

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
279-38 (COR) As amended on the Floor.	Jesse A. Lujan Christopher M. Dueñas	AN ACT TO <i>AMEND</i> SECTION 1 OF PART 1, CHAPTER XIII, PUBLIC LAW 38-60, RELATIVE TO TRAVEL AUTHORIZATIONS FOR THE GUAM VISITORS' BUREAU.	2/16/26 4:24 p.m.	2/20/26	Committee on Finance and Government Operations.	Request: 2/20/26 Waiver: 2/27/26	3/4/26 10:00 a.m.	3/12/26	
	SESSION DATE	TITLE	DATE PASSED	TRANSMITTED	DUE DATE	VETOED	NOTES		
	3/23/26	AN ACT TO <i>AMEND</i> SECTION 1 OF PART 1, CHAPTER XIII, PUBLIC LAW 38-60, RELATIVE TO TRAVEL AUTHORIZATIONS FOR THE GUAM VISITORS' BUREAU.	3/27/26	3/27/26	4/8/26	4/8/26	Received: 4/8/26 Mess and Comm. Doc. No. 638GL-26-2176		

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR

UFISINAN I MAGA'HĀGAN GUĀHAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

38GL-26-2176
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
FRANK F. BLAS JR.

Transmitted via Email to: speakerblas@guamlegislature.org

April 8, 2026

APR 08 2026

Time: 4:27pm
Received: [Signature]

THE HON. FRANK BLAS, JR., Speaker
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
38th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Re: Bill No. 279-38 (COR), "AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 1 OF PART 1, CHAPTER XIII, PUBLIC LAW 38-60, RELATIVE TO TRAVEL AUTHORIZATIONS FOR THE GUAM VISITORS' BUREAU."

Håfa Adai Mr. Speaker,

Bill No. 279-38 (COR) seeks to strengthen oversight of off-island travel funded by the Tourist Attraction Fund. Accountability in the use of public funds is important, and this Administration supports reasonable safeguards that promote transparency and public confidence.

However, this measure is directed specifically toward the Guam Visitors Bureau, imposing additional restrictions on the agency without establishing a broader and consistent standard across government, or explaining why this measure is necessary for only GVB. Oversight mechanisms should be applied in a uniform manner, particularly when they govern the use of public funds. Establishing a different standard for one entity raises concerns about consistency in policy and application.

Legislative action in recent years has further reflected different approaches to this issue. Prior measures provided greater flexibility for GVB leadership, while this bill adopts a more restrictive framework. This shift highlights the need for a consistent and uniform policy that applies across administrations.

Comparable governance models already exist within other autonomous agencies. For example, the Guam International Airport Authority uses a structured approval system that separates requesting and authorizing officials depending on the traveler. Travel by senior leadership and board members requires approval at the board level, while employee travel is reviewed and approved within executive management. Similarly, the Port Authority of Guam requires board approval for travel by its General Manager, while the General Manager approves travel for other personnel. These frameworks provide clear accountability while preserving operational flexibility. Bill No. 279-38

To: The Hon. Frank Blas, Jr., *Speaker*
Fr: The Hon. Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *Governor of Guam*
Date: April 8, 2026
Re: Bill No. 279-38 (COR)

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(COR) does not follow a similar approach across agencies and instead applies a different, and more restrictive, framework to GVB without a clear policy basis.

This bill also carries the implication that additional controls are needed in response to current practices. To the extent this measure suggests that current leadership requires additional oversight, the record does not support that conclusion. Testimony presented to the Legislature reflects that GVB leadership has exercised discipline and responsibility in the use of Tourist Attraction Fund resources. GVB leadership has demonstrated consistent and appropriate judgment in the approval of travel. There is no clear showing that current travel practices have been excessive or misused.

The testimony of GVB President and CEO Régine Biscoe Lee further reflects the realities of the tourism industry. Tourism is fast moving and highly competitive. Opportunities for airline partnerships, trade engagement, and destination marketing do not always align with fixed board schedules. The ability to respond in real time is often critical to Guam's success in competitive tourism markets.

The existing framework already provides oversight while allowing the flexibility necessary to advance Guam's interests. Imposing additional restrictions on GVB alone risks limiting that flexibility without a demonstrated need. It may also hinder the Bureau's ability to respond quickly to opportunities that directly impact visitor arrivals and economic recovery.

If the Legislature seeks to establish new standards for government funded travel, it should do so through a comprehensive approach that applies consistently across agencies and is grounded in a clear policy rationale.

For these reasons, I veto Bill No. 279-38 (COR).

Senseramente,



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO

I Maga'hågan Guåhan
Governor of Guam

Enclosure(s): Bill No. 279-38 (COR) - **VETO**

cc via email: *Honorable* Joshua F. Tenorio, *Segundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*, Lt. Governor of Guam
Compiler of Laws



38GL-26-2176
Messages and Communications

RECEIVED
COMMITTEE ON RULES
April 9, 2026

10:53 a.m.

Marie Crisostomo

RICARDO J. BORDALLO GOVERNOR'S COMPLEX
513 W. Marine Corps Drive Hagåtña, Guam 96910
governor.guam.gov | (671) 472-8931

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

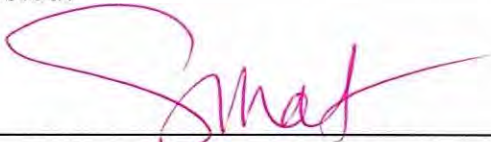
CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO *I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN*

This is to certify that **Bill No. 279-38 (COR)**, “AN ACT TO *AMEND* SECTION 1 OF PART 1, CHAPTER XIII, PUBLIC LAW 38-60, RELATIVE TO TRAVEL AUTHORIZATIONS FOR THE GUAM VISITORS’ BUREAU,” was on the 27th day of March 2026, duly and regularly passed.



Frank F. Blas, Jr
Speaker

Attested:



Sabrina Salas Matanane
Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* this 27 day of March 2026, at 8:24 o'clock P.M.



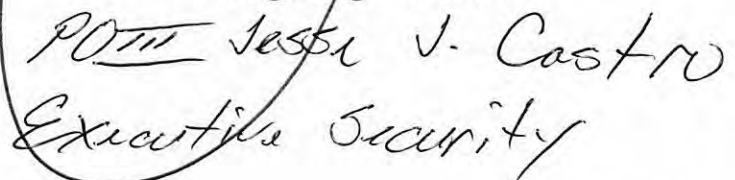
For Assistant Staff Officer
Maga'håga's Office

APPROVED:

Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
I Maga'hågan Guåhan

Date: 4/8^{LD} 4/8/2026

Public Law No. _____



Rosa J. Castro
Executive Security

2026-25717

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR	
CENTRAL FILES OFFICE	
Rec'd By:	Elaine Tajalle
Date:	3/30/24 Time: 10:05 AM

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

Bill No. 279-38 (COR)

As amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

Jesse A. Lujan
Christopher M. Dueñas
V. Anthony Ada
Chris Barnett
Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Vincent A.V. Borja
Shelly V. Calvo
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Tina Rose Muña-Barnes
William A. Parkinson
Sabina Flores Perez
Sabrina Salas Matanane
Joe S. San Agustin
Telo T. Taitague
Therese M. Terlaje

**AN ACT TO *AMEND* SECTION 1 OF PART 1, CHAPTER
XIII, PUBLIC LAW 38-60, RELATIVE TO TRAVEL
AUTHORIZATIONS FOR THE GUAM VISITORS'
BUREAU.**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Section 1 of Part I, Chapter XIII, Public Law 38-60, is hereby
amended to read as follows:

“CHAPTER XIII

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

PART I – SPENDING CONTROLS ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

1 **Section 1. Government-Funded Travel Prohibited.** Funds appropriated
2 by this Act shall not be expended for off-island travel or per diem expenses by
3 government employees and officials, except for:

4 (a) travel that is federally-funded;

5 (b) travel that is specifically required to administer or secure federal
6 grants;

7 (c) travel to promote tourism on Guam; provided, that such travel is
8 paid for by the Tourist Attraction Fund and is restricted to the GVB General
9 Manager or his/her designee, appropriate GVB staff, board members, cultural
10 performers, and village leaders as approved by the GVB Board of Directors,
11 and that within five (5) working days following the next duly convened
12 meeting of the Board of Directors after completion of such travel, the GVB
13 General Manager shall submit a written travel report to the Speaker of *I*
14 *Liheslaturan Guåhan*. Such report shall include, at a minimum:

15 (1) the scope and purpose of the travel;

16 (2) the key performance indicators (KPIs) utilized to measure
17 the outcomes of the travel;

18 (3) a list of all participants; and

19 (4) the total cost of the travel, including airfare, per diem, and
20 any additional expenses;

21 (d) travel by law enforcement personnel conducting an official
22 investigation and law enforcement personnel providing escort services for
23 criminal suspects, detainees, and convicted felons being returned to Guam for
24 judicial proceedings or being transferred to off-island correctional facilities;

25 (e) travel by medical personnel providing escort services for patients
26 requiring off-island medical treatment and other escorts as specifically

1 authorized by the Department of Public Health and Social Services pursuant
2 to Guam law;

3 (f) travel necessary for the enforcement of court orders;

4 (g) travel under the Residential Treatment Fund;

5 (h) travel required for witnesses testifying on behalf of, and
6 government attorneys representing the government or the people of Guam in
7 a criminal or civil case;

8 (i) travel to attend conferences and official meetings with national
9 and regional government officials or national and regional organizations of
10 which the entity is an official member where attendance is necessary to
11 advancing Guam's interests during Fiscal Year 2026 and as approved by a
12 governing board or Director;

13 (j) Executive Security functions under the Guam Police Department
14 for the purpose of providing Executive Security to *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* and
15 *I Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan* when traveling off-island to represent the
16 people of Guam at meetings and functions determined critical to the welfare
17 of Guam;

18 (k) travel to testify on issues related to Guam's political status; or

19 (l) travel to testify at the invitation of the U.S. Congress on
20 legislation that is supported by the Guam Legislature as indicated by a
21 legislative resolution.”