to share my testimony in support of Bill 58-38, which is vital for sustaining the University of Guam's operations through the end of fiscal year 2025.

Having been involved in multiple levels within the University, I've witnessed the honest commitment of our people to the mission of the University to enlighten, to discover and serve with the guidance of our strategic plan to *(inaudible)*, the University empowers our students and the entire community of Guam and beyond with high value education, research and outreach programs. The relentless dedication of our University students and employees profoundly transforms our island home, Guam and the surrounding region. The University of Guam has enlightened many, including myself, my family, friends and colleagues by offering countless opportunities to discover knowledge and build skills and this transformation is made possible through our unique people quality degree programs innovate, innovative research and impactful outreach programs, all led by our students, faculty, staff and administrators in collaboration with local federal and regional partners such as the Guam Legislature for their continued support.

I firmly believe that education is essential for fostering knowledge, wisdom, skills, abilities among our people. It empowers us all in ensuring that we can compete and thrive together while preventing stagnation in our society. Many of our people, students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni and stakeholders are actively involved in public agencies, nonprofit organizations and private businesses within our community and bringing with them the valuable experience gained from their time at the University. Our contributions greatly impact the lives of many individuals and our environment and this bill represents as an investment not only in the present and future operations of the University of Guam, but also in the hopes, dreams and aspirations of the people of Guam who call this island home.

Moreover, this bill serves as a crucial economic lifeline for our students, many of whom dream of transforming their lives and becoming future leaders and responsible citizens who can make meaningful contributions to our society. This bill will also sustain the livelihoods of about 580 full time and over 400 part time public servants as well as the families who rely on our support in serving the community, our students and the island at large. Without this bill, many students may face reduced services and numerous employees will struggle to provide necessary support for their family's health and well being. The University has a proven track record of delivering positive returns in investments in Guam through

job creation, increased tax revenues, and meaningful contributions to our economy, education, governance and more. This investment will significantly enhance the University's capacity to nurture an environment where everyone can succeed, maintain a healthy community for all stakeholders, and continue to be an accessible higher higher learning that serves our people, our island, our home and our Guam. *Biba* UOG and *Biba Guahån*.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** *Biba!* Thank you, Mr. Perez. Before I move on, I'd like to welcome our other senator that has joined us this afternoon, Senator Calvo. Thank you for being here.

Doc, Please proceed.

**DR. ZENNY ASUNCION:** Good afternoon, Chairman Duenas, Senator Calvo, Senator Lujan, Senator Gumataotao, and Senator Borja. We lost Senator Matanane, but that's okay.

I'm here in support of a bill 58-38. My name is Zenny Asuncion. I'm from the State of California and in Guam. I earned my PhD from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I'm a certified government financial manager, a certified fraud examiner, a certified forensic accountant, and an accredited investment fiduciary for over 25 years of professional experience. I currently teach at the University of Guam School of Business and Administrative Public Administration, having taught since 2008, so you can guess my age at the time, on subjects like auditing fraud, examination fraud investigation and forensics, and two of the four parts of the CPA Examination Review Force, namely auditing and business economic concepts.

I come before you, dear Senators, to support Bill 58-38, specifically on the accreditation related priorities. UOG has a long history of academic excellence, having earned a distinguished accreditation through 2032, 2032, bestowed by the Western association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission for all of its academic subjects and academic programs. And I'd say UOG is close to my heart, having been their controller for 12 years under the presidency of Robert Underwood, and earned my Master's in Business

Administration 15 years ago. And as a matter of fact, I have here beside me my mentor and Instructor of Marketing, Dr. Anita Enriquez, because pursuit to have, how do you call it, made me pursue my PhD. So you say, what am I doing here? You know, I'm retired from the Department of Education as the Deputy Superintendent for Financial Affairs. What am I doing here? Uh, UOG has always been my home, so to speak. And I believe that I can support the mission and vision of the university to support their students, graduating students to pursue their dreams, to pursue their goals and I would like to be a part of that. The School of Business Educators team has been staffed with local professionals who have earned both solid experience and exposure to culture, diversity and economic landscape. These qualities of instructors have contributed to attaining UOG's prestigious accreditation. The UOG has been instrumental in building the professional workforce for all industries, building capacity as a matter of fact, including those serving the higher education in the faculty section of the University. So I support the effort of this committee to consider prioritizing hiring qualified local candidates to fill faculty vacancies that is Local accredited credentialed professionals to be utilized first in filling university teaching positions before searching outside of Guam. That's all I have to tell you guys. Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you. Sincerely, Dr. Zenny Asuncion. Thank you very much.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you Dr. Asuncion. And so Arissa Borja, Arissa Borja here? No, okay, I had it signed up to testify. So we're moving on on the list here. Doreen Crisostomo Muña and Chris Garcia Santos.

Ms. Muña, please proceed.

**DOREEN CRISOSTOMO MUNA, VP, 24TH FACULTY SENATE, UOG:** Hello. *Hafa Adai, Hafa Adai* Honorable Chairman Senator Chris Duenas and members of the committee, thank you. Thank you all for still sticking around.

My name is Doreen Crisostomo Muña, Vice president of the 24th Faculty Senate at the University of Guam. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to support in support of bill number 58-38 which allocates about 5.8 million to help with the existing

staffing costs and to cover the operational cost for the Guam Culture Repository for fiscal year 2015. In the past, the GCR received its funding separately from UOG. If you're wondering why 3.5.8 in accounting I teach accounting. We round to the nearest hundred thousand. These funds are critical for maintaining the quality of our academic programs and cultural initiatives that benefit our students, faculty and the community. Our dedicated faculty and staff are necessary to provide a world class education.

The GCR helps preserve and share Guam's rich cultural heritage, housing valuable artifacts and documents that connect us to the island's tradition and history. While this bill helps with some critical needs, it does not cover other ongoing challenges. Challenges like updating technology, filling staffing vacancies or adjusting building maintenance. The rising cost of running the University has outpaced the available funding, creating a gap that affects our ability to offer essential services.

I respectfully request an additional 6.6 million to keep providing to keep providing excellent education and services and here's why. IT Modernization technology is constantly changing and UOG needs to keep up. Updating our IT systems will help create a better and more effective learning environment. These changes will improve students outcome and better prepare graduates for the future. Our plan upgrades include moving to the cloud based services, upgrading equipment and enhancing the cyber cybersecurity. Additionally, we need to implement a digital syllabus software to improve communication among students, faculty and administrator for consistency across campus. This will cost about \$2.4 million.

Staffing vacancies. As a proud UOG graduate, I can attest that our accreditation is a significant source of pride. It assures students receive a high quality education recognized both nationally and internationally. As a faculty member, I witnessed firsthand the importance of updating these standards from curriculum development to faculty qualification to remain competitive and maintain the reputation of our degrees we aim to fill at these 50% of the vacancies and implement the faculty phase in adjustments. This initiative will lessen the workload for current faculty while ensuring the delivery of high quality education. The cost is estimated at \$3.2

million. Maintenance and repair. UOG must keep its facilities in good condition to provide a safe and functional learning environment. Well maintained buildings are critical for teaching and neglecting maintenance can lead to a more significant more expensive problems down the line. When budgets are tight, maintenance often takes a backseat resulting in a deteriorating infrastructure and negatively impacting the learning environment, reputation and most importantly the students experience. We need to upgrade the fire alarm system and replace generators which will cost approximately \$1 million.

For many of us, UOG is not just a university, it is an important part of the community. It supports local businesses, trains professionals who contribute to our island and help address our unique challenges. As a faculty member, I am committed to our student success and the ongoing growth of UOG. Our graduates go to make meaningful contribution across the diverse sectors from healthcare to business, public service, education, social work, engineering, science and beyond. These individuals are the backbone of Guam's economy and society. The success of UOG has a direct and lasting impact on our future community.

I fully support the 5.8 million proposal and ask for an additional 6.6 million to help with the IT upgrade, staffing and maintenance. Your support will help us provide top notch education while preserving our cultural heritage. Thank you for your time and support for this critical legislation.

I just want to make a note that all these testimonies that have been coming that has been spoken before, the \$6.6 million will address those issues. Just want to let you know because the \$5.8 million is only addressing the warm bodies and the cultural repository thank you very much. *Si Yu'os Ma'ase*.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** *Si Yu'os Ma'ase*, Mrs. Muña. That was a very large roundup. I was gonna round to 5.8 with my difficulties when I opened up, but.

**DOREEN CRISOSTOMO MUÑA:** Yeah, no, that was an additional round. Yeah, that was an additional 6.6. And just, I just want to add to, Dr. Maniloto. He

was my student. So do you see? We produce good students and graduates. He now is a doctor. Thank you.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** You certainly do that. We'll start with this and see how round we can get.

Mr...

**CHRISTOPHER SANTOS, PRESIDENT, FACULTY SENATE, UOG:** *Hafa Adai* Senators. My name is Christopher Balajada Garcia Santos and I serve as the president of the faculty Senate along with Doreen Crisostomo Muña. So Doreen has been, you know, we, we spoke about the, you know, sorry for. So thank you, Senators Ada, Senator Borja, Senator Gumataotao, Senator Lujan, Senator Calvo. Right. And thank you, Chair, Senator Duenas.

We spoke about that and the \$6.6 million, right, that additional. And so I have three points that I want to make. One of them is related to that. The first one is thank you, Senators for your continued investment in the university. I want to express this deep appreciation for the legislature's ongoing investments. Your support ensures that the university can continue fulfilling its mission, providing meaningful quality education, fostering research that benefits our Island community, and developing a skilled workforce for, that our island and our regional communities need. We recognize that financial challenges impact all government agencies. And we know that funding decisions, the work that you have to do is not easy. It's never easy. We see that too on our end as we have had meetings to adjust and respond to budget funding levels. This is why we don't take support, why we don't take any of any of these kinds of support for granted.

We remain committed to being responsible stewards of public funds, ensuring that every dollar invested in UOG benefits our students, supports our faculty, and these are investments into our future or for our future of our island. The evidence of our, our responsible fiscal stewardship is seen in the clean audit reports that UOG has a history of achieving. That, those clean audit reports reflect our current, our careful financial management and we are committed to transparency and accountability in

all of our spending. Your continued funding is not just an investment in higher education. It is an investment in Guam's growth in innovating our island way of life, improving the quality of our life and ensuring stable government services that benefit all of our peoples.

I'd like to say especially thank you for listening to the university community, for taking the time to come up to the, to the, come up to Mangilao to visit us in Mangilao, to deepen your knowledge of, to deepen your knowledge of the extent of UOG's work. Right.

The second thing I'd like to say is to reaffirm the faculty's commitment to excellence. Like you, we also hear our community. We are listening and responding to our community needs. I want to reaffirm that the faculty at the University remain deeply committed to our students and to our community. We are not just educators, we are mentors, we're researchers, we're active participants in shaping this next generation of leaders, and we are members of our community, our island and regional communities. So despite financial constraints, we continue to innovate our curriculum. We look for ways to meaningfully support students, and we adapt to these ever changing workforce conditions.

We recognize also the challenges that our students face, many of whom juggle work, juggle family responsibilities, juggle their, along with their education. Our faculty work tirelessly to ensure that every student, whether fresh out of high school or returning to the university for a second career, receives the support they need to succeed. And not just succeed to graduation, to commencement, but to apply what they apply for a lifetime, what they've achieved with us, what they've learned with us during their time at university. My faculty colleagues have stepped up in many new ways. Seeking grant funding, developing partnerships, finding innovative solutions to address our financial and academic challenges. While grants provide essential resources for research and specific projects, they don't fund operations or infrastructure. For the university to continue functioning smoothly, stable legislative funding is critical. Thank you for bringing us here today and listening to us.

The last thing I'd like to share to say is related to what VP Doreen was mentioning, right? If you have extra money, right? So the need for sustained and increased funding. So while we're grateful for the 5.8, I rounded up to 5.8 million in supplemental funding. I just want to add this plug that any additional support would make a significant difference. And VP Doreen provided a list of those additional improvements that we were looking to make. The reality is that the university continues to operate under these, under tight financial constraints, and every additional dollar helps us maintain operations, helps us improve our facilities and enhance student services. With less than optimal funding levels. We face real concerns about delayed maintenance, faculty retention and the continuity of essential programs. Some of my colleagues have expressed genuine worries, concerns that if funding shortfalls persist, we could see disruptions in operations. This is not the outcome that we want. This is not the outcome that nobody wants, right? Investing in UOG is about, is not just about keeping the lights on. It is about ensuring that we continue producing skilled professionals, advancing research and strengthening the economic and social fabric of our island. Investing in UOG means ensuring learning and researching is supported with safe and clean facilities. Investing in UOG means ensuring that our university is best positioned to meet and exceed accreditation standards. Investing in UOG means continuing means ensuring continuity of operations so that the nearly 3,000 students who seek a bachelor, master and now a doctoral degree from UOG will be able to do so. To close, I'd like to thank you again for prioritizing higher education. The University of Guam plays a critical role in shaping our Island's future. And with your continued support, we can ensure that students receive a meaningful quality education, that faculty remain at the forefront of innovation, and the university continues to serve as a hub for research, economic development and community engagement. Thank you and *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'*.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'*  
Mr. Santos and I'd like to take the time now to also welcome our Vice Speaker, Vice Speaker Tony Ada, who is also the Vice chairman of this committee. Thank you, Senator Ada, for joining us. So, moving on to the next that have signed up to testify, Tanisha Aflague, can you please come forward? Can we also have Acapito

Diaz. Is Acapito here? And also Nolan Muña. Is Nolan here? Thank you, Nolan. Okay, so we'll start in the order of sign up. So, MS. Tanisha.

**Tanisha Franquez Aflague** : *Hafa Adai yan Buenas-Tatdes todū hāmyu* most especially our members of the 38th Guam Legislature, thank you for sticking through all of our stories.

My name is Tanisha Franquez Aflague. I did my legal name as did Chris, so I'll put that up forward. I'm Associate professor of Nutrition and the coordinator of the FNEP and SNAP ED Community Nutrition Education Programs. I'm here to speak to express my strong support as well as my colleagues for Bill 58-38 which seeks to appropriate 5.7 million. I'll keep to what's on paper that is vital for the continuity of our work efforts, efforts that serves this community.

Our first two testimonials had spoke and uplifted our most secret arm of a land grant institution and is what makes us a land grant institution, that of which is service, which you might know as cooperative extension. My primary role at the university is extension faculty, which uniquely bridges research and teaching to carry forward and extend that research into the classroom and the community needs into research. In addition, it is the pillar that carries forward intellectual resources into the community to address its needs. We do this by building and nurturing partnerships. And in order to do this valued work, we need the operational core UOG base funding that everyone has spoken to you about today.

That base funding covers our human capacity and our physical infrastructure. I'd like to talk a little bit about our extension services which you might know in our community that play a significant role in educating our communities about healthy living, agriculture, youth development and food security.

As you know and are a testament of, UOG is committed to critical issues such as nutrition, diabetes, non communicable diseases, subsistence agriculture, local food promotion, youth empowerment and community development. I believe UOG has demonstrated our ability to effectively manage and leverage funds advancing the core funding and doing this by bringing new and more programs and partners

together. Existing partnerships that we have are with the Department of Public Health and Human Services that addresses food and nutrition security and NCDs or non communicable diseases, including the implementation of SNAP ED, which you heard Dr. Maniloto refer to as food stamps is now called SNAP and as of 2016 we have funding that provides education for SNAP recipients and those eligible for SNAP. It also includes EFNEP cancer outreach and prevention programs, prediabetes and diabetes lifestyle programs and senior congregate meals to include local produce. Our agriculture extension professionals have provided direct 1 to 1 farm based technical support, promotion of home gardening and subsistence agriculture, value added product development, partnered with agricultural industry groups such as Farmers Co op, Micronesian Chefs Association, Soil and Water Conservation District and local and federal agencies in agricultural professional training.

One of our keystone Youth Development programs, 4H, actively engages and cultivates the next generation of leaders by working closely with youth in hands on learning experiences that build practical skills and foster personal development in diverse settings like classroom based enhancement activities, school gardens and one of our most popular, the Fisheries program. Who's participated in the Fisheries program? Here, raise your hand. Okay, very good. Not in the front, but in the back. You got me.

I furthermore want to share that you yourself may not feel like a direct recipient of our extension programs, but I'm confident that you know someone who has been a recipient of our extension services and that is the pulse of our university making it a land grant institution. And I want to emphasize that we incorporate real time scenarios into the classroom because the faculty in Extension as well as research are those same faculty that teach our agriculture and nutrition programs. So in real life experiences they bring that into the classroom and likewise provide opportunities for students to have experiential learning and employment long after our class is done.

In conclusion, your immediate support of Bill 58-38 will ensure our operations throughout this fiscal year so these essential programs and initiatives go

uninterrupted. Your support will directly contribute to enhancing food security, promoting health and wellness and creating opportunities for youth ultimately enriching the lives of all residents in Guam. So as the earlier testimonies, I implore you to join us next Thursday at Charter Day, specifically at the hidden gem of the Agriculture and Life Science building where extension programs will be featured. And I appreciate your time. Thank you.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* Ms. Aflague. Before I proceed, I just wanted to make sure that I recognize former Senator Judy Guthertz, Dr. Guthertz, I'm sure a very strong advocate of the University of Guam. You'll be coming up when I call the next panel a senator. So in just a moment for joining us. So next we will move on to Agapito.

**AGAPITO DIAZ, VICE CHAIRMAN, VICE CHAIR, BOARD OF REGENTS, UOG:** Thank you, Senator, for having me today and also the Committee on Finance Government Operations. It's good to see you all.

I am. My name is Agapito Diaz. I am the vice chair. I sit on the board of regents. I am also a proud alumnus of the University of Guam. And you know, I guess what I'm going to present to the committee today is obviously my experience with the university. Having served on the university, I do see the hard work that the administration puts into making sure that they take value of all the, all the taxpayer dollars of the Government of Guam and making sure that it's effectively used to instruct the students at the university. You know, I am also a civil engineer. I am very proud that we are now have a fully accredited civil engineering program at the University of Guam. And being in the industry, I can tell you how much industry needs the graduates from that program to help build a new infrastructure facilities here in Guam. The university is making a lot of headway into striving for excellence and making sure the facilities that we're bringing on board is really driving success not only for the university, but also for the island, but also for the Pacific region. I fully support this bill. And again, if you guys have any other questions for me, I'll also be here to take any questions you have. Thank you.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you. I appreciate your testimony. Nolan, please proceed.

**NOLAN MUÑA:** Oh, there we go. It's not generally thought that opening with an apology is indicative of strength, but *dispensa yu'*. My Chamorro pronunciation is still a work in progress. *Guahu si Nolan Muña, yan guahu Chamorro di asporu. Estudiante yu gi un Unibetsedåt Guåhan gi ya Mangilao. Sumåsaga gi ya ham gi Dorm 2 gi residence halls.* I am a Chamorro Cities for education major, and until moving here, I had never heard Chamorro spoken aloud. My father tried to teach us conversational with Chamorro when we were very young, but his educational toolkit functions best in fields other than language and linguistics. There exists no curriculum like that of the *Chamorro* Studies department anywhere else in the world. This curriculum, known affectionately and accurately as uniquely UOG, is my access point to the Chamorro culture and language. I moved here in August, having never been here before without any real support network beyond acceptance to UOG and a contract to live at the residence halls. Many people react to my story in a way that causes me to believe that my story is extraordinary. But I would rather my pathway be accessible and financially feasible in order for others to replicate it. My educators and the significant cultural treasury of knowledge dispersed *ginen i Unibetsedåt Guåhan*, coincidentally near the cultural repository are worth completing your promise and funding. And I am telling you today the circumstances you need to hear in order retain other folks considering the move to Guam. But, maybe you need the opportunity to experience student life again. To that end, I invite you, individually or collectively, to attend my classes with me or to spend a weekend at the dorms. You can tell me afterwards if you don't believe these funds are vital to the continued pursuit of excellence in education at *ginen i Unibetsedåt Guåhan*. Thank you.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* Mr. Muña. *Yan kontodu guahu, guaha na bia dididi fino chamorro lao, hu chachagi ha kåda'diha. Si Yu'os Ma'åse' para i testimoniu.* So we'll go on to the next panel members. Please come up. Please make some room for the next individuals. Ms. Katrina Perez, please come forward. Jesse Leon Guerrero, please

come forward as well. And of course Senator, Dr. Judy Guthrs, please join the panel. Ms. Perez, please proceed.

**KATRINA PEREZ:** Forgive me, I was expecting just to turn in a written testimonial, but let me. Let me switch glasses.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** I was provided with the list of additional.

**KATRINA PEREZ:** Oh, maybe better without my glasses. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to speak. And thank you so much also for introducing this bill. As an alumna of the University of Guam and Executive Director of the UOG Endowment Foundation, I am writing to express our full support for the subject bill to provide supplemental funds for the University of Guam in fiscal year 2025. Our organization works closely with UOG President Anita Borja Enriquez in reaching out to private individuals and businesses in our island community.

Time and time again, we meet with local business owners that speak with pride of their many employees who are counted among over 20,000 UOG employees. Alumni, government, military and private employers, benefit from a local hiring pool that is made more diverse through the various degree programs and courses of study offered at the university. In 1952, the Territorial College of Guam was created to produce teachers for an island in the wake of years of foreign occupation and war. 73 years later, this WASC accredited university provides public administrators, entrepreneurs, scientists, nurses, social workers, civil engineers, journalists, writers, accountants, historians, environmentalists, farmers, psychologists, therapists, artists, human resource specialists, marketing and management specialists, senators, lieutenant governors. Maybe one day we'll have a governor in there.

These UOG alumni employees are truly valued by their employers. They are Taxpayers and consumers that contribute to our island economy. They set an important example to their families and others in their circles of influence of the

value and importance of achieving higher education. Some of them may attest that their degrees of higher education have helped them in achieving upward social mobility. To quote comedian Rob Schneider when he visited Guam in support of the UOG Endowment foundation scholarship fundraising event, school is the most precious commodity because it can get you out of poverty. That makes the difference in your life. I strongly implore our legislators to support this bill not only for the university, but for the community we live in that is impacted every day by its ability to fulfill its mission. Thank you.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you Ms. Perez. Senator Guthertz, please proceed.

**DR. JUDY GUTHERTZ:** Good afternoon, honorable senators. It's a privilege to be here today again in this building with my university colleagues, with our leadership at the university, our board of regent representatives and of course, our students.

I'm here to support this bill, and I want to commend the new legislature and the leadership in the legislature and our senator for education committee for introducing this bill and all the co sponsors. I'm very optimistic with this new legislature, and I'm looking for good things to happen for our people and our island with all of your leadership and commitment to the community.

You know, I've been part of the University of Guam, I hate to say it, for about 50 years. I actually grew up at the University of Guam. My first experience at the University of Guam was as a junior in high school at the Academy of Our Lady, where the whole junior class was brought to the University of Guam, then College of Guam to take the SAT admission test for college. The proctor of that examination, by the way, was the late former UOG president Antonio Yamashita.

When I went up to the university, then College of Water, at that time, I became very excited, and I told myself, someday I'd like to come home after college abroad and teach or be part of the University of Guam family. And that's exactly what happened. I went off on a scholarship, a foreign student scholarship to the state

National University of the Republic of the Philippines. At that time, we had gone through a serious typhoon on the island, and like most people on Guam, my family lost their home, my father's store collapsed, and it was very difficult for my parents to be able to afford to send me off island, to be honest with you, to the US Mainland. So I applied for a scholarship abroad, and I received that scholarship, and that allowed me to pursue undergraduate studies and graduate studies at the University of the Philippines, finally graduating at the National School of Public Administration and Governance With a doctoral degree. I came home and I started teaching at the University of Guam and did it continuously until I finally retired. And then I was recruited to run for senator.

During my time at the university, I was asked by the governor of Guam to temporarily leave UOG and to serve our island as the last Director of Public Safety and the first acting chief of the Guam Police Department. So I've had a lot of different life experiences, but I've always been drawn back to the university. And my most appreciative role to me personally has been with the students teaching. And I'm proud to say I do that now as a former professor and a current professor. And recently I'm very proud of the fact that I was recognized by the university for my six years of service as vice President of Academic Affairs.

So I have the historical background to tell you. The University of Guam is America's best secret when it comes to higher education institutions. At the government level. As a state equivalent university, our tuition is the third lowest in the United States, and we produce quality graduates and we want to be able to continue doing that. We don't want students to be discouraged from coming to the University of Guam because they can't afford the tuition. We want our students to know and potential students to know that we are there to serve them. The University of Guam is keeping up with the demands of our community. We are adjusting programs. We're designing new types of programs. I'd like to share with you, with the permission of our president, that over the last three years, we have put in place a cyber security program at the School of Business and Public Administration. It is both a certificate program and a minor program. We have put in place a program for nonprofit organizational management. It is a certificate program and a minor program. And right now we are in the process and our

graduate students are assisting us with these projects. We are designing a program to help you kick start the Chamorro Land Trust program as promised to the people of Guam. We are designing a plan for a public private partnership. And we hope to be able to submit to you a feasibility study, proposed legislation, and a list of steps to take to really kick in the Chamorro Land Trust program as designed.

At the same time, we are preparing a feasibility and an implementation plan to start a high school senior program for high school students to come to the University of Guam and to study programs in business, public service, education, and public ed and criminal justice so they can receive a certificate as a high school graduate so they can start already working in the private sector and the public sector and nonprofit sector with some kind of background that says they're ready to work. At the same time, they will continue their education at the university towards a bachelor's degree. You will hear about these programs soon, when the university is ready to announce it, when it goes through all the approval processes including, including the charter school approval process. But it's a senior high school level program only one year. Senior year. The students will be at the University of Guam in a more formal way where they can receive a certificate from university upon completing this program.

So I share this with you to let you know that University of Guam is keeping up with what's needed in our community. We want to make sure we are meeting the needs of the private sector, the public sector, the nonprofit sector and other sectors of society on Guam and within our region. So I ask you probably as the oldest person here when it comes to institutional history at the University of Guam, please, let's keep the momentum going. There's going to be a lot of changes in our country at the national level. You may have to make some adjustments, but we want to be able to count on our legislature to support our educational institutions on Guam. And I'm here today to ask for your support on this supplemental appropriation for the University of Guam. Thank you very much.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* Doctor, Senator Guthertz, a very exciting testimony. I'm looking forward to, to the

build out of that Chamoru Land Trust, you know, association project we're working on.

**DR. JUDY GUTHERTZ:** The students, the graduates are helping really well with this. Thank you.

**[Audio was not recorded for 48 sec during this portion]**

[\[Questions and Discussion\]](#) *[Begins at 1:30:54 and ends at 1:55:38]*

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** To now give the opportunity for the author to—before the author closes it. Senator, on his, could ask for one more comment.

**SENATOR JESSE A. LUJAN:** Just real quick. I. I forgot to mention this and now I just saw Mr. Mark Mignola. So when Mr. Mark Bendiola's confirmation hearing comes up, could you all show up for that as well? His. His. Yeah, his. His. His appointment letter had. Had reached my office already to serve in the the Port Authority of Guam. So I'm just waiting for one more appointee to come in. So I have three of appointment hearing will be coming up here shortly. So make sure all of you come out and testify on his behalf. Okay.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** I think you can tell that all the senators are here today. Our oversight chairs for different. For. For different committees. So way to get that in. Senator Hun, Senator Gumato, you may close. Yeah, Senator go. You don't get another chance. Senator Bora, you can close.

**SENATOR VINCENT A.V. BORJA:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. And thank you to my colleagues here today and their support. I wanted to share though because Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane she express offices her support for this bill. She had to go to the governor's office for a meeting with the Veterans Commission. But I also want to extend my gratitude to everyone who took the time to come testify today and especially the students, faculty and staff of the University of Guam. Your

stories, perspectives and testimonials are invaluable and highlights the real impact of our decisions. Bill 58-38 is crucial for the University of Guam. And it's about supporting our institution that nurtures our communities, leaders and innovators. This funding is not just a number, it's a lifeline that will allow the university to sustain its operations, maintain its infrastructure and hope its standard, uphold its standard of excellence. I strongly urge all my colleagues to support this bill reaffirming our commitment to the educational foundation for our island. And let's ensure that the University of Guam remains a strong and vibrant center of learning for future generations. Thank you once again to everybody involved today for your dedication and commitment to advancing education in Guam. To your supporting collaboration motion. Thank you, Mr.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. DUEÑAS, CHAIRPERSON:** Chair, Senator Borja and a couple more written testimonies that have been submitted, submitted by Deborah Leon Guerrero in support and also Raymond D.S. Anderson, Ph.D. professor of communication and Media, also in support. So at this time, this will conclude this afternoon's public hearing on bill number 58-38. The committee will continue to accept written testimony on this bill within seven days from today, which may be addressed to myself. Senator Christopher M. Duenas is chairman of the committee and mailed to 163 West Chalan Santo Papa in Hagatna. You may also send your testimonies to [senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov). This afternoon's public hearing is now adjourned and the time is 4:04 or 4:03 or 4:04. *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* for your attendance and everyone. Have a great weekend. *Biba UOG!*

**[COMMITTEE ADJOURNED AT 4:04PM]**

### **III. FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS:**

*The Committee finds* that the University of Guam (UOG) is facing a severe financial shortfall due to a reduction in budget appropriations. The appropriation levels have failed to meet the minimum funding required for core operational expenses, faculty salaries, IT modernization, and critical infrastructure repairs. Testimony from university officials, faculty, students, and stakeholders highlighted the essential role UOG plays in Guam's economic development, workforce

training, and research advancements. Furthermore, the university's ability to maintain accreditation and fulfill its mission of providing quality education is at significant risk without additional financial support.






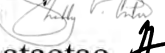

*The Committee concludes* that the requested appropriation of \$5,750,984 from the Fiscal Year 2025 General Fund revenues collected in excess of the adopted levels enumerated in Public Law 37-125 is necessary to sustain UOG's operations. Without these funds, UOG may face further program reductions, faculty shortages, and potential accreditation challenges, which would have long-term negative impacts on students and the broader community.

The Committee therefore supports the intent of Bill No. 58-38 (COR) and recommends ongoing legislative oversight to ensure the proper allocation and utilization of funds. Additionally, the Committee urges consideration of a more stable and sustainable funding mechanism for UOG to prevent recurring financial shortfalls and support the university's long-term growth. While the Committee finds no need to amend Bill No. 58-38 (COR) as introduced, it acknowledges that further floor amendments may be necessary during legislative discussion. Accordingly, the Committee recommends **to report out only.**

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

**Bill No. 58-38 (COR)**

Introduced by:

Vincent A. Borja   
Joe S. San Agustin   
Christopher M. Dueñas   
Tina Rose Muña Barnes   
Jesse A. Lujan   
Shelly V. Calvo   
Eulogio S. Gumataotao 

**AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$5,750,984) FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND REVENUES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE ADOPTED LEVELS ENUMERATED IN PUBLIC LAW 37-125 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATIONS, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND ACCREDITATION RELATED PRIORITIES.**

1 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2 **Section 1. Appropriation.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the  
3 sum of Five Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand and Nine Hundred Eighty-Four  
4 Dollars (**\$5,750,984**) is hereby appropriated from the Fiscal Year 2025 General Fund  
5 revenues collected in excess of the adopted levels enumerated in Public Law 37-125  
6 to the University of Guam for the purpose of operational expenses, repairs,  
7 maintenance, capital improvement projects, and accreditation related priorities

1 including the purchase of furniture for the Schools of Health and Engineering, WERI  
2 and the Student Success Center. This appropriation shall be available until fully  
3 expended. The funds allocated and authorized in this Section are not subject to *I*  
4 *Maga'hågan Guåhan*'s transfer authority.

5 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment.



## COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

February 20, 2025

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

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

**Subject:** **Fiscal Note for Bill No. 58-38 (COR)**

---

*Håfa Adai!*

Find the attached, Fiscal Note for the following bill:

**Bill No. 58-38 (COR).**

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





**BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH  
COMMENTS ON BILL NO. 58-38 (COR)**

The proposed legislation intends to appropriate the sum of Five Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-four Dollars (\$5,750,984) from the FY 2025 General Fund revenues collected in excess of the adopted levels enumerated in P.L. 37-125 to the University of Guam (UOG) for the purpose of operational expenses, repairs, maintenance, capital improvement projects, and accreditation-related priorities including the purchase of furniture for the School of Engineering, WERI, and the Student Success Center.

Per comments received from the UOG, its initial request for supplemental budget for FY 2025 totals \$12 million to fund general operations including repairs and maintenance, capital improvement projects, and accreditation-related activities. The UOG stated that it is also in need of an additional \$2.7 million for furniture, fixtures, and equipment for the School of Health and Engineering, WERI, and the Student Success Center, which is expected to be completed this year. However, the UOG stated that the proposed appropriation of \$5,750,984 contained in Bill No. 58-38 (COR) will ensure its current employees that are funded through general operations, to include those that support accreditation-related priorities, are covered through the end of the fiscal year.

Per the December 2024 Consolidated Revenue and Expenditure Report (CRER), the projected net unobligated FY 2025 General Fund Revenue amounts to \$12,240,310. The Bureau notes that there are several competing legislative measures seeking to utilize the FY 2025 General Fund net unobligated revenues as shown in the table below. The subtotal of these competing measures amounts to \$41,578,984, or \$29,338,674 more than the cited projected unobligated General Fund revenues for FY 2025.

<b>December 2024 CRER Net Unobligated Projected FY25 GF Revenue (A)</b>	<b>\$12,240,310.00</b>
<b><u>Proposed Legislative Measures</u></b>	
Bill No. 9-38 (GPA Energy Credits)	\$15,828,000.00
Bill No. 21-38 (GCC Workforce Annex)	\$350,000.00
Bill No. 36-38 (MCOG Hagat Mayor's Office)	\$1,000,000.00
Bill No. 37-38 (GUMA)	\$1,000,000.00
Bill No. 38-38 (UOG Repairs, Maint., CIPs)	\$4,000,000.00
Bill No. 39-38 (DPW Village Streets & Roads)	\$10,000,000.00
Bill No. 40-38 (Guam Preservation Trust)	\$3,500,000.00
Bill No. 58-38 (University of Guam)	\$5,750,984.00
Bill No. 60-38 (DISID - Private Care Svcs)	\$150,000.00
<b>Competing Measures Total Appropriation (B)</b>	<b>\$41,578,984.00</b>
<b>Variance (A-B)</b>	<b>(\$29,338,674.00)</b>

As such, it appears there is sufficient projected net unobligated FY 2025 General Fund revenues to enact a combination of the above mentioned competing legislative measures, but not all measures at this time.