

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
139-38 (COR)	Shelly V. Calvo Therese M. Terlaje William A. Parkinson V. Anthony Ada Vincent A. V. Borja Sabrina Salas Matanane Joe S. San Agustin Tina Rose Muña Barnes Sabina Flores Perez	AN ACT TO ADD NEW §§ 13321.1 AND 13321.2 TO ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2025."	5/8/25 2:45 p.m.	5/15/25	Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and Hagåtña Restoration.	Request: 5/15/25 Waiver: 5/22/25	5/23/25 9:00 a.m.	7/15/25 As Amended.	

Office of Senator
SHELLY V. CALVO

MAJORITY WHIP & CHAIRPERSON

Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture,
Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration



I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THE 38TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov
(671) 989-5682/3

July 11, 2025

The Honorable Frank F. Blas Jr.
Speaker
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

VIA: Honorable Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada 
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

RE: Committee Report on Bill No. 139-38 (COR) As Amended

Buenas yan Håfa adai, Speaker Blas

Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report on **Bill No. 139-38 (COR) As Amended**, Introduced by Shelly V. Calvo, Therese M. Terlaje, William A. Parkinson, V. Anthony Ada, Vincent A. V. Borja, Sabrina Salas Matanane, Joe S. San Agustin, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Sabina F. Flores – “**AN ACT TO ADD NEW §§ 13321.1 AND 13321.2 TO ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE “FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2025”.**”

Committee votes are as follows:

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

Respectfully

Senator Shelly V. Calvo
Chairperson



COMMITTEE ON RULES

RECEIVED:

July 11, 2025 2:20 p.m.

Marie Crisostomo

Revisions Received:

July 15, 2025 2:09 p.m.

Office of Senator
SHELLY V. CALVO

MAJORITY WHIP & CHAIRPERSON

Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture,
Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration



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(671) 989-5682/3

COMMITTEE REPORT

Bill No. 139-38 (COR), As Amended

Introduced by Shelly V. Calvo, Therese M. Terlaje, William A. Parkinson, V. Anthony Ada, Vincent A. V. Borja, Sabrina Salas Matanane, Joe S. San Agustin, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Sabina Flores Perez

“AN ACT TO ADD NEW §§ 13321.1 AND 13321.2 TO ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE “FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2025.””

Office of Senator
SHELLY V. CALVO

MAJORITY WHIP & CHAIRPERSON

Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture,
Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration



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THE 38TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov
(671) 989-5682/3

July 11, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Members
Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and Hagåtña Restoration

FROM: Senator Shelly V. Calvo
Committee Chairperson

SUBJECT: Committee Report on Bill No. 139-38 (COR), As Amended

Buenas yan Håfa Adai!

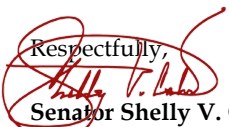
Transmitted herewith for your consideration is the Committee Report on **Bill No. 139-38 (COR), As Amended**, Introduced by Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Therese M. Terlaje, William A. Parkinson, V. Anthony Ada, Vincent A. V. Borja, Sabrina Salas Matanane, Joe S. San Agustín, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Sabina Flores Perez - **"AN ACT TO ADD NEW §§ 13321.1 AND 13321.2 TO ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2025".**"

This report includes the following:

- Copy of COR Referral of Bill No. 139-38 (COR)
- Notices of Public Hearing
- Copy of the Public Hearing Agenda
- Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet
- Submitted Written Testimonies and Supporting Documents
- Committee Vote Sheet
- Committee Report Digest
- Copy of Bill No. 139-38 (COR), As Introduced
- Copy of Bill No. 139-38 (COR) As Amended
- Copy of Bill No. 139-38 (COR) with Committee Markup
- Copy of Fiscal Note Waiver from the Bureau of Budget & Management Research

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

Respectfully,


Senator Shelly V. Calvo
Chairperson



COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

May 15, 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. 139-38 (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. 139-38 (COR)** – Shelly V. Calvo, Therese M. Terlaje, William A. Parkinson, V. Anthony Ada, Vincent A. V. Borja, Sabrina Salas Matanane, Joe S. San Agustin, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Sabina Flores Perez. – “AN ACT TO ADD NEW §§ 13321.1 AND 13321.2 TO ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE “FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2025.”

Please ensure that the subject bill is referred to the Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women’s Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and Hagåtña Restoration chaired by Senator Shelly V. Calvo. I also request that the same be copied to the Prime Sponsor of the subject bill and to Management Information Services (MIS) for posting on our website.

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

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





Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

First Notice of Public Hearing – Friday May 23, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

2 messages

Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

Fri, May 16, 2025 at
8:46 AM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov

Bcc: [REDACTED]

May 16, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media

From: Senator Shelly V. Calvo, *Chairperson*
Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women’s Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and Hagåtña Restoration

Re: **First Notice of Public Hearing – Friday May 23, 2025, 9:00 a.m.**

Buenas yan Håfa Adai! Please be advised that the Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women’s Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and *Hagåtña* Restoration will convene a Public Hearing on Friday, May 23, 2025, beginning at 9:00 AM, in the Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building, with the following agenda:

9:00 AM

1. Appointment of **Monsignor James LG Benavente**, to serve as a Member, *Hagåtña* Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners” for five (5) years from date of confirmation.
2. The Appointment of **Melissa F. Bettis**, to serve as a Member, *Hagåtña* Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners” for five (5) years from date of confirmation.
3. **Bill No. 139-38 (COR)** – Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Therese M. Terlaje, William A. Parkinson, V. Anthony Ada, Vincent A. V. Borja, Sabrina Salas Matanane, Joe S. San Agustin, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Sabina Flores Perez – “AN ACT TO ADD NEW §§ 13321.1 AND 13321.2 TO ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE “FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2025.”

How to Participate: Individuals wishing to attend in person or provide oral or written testimony may contact the Office of Senator Shelly V. Calvo for further guidance. Written testimonies should be addressed to Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Chairperson of the Committee, and submitted via hand delivery or electronic mail at least one day prior to the Public Hearing.

Watch Live: The Public Hearing will broadcast on local television on GTA Channel 21 and Docomo Channel 117; and stream online and will be recorded for later viewing on the Guam Legislature Media YouTube channel.

Special Accommodations: Individuals who require special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services may contact the Office of Senator Shelly V. Calvo. All requests, inquiries and submissions may be sent directly to the Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910; via electronic mail at officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov; or by phone at (671) 989-5682.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!



Office of the People • Senator Shelly V. Calvo

Majority Whip & Chairwoman

Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration

38th Guam Legislature


163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T +1 (671) 989-5682

E officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov

2 attachments

 **5.23.25 PH First Notice MEMO.pdf**
572K

 **Bill No. 139-38 (COR).pdf**
2246K

Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

Fri, May 16, 2025 at 8:58 AM

To: Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

Hafa Adai,

Posted on calendar.

[Quoted text hidden]

--



Edward S. Pocaigue, Jr.


Sergeant-at-Arms

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Guam Congress Building, 1st Floor

163 Chalan Santo Papa

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

 1-671-969-3514

 sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov

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Office of Senator
SHELLY V. CALVO

MAJORITY WHIP & CHAIRPERSON

Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture,
Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration



I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THE 38TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov
(671) 989-5682/3

May 16, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media

From: Senator Shelly V. Calvo, *Chairperson*
Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs,
Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and Hagåtña Restoration

Re: **First Notice of Public Hearing – Friday May 23, 2025, 9:00 a.m.**

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9:00 AM

1. Appointment of [Monsignor James LG Benavente](#), to serve as a Member, *Hagåtña* Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners" for five (5) years from date of confirmation.
2. The Appointment of [Melissa F. Bettis](#), to serve as a Member, *Hagåtña* Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners" for five (5) years from date of confirmation.
3. **Bill No. 139-38 (COR)** – Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Therese M. Terlaje, William A. Parkinson, V. Anthony Ada, Vincent A. V. Borja, Sabrina Salas Matanane, Joe S. San Agustin, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Sabina Flores Perez – **“AN ACT TO ADD NEW §§ 13321.1 AND 13321.2 TO ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE “FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2025.”**

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Office of Senator
SHELLY V. CALVO

MAJORITY WHIP & CHAIRPERSON

Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture,
Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration



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Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!

Senator Shelly V. Calvo
Chairperson


First Notice of Public Hearing – Friday May 23, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

 PRINT

**First Notice of Public Hearing – Friday May 23,
2025, 9:00 a.m.**


PUBLIC HEARING



 **Posted on:** 05/16/2025 08:52 AM

 **Posted by:** Jay Milan

 **Public Hearing Date:** 05/23/2025 09:00 AM

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

 **Division(s):**
OFFICE OF SENATOR SHELLY V. CALVO (/notices?division_id=296)

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

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

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

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May 16, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media

From: Senator Shelly V. Calvo, *Chairperson*
Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and Hagåtña Restoration

Re: First Notice of Public Hearing – Friday May 23, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

Buenas yan Håfa Adai! Please be advised that the Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and *Hagåtña* Restoration will convene a Public Hearing on Friday, May 23, 2025, beginning at 9:00 AM, in the Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building, with the following agenda:

9:00 AM

1. Appointment of **Monsignor James LG Benavente** (https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Mess_Comms_38th/Doc.%20No.%2038GL-25-0565.pdf), to serve as a Member, *Hagåtña* Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners" for five (5) years from date of confirmation.

2. The Appointment of **Melissa F. Bettis** (https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Mess_Comms_38th/Doc.%20No.%2038GL-25-0567.pdf), to serve as a Member, *Hagåtña* Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners" for five (5) years from date of confirmation.

3. **Bill No. 139-38 (COR)** ([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20139-38%20\(COR\).pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20139-38%20(COR).pdf)) – Senator Shelly

V. Calvo, Therese M. Terlaje, William A. Parkinson, V. Anthony Ada, Vincent A. V. Borja, Sabrina Salas Matanane, Joe S. San Agustin, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Sabina Flores Perez – **“AN ACT TO ADD NEW §§ 13321.1 AND 13321.2 TO ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE “FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2025.”**

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Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!

Office of Senator
SHELLY V. CALVO
MAJORITY WHIP & CHAIRPERSON
Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture,
Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration



I Mina'trentai Ochu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THE 38TH GUAM LEGISLATURE
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santa PAPA, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
officeofsenators@calvo.vcalvo.guamlegislature.gov
(671) 989-5682/3

FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Friday May 23, 2025 beginning at 9:00 a.m.
Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room.

The Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration will hear and accept testimonies on the following items:

AGENDA for 9:00 AM:

1. Appointment of **Monsignor James LG Benavente**, to serve as a Member, Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners, for Five (5) Years; from date of confirmation.
2. The Appointment of **Melissa F. Bettis**, to serve as a Member, Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners, for Five (5) Years; from date of confirmation.
3. **Bill No. 139-38 (COR)** – Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Therese M. Terlajo, William A. Parkinson, V. Anthony Ada, Vincent A. V. Bojja, Sabrina Solas Matanane, Joe S. San Agustin, Tina Rose Muña Baines, Sabrina Florio Perez. - "AN ACT TO ADD NEW §§ 13321.1 AND 13321.2 TO ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS, AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2025.""

How to Participate

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Written testimonies should be addressed to Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Chairperson of the Committee, and submitted via hand delivery or electronic mail at least one day prior to the Public Hearing.

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We look forward to your attendance and participation.

This is paid for by legislature funds.

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THE GUAM DAILY POST™



LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 204

Together with the Guam Public Library System, Guam Council of the International Literacy Association, Institute of Museum and Library Services, GDOE Chamorro Studies and Special Projects Division, UOG-SOE Alumni Association, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Guam Flotilla 140-02-24, Guåhan Ison Famogion Lions Club, Guam Police Department's Recreational Boating Safety Program, Peto's Journey LLC, and Caleb's Courageous Cause, proudly present:



LIONS CLUBS DISTRICT 204
NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK
SATURDAY STORY TIME
MAY 17, 2025 | 10:00 A.M.



Join us via ZOOM or in person at the Micronesia Mall



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76% of all fatal boating accident victims drowned.*
Of these, 85% were not wearing a life jacket.*




FEATURING:
Coertie Time – Boats 'N Kids

For more information, contact LCI D204 Reading Action Program Chair Dr. Matilda Naruti Rivera @



Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

Second Notice of Public Hearing – Friday May 23, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

2 messages

Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

Wed, May 21, 2025 at
8:34 AM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov

Bcc: [REDACTED]

May 21, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media

From: Senator Shelly V. Calvo, *Chairperson*
Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and Hagåtña Restoration

Re: **Second Notice of Public Hearing – Friday May 23, 2025, 9:00 a.m.**

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3. **Bill No. 139-38 (COR)** - Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Therese M. Terlaje, William A. Parkinson, V. Anthony Ada, Vincent A. V. Borja, Sabrina Salas Matanane, Joe S. San Agustin, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Sabina Flores Perez - "AN ACT TO ADD NEW §§ 13321.1 AND 13321.2 TO ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2025."

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Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!



Office of the People • Senator Shelly V. Calvo

Majority Whip & Chairwoman

Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration

38th Guam Legislature


163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T +1 (671) 989-5682

E officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov

2 attachments

 **5.23.25 PH Second Notice MEMO.pdf**
572K

 **Bill No. 139-38 (COR).pdf**
2246K

Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

Wed, May 21, 2025 at 8:38 AM

To: Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

Hafa Adai,

Second Notice updated

[Quoted text hidden]

--



Edward S. Pocaigue, Jr.

Sergeant-at-Arms

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Guam Congress Building, 1st Floor

163 Chalan Santo Papa

Hagåtña, Guam 96910



1-671-969-3514



sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov

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Office of Senator
SHELLY V. CALVO

MAJORITY WHIP & CHAIRPERSON

Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture,
Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration



I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THE 38TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov
(671) 989-5682/3

May 21, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media

From: Senator Shelly V. Calvo, *Chairperson*
Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs,
Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and Hagåtña Restoration

Re: **Second Notice of Public Hearing – Friday May 23, 2025, 9:00 a.m.**

Buenas yan Håfa Adai! Please be advised that the Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and *Hagåtña* Restoration will convene a Public Hearing on Friday, May 23, 2025, beginning at 9:00 AM, in the Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building, with the following agenda:

9:00 AM

1. The Appointment of [Monsignor James LG Benavente](#), to serve as a Member, *Hagåtña* Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners" for five (5) years from date of confirmation.
2. The Appointment of [Melissa F. Bettis](#), to serve as a Member, *Hagåtña* Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners" for five (5) years from date of confirmation.
3. **[Bill No. 139-38 \(COR\)](#)** - Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Therese M. Terlaje, William A. Parkinson, V. Anthony Ada, Vincent A. V. Borja, Sabrina Salas Matanane, Joe S. San Agustin, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Sabina Flores Perez - **"AN ACT TO ADD NEW §§ 13321.1 AND 13321.2 TO ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2025."**

How to Participate: Individuals wishing to attend in person or provide oral or written testimony may contact the Office of Senator Shelly V. Calvo for further guidance. Written testimonies should be addressed to Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Chairperson of the Committee, and submitted via hand delivery or electronic mail at least one day prior to the Public Hearing.

Office of Senator
SHELLY V. CALVO

MAJORITY WHIP & CHAIRPERSON

Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture,
Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration



I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THE 38TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov
(671) 989-5682/3

Watch Live: The Public Hearing will broadcast on local television on GTA Channel 21 and Docomo Channel 117; and stream online and will be recorded for later viewing on the Guam Legislature Media YouTube channel.

Special Accommodations: Individuals who require special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services may contact the Office of Senator Shelly V. Calvo. All requests, inquiries and submissions may be sent directly to the Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, *Hagåtña*, Guam 96910; via electronic mail at officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov; or by phone at (671) 989-5682.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Shelly V. Calvo".

Senator Shelly V. Calvo
Chairperson


Second Notice of Public Hearing – Friday May 23, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

 PRINT

**Second Notice of Public Hearing – Friday May
23, 2025, 9:00 a.m.**


PUBLIC HEARING



 **Posted on:** 05/21/2025 08:37 AM

 **Posted by:** Jay Milan

 **Public Hearing Date:** 05/23/2025 09:00 AM

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

 **Division(s):**
OFFICE OF SENATOR SHELLY V. CALVO (/notices?division_id=296)

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

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

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

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May 21, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media

From: Senator Shelly V. Calvo, *Chairperson*
Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic
Preservation, and Hagåtña Restoration

**Re: Second Notice of Public Hearing – Friday May 23,
2025, 9:00 a.m.**

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9:00 AM

1. The Appointment of **Monsignor James LG Benavente** (https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Mess_Comms_38th/Doc.%20No.%2038GL-25-0565.pdf), to serve as a Member, *Hagåtña* Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners" for five (5) years from date of confirmation.

2. The Appointment of **Melissa F. Bettis** (https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Mess_Comms_38th/Doc.%20No.%2038GL-25-0567.pdf), to serve as a Member, *Hagåtña* Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners" for five (5) years from date of confirmation.

3. Bill No. 139-38 (COR)
([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20139-38%20\(COR\).pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20139-38%20(COR).pdf)) – Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Therese M. Terlaje, William A. Parkinson, V. Anthony Ada, Vincent A. V. Borja, Sabrina Salas Matanane, Joe S. San Agustin, Tina Rose Muña Barnes. Sabina Flores Perez – **"AN ACT**

TO ADD NEW §§ 13321.1 AND 13321.2 TO ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE “FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2025.”

How to Participate: Individuals wishing to attend in person or provide oral or written testimony may contact the Office of Senator Shelly V. Calvo for further guidance. Written testimonies should be addressed to Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Chairperson of the Committee, and submitted via hand delivery or electronic mail at least one day prior to the Public Hearing.

Watch Live: The Public Hearing will broadcast on local television on GTA Channel 21 and Docomo Channel 117; and stream online and will be recorded for later viewing on the Guam Legislature Media YouTube channel.

Special Accommodations: Individuals who require special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services may contact the Office of Senator Shelly V. Calvo. All requests, inquiries and submissions may be sent directly to the Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, *Hagåtña*, Guam 96910; via electronic mail at officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov (<mailto:officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>); or by phone at (671) 989-5682.

Office of Senator
SHELLY V. CALVO
MAJORITY WHIP & CHAIRPERSON
Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture,
Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration.



I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Libeslaturan Guahan
THE 38TH GUAM LEGISLATURE
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Sento Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov
(671) 989-5682/3

FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Friday May 23, 2025 beginning at 9:00 a.m.
Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room.

The Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration will hear and accept testimonies on the following items:

AGENDA for 9:00 AM:

1. Appointment of **Monsignor James I.G. Benavente**, to serve as a Member, Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners," for Five (5) Years; from date of confirmation.
2. The Appointment of **Melissa E. Bettis**, to serve as a Member, Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners," for Five (5) Years; from date of confirmation.
3. **Bill No. 139-38 (COR)** – Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Therese M. Terlaja, William A. Parkinson, V. Anthony Ada, Vincent A. V. Borja, Sabrina Sofas Malanane, Joe S. San Agustin, Tina Rose Miña Barnes, Sabrina Flores Perez, - "AN ACT TO ADD NEW §§ 13321.1 AND 13321.2 TO ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS, AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2025.""

How to Participate

Individuals wishing to attend in person or provide oral or written testimony may contact the Office of Senator Shelly V. Calvo via electronic mail at officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov or call (671) 989-5682.

Written testimonies should be addressed to Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Chairperson of the Committee, and submitted via hand delivery or electronic mail at least one day prior to the Public Hearing.

Watch Live

The Public Hearing will broadcast on local television on GTA Channel 21 and Docomo Channel 117; and stream online and will be recorded for later viewing on the Guam Legislature Media YouTube channel.

Special Accommodations

Individuals who require special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services may contact the Office of Senator Shelly V. Calvo. All requests, inquiries and submissions may be sent directly to the Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Sento Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910; by phone at (671) 989-5682; or via electronic mail at officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov.

We look forward to your attendance and participation.

This was paid for by legislative funds.

PUBLICATION NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Guam Code Annotated, Title XI, Chapter III, Section 3315, notice is hereby given that:

M25 CORPORATION

DBA: Hafa Adai Market (Takeover)

has applied for a Class: Five (5) GENERAL OFF SALE Alcoholic Beverage License said premises being marked as Lot: 1 New Blk 1 Tract 10415 586 Chalan Pale Ramon Haya Yigo



JUDICIARY OF GUAM

Guam Judicial Center
120 West O'Brien Drive Hagåtña Guam 96910-5174
Tel: (671) 475-3300 Fax: (671) 475-3140
www.guamcourts.org

**GUAM CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE REVIEW COMMISSION
PLenary MEETING MAY 29, 2025
NOTICE OF MEETING**

The Guam Criminal Law and Procedure Review Commission will conduct a plenary meeting on Thursday, May 29, 2025, at 12:00 pm in the Guam Judicial Center Judge Joaquin V.E. Manibusan, Sr. Memorial Courtroom, 120 West O'Brien Drive, Hagåtña, and by videoconference.

The meeting will be streamed live on the Judiciary of Guam YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfnFCWwllp99fAeh9zi404g>

AGENDA

- CALL TO ORDER
- PROOF OF DUE NOTICE OF MEETING
- DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
- DISPOSAL OF MINUTES FEBRUARY 6, 2025 and APRIL 10, 2025
- OLD BUSINESS
 - Subcommission Status Update and Report of the Executive Director
 - Subcommission on Criminal Procedure continued presentation on 9 GCA § 52.10
- NEW BUSINESS
 - Interim Report Final Recommendations; Presentation, Consideration and Vote
 - Notice of Next Meeting: Thursday, July 31, 2025, Noon (Tentative)
- COMMUNICATIONS
- PUBLIC COMMENT
- ADJOURNMENT

Any person(s) needing special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services, please contact the Executive Director Andrew Quenga at 671-475-3278. This ad was paid for with Government of Guam funds. Magistrate Judge Jonathan R. Quan, Chairman

APPLY NOW!!

31 - CARPENTER WITH 1 YEAR EXPERIENCE \$18.34 PER HOUR*
Duties: Constructs, erects, installs and repairs structures and fixtures of wood, wallboard and plywood, including framework. Uses carpenter's hand tools and power tools conforming to local building codes. Reads blueprints, sketches, or building plans to determine type of work required and materials needed. Prepares layout, using ruler, framing square, and calipers. Erects framework for structure and lay subfloor board. Builds and installs stairs, cabinets, closets, windows, and doorframes.

29 - CEMENT MASON WITH 1 YEAR EXPERIENCE \$17.51 PER HOUR*
Duties: Smooths and finishes surfaces of poured concrete floors, walls, sidewalks, or curbs to specified textures using hand tools or power tools including floats, trowels, and screeds. Signals concrete deliverer to position truck to facilitate pouring concrete. Spreads concrete into inaccessible section of forms using rake or shovel. Levels concrete to specified depth and workable consistency using hand screed and floats to bring water to surface and produce soft topping. Lays and installs concrete masonry units and lays and grouts floor and ceiling tiles. Mixes cement using shovel and/or cement mixing machine.

4 - CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR WITH 2 YEARS' EXPERIENCE; Must possess an Associate's Degree in Civil Engineering (may be foreign equivalent) \$26.08 PER HOUR*
Duties: Supervises, coordinates, and schedules the activities of the construction workers at the project sites. Reads specifications, such as blueprints, to determine construction requirements and to plan procedures. Estimates material and worker requirements to complete jobs and assigns work to employees. Orders or requisition materials and supplies. Inspects and evaluates the construction activities and work area in accordance with plans, specifications, and contract documents, reporting deficiencies as appropriate, reporting issues as needed, and issuing stop orders to ensure safe work practices and quality. Implements and administers safety program and accident prevention plan. Develops, gathers, maintains, and/or submits work plans, submittals, and reports. Trains workers in construction methods, operation of equipment, safety procedures, or company policies. May provide assistance to workers engaged in construction activities, using hand tools or other equipment. May suggest personnel actions, such as promotions or hires. Coordinates work activities with subcontractors, material deliveries, and other construction project activities. Confers with managerial and engineering staff and subcontractors in order to resolve problems or to coordinate activities. Maintains records and prepares reports on construction activities.

2 - HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR WITH 1 YEAR EXPERIENCE \$18.97 PER HOUR*
Duties: Operates power construction equipment such as forklifts, derrick cranes, bulldozers, scrapers, backhoes, compressors, tractors, motor graders, or front-load loaders to excavate, move, and grade earth, erect structures, or pour concrete or other hard surface pavement. Connect and/or install equipment attachments or components. Drive, operate, and maneuver power construction equipment including controlling attachments such as blades, buckets, scrapers and swing booms. Signal equipment operators to indicate proper equipment positioning. Load or unload materials used in construction or extraction. Coordinate machine actions with other activities, positioning or moving loads in response to hand or audio signals from crew members. Follow safety regulations and take action to avoid potential hazards or obstructions. Repair and maintain equipment, making emergency adjustments or assisting with major repairs as necessary.

*Special Wage Rate: Work to be performed on DPRI funded projects and projects covered by Davis Bacon, Service Contracts Act, and/or Executive Order 14206 will be paid no less than the indicated wage rate but may be paid more where special rates apply and may require paid holidays and/or paid sick leave.

Benefits: Round trip airfare for off-island hire; Meals and lodging at \$80.00/week; Local transportation to/from jobsite from the employer's designated housing facility; and Employer/employee-paid medical insurance provided after probation.

Successful applicant must be able to obtain military base access. Employees are required to take and pass a substance abuse test after hire.

The job offer meets all EEO requirements, and initiates a temporary placement. The recruitment associated with this job offer is closely monitored by the Department of Labor. Qualified, available and willing U.S. workers are highly encouraged to apply. Should you qualify for the job and are not hired, you may appeal with the Department of Labor who will independently review matter.

Apply in person at the American Job Center



COMMERCIAL SALES COORDINATOR

Are you a detail-oriented professional with a strong commitment to customer service? We are currently hiring a **Commercial Sales Coordinator** to provide essential support to our commercial sales team, ensuring accurate documentation and delivering exceptional service to our clients.

Key Responsibilities: Maintain and update commercial records across all business divisions. Support the resolution of customer service concerns and overdue accounts. Maintain efficient documentation procedures and strong organizational practices.

Qualifications: High School Diploma or GED Equivalent. Minimum two years in customer service, administration and/or marketing related field. Must have a valid Guam Driver's License. Must have strong verbal and written communication skills with the ability to adapt in a fast-paced environment.

Why join Us? We offer a competitive salary, professional growth opportunities, and a collaborative work environment. We also offer great benefits such as paid leave, paid holidays, medical/dental coverage, employee discounts & retirement savings plan.

Please submit resume via email to hr_recruitment@sppcorp.com or complete an application packet between 9 AM thru 4 PM, Monday through Friday at our main office across from St. John's School in Upper Tumon. Deadline for submission is May 31st 2025 or until position is filled.

South Pacific Petroleum Corporation
816 N Marine Corps Dr. FL 2
Tamuning Guam 96913-4431
ATTN: HRO Recruitment



COMMITTEES

CHAIRPERSON

Child Welfare, Youth
Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women's Affairs,
Disability Services,
the Arts, Culture,
Historic Preservation
& Hagåtña Restoration

VICE CHAIRPERSON

Transportation,
Tourism, Customs,
Utilities & Federal
and Foreign Affairs

MEMBER

Economic Investment,
Military Buildup,
Regional Relations,
Technology,
Regulatory Affairs,
Justice, Elections
& Retirement

Education, Libraries
& Public Broadcasting

Health
& Veterans Affairs

Land, Environment,
Housing, Agriculture,
Parks & Infrastructure

Rules

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

Friday May 23, 2025, 9:00 AM

Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Opening Remarks/Housekeeping

III. Public Hearing Items for Discussion

1. Appointment of **Monsignor James LG Benavente**, to serve as a Member, Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners" for five (5) years from date of confirmation.
2. The Appointment of **Melissa F. Bettis**, to serve as a Member, Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners" for five (5) years from date of confirmation.
3. **Bill No. 139-38 (COR)** – Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Therese M. Terlaje, William A. Parkinson, V. Anthony Ada, Vincent A. V. Borja, Sabrina Salas Matanane, Joe S. San Agustin, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Sabina Flores Perez – “AN ACT TO ADD NEW §§ 13321.1 AND 13321.2 TO ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE “FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2025.”

IV. Closing Remarks/Announcements

V. Adjournment



Office of Senator
SHELLY V. CALVO

MAJORITY WHIP & CHAIRPERSON

Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration



I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guahan

THE 38TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov
(671) 989-5682/3

PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-IN SHEET

Friday, May 23, 2025 9a.m.

Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room.

Bill No. 139-38 (COR) – Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Therese M. Terlaje, William A. Parkinson, V. Anthony Ada, Vincent A. V. Borja, Sabrina Salas Matanane, Joe S. San Agustín, Tina Rose Muna Barnes, Sabina Flores Perez – “AN ACT TO ADD NEW §§ 13321.1 AND 13321.2 TO ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE “FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2025.”

NAME	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	POSITION		TESTIMONY		PHONE NO.	EMAIL ADDRESS
		SUPPORT	OPPOSE	WRITTEN	ORAL		
1. Cherrille Mickus	OAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
2. Patricia Mafnas	DPASS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3. Rhoda Orallo	DPASS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4. Rejuna Mafnas	DPASS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
5. Heidi Quinata	DPASS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
6. Crystal Gooden	DPASS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
7. Carol Hinkle-Sanchez	CLC/EX (PPSC)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
8. Muesela Arriola	DPASS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
9.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
10.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
11.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
12.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		



CIVIL LAW CENTER
The Advocacy Center & Elder Justice Center
Provide • Promote • Preserve
Peace of Mind

777 Route 4, Suite 104
MVP Commercial Building
Sinajana, Guam 96910
Telephone No. 671-969-3131
Facsimile No.: 671-969-0132
Email: support@cle Guam.org

May 23, 2025

Honorable Senator Shelly V. Calvo
Minority Whip, *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
officeofshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov
(671) 989-5682/3

Re: Letter of Support for Bill No. 139-38 (COR), relative to the “Foster Care Bill of Rights Act of 2025”

Hafa Adai Honorable Senator Calvo, and all the Honorable Senators of *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*:

My name is Carol Hinkle-Sanchez, and I am the Managing Attorney with the Civil Law Center/Elder Justice Center, which is the Civil Division of the Public Defender Service Corporation. I am writing this letter to express my strong support of Bill No. 139-38 (COR), which seeks to establish the Foster Care Bill of Rights, creating Guam's Foster Care Bill of Rights Act of 2025. The protection and advocacy of the children of Guam is something that I have held dear and near to my heart, and it has been a top priority through my entire legal career as a public servant because I believe that the work and investment we make on our children, in present time, will positively impact their lives and their future. Our children and grandchildren are the future generation of this island. They are the future leaders and Guam's future work force.

For many who know my previous work experience, I have had the honor to serve as the Deputy Attorney General for the Family Division at the Office of the Attorney General for 16 years, which also meant representing the Child Protective Services agency, and helping to advocate and ensure for the safety, welfare and overall well-being of all the children in Guam. I now work as the Managing Attorney for the Civil Law Center/Elder Justice Center - PDSC, and I have had the honor of working at this wonderful office for the past two and a half (2 1/2) years. In this position, I was able continue to advocate for the rights and protections of juveniles through the court-appointed cases our office handles wherein we serve as the Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) in Person In Need of Services (PINS) petitions, which are the juvenile special proceedings matters wherein Child Protective Services files a case alleging child abuse or child neglect. The Guardian Ad Litem serves as a neutral party to the Court, and is an advocate that represents the best interests of children in these proceedings. Foster families have always played an integral and key part in these types of matters and in the success of these types of matters. Bill No. 139-38 (COR) relates to the establishment of a Foster Care Bill of Rights for both the foster children

and the foster parents/families. Bill 139-38 is designed to inform foster children and foster parents of their rights within the child welfare system, ensuring they receive appropriate care and support. It is hoped that by empowering and providing the necessary support for both the foster children and the foster parents in these highly sensitive and oftentimes heartbreaking matters, will result in better and more positive outcomes. For that reason, I strongly support Bill No. 139-38 (COR).

The Foster Care Bill of Rights was a result of the federal Family First Prevention Services Act, which was enacted in 2018, to overhaul the child welfare systems throughout the country. At its core, the act is intended to focus resources on preventing child maltreatment and reduce the use of congregate care. Many states found it necessary to enact legislation to align their child welfare laws with the Family First Act. As of January 2025, 29 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have enacted bills and resolutions concerning Family First, specifically legislations concerning the Foster Children's Bill of Rights, which like these jurisdictions, Guam now seeks to address the Family First Prevention Services Act by introducing Bill No 139-38 (COR). This legislation will ensure that the rights of foster families are protected and both foster children and foster parents will be empowered throughout the juvenile justice process and foster care system, as well as ensure that the foster children will receive the proper care, education, and support necessary while in the foster care system.

The foster care system is an integral part in the juvenile justice system with respect to child protective services cases. In the United States, there are 391,000 children in the foster care system, and most experience various forms of instability that ultimately affect the quality and trajectory of their lives. In Guam, as of 2025 there are approximately 600 children in foster care. These children range in age from newborns to 19 years old and may need foster care for varying durations, from a few weeks to several years. Many of these children have suffered some form of trauma – the minimum being removal from their homes and lives. Many of these children end up needing foster care, and many of these children will not only get separated from their parents and other family members, but they end up getting separated from their own siblings. Recruiting foster families gets difficult at times because some foster families limit what they are willing to care for, such as they will only take a certain number of children or even a specific age group. This is why Guam has been trying to recruit foster families that are willing to take in sibling groups, as well as teens, because without these families, many of these children will reside in a shelter and not a home with a family.

This legislation will empower foster families to play a more active role in the juvenile justice system, and provide them with comfort that there is a foster care system that will ensure that the foster children are supported emotionally, educationally, and legally, enabling them to cope with difficult situations and to advocate for themselves more effectively. The Foster Parents Bill of Rights legislation aims to support and empower foster parents by ensuring they are informed of their rights and responsibilities. These rights help foster children understand their situation, participate in decisions affecting their lives, and receive the necessary support to thrive. It will also create a supportive environment for foster parents, enabling them to provide the best possible care for foster children.

For those reasons, I strongly support Bill No. 139-38 (COR), and I humbly ask for the support of all the Senators in passing this bill as it will improve Guam's foster care system, as

well as the juvenile justice system with respect to cases involving child protective services. It will ensure that rights of foster children and foster families are protected, and it will ensure that foster children are receiving the proper care, education, and support they need while in the juvenile justice system and foster care system, and foster parents are getting the support services they need to provide a safe, nurturing environment for these children.

Thank you again for this opportunity. I am hopeful that you will see the benefits that this piece of legislation will have for our island and its people, and I look forward to seeing positive votes in favor of this bill. Should you have any further questions, please feel free to reach my at (671) 969-3131.

Best Regards,


Carol Hinkle-Sanchez



NATIONAL FOSTER YOUTH INSTITUTE

CEO
Rebecca Louve Yao, LCSW

May 21, 2025

Board of Directors
Wendy Smith Meyer, Ph.D., LCSW
Chair

Testimony In Support of Bill No. 139-38 (COR)
The Foster Care Bill of Rights Act of 2025
Submitted to I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Honorable Karen Bass, Founder

Judge Songhai Armstead (Ret.)

Honorable Chairperson and Members of the Legislature,

Doug Bond

Conway Collis

David A. Herbst

Nanxi Liu

Yolanda Parker

Marcus Scribner

Kim Sterton

Jewels Elmore Washington

On behalf of the National Foster Youth Institute (NFYI), I submit this testimony in strong support of Bill No. 139-38 (COR), the Foster Care Bill of Rights Act of 2025. NFYI is a non-profit dedicated to ensuring that current and former foster youth are at the center of efforts to improve the systems that impact their lives. We work in partnership with young people, policymakers, and communities across the United States, including territories, to create a child welfare system that offers dignity, opportunity, and lasting support to children and families. As a parent, I see in the Foster Care Bill of Rights the respect, dignity, and hope for bright futures that I have for my own children. And as a former foster youth, I see the chance to be seen, heard, and cared for in the ways I once longed for.

NFYI commends Senator Shelly V. Calvo and the members of this body for introducing legislation that centers the voices and rights of children and youth in foster care. Enshrining a Foster Care Bill of Rights into law is a critical step toward building a more accountable, equitable, and supportive system — one that affirms that young people in care are not just passive recipients of services but individuals with autonomy, voice, and the right to be heard and protected. At NFYI, we say that foster youth are not someone else's children; they're *all* of our children. This bill is a commitment to take care of Guam's children.

Youth in foster care face unique challenges — including trauma, isolation, and the loss of familial and cultural connections. Without strong supports, the challenges may not end when they leave foster care. In the U.S., one-in-five former foster youth will experience homelessness. By age 24, only half will have a job. A quarter will be incarcerated within two years of aging out. And while 84% dream of going to college, only four percent go on to earn a four-year degree. The rate of foster youth who experience PTSD is double the rate of war veterans.

Legal protections, when codified and enforced, create clarity and consistency in how systems serve young people and have lasting impact on their lives and their communities. A clearly defined Foster Youth Bill of Rights communicates that no matter where a young person is placed, they are guaranteed access to basic necessities. Through research from experts and listening sessions with



NATIONAL FOSTER YOUTH INSTITUTE

young adults, we have found that to achieve better long-term outcomes for young adults as they transition out of care, it is critical to provide foster youth with:

- The right to be safe and free from abuse
- Access to quality education
- Consistent and equitable access to physical and mental health services
- The ability to participate in their own case planning
- The right to visit with family and maintain community connections
- Respect for their cultural identity, language, and sexual orientation or gender identity

Codifying rights must go hand-in-hand with building support systems that help youth thrive. This is where local governments and community come in. We've seen the impact of investments in peer mentorship, extended foster care, youth advisory boards, and housing and workforce programs. These supports:

- Improve permanency outcomes
- Reduce homelessness and justice system involvement
- Increase high school graduation and post-secondary enrollment
- Help young adults build connections and community

By taking a proactive, youth-centered approach to reform, Guam has the opportunity to join other jurisdictions like California, Texas, New York City, and Colorado, which have all recently implemented similar legislation with positive outcomes.

We urge you to pass this legislation and provide Guam's foster youth with the rights and recognition they deserve. The Foster Care Bill of Rights will lay the groundwork for a system that not only protects children but also actively uplifts them. Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to the youth of Guam.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Louve Yao".

Rebecca Louve Yao
CEO
National Foster Youth Institute



Office of the Attorney General Testimony Supporting Bill No. 139-38 (COR)
An Act to Establish the Foster Care Bill of Rights on Guam

Hafa Adai. This Testimony is submitted on behalf of the AG's Office, and our client the People of Guam, in support of the adoption of Bill No. 139-38 (COR), to establish the foster care bill of rights on Guam. The AG's Office and the Family Division within supports this legislation because it aligns with our core mission to protect the welfare of children and ensure justice and fairness for families involved in the foster care system.

Foster children are among the most vulnerable members of our community, and this legislation helps safeguard their well-being by promoting consistent standards of care, reducing trauma, and ensuring that their voices are heard in decisions that impact their lives. This bill also affirms the rights of foster parents – recognizing them as essential partners in child welfare. It guarantees that foster families are treated with respect, kept informed, and provided with the necessary resources and support to fulfill their critical role. By establishing these rights for both children and foster families, Bill No. 139-38 (COR) or the Foster Care Bill of Rights Act strengthens the accountability across the system and foster greater trust between caregivers and the government.

In supporting this legislation, the AG's Office reaffirms the commitment to a child-centered, family-supportive foster care system that promotes stability, respect, and positive outcomes for all those it serves. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this measure.

Respectfully,

Douglas B. Moylan
Attorney General of Guam

Office of the Attorney General
Douglas B. Moylan · Attorney General of Guam



Department of Integrated Services For Individuals with Disabilities



Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
GOVERNOR

Joshua F. Tenorio
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Dipartimento Programa Para I Maninulet

Michelle L. C. Perez
DIRECTOR

May 27, 2025

Honorable Senator Shelly V. Calvo
38th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building,
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

RE: Testimony- Bill 139-38 (COR)

Håfa Adai Chairperson Calvo,

The Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities (DISID) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on Bill No. 139-38 (COR), the Foster Care Bill of Rights Act of 2025.

DISID supports the intent of this legislation to establish clear rights for foster children and foster parents, and we commend the inclusion of specific language that protects against discrimination based on disability. These protections are critical in ensuring that all children, regardless of ability, receive equitable and respectful care in a supportive environment.

While DISID does not directly administer or oversee foster care services on Guam—that responsibility lies with the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), specifically the Bureau of Social Services Administration (BOSSA)—we recognize the importance of cross-agency coordination in protecting vulnerable children. Should the Committee require technical input on disability-related services, accommodations, or accessibility issues as referenced in the bill, DISID is available to collaborate and provide support in that capacity.

Thank you for your commitment to the rights and well-being of Guam’s foster children and families.

Senseramente,

Michelle L.C. Perez
Director, DISID



**Testimony in Support of Bill No. 139-38 (COR):
The Foster Care Bill of Rights Act of 2025**

Submitted to the Honorable Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Majority Whip
Chairperson Committee on Child Welfare & Disability Services
Guam Legislature

By the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

May 22, 2025

Dear Senator Calvo and Members of the Committee on Child Welfare & Disability Services:

On behalf of the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY), I am honored to submit this testimony supporting *Bill No. 139-38 (COR)*, the *Foster Care Bill of Rights Act of 2025*. NAEHCY is a national nonprofit membership organization dedicated to ensuring educational equity, excellence, and opportunities for children and youth experiencing homelessness and other intersecting vulnerabilities, including those impacted by foster care.

We extend our deep appreciation to Senator Shelly V. Calvo for her leadership as Chairperson of the Committee on Child Welfare & Disability Services and for championing this critical legislation. Your commitment to protecting and empowering youth experiencing foster care across Guam is timely and commendable.

The *Foster Care Bill of Rights Act of 2025* establishes a necessary legal framework to uphold the dignity, well-being, and agency of young people in foster care. Legal protections, support systems, and accountability mechanisms are not just administrative measures but lifelines for vulnerable youth. When youth are placed in foster care, they often face profound trauma, instability, and a loss of control over their lives. Legislation that clearly defines their rights, such as access to education, freedom from discrimination, the right to participate in decisions about their care, and access to mental and physical health services, restores a sense of security and reinforces a culture of support and fairness.

These protections matter because youth in foster care are more likely to experience frequent school changes, homelessness, mental health challenges, and interruptions in care. Without codified rights and cross-system collaboration, these vulnerabilities can compound over time, leading to poor education, employment, housing, and health outcomes. Best practices and policies grounded in youth voice, trauma-informed care, and cultural responsiveness are essential to disrupting these cycles and promoting success.

NAEHCY particularly supports the bill's provisions that:

- **Affirm the right of foster youth to be informed participants in their case plans**, ensuring that they are seen, heard, and respected.
- **Guarantee continuity in education and school placement**, recognizing that educational stability is a protective factor and a pathway to long-term success.
- **Mandate protections against discrimination and promote inclusive, culturally responsive care**, especially for LGBTQ+ youth, youth with disabilities, and other underserved populations.
- **Support timely access to services and the development of supportive adult relationships and mentoring opportunities**, which research consistently shows are critical to youth resilience.

NAEHCY stands ready to assist with implementation efforts, including developing educational resources, cross-sector training, and sharing best practices from other U.S. states and territories. We respectfully urge the Committee and the full Legislature to pass *Bill No. 139-38 (COR)* to continue building a future in which all children and youth in Guam's foster care system are guaranteed safety, dignity, and opportunity.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to the young people of Guam. Please feel free to contact NAEHCY if additional assistance or thought partnership are needed to advance this important work.

With respect and gratitude,

Deirdre Lynch Nicholson

Deirdre Lynch Nicholson, J.D.

Executive Director

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth



GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
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LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
MAGA' HĀGAN GUĀILAN
GOVERNOR OF GUAM

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
SEGUNDO MAGA' LAIEN GUĀILAN
LT. GOVERNOR OF GUAM

THERESA C. ARRIOLA, MBA
DIRECTOR

PETERJOHN D. CAMACHO, MPH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

AMANDA LEE SHELTON, MPA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

May 23, 2025

Senator Shelly V. Calvo
Chairperson, Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation,
and Hagåtña Restoration
38th Guam Legislature
Hagatna, Guam 96910

DPHSS Testimony on Bill 139-38 (COR)

Hafa Adai Chairwoman Calvo and members of the 38th Guam Legislature. My name is Theresa C. Arriola, Director of the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS). Thank you for the opportunity to speak on Bill 139-38 (COR) "AN ACT TO ADD NEW §§ 13321.1 AND 13321.2 TO ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2025."

The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) – Division of Children's Wellness Bureau of Social Services Administration (BOSSA) supports the legislative intent of Bill No. 139-38. We recognize that the establishment of a Foster Care Bill of Rights is a critical and necessary step toward reinforcing and safeguarding the rights, well-being, and dignity of both children in foster care and their resource parents. This legislation affirms our collective responsibility to ensure that every child in foster care is treated with respect, provided a safe and nurturing environment, and allowed to thrive.

Guam has 697 children in foster care and partner with 96 licensed foster parents and 216 Kin placements. DPHSS strongly believe further clarification is needed as the bill, in its current form, includes terms not commonly used by the department, conflicts with existing practices and laws, and presents some provisions that are broad and require more precise definition. A copy of DPHSS BOSSA detail recommendations is attached and was provided to your office on May 14.

DPHSS Testimony on Bill 139-38 (COR)

The key recommended edit for the Bill of Rights, is its inclusion in the current Rights and Responsibilities section of the Family Foster Home Licensing Standards, as outlined in 26 GAR. Div 1. Chapter 1. Article 9. Incorporating the Bill of Rights into this section will maintain legal clarity and coherence, ensuring ease of reference and readability.

Separating the proposed Bill of Rights and including it into the Child Protective Act could lead to confusion, as the Child Protective Act primarily addresses the identification, reporting, investigation, adjudication, treatment, and disposition of child abuse or neglect cases. Additionally, as discussed with your staff team, we strongly recommend removing or revising certain line items that conflict with current laws and practices.

If passed into law, DPHSS would require additional staff FTE and funding to ensure that the Bill of Rights is properly implemented specifically with regards to the extensive training it calls for. This is staffing that BOSSA currently does not have.

In conclusion, while we fully support the legislative intent behind Bill No. 139-38 and the establishment of a Foster Care Bill of Rights, we urge careful consideration and the need for additional funding to implement the bill effectively. Addressing the concerns outlined, particularly in terms of clarity, consistency with current practices, and funding, will ensure that the Bill can be successfully enacted and truly benefit children in foster care and their resource parents. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with your office to finalize the necessary edits and ensure the bill aligns with BOSSA's mission to provide quality protective services to children and strengthen their families.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase and thank you for this opportunity to provide input on Bill 139-38.

Respectfully,



THERESA C. ARRIOLA

Director

Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services



Bill No. 139-38 (COR): AN ACT TO ADD NEW §§ 13321.1 AND 13321.2 TO ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2025."

Bill Introduction

Page / Line	Section	Current Description	Amended Description / Question / Edit	Justification
1 / -	-	AN ACT TO ADD NEW §§ 13321.1 AND 13321.2 TO ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2025."	Consider amending the Standard of Family Foster Homes law (26 Gar. Div 1. Chapter 1. Article 9) instead of adding to the Child Protective Act.	Recommend to edit and expand the existing section on Rights and Responsibilities within the Family Foster Home Licensing Standards, as outlined in the GAR rather than creating a new section within the Child Protective Act. The Act primarily addresses the identification, reporting, investigation, adjudication, treatment and disposition of child abuse or neglect cases.

§ 13321.1. Foster Children's Bill of Rights.

Page / Line	Section	Current Description	Amended Description / Question / Edit	Justification
2 / 3	a	The right to appropriate care and treatment in the least restrictive setting available that can meet the child's needs according to the best judgment of the foster parent.	The right to appropriate care and treatment in the least restrictive setting available that can meet the child's needs according to the best judgment of the foster parent parents, caseworker, and court.	Current practice is parents, caseworker, and court.
2 / 8	c	The right to know why the child is in foster care and what will happen to the child and to the child's family, including siblings, and case plans.	The right to know why the child is in foster care and what will happen to the child and to the child's family, including siblings, and case plan in a way that is appropriate based on the child's age.	The added wording is to ensure that information is provided or explained in a manner appropriate to the child's age.

2 / 12	d	The right to, when practicable be placed with a foster family that can accommodate the child's communication needs.	The right to, when practicable be placed with a foster family that can accommodate the child's communication specific needs.	A child should be placed in a foster home that meets all their needs, not just communication.
2 / 13	e	The right to visit and contact family members, unless prohibited by court order.	The right to visit and contact family members, unless prohibited by court order or CPS.	The addition of "CPS" is written in the current law.
2 / 15	f	The right to make and receive confidential telephone calls and send and receive unopened mail, unless prohibited by court order.	The right to make and receive confidential telephone calls and send and receive unopened mail, unless prohibited by court order.	The court or CPS reviews and monitors these communications based on the child's specific case. Therefore, we recommend to remove this section.
2 / 17	g	The right to be disciplined in a manner that is appropriate to the child's level of maturity.	The right to be disciplined in a manner that is appropriate to the child's level of maturity. - What are you considering discipline?	This is too vague and open to varying interpretations of what is considered appropriate. Therefore, we recommend to remove this section.
2 / 19	h	The right to attend community, school and religious services and activities of the child's choice to the extent that it is appropriate for the child, as planned and discussed with the child's placement worker and caseworker and based on caregiver availability if transportation is available through a responsible party.	The right to attend community, school and religious services and activities of the child's choice to the extent that it is appropriate for the child, as planned and discussed with the child's placement worker and caseworker and based on caregiver availability if transportation is available through a responsible party.	Placement worker is not a term used by BOSSA and it is not the role of the "placement worker" to be included in the discussions.
2 / 26	j	The right to training in personal care, hygiene and grooming	The right to training in life skills such as personal care, hygiene and grooming.	Adding "life skills such as" will allow flexibility to cover other essential skills.
3 / 7	l	The right to have personal possessions at home that are not offensive to the foster family and to acquire additional possessions with reasonable limits, as planned and discussed with the child's foster parent, placement worker and case worker, and based on caregiver ability.	The right to have personal possessions at home that are not offensive to the foster family and to acquire additional possessions with reasonable limits, as planned and discussed with the child's foster parent, placement worker and case worker, and based on caregiver ability.	Placement worker is not a term used by BOSSA.
3 / 12	n	The right to healthy foods in healthy portions that are appropriate for the child's age.	The right to healthy foods in healthy portions that are appropriate for the child's age and culture.	The addition of "and culture" ensures the child's dietary needs are met with foods they are familiar with.

3 / 13	o	The right to comply with any approved visitation plan, and to have any restrictions explained to the child in a manner and level of details deemed age appropriate by the foster parent in agreement with the caseworker and documented in the child's record.	The right to comply with any approved visitation plan, under the child's discretion , and to have any restrictions explained to the child in a manner and level of details deemed age appropriate by the foster parent in agreement with the caseworker and documented in the child's record.	The child can decide if they want to or are ready to have visitations with their parents within reason.
3 / 20	q	The right to review his or her own case plan if he or she is over twelve (12) years of age and to receive information about his or her out of home placement and case plan, including being told of changes to the plan.	The right to review and participate or request the Guardian Ad Litem to participate on their behalf on his or her own case plan, to include service plan agreement and permanency plan , if he or she is over twelve (12) 14 years of age and to receive information about his or her out of home placement and case plan, including being told of changes to the plan.	The recommended edits are based on current practice and the current law under the Child Protective Act.
4 / 3	s	The right to participate in age-appropriate child's service planning and permanency planning meetings and to be given a copy or summary of each service plan and service plan review. The child may request someone to participate on the child's behalf or to support the child in this participation.	The right to participate in age-appropriate child's service planning and permanency planning meetings and to be given a copy or summary of each service plan and service plan review. The child may request someone to participate on the child's behalf or to support the child in this participation.	Combined with above statement Q.
4 / 10	u	The right to have the child's records and personal information kept private and discussed only when it is about the child's care except the foster parent shall have full access to the records to determine if the child will be successful in the home. During the foster placement, if the foster parent requests to view the record upon experiencing problems with the child's adjustment, the full record shall be made available for viewing by the foster parent.	The right to have the child's records and personal information kept private and discussed only when it is about the child's care except the foster parent shall have full access to the records to determine if the child will be successful in the home. During the foster placement, if the foster parent requests to view the record upon experiencing problems with the child's adjustment, the full record shall be made available for viewing by the foster parent.	Foster parents do not have full access to a child's record but are provided with necessary information to care for the child.
4 / 17	v	The right to be free of unnecessary or excessive medication.	- What is the intent of this section?	Recommend to be more specific on what types of medications and add that prescribed medications

				must be taken as recommended by the health provider.
4 / 19	w	The right to receive emotional, mental health care or chemical dependency treatment separately from adults who are receiving services, as planned and discussed with the child’s placement worker and caseworker, as is financially reasonable for the foster parent.	The right to receive emotional, mental health care or chemical dependency treatment separately from adults who are receiving services, as planned and discussed with the child’s placement worker and caseworker, as is financially reasonable for the foster parent.	It is understood that children should receive care separately from adults.
4 / 25	x	The right to report a violation of personal rights specified in this section without fear of punishment, interference, coercion or retaliation, except that an appropriate level of punishment may be applied if the child is proven to have maliciously or wrongfully accused the foster parent.	The right to report a violation of personal rights specified in this section without fear of punishment, interference, coercion or retaliation, except that an appropriate level of punishment may be applied if the child is proven to have maliciously or wrongfully accused the foster parent.	The removed words contradict the intended statement of their rights and appropriate steps are taken if the report is proven to be malicious.
5 / 1	y	The right to understand and have a copy of the Foster Children’s Bill of Rights listed in this section. The Foster Children’s Bill of Rights must be posted in a conspicuous place in all secure facilities and/or residential placement facilities.	- What type of placements? Is this including all family foster homes as well?	The way it is written currently does not include family foster homes. If the intention is to include family foster homes, we recommend to not “post it” to promote normalcy in the home, but a copy can be given to the child.

§ 13321.2. Foster Parents’ Bill of Rights

Page / Line	Section	Current Description	Amended Description / Question / Edit	Justification
5 / 12	b	The right to receive information concerning the rights enumerated in this section.	The right to receive information an explanation concerning the rights enumerated in this section.	The recommended edits provide more clarity.
5 / 17	c	The right to a concise written explanation of their role as foster parents in partnership with children and their families, the Department of Public Health & Social Services (“Department”), and other providers; the role of the Department; and	The right to a concise written explanation of their role as foster parents in partnership with children and their families, the Department of Public Health & Social Services (“Department”), and other providers; the role of the Department; and	The edited description follows current practice.

		the rights and role of the members of the birth family of a child in foster care.	the rights and role of the members of the birth family of a child in foster care.	
5 / 19	d	The right to training and support for the purpose of improving skills in providing daily care and meeting the needs of the child in foster care.	- Will there be additional funding to BOSSA for these trainings?	BOSSA agrees to this right however the fiscal impact to implement the trainings need to be addressed.
5 / 22	e	The right to training, consultation, and assistance in evaluating, identifying, and accessing services to meet their needs related to their role as foster care providers.	The right to training, consultation, and assistance in evaluating, identifying, and accessing services to meet their needs related to their role as foster care providers.	Redundant as written in (d). Therefore, we recommend to remove this section.
6 / 10	h	The right to a written explanation of the plan concerning the placement of a child in the foster parent's home. For emergency placements where time does not allow prior preparation of the explanation, the Department shall provide such explanation within seventy-two (72) hours. Prior to placement, the Department shall allow the foster parent to review a written summary of information concerning the child, including, but not limited to, assessments, evaluations, and case plans, and allow the foster parent to assist in determining if the child would be a proper placement for the prospective foster family. For emergency placements where time does not allow prior review of the information, the Department shall provide the information within seventy-two (72) hours of placement. Confidential information shall be kept confidential by the foster parents, except as determined through the individualized service plan (ISP) process to promote the health and welfare of the child.	The right to a written explanation of the plan concerning the placement of a child in the foster parent's home. For emergency placements where time does not allow prior preparation of the explanation, the Department shall provide such explanation within seventy-two (72) hours. Prior to placement, the Department shall allow the foster parent to review a written summary of information concerning the child, including, but not limited to, assessments, evaluations, and case plans, and allow the foster parent to assist in determining if the child would be a proper placement for the prospective foster family. For emergency placements where time does not allow prior review of the information, the Department shall provide the information within seventy-two (72) hours of placement. Confidential information shall be kept confidential by the foster parents, except as determined through the individualized service plan (ISP) process to promote the health and welfare of the child.	It is not current practice for a written explanation; a verbal explanation is provided to the foster parent. In emergency placements, the immediate plan is always to ensure placement and care of the child because plans are developed as the case progresses.
6 / 25	i	The right to a staff member representing the Department	The right to a staff member representing the Department	Recommend to be specific to BOSSA assistance and not departmental assistance.

		on call twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven days a week, for the purpose of aiding the foster parent in receiving departmental assistance.	on call twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven days a week, for the purpose of aiding the foster parent in receiving departmental assistance. - The department or BOSSA specific services? Currently a social worker has a phone that is available on call during the weekends only.	Current practice is a staff is available during business days as well as after hours, on weekends, and holidays.
7 / 1	j	The right to fair and equitable board payments based on a system of daily board rates and other financial reimbursement as specified in a plan adopted by the Department after consultation with foster parents, subject to the availability of funds.	The right to fair and equitable board payments based on a system of daily board rates and other financial reimbursement as specified in a plan adopted by the Department after consultation with foster parents; foster care maintenance payments fair and equitable board payments based on a system of daily board rates and other financial reimbursement as specified in a plan adopted by the Department after consultation with foster parents; subject to the availability of funds.	The correct term is “foster care maintenance payments.”
7 / 6	k	The right to accept or refuse placement within their home, or to request, upon reasonable notice to the Department, the removal of a child from their home for good cause without threat of reprisal for acting on such good cause.	The right to accept or refuse placement within their home, or to request, upon reasonable notice to the Department, the removal of a child from their home for good cause without threat of reprisal for acting on such good cause.	The stricken words are too vague and open to varying interpretations. Current practice is 2-week notifications unless in emergency situations requiring immediate removal.
7 / 11	l	The right to information of scheduled meetings and appointments concerning the foster child and permission for the foster parent to actively participate in and provide input to be used by the ISP team in the case planning and decision making process regarding the child in foster care, including, but not limited to, individual service planning meetings, foster care reviews, individual educational planning meetings, and medical appointments.	The right to information of scheduled meetings and appointments concerning the foster child and permission for the foster parent to actively participate in and provide input to be used by the ISP team in the case planning and decision-making process regarding the child in foster care, including, but not limited to, individual service planning meetings, foster care reviews, individual educational planning meetings, and medical appointments.	ISP team is not a term used by BOSSA and Foster parents have a right to be heard however final decision making process is made by the child’s caseworker, Guardian Ad Litem, parents, and judge.
7 / 16	m	The right to request that a person or persons serve as a volunteer advocate and to be present at all meetings with the Department, including, but not	The right to request that a person or persons serve as a volunteer advocate and to be present at all meetings with the Department, including, but not	It is not current practice that foster parents have advocates. Foster parents are able to hire their own attorneys however the court would need to

		limited to, individualized service planning, administrative hearings, the grievance/mediation process, the adoption process, and the allegation process where the foster parent is present. All communications received by the volunteer advocate shall be in strict confidence.	limited to, individualized service planning, administrative hearings, the grievance/mediation process, the adoption process, and the allegation process where the foster parent is present. All communications received by the volunteer advocate shall be in strict confidence.	approve the attorney attending the hearing due to confidentiality.
7 / 24	n	The right to notice and an opportunity to be heard, including timely information concerning all court hearings. This notification may include, but is not limited to, notice of the date and time of the court hearing, the name of the judge or hearing officer assigned to the case, the guardian ad litem, the location of the hearing, and the court docket number. The notification shall be made upon receipt of this information by the Department. Although not a party to the case, the foster parent may attend court hearings at the discretion of the judge.	The right to notice and an opportunity to be heard, including timely information concerning all court hearings. This notification may include, but is not limited to, notice of the date and time of the court hearing, the name of the judge or hearing officer assigned to the case, the guardian ad litem, the location of the hearing, and the court docket number. The notification shall be made upon receipt of this information by the Department. Although not a party to the case, the foster parent may attend court hearings at the discretion of the judge.	We recommend to remove the stricken-out words because the notice and its information are provided by the court. BOSSA forwards the notice to the foster parent.
8 / 9	p	The right to communicate with the child's birth family, other foster parents of the child, and prospective and finalized adoptive parents of the child with ISP team approval and without the threat of reprisal.	The right to communicate with the child's birth family, other foster parents of the child, and prospective and finalized adoptive parents of the child with caseworker ISP team approval and facilitation and without the threat of reprisal.	ISP team is not a term used by BOSSA and current practice is that the caseworker also facilitates communication between the child's parents and foster parents.
8 / 16	r	The right to first consideration as the resource for a child in a foster parent's home who becomes free for adoption or another planned permanent living arrangement.	The right to first priority consideration as the resource for a child in a foster parent's home who becomes free for adoption or another planned permanent living arrangement if the child was in the home for at least 12 months.	The added wording is written in the current law.
8 / 22	t	The right to information, in person and in writing, of any allegations of maltreatment of children in the home of the foster parent alleged to have been perpetrated by a member of the foster parent's household, the process for disposition of these	The right to information, in person and in writing, of any allegations of maltreatment of children in the home of the foster parent alleged to have been perpetrated by a member of the foster parent's household, the process for disposition of these	The investigation of child abuse and neglect is confidential. BOSSA would take immediate steps to ensure the safety of the child including removal.

		allegations, and any review process for reports of indicated child abuse and neglect upon receipt of the allegations.	allegations, and any review process for reports of indicated child abuse and neglect upon receipt of the allegations.	
9 / 1	u	The right to be provided a fair and timely investigation of complaints concerning the operation of a foster home.	- What is the intent of this section?	This section is too vague on what type of complaints. Further clarification is needed,
9 / 7	x	The right to mediation procedures that may be developed and adopted by the Department. The foster parent may request mediation in accordance with any mediation policy adopted by the Department without threat of reprisal.	- Mediation for what purpose? Current law states that DPHSS Director has final authority in regards to licensing.	DPHSS Director has final authority in regards to licensing as written in current law.
9 / 11	y	The right to appeal the closing of a foster family home by the Department in accordance with any appeal procedure adopted by the Department without threat of reprisal.	- Current law states that DPHSS Director has final authority in regards to licensing.	DPHSS Director has final authority in regards to licensing as written in current law.
9 / 14	z	The right to not be discriminated against on the basis of religion, race, color, creed, sex, national origin, age or physical disability.	- Consider moving this section to (b)	This section would flow better if moved to letter (b).
9 / 17	aa	The right to receive an evaluation on the foster parent's performance.	The right to receive an evaluation on the foster parent's performance.	This is not current practice. Foster family homes are re-evaluated during licensing renewal based on the licensing standards.

Office of Senator
SHELLY V. CALVO

MAJORITY WHIP & CHAIRPERSON

Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens,
 Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture,
 Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration




I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THE 38TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

Guam Congress Building
 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
 officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov
 (671) 989-5682/3

COMMITTEE VOTING SHEET

Bill No. 139-38 (COR), As Amended - Shelly V. Calvo, Therese M. Terlaje, William A. Parkinson, V. Anthony Ada, Vincent A. V. Borja, Sabrina Salas Matanane, Joe S. San Agustin, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, and Sabina Flores Perez - AN ACT TO ADD NEW §§ 13321.1 AND 13321.2 TO ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2025".

COMMITTEE ON CHILD WELFARE & DISABILITY SERVICES	SIGNATURE AND DATE	TO DO PASS	TO NOT PASS	TO REPORT OUT ONLY	TO ABSTAIN	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE
CALVO, SHELLY V. Chairperson	 7/11/25	✓				
ADA, V. ANTHONY Vice-Chairperson	E-Vote 7/11/25	✓				
BLAS, Jr., FRANK F. Member						
DUEÑAS, CHRISTOPHER M. Member	E-Vote 7/11/25			✓		
BORJA, VINCENT A. V. Member	E-Vote 7/11/25	✓				
BARNETT, CHRIS Member	E-Vote 7/11/25	✓				
PARKINSON, WILLIAM A. Member	E-Vote 7/11/25	✓				



Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

REQUEST FOR E-VOTE - COMMITTEE REPORT on Bill No. 139-38 (COR), As Amended

6 messages

Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

Fri, Jul 11, 2025 at
9:40 AM

To: "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, "Speaker Frank F. Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Vince Borja <vince.borja@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Darrel Christopher Barnett <malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator William Parkinson <senator.parkinson@guamlegislature.gov>

Håfa Adai Committee Members,

Please see attached Committee Report on **Bill No.139-38 (COR) As Amended**, Introduced by Shelly V. Calvo, Therese M. Terlaje, William A. Parkinson, V. Anthony Ada, Vincent A. V. Borja, Sabrina Salas Matanane, Joe S. San Agustin, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Sabina Flores Pere - **"AN ACT TO ADD NEW §§ 13321.1 AND 13321.2 TO ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2025"."**

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 Committee Vote Sheet for **Bill No.139-38 (COR) As Amended**. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Respectfully,



Office of the People • Senator Shelly V. Calvo

Majority Whip & Chairwoman

Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration

38th Guam Legislature

163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T +1 (671) 989-5682

E officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov

COMMITTEE REPORT - Bill No. 139-38 (COR) As Amended.pdf
15142K

Senator William Parkinson <senator.parkinson@guamlegislature.gov>

Fri, Jul 11, 2025 at 9:43 AM

To: Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, "Speaker Frank F. Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Vince Borja <vince.borja@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Darrel Christopher Barnett <malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov>

Hafa adai,

To do pass.

[Quoted text hidden]

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—

Respectfully,



Office of Senator William A. Parkinson | 38th Guam Legislature
Suite 905, DNA Building, 238 Archbishop FC Flores St, Hagåtña,
96910, Guam
(671) 989-1101 | senator.parkinson@guamlegislature.gov

Senator Darrel Christopher Barnett <malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov>

Fri, Jul 11, 2025 at 9:47 AM

To: Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>

Hafa Adai

To do pass.



The Office of Senator Chris Barnett

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Suite 202 · Calvo- Arriola Building · 259 Martyr St. · Hagåtña, Guam 96910
(671)969-3586 · malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov

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On Fri, Jul 11, 2025 at 9:41 AM Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

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

Fri, Jul 11, 2025 at 10:48 AM

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

To: officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov

Cc: vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov, speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov, senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov, malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov, senator.parkinson@guamlegislature.gov, officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov

Hafa Adai!

To do pass.

Thank you.

Best regards,



Office of Senator Vince Borja
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Lihenslaturan Guåhan 38th Guam Legislature
Suite 502, DNA Building
238 Archbishop Felixberto Chamacho Flores St, Hagåtña, GU 96910
(671)969-8423
office.senatorborja@guamlegislature.gov

[Quoted text hidden]

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

Fri, Jul 11, 2025 at 11:31 AM

To: Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>
 Cc: "Speaker Frank F. Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Vince Borja <vince.borja@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Darrel Christopher Barnett <malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator William Parkinson <senator.parkinson@guamlegislature.gov>

TO DO PASS

On Fri, Jul 11, 2025 at 9:41 AM Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

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Office of Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada
 38th Guam Legislature
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Lihenslaturan Guåhan
 Guam Congress Building, 2nd Floor
 163 Chalan Santo Papa
 Hagåtña, Guam 96910
Phone: (671) 989-0855
Email: vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov

[Quoted text hidden]

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

Fri, Jul 11, 2025 at 1:48 PM

To: "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>
 Cc: Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, "Speaker Frank F. Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Vince Borja <vince.borja@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Darrel Christopher Barnett <malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator William Parkinson <senator.parkinson@guamlegislature.gov>

To report out only



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

7/11/25, 2:10 PM

Guam Legislature Mail - REQUEST FOR E-VOTE - COMMITTEE REPORT on Bill No. 139-38 (COR), As Amended

[Quoted text hidden]



COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

Bill No. 139-38 (COR), As Amended – AN ACT TO ADD NEW §§ 13321.1 AND 13321.2 TO ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE “FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2025”.

I. OVERVIEW

Bill No. 139 38 (COR) was introduced on **May 8, 2025**, by **Senator Shelly V. Calvo** and co-sponsors **Senator Therese M. Terlaje**, **Senator William A. Parkinson**, **Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada**, **Senator Vincent A. V. Borja**, **Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane**, **Senator Joe S. San Agustin**, **Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes**, and **Senator Sabina Flores Perez**. The bill was subsequently referred to the Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration (Committee) on **May 15, 2025**.

The Committee convened a public hearing on **Friday, May 23, 2025, at 9:00 AM** in the Guam Legislature Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building. Among the agenda items was **Bill No. 139-38 (COR)**.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Public Hearing notices were disseminated via email to all Senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on **May 16, 2025**, and again on **May 21, 2025**, fulfilling the 5-Day Notice and 48-Hour Notice, respectively, of the Open Government Law requirement.

SENATORS PRESENT

Senator Shelly V. Calvo, *Chairperson*
Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, *Vice Chairperson*
Senator Vincent Anthony V. Borja, *Member*
Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

APPEARED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

Rebecca Louve Yao, *Chief Executive Officer, National Foster Youth Institute*
Carol Hinkle-Sanchez, *Managing Attorney, Civil Law Center/Elder Justice Center*
Theresa C. Arriola, *Director, Guam Department of Public Health & Social Services*
Cherelle Mickens, *Acting Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General*

SUBMITTED WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Rebecca Louve Yao, *Chief Executive Officer, National Foster Youth Institute*

Theresa C. Arriola, *Director, Guam Department of Public Health & Social Services*

Douglas B. Moylan, *Attorney General of Guam, Office of the Attorney General*

Deirdre Lynch Nicholson, J.D., *Executive Director, National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth*

Carol Hinkle-Sanchez, *Managing Attorney, Civil Law Center/Elder Justice Center*

Michelle L.C. Perez, *Director, Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities*

II. TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo returned from recess, called to order at 10:42 AM the public hearing for **Bill No. 139-38 (COR)**, provided general rules of conduct for attendees, and proceeded to provide opening remarks as the prime sponsor of the bill:

Buenas yan Håfa Adai, everyone—colleagues, stakeholders, and members of the public. Thank you for joining us today for this important discussion in improving protections for foster youth in Guam. Bill No. 139-38 (COR), the “Foster Care Bill of Rights Act of 2025,” establishes a formal set of safeguards for foster children and the families who care for them.

This legislation ensures that foster youth are provided a secure and supportive environment with clearly defined legal protections that affirm their dignity and well-being. By enshrining these rights into law, we create a framework that enables policymakers to expand services such as the Chafee Education and Training Voucher (ETV program), supporting foster youth as they prepare for adulthood.

I’m working alongside the Chief Children’s Services Administrator of the Division of Children’s Wellness under the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services Bureau of Social Services Administration (BOSSA), to refine this measure. This collaboration ensures that the bill aligns with existing operational guidelines within Guam’s foster care system, reinforcing practical implementation.

Additionally, I am coordinating with my legislative colleagues to fortify the measure by clarifying legal mechanisms that enable foster children and caregivers to assert their rights when necessary. This bill has gained strong backing from national organizations including the National Foster Youth Institute. Today we are fortunate to be joined via Zoom by the Institute’s CEO, Ms. Rebecca Louve Yao, who will offer valuable insights on fostering best practices nationwide. Her perspective will help guide discussions on how to ensure Guam’s foster care policies are consistent with effective models across the country.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to my co-sponsors who share the commitment in strengthening protections and expanding opportunities for our foster youth. Their support demonstrates the shared responsibility we hold in shaping policies that uplift and empower our community's most vulnerable children. With this legislation, we have an opportunity to enhance Guam's foster care system, ensuring that children in care receive the stability, security, and advocacy they need. I look forward to today's discussions and collective effort which is required to bring this initiative to life. *Si yu'os ma'åse*, and thank you.

Later on, I will expand on the Chafee ETV Program. [Essentially] it's a scholarship for [foster] youth, [one] which we aim [for Guam] to participate [in]. [Guam is] the only [U.S. jurisdiction] that's not [participating in Chafee ETV program] at the moment. So, I'm going to expand more on this program [later since] this is one of the things that our office is working on for our vulnerable population and children here in Guam.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo opened the floor for testimonies and recognized Rebecca Louve Yao, who appeared remotely from Washington, D.C., before the Committee via Zoom.

Rebecca Louve Yao, Chief Executive Officer, National Foster Youth Institute, thanked Chairperson Calvo and Senators present, introduced herself and provided her testimony:

On behalf of the National Foster Youth Institute (NFYI), I submit this testimony in strong support of Bill No. 139-38 (COR), the "Foster Care Bill of Rights of 2025."

NFYI is a nonprofit dedicated to ensuring that current and former foster youth who are at the center of efforts to improve the systems that impact their lives. We work in partnership with young people, policymakers, and communities across the United States, including territories, to create a child welfare system that offers dignity, opportunity, and lasting support to children and families.

As a parent, I see in the "Foster Care Bill of Rights [of 2025]" the respect, dignity, and hope for bright futures that I have for my own children. As a former foster youth myself, I see a chance to be seen, heard, and cared for in ways I once longed for. NFYI commends Senator Shelly Calvo and the members of this body for introducing legislation that centers the voices and rights of children and youth in foster care.

Enshrining a Foster Care Bill of Rights into law is a crucial step towards building a more accountable, equitable, and supportive system—one that affirms that young people in care are not just passive recipients of services, but individuals with autonomy, voice, and the right to be heard and protected. At NFYI, we say that foster youth are not someone else's children; they're all of our children.

This bill is a commitment to take care of Guam's children. Youth in foster care face unique challenges, including trauma, isolation, and the loss of familiar and cultural connections. Without strong supports, the challenges may not end when they leave foster care.

In the [United States], one in five (1 in 5) former foster youth will experience homelessness. By the age of twenty-four (24), only half will have a job. A quarter will be incarcerated within two (2) years of aging out. And while eighty-four percent (84%) dream of going to college, only four percent (4%) will go on to earn a four-year degree.

The rate of foster youth who experience [post-traumatic stress disorder] (PTSD) is double that of war veterans. Legal protections, when codified and enforced, create clarity and consistency in how system serves young people and have lasting impact on lives and their communities.

A clearly defined foster youth bill of rights communicates that no matter where a young person is placed, they are guaranteed access to basic necessities. Through research from experts and listening sessions with young adults, we have found that to achieve better long-term outcomes for young adults as they transition out of care, it's crucial to provide foster youth with the right to be safe and free from abuse, access to quality education, consistent and equitable access to physical and mental health services, the ability to participate in their own case planning, the right to visit with family and maintain community connections, respect for their cultural identity, identity, language, and sexual orientation or gender identity.

Codifying rights must go hand in hand with building support systems that help you thrive. This is where local governments and communities come in. We've seen the impact of investments in peer mentorship, extended foster care, youth advisory boards, and housing and workforce programs. These supports improve permanency outcomes, reduce homeless rate homelessness and justice and justice system involvement, increase high school graduation and post-secondary enrollment, and help young adults build connections and communities by taking proactive youth centered approach to reform.

Guam has the opportunity to join other jurisdictions like California, Texas, New York, and Colorado, which have all recently implemented similar legislation with positive outcomes. We urge you to pass the legislation and provide Guam's foster youth with the rights and recognition they deserve. The Foster Youth Bill of Rights will lay the groundwork for a system that not only protects children, but also actively uplifts them. Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to the youth of Guam.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo thanked Ms. Yao, and recognized her colleagues – Vice Chairperson V. Anthony, Senator Vincent Anthony V. Borja, and Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao – before proceeding with her questions for Ms. Yao.

So, national best practices. I know that codifying rights must go hand in hand with building support systems that help foster youth thrive. Given the National Foster Youth Institute's experience working with jurisdictions—as you mentioned earlier: California, Texas, Colorado, and New York—what specific strategies or programs have proven most effective in ensuring that foster youth not only have legal protections, but also access to meaningful opportunities for education, housing, and workforce development? How can Guam best implement these approaches to maximize positive outcomes for our foster youth?

Rebecca Louve Yao, *Chief Executive Officer, National Foster Youth Institute*, responded:

That's such a great and important question. I'd like to start by saying that I think one of the key steps forward is—if you don't already have one—a really robust youth advisory board working alongside young adults and having young adults be trained in policy development and design that's working with decision makers. That is really key to having the success of any program.

We see time and time again that when young people are involved in co-designing programs and services that they are more engaged in those services and those services are more designed to meet the needs of young people. I will also say that NFYI's youth membership have talked a lot about mentorship programs really being key to helping them gain employment, education, social mobility, learning some really key life skills. There are a lot of college campuses that have created pathways into campus support programs.

So, [it's important to] engag[e] foster youth in junior high and high schools and having conversations about college and trade school, making sure that their college and high school credits are transferable into other schools. Oftentimes, young people are moving schools or behind on credits is another area of improvement. And really allowing and utilizing, as you were saying, some of the Chafee dollars that can support young adults into trade schools or apprenticeship programs is also really key.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo thanked Ms. Yao, and proceeded with her next question:

My next question is [in regards] to addressing long-term challenges. Earlier, Ms. Yao's testimony highlighted the alarming statistics on foster youth outcomes, including homelessness, unemployment, and incarceration. What proactive measures can Guam take to mitigate these risks and provide foster youth with stronger pathways to stability and success?

Rebecca Louve Yao, Chief Executive Officer, National Foster Youth Institute, responded:

I would say a couple of things. Looking at the child welfare system and young people and not just maybe addressing one issue at a time, but looking at a cadre of issues. So, ensuring that foster youth have access to quality culturally appropriate and responsive mental health services is going to be really important.

So, talk therapy – I’m a licensed clinical therapist – is really important, but also having access to alternative mental health, art therapy, and somatic therapy is also really helpful. Ensuring that foster youth are able to transition into supportive housing and have access to livable-wage jobs, college, and other opportunities is also going to be really critical. The average age of individuals moving out of their parents’ house is twenty-six (26) [years old] and yet many foster youth are expected to be fully independent at eighteen (18).

So, working with young people in Guam that are in care to identify what are the support services and skills that they really need to be able to work towards independence is going to be really key. And then having those support networks that allow normative adolescent behaviors that doesn’t jeopardize housing or employment is also really important. The justice system is also really important. Many of the young people in foster care are facing the justice system and juvenile justice system as a result of lack of placement or really normal adolescent behavior that biological families would not necessarily get police involved.

So, some of the things our young people have talked about is training and working closely with police units to really train them about working with young people, particularly foster youth, having social workers rather than police dispatched when foster homes or group homes are in need of support to deal with crisis work as well. And I would say starting really young at allowing young people to learn independent living skills in normative ways that other young people. So being able to get a job at sixteen (16) if they want, learning how to cook and clean and do the things [such as] money management; that’s a lot parents are teaching their children, as opposed to just going to a class and getting a booklet that doesn’t really connect to their everyday life. Creating independent living programs that allow young people to experience independent living skills on a daily basis is going to be really important for them being able to apply those skills when they are older.

But the big piece is having access to affordable rent and livable wage jobs is going to be really critical. And then having the community like mentorship programs – CASA programs – and access to family are going to be really important to help young people thrive throughout their young adulthood.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo thanked Ms. Yao, and proceeded with her next question:

My next question is [in] regards to legal protections, which are most effective when they are enforceable. So, how do we strengthen enforcement mechanisms? What recommendations do you have for ensuring that foster youth and caregivers can effectively exercise their rights under this bill? Are there enforcement models from other jurisdictions that Guam should consider?

Rebecca Louve Yao, Chief Executive Officer, National Foster Youth Institute, stated in response:

Yeah, I know the state of California has a foster care ombudsman hotline. So, if a foster youth in California feels that their rights are being violated, they can call the foster care ombudsman office and they will do an investigation and then do a report back to the state of California around that investigation or in other cases get other people involved.

If young people in Guam have access to attorneys, I think really training attorneys and social workers on the Foster Youth Bill of Rights and what are the rights of foster youth and foster parents is really critical so that foster youth know to go to their attorney and or social worker and have conversations about their rights.

And I also think part of having the Foster Care Bill of Rights is important to have young people educated about what those rights are, but also what do they do if their rights are being violated and what is the anticipated outcome that could happen. Is that moving placement? Is that maybe having the family receive the foster parents receive family counseling? Like what are some options so that young people are really aware of what happens if they come forward? Particularly for young people living with family, sometimes coming forward when their rights are being violated, they can feel like they're betraying their family. But if they're more educated around what will happen and how that family could possibly be supported without a placement disruption, you're more likely to see young people come forward when their rights are violated.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo thanked Ms. Yao, and proceeded with her next question:

My next question involves community and government collaboration. Ms. Yao's testimony earlier emphasized the importance of local governments and communities in building support systems for foster youth. What role should Guam's nonprofit organizations, businesses, and educational institutions play in complementing the protections outlined in this bill?

Rebecca Louve Yao, Chief Executive Officer, National Foster Youth Institute, responded:

They're the implementers of the bill, I think, right? So, it's really critical that they're aware of it, that they're making sure that foster youth themselves know about it, and that, again, they know how to access their rights and where to go if their rights are being violated.

I think it's also really important for nonprofits to have their own youth advisory boards and pulling in youth voices and alumni voices in the creation of their programs and making sure that their programs are also in line with supportive services for young people. It really is a partnership to raise children. Most parents—I'm a parent myself—I rely on a community of individuals that I trust and are a part of my village that helps raise children. And in the case of foster youth, the government and nonprofit service providers is our community. And so, how can that community do a better job of communicating with each other and coming together to figure out where the gaps of services are to meet the needs of the young people that's really centered on the young people's voice and their direction—on what's best for their lives?

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo thanked Ms. Yao, and continued with her next question:

My next question is interesting because we live in a multicultural and a very diverse community, so cultural considerations in foster care is also important factor. Ms. Yao's testimony highlights the importance of respecting cultural identity, language, and gender identity in foster care. How can Guam ensure that the Foster Care Bill of Rights reflect the unique cultural and familiar dynamics of our island community?

Rebecca Louve Yao, Chief Executive Officer, National Foster Youth Institute, responded:

That's such an important question and it's something that NFYI members and staff have talked a lot about—the loss of culture, language, sibling connectedness, extended family relationships. I think any [Foster Care] Bill of Rights can be strengthened by adding a right for young people to practice their cultural holidays, rituals, religions, and a right for them to be able to see siblings and other extended family members when it's safe to do so. And, of course, the court would need to determine safety issues. But if family is safe, young people should spend as much time as they can with [their family] and [we must] mak[e] sure that they are really connected to their culture at any opportunity that they have.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo thanked Ms. Yao, and continued with her last question:

What we're trying to do [with this bill] is codify [the Foster Care Bill of Rights], right, this is the foundational step and that's why we must implement this and pass this bill. But after passing this bill, we need to expand support. We need to think into expanding support beyond the codified rights. So, Ms. Rebecca [Yao], what additional legislative or policy initiatives should Guam pursue to further strengthen services for foster youth, particularly in areas like education, housing, and workforce development?

Rebecca Louve Yao, Chief Executive Officer, National Foster Youth Institute, thanked Chairperson Calvo for the question and responded:

I would recommend that the first step would be to create a youth commission similar to the what Los Angeles did so that you have a group of diverse foster youth alumni that are really helping to center and identify the programs and services that would best support the youth in Guam.

I'm not sure if [Guam has] extended foster care, but I think that's another great step of extending foster care to the age of twenty-one (21), so that when young people turn eighteen (18), they continue to have a social worker, services, and the court to look in and make sure that they have what they need. Workforce development programs and access to quality education that can help lead into higher education or apprenticeships is another great next step as well. So, access to tutoring that meets the needs of the young people and making sure that young people are in classes that are really there to help them reach their educational and career goals.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo thanked Ms. Yao, and opened the floor to her colleagues for questions.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao thanked Chairperson Calvo, extended his appreciation to Ms. Yao for her testimony, and proceeded with his question:

I just wanted to ask if you could share with us here—we are well aware of the states that do have a Foster Children Bill of Rights policy and a Foster Parent Bill of Rights policy, but are you also tracking any other pieces of legislation that are trying to accomplish what we're doing here in Guam?

Rebecca Louve Yao, Chief Executive Officer, National Foster Youth Institute, asked for clarification whether Senator Gumataotao question pertains to states that have a Foster Care Bill of Rights or states that are looking at foster youth legislation in general.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao restated his question:

Are there other states that are currently [] doing something very similar to what we're doing here in the U.S. territory [of Guam]?

Rebecca Louve Yao, Chief Executive Officer, National Foster Youth Institute, responded:

Well, I know that California, Texas, New York, and Colorado all have Foster Care Bill of Rights that are implemented and young people know about them, and social workers have to review the Bill of Rights with them on a regular basis. I can follow up with you and find out if there are any other states that are drafting Bill of Rights for foster youth and get that information over to you [] later today.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao thanked Ms. Yao and Chairperson Calvo.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo thanked Senator Gumataotao and extended “a big *un dangkulu na si yu’os ma’ãse*” to Ms. Yao for her testimony.

Rebecca Louve Yao, Chief Executive Officer, National Foster Youth Institute, responded:

Absolutely; anything that NFYI can do to be supportive, please use us as a resource. I appreciate you reaching out and this is a great piece of legislation. Thank you for having me.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo stated that she sincerely appreciates Ms. Yao’s gracious support, and opened the floor to other individuals who signed up to provide testimony.

Carol Hinkle-Sanchez, Managing Attorney, Civil Law Center/Elder Justice Center, greeted the Senators and addressed the following remarks to Senator Gumataotao:

Just to answer [Senator Gumataotao’s] question: there are twenty-nine (29) states including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico that have actual Foster Care Bill of Rights within those states.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao clarified that he was inquiring about states that are currently trying to codify a Foster Care Bill of Rights.

Carol Hinkle-Sanchez, Managing Attorney, Civil Law Center/Elder Justice Center, stated that she is aware of multiple jurisdictions that are amending or supplementing their code, to which Senator Gumataotao responded with his appreciation for the information. Attorney Hinkle-Sanchez introduced herself and proceeded to provide her testimony:

Many of you who know my experience know that I’ve always held children dear and dear to my heart. Prior to my work here at the Civil Law Center for two and a half (2 ½) years, I represented the Child Protective Service Agency for sixteen (16) years at the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) as a Deputy Attorney General; so, it’s always something that is going to be a priority in the work that I do as a public servant to the island.

I do that because the work and investment in our children today will impact us positively tomorrow. They are the future generations, they're our future leaders, they are the future workforce for the island. So, what we do for them today impacts how tomorrow looks. And so, that's why the work that is being done with children is always going to be something important to me.

At the Civil Law Center, we also started to handle the juvenile special proceedings matters as guardian ad litem, which is why there are going to be some minor amendments that we will be asking to be added on to which I've already to Senator Shelly Calvo to look at and discuss at the markup, but basically we do support this legislation.

We believe that this legislation ensures the overall safety, the well-being, and the welfare of the children that are before the court that are in the foster care system. And it also empowers the foster parents who we have had a hard time getting. We've always had [difficulty finding foster parents] and it's always been an issue for the sixteen (16) years that I was at the OAG and prior to that, and [to this day it remains an issue]. So, we want to empower them and make them know that they hold a really key and integral part in our whole entire juvenile justice system when it comes to these types of cases.

The Foster Care Bill of Rights was a result of the Federal Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First Act) which was enacted in 2018. It was part of the overhaul to the child welfare system. At that time I know that the feds constantly look at this issue [and] make the needed changes because there are changes that have been done under the [Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act] (CAPTA) to ensure the safety of the children and to ensure that children are provided with a stable nurturing home in an efficient time in a timely manner because the longer we have a child in the system, the longer we have a family in the system, it becomes disruptive. So, you want stability and this is just part of that welfare reform that they had and, like I mentioned, many states have enacted this type of legislation to align themselves with the Family First Act.

There are twenty-nine (29) states, also the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico – and now Guam joins in that [movement] trying to get this bill moved forward. So, it is a movement that's made across the U.S. jurisdictions.

The foster care system has always served as an integral part [of the child welfare system] and we want to be able to show [the foster children and foster parents] that we respect them. We're affording them that dignity that they have, because they do play a part in this system and there are some things that they may not be able to be aware of because our juvenile justice system is also confidential. The nature of these cases are highly sensitive, confidential.

So, we also want to preserve those rights under the Child Protective Act (19 GCA § 13100 *et seq.*) And that's the only additions that I've asked for in the amendments – in the actual bill that I've modified – to ensure the [incorporation of] some of the things that we are asking for where it's in line with the provisions of the Child Protective Act to preserve confidentiality of records and also to preserve the interest of the children.

When I say that, I'm talking about having a child attend a public hearing. Of course, we're going to look at [] the best interest of the child, right, so we would want to defer to any court order. It doesn't mean that we can't say like if the child wants to be present but we don't think at the hearing we can ask the judge to do an in-chamber with the child so that the child can express whatever interest they have – but those are the amendments that I did submit.

On Guam, we have almost seven hundred (700) children in the foster care system – that's a big number. And so, knowing that, we want to make sure that these children that end up in foster care understand what their rights are. They [must] understand that they deserve everything any other kid has. They deserve an education, the same as any child living on Guam. Whether they're foster kids or not, they deserve that same education, that same mental health service, that same support service that's offered to every child living on Guam.

With that said, of course, I believe this legislation empowers the foster care system, the foster families, the foster children that are before the system. It also gives them an active role in the system. They'll be able to at least engage more or know that they can engage more in the system.

So, that's the position of the Civil Law Center. We support this bill. We believe that it does serve the best interest of the public and so our office supports it and we'll continue to work with you, Senator Shelly [Calvo], and all the co-sponsors with any types of amendments needed.

What I also included though, on the enforceability side – I know that was brought up in one of your questions to the earlier presenter. I did include language on enforceability. I think that with any Bill of Rights, [] we're not looking at any type of criminal sanctions or any type of that. We're just looking at the enforceability, ensuring that they get that relief. And so, those are things that can be brought before the actual case itself versus bringing an actual lawsuit, it can just be brought before the actual juvenile court that's handling the particular case and addressed in that situation.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo thanked Attorney Hinkle-Sanchez, who had to leave the public hearing due to an appointment, and proceeded to recognize Theresa C. Arriola.

Theresa C. Arriola, Director, Guam Department of Public Health & Social Services, greeted the Senators, introduced herself, thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak on the bill, and began her testimony:

The Department of Public Health and Social Services (Department, DPHSS), the Division of Children’s Wellness, and the Bureau of Social Services Administration (BOSSA) support the legislative intent of Bill No. 139-38 (COR).

We recognize the establishment of the Foster Care Bill of Rights is a critical and necessary step toward reinforcing and safeguarding the rights, well-being, dignity of both children in foster care and their resource parents. This legislation affirms our collective responsibility to ensure that every child in foster care is treated with respect, provided a safe and nurturing environment, and allowed to thrive.

Guam today has six hundred ninety-seven (697) children in foster care, and partners with ninety-six (96) licensed foster parents and two hundred sixteen (216) kin placements. DPHSS strongly believes further clarification is needed as the bill in its current form includes terms not commonly used by the department, conflicts with the existing practices and laws, and presents some provisions that are broad and require more precise definition.

A copy of the Department’s written testimony and detailed recommendation is attached and was provided to your office on May 14, 2025, during the markup meeting. The key recommended edit for the Bill of Rights is its inclusion in the current rights and responsibilities section of the Family Foster Home Licensing Standard as outlined in [Article 9, Chapter 1, Division One of Title 26, Guam Administrative Rules and Regulations].

Incorporating the [Foster Care] Bill of Rights into this section will maintain legal clarity and coherence, ensuring ease of reference and readability. Separating the proposed Bill of Rights and including it into the Child Protective Act could lead to confusion as the Child Protective Act primarily addresses the identification, reporting, investigation, adjudication, treatment, and disposition of a child’s abuse or negligent cases.

Additionally, as discussed with your staff team, we strongly recommend removing or revising certain line items that conflict with current laws and practices. If passed into law, DPHSS would require additional staff – [Full Time Equivalent] (FTE) – and funding to ensure that the Bill of Rights is properly implemented specifically with regards to the extensive training it calls for. This staffing today that is not currently available.

In conclusion, while we fully support the legislative intent behind Bill No. 139-38 (COR) and the establishment of a Foster Care Bill of Rights, we urge careful consideration and need for additional funding to implement the bill effectively. Addressing the concerns outlined—particularly in terms of clarity, consistency with current practices, and funding—will ensure that the bill can be successfully enacted and truly benefit children in foster care and their resource parents.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration with your office, Senator Calvo, to finalize the necessary edits and ensure that the bill aligns with BOSSA’s mission, which is to provide quality protective services to children and strengthen their families. *Si yu’os ma’åse*, and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Bill No. 139-38 (COR), respectfully submitted by myself. Thank you so much.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo thanked Director Arriola, and stated that she looks forward to working with the director to help strengthen and tighten the bill just as they had done with Bill No. 78-38 (COR), the “Meals for At-risk Households Act of 2025” which has been enacted into law as Public Law No. 38-23 on June 17, 2025, also noting that the Committee is in the process of incorporating the recommendations for markup for Bill No. 139-38 (COR).

Theresa C. Arriola, Director, Guam Department of Public Health & Social Services, noted that the Department submitted eight pages of recommendations for the Committee to consider, remarked that she was pleased to hear that the Department’s suggestions will be incorporated into the final version of the bill, and thanked Chairperson Calvo.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo stated that the Committee continues with its best efforts to tighten the bill and ensure that it “offers the best of the best to our community,” and recognized the representative from the OAG.

Cherelle Mickens, Acting Deputy Attorney General (Family Division), Office of the Attorney General, introduced herself, and read into the record testimony submitted by Attorney General Douglas B. Moylan.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo thanked Attorney Mickens, extended her regards to Attorney General Moylan and the OAG, and recognized Senator Gumataotao to read into the record written testimony submitted by the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao thanked Chairperson Calvo and read into the record a letter from Ms. Deirdre Lynch Nicholson, J.D., executive director of the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo thanked Senator Gumataotao; extended her gratitude to Ms. Nicholson and the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, whose headquarters are located in Minnesota; and recognized Senator Gumataotao.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao thanked Chairperson Calvo; extended his gratitude to Director Arriola, the Attorney General of Guam, and Attorney Hinkle-Sanchez for their continued advocacy on behalf of the island community; and proceeded to address his question to Director Arriola:

Based on information from the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan for Guam for the period October 1, 2024, through September 1, 2027 – in this plan, through monthly consultation with the Guam Early Learning Council Social Emotional Wellness Work Group, the Bureau of Child Care Services is strengthening its collaboration and working to improve or implement a more timely and supportive process for homeless families, foster children, and children who are wards of the state to obtain quality child care services.

DPHSS has a memorandum of agreement with the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC) in order to launch the Empowering Families Initiative, which is an assortment of programs, including a 24/7 response team offering in-home crisis management and post crisis skill building sessions for up to ninety (90) days, ensuring sustained family well-being, including the therapeutic foster care home based program described as a sanctuary for children with behavioral health needs in the welfare system and trained therapeutic foster caregivers paired with therapists to help ensure holistic care.

Now, for the record, can I ask to what extent was the establishment of a Bill of Rights for Foster Children and Foster Parents a requirement for the CCDF Plan [for Guam] which was approved as of January 7, 2025. Are there any requirements to that?

Theresa C. Arriola, Director, Guam Department of Public Health & Social Services, responded:

Well, if [Bill No. 139-38 (COR)] passes, it would definitely be a part [] the Therapeutic Foster Parent Program [in our] partner[ship] with [GBHWC]. And it's interesting because it was actually my last act before leaving [GBHWC] and then I came back [and] I came on this side and now we're implementing it. So, I think it has come full circle. With the support of the CCDF, we were able to expand our services to foster children, especially in the behavioral health realm.

As you know, foster children have already gone through some trauma. The fact that they're in this system is traumatic. [Their] remov[al] from [] the only parents or the home that they are familiar with is already traumatic enough. And so, that was the extent and reasoning to reach out to DPHSS and say, "Is there any way we can [be] partner[s]?"

And so, the foster parent program at [GBHWC] funded by the CCDF through the DPHSS specifically focuses on therapeutic practices. And so, because it would be a home as well, they would have to comply with all the practices and the rights of the Bill of Rights as well. And all that is part of education once this becomes law, which I have to believe will be [the case] because it's a good thing for everyone to know their rights. And so, I hope I've answered that question.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao thanked Director Arriola and continued with his questions:

Can I just ask you how exactly will the [DPHSS] help ensure that the rights of foster children are honored across agencies that are involved in providing medical, education, and legal services? And what additional resources, if any, do you believe that the Bureau of Child Care Services will require to support compliance monitoring? And I know you mentioned in your testimony that [the implementation of the bill] is going to require some funding, too.

Theresa C. Arriola, Director, Guam Department of Public Health & Social Services, responded:

Training is going to be required because as I mentioned in the testimony, there's so many [foster] homes that we deal with, so many [foster] children. And so right now, we don't have a compliance component, if you will, in BOSSA. If this – when the [Foster Care] Bill of Rights is passed [] and becomes law, our responsibility is to educate all the immediate impacted stakeholders, right?

And so, we don't currently have staff that [would conduct the] training [that is required by] this bill. So, we would have to gather all the children – however the configuration – and go through it one by one, making sure that [each child is] informed and then separately informing foster parents and kin parents of their rights.

And so, this is going to take a lot of training, if you will, or running down the [Foster Care] Bill of Rights and making sure that both the child and the parent side are fully aware and what the impact is and what those safeguards are in the event that they don't feel like they're getting that kind of right properly administered to them.

We would have to build that training – or that outreach component – into what we currently do today.

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao thanked Director Arriola and continued with his questions:

As we know, there's still much more work to be done and I think you've pretty much encapsulated that in this short period of time; and I think as a policy maker I do appreciate that input especially and I just want to make one comment – probably the most important one – is I do appreciate the work of BOSSA in coming ahead to the Committee before the public hearing and offering up its kind of pre-markup to the markup. I think that we need to see more of that across all of our agencies and I just want to say kudos to BOSSA for doing that for this particular measure. And I would also encourage the OAG [to do the same].

I know that we got some big brains at BOSSA but we would probably need the legal support if you could and, of course, our friends at the [Civil Law Center], [Attorney] Carol [Hinkle-Sanchez]'s group to be able to help offer to the Committee the changes that were offered. And again, thank you to BOSSA, thank you to Attorney General [Moylan]. [] That's all I have. But again, I'm really excited about the bill, but also the markup going into it.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo thanked Senator Gumataotao, stated that she looks forward to tightening the bill, thanked everyone who provided testimony, and provided a few remarks in lieu of questions:

I really don't have any question but I do want to address a little misconception in the word "training" [as it is used in the bill] and perhaps we can rectify that and use another term because we're already doing it. It's basically more [along the lines of] assisting, giving instructions to what is already existing here but we just wanted to put the language in the bill. We're not really seeing a big budget, or a big expense in this bill. So, I think we should not be worried about it.

When we say "training" it's basically the work that is already being done at the moment. The whole intent of this bill is to codify the Bill of Rights, which is very important, not only to take care of our foster kids – because we are already taking care of them – but we're just codifying it because we need this to go after opportunities, grants, scholarships that we [could more easily access and support once the Foster Care Bill of Rights is codified].

So, the very reason that we put this bill together and we authored this bill and we've been working for this bill for months is for Guam to access opportunities that are not being given to [our foster youth].

In my opening remarks I mentioned the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood. Now, Guam is the only [U.S. jurisdiction] that is that is not participating in this scholarship. It's really not a grant, but a scholarship. But why can't we have it? Why can't we do it? Why can't we avail it here on our island for our foster kids?

So basically, the bill of rights will solidify [our foster care policy] and will [provide] us the foundation to go after all these opportunities otherwise we are not taking advantage of. So, I'd like to read the background of the Chafee ETV Program just for the record[].

[Since its creation in 1999, the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood provides \$143 million in funding to support youth/young adults in or formerly in foster care in their transition to adulthood; it is funded through formula grants awarded to child welfare agencies in states, territories, and participating Tribes. This program has an additional annual appropriation of approximately \$43 million for the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program, a federal initiative designed to help foster youth pursue higher education and vocational training. It provides up to Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) per year to eligible current or former foster youth to cover expenses like tuition, books, and living costs while attending college, university, or a trade school. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF) administers the Chafee program.]

The [ETV] Program supports young adults up to age twenty-six (26), helping them gain the skills needed for independent living and career success. It is an essential scholarship tailored for foster youth, ensuring they have financial support to pursue their goals without the burden of excessive debt.

[To be eligible to administer the ETV Program, a jurisdiction must already receive Chafee Program funds and have an approved Title IV-E plan under the Social Security Act. The state must designate a public child welfare agency to oversee the program and comply with federal reporting requirements on fund usage and youth outcomes. Generally, the program is available to current and former foster youth between the ages of 14 and 21, or up to age 23 in states that extend foster care to age 21. While youth eligibility criteria include having been in foster care at age 16 or older, being under 26, enrolled in a postsecondary program, and not exceeding five years of ETV support, the state's eligibility is determined by its participation in the broader Chafee Program and its administrative infrastructure to support and report on these services.]

Each year approximately twenty thousand (20,000) young adults in the United States transition out of foster care and face challenges in accessing post-secondary education. While many are eligible for ETV funding, only thirty one percent (31%) of eligible youth enroll in college. And of those, only thirty-seven percent (37%) receive an ETV voucher to support their studies. [The ETV Program] ensur[es] that eligible foster youth receive financial support for education, housing, employment, and other critical services.

The Chafee program is named after a moderate Republican, John H. Chafee, a former U.S. Senator from Rhode Island and a strong advocate for child welfare who played a key role in shaping policies to support foster youth. The program was established through John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 which aimed to provide resources and services to help foster youth transition successfully into adulthood.

The reason for introducing the Foster Care Bill of Rights is really beyond what the majority of us see within our peripherals. There is more reason why I am pushing for this bill because this will catapult us to other opportunities. [The passage of the bill] is not saying we are not taking care of our foster children here in Guam, because we are – collectively – all of us here in the public hearing room [are doing just that]. We are doing our best, and I commend you all for the daily grind, the emotion – everything that you have been doing for our foster kids. I truly applaud you for your hard work. And together, if [we collaborate] to help tighten this bill, it will be a good thing for our community.

Theresa C. Arriola, Director, Guam Department of Public Health & Social Services, thanked Chairperson Calvo for her remarks and explanation regarding the ETV Program, and provided her remarks:

You're absolutely right; there are a lot of scholarships that we need to take advantage of in making sure that the most vulnerable population actually have a fighting chance to succeed as adults and be contributing members of society.

I do want to say that, absolutely, I think that this is critical. There's no indication that we're not already [providing] good foster care and scrutiny when it comes to placement of our children. I, too, want to say for the record that passing this bill is no indication that we're giving [foster children] any less than acceptable care.

I thank you for bringing up the [ETV Program] because the scholarship – I'm not sure about whether it's the horse before the cart, or [the cart] before the horse – but either way, we all need these steps to get to these scholarships. I do want to say that this specific scholarship is through ACF. We're very familiar with it.

The reason why currently [the DPHSS] is not applying for it – and this [Foster Care] Bill of Rights is definitely going to help solidify that – but, more importantly, it's what we've been working on, which is to become Title IV eligible.

So, between our work with Title IV[-E] application and being eligible with that [ETV Program] and the [Foster Care Bill of Rights] being put into law – together that's going to provide access to this specific funding. So, Title IV is something that the Division of Children's Wellness and BOSSA have been working on under my direction since January of this year.

And so, that just brings to light – that’s why I kind of brought [this up to the Chief Children’s Services Administrator for the Division of Children's Wellness,] Heidi [Quinata,], and I’m like, “Okay, where are we with Title IV?” So, together that’s going to strengthen access to this funding. So, thank you, Senators. Thank you.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo thanked Director Arriola, and concluded with her closing remarks as prime sponsor of Bill No. 139-38 (COR):

That is good news for all of us and I am really glad that we’re able to clarify this point because really we need everybody to collaborate so we can push through with this. And we’re looking at the bigger picture here, right? We’re looking at getting all those nice grants, scholarship, and funding that is [currently] not available [to foster youth in Guam].

I don’t want Guam to be the last [jurisdiction especially since] all the other territories are already taking advantage of some of these opportunities. But I know we’re all working hard together to deliver the best for our community and I think that is what matters most. [] So, now that we no longer have further questions or comments, I will conclude the discussion of this measure by giving my closing remarks as a prime author of the bill.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for today’s hearing and shared their powerful testimony on Bill No. 139-38 (COR). I’d like to thank my colleagues who were here, most especially Senator Shawn Gumataotao who stayed until the end.

The “Foster Care Bill of Rights Act of 2025” is an important bill because this bill represents a meaningful step forward in our collective responsibility to protect and empower children in foster care. This bill enshrines the fundamental rights every child deserves: safe and stable housing, access to quality education, and protection from discrimination, abuse, and neglect.

Let’s not lose sight of those who are willing to lend a hand when these kids need it the most. Bill No. 139-38 (COR) [does] just that. It recognizes and uplifts the vital role of our foster parents as well. Those who open their homes and hearts to provide stability and love during the times of uncertainty.

So, this Bill of Rights is not just for the foster kids, but also for the foster parents. I want to emphasize that this bill is about people. It’s about the youth who rely on us to speak when they cannot speak for themselves. And about the caregivers who show us every day with unwavering commitment. Their voices have guided this bill and their needs will continue to shape how we move forward.

I remain committed to ensuring that this measure advances swiftly through the legislative process, and I will work diligently to move this measure forward and see it deliberately on the floor and a God willing governor sign it into law.

Together through transparency, accountability, and compassion, we can create a foster care system that truly serves the best interest of our children and families. I want to thank all my colleagues who see the importance of this measure, and willing to help me push this measure forward, my co-sponsors, Senator Terlaje, Senator Parkinson, Vice Speaker Ada, Senator Borja, Senator Matanane, Senator San Agustin, Senator Barnes, and Senator Perez.

Thank you again everyone for your advocacy, your partnership and your unwavering dedication to Guam's foster children and thank you also to all the agencies that have been helping us the last couple of months.

Before I adjourn this hearing, I just want to speak directly to the importance of participating the legislative process.

The public participation in legislative proceedings, particularly through giving testimony on bills is a vital part of a healthy democracy. When citizens engage in the legislative process, they ensure that laws and policies reflect the true needs and concerns of our community. Your voice helps shape decisions that affect everyday life.

I encourage everyone to stay informed, get involved, and make their voices heard. Your participation is not just a right; it is a responsibility that helps build a better future for all of us. Together, we can create meaningful and lasting legislation and change.

Chairperson Shelly V. Calvo thanked the attendees and those who provided testimony, stated that the Committee will continue to receive testimony, and considered Bill No. 139-38 (COR) duly heard before adjourning the public hearing at 11:58 AM.

III. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee finds that **Bill No. 139-38 (COR)** seeks to codify both a Foster Children's Bill of Rights and a Foster Parents' Bill of Rights into Guam law by adding §§ 13321.1 and 13321.2 to Chapter 13, Title 19 of the Guam Code Annotated.

Cited as the "Foster Care Bill of Rights of 2025," the bill outlines several specific rights for children in foster care and a separate bill for foster parents, thus providing foster children and foster parents with information regarding their respective rights and protections relative to providing for the health, welfare, education, and other needs of foster children.

The bill received a fiscal note waiver due to the legislation's administrative nature.

During the public hearing, Senator Gumataotao requested information regarding the status of codification of the foster care bill of rights around the nation.

Most jurisdictions have already codified some form of a foster care bill of rights. **Nineteen (19)** states have codified bill of rights for both foster youth and foster parents:

State	Foster Youth's BOR	Foster Parents' BOR
Arizona	AZ Rev Stat § 8-529	AZ Rev Stat § 8-530
Arkansas	AR Code § 9-28-1001 et seq.	AR Code § 9-28-901 et seq.
California	CA Welf & Inst Code § 16001.9	CA Welf & Inst Code § 16010.4
Colorado	CO Rev Stat § 19-7-101 et seq.	CO Rev Stat § 19-3-210.5
Connecticut	CT Gen Stat § 17a-10e	Public Act No. 25-116
Florida	FL Stat § 39.4085	FL Stat § 39.4087
Illinois	20 ILCS 521	20 ILCS 520
Kansas	KS Stat § 38-2201a(b)	KS Stat § 38-2201a(c)
Kentucky	KY Rev Stat § 620.363	KY Rev Stat § 620.360
Louisiana	LA Rev Stat § 46:286.16	LA Rev Stat § 46:286.13
Maryland	MD Family Law Code § 5-525	MD Family Law Code § 5-504
Missouri	MO Rev Stat § 210.564	MO Rev Stat § 210.566
North Carolina	NC Gen Stat § 131D-10.1	NC Gen Stat § 131D-10.9C
Ohio	OH Rev Code § 2151.316	OH Rev Code § 5103.163
Oklahoma	10A OK Stat § 1-9-119.1	10A OK Stat § 1-9-119
Oregon	OR Rev Stat § 418.201	OR Rev Stat § 418.648
Pennsylvania	11 P.S. Children § 2633	11 P.S. Children § 2604
Rhode Island	RI Gen L § 42-72-15	RI Gen L § 42-72.10-1
West Virginia	WV Code § 49-2-126	WV Code § 49-2-127

Six (6) jurisdictions have codified a bill of rights for foster youth:

State	Foster Youth's BOR	Foster Parents' BOR
Delaware	13 DE Code § 2522	N/A
Hawaii	HI Rev Stat § 587A-3.1	N/A
New Hampshire	NH Rev Stat § 170-G:21	N/A
New Jersey	NJ Rev Stat § 9:6B-4	N/A
Puerto Rico	1 L of PR § 412	N/A
Wisconsin	WI Stat § 48.648	N/A

Eight (8) states have codified a bill of rights for foster parents:

State	Foster Youth's BOR	Foster Parents' BOR
Alabama	N/A	AL Code § 38-12A-2
Georgia	N/A	GA Code § 49-5-281
Indiana	N/A	IN Code § 31-27-2-12
Iowa	N/A	IA Code § 237.3(2)(k)
Michigan	N/A	MI Comp L § 722.958a
Mississippi	N/A	MS Code § 43-15-13(11)
Tennessee	N/A	TN Code § 37-2-415
Washington	N/A	WA Rev Code § 74.13.332

Eleven (11) jurisdictions have yet to codify their foster care bill of rights:

State	Foster Youth's BOR	Foster Parents' BOR
Alaska	N/A	N/A
Idaho	N/A	N/A
Maine	N/A	N/A
Nebraska	N/A	N/A
New York	N/A	N/A
North Dakota	N/A	N/A
South Dakota	N/A	N/A
Utah	N/A	N/A
Virgin Islands	N/A	N/A
Virginia	N/A	N/A
Wyoming	N/A	N/A

In addition to Guam, **eight (8)** states are trying to codify a foster care bill of rights:

State	Foster Youth's BOR	Foster Parents' BOR
Massachusetts	H235 (in Committee)	MA Gen L ch 119 § 23c
Minnesota	MN HF3024 (in Committee)	N/A
Montana	HB 182 (codification pending)	HB 182 (codification pending)
Nevada	NV Rev Stat § 432.525	(draft legislation in progress)
New Mexico	(draft legislation in progress)	(draft legislation in progress)
South Carolina	(draft legislation in progress)	(draft legislation in progress)
Texas	TX Fam Code § 263.008	TX HB4889 (in Committee)
Vermont	N/A	(reintroducing 2016 bill S.189)

All written testimonies received conveyed strong support for the bill:

- **Managing Attorney Carol Hinkle-Sanchez (Civil Law Center & Elder Justice Center (CLC/EJC)) strongly supports the bill**, which seeks to improve legal protections, access to services, and inter-agency coordination for vulnerable and underserved populations.
 - Emphasized the importance of codifying rights and procedures to reduce barriers for individuals experiencing homelessness, poverty, or discrimination.
 - Cited the bill's alignment with constitutional and human rights frameworks, particularly for children and families in crisis.
 - Stressed the need for accountability and transparency in public service delivery systems.
 - Recommended timely implementation and funding of the bill's provisions and community-based advisory input in the rulemaking process.

- **Attorney General Douglas B.K. Moylan (Office of the Attorney General (OAG)), supports the adoption of the bill and the establishment of the foster care bill of rights on Guam** because the bill aligns with the OAG's core mission to protect the welfare of children and ensure justice and fairness for families involved in the foster care system.
 - Affirmed that the bill aligns with the Guam Organic Act, U.S. Constitutional protections, and relevant local statutes.
 - Emphasized the responsibility of the government to provide non-discriminatory access to services for all residents, particularly those experiencing homelessness or in foster care.
 - Acknowledged potential legal and administrative challenges in implementation but affirms these can be addressed through rulemaking.
 - Recommended consultation with legal counsel when drafting implementing rules and regulations, and encouraged clarity in definitions of agency responsibilities and enforcement mechanisms.

- **Executive Director Deirdre Lynch Nicholson (National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY)), fully supports the bill** as a crucial step toward ensuring educational stability and rights for children and youth experiencing homelessness in Guam.
 - Emphasized that youth experiencing homelessness face unique barriers to school enrollment, attendance, and success.
 - Noted that the bill aligns with federal protections under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, particularly regarding immediate school enrollment, transportation, and dispute resolution.
 - Highlighted the importance of local legislative action to reinforce and implement these protections at the territorial level.
 - Recommended the passage of the bill without delay, and suggested ensuring training for school personnel, dedicated liaisons, and clear procedural safeguards to uphold student rights.

- **Director Michelle L.C. Perez (Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities (DISID)) expressed strong support for the bill**, recognizing its significance in protecting the rights and well-being of individuals with disabilities and those experiencing homelessness.
 - Highlighted the disproportionate challenges faced by individuals with disabilities in accessing housing, healthcare, and social services.
 - Applauded bill's provisions that aim to strengthen interagency collaboration and enforcement to better serve vulnerable populations.
 - Stressed the need for inclusive practices and person-centered service delivery across all levels of government.
 - Recommended the inclusion of disability stakeholders in implementation planning and oversight, as well as capacity-building measures for frontline workers to ensure meaningful compliance.

- **Chief Executive Officer Rebecca Louve Yao (National Foster Youth Institute (NFYI)) strongly supports the bill** as a vital tool for protecting the rights and dignity of youth with lived experience in the foster care system and those facing housing instability.
 - Highlighted the bill’s potential to advance equity and justice for foster youth by strengthening legal safeguards, access to services, and interagency coordination.
 - Emphasized importance of incorporating voices of system-impacted youth in shaping policy that directly affects their lives.
 - Applauded Guam’s legislative efforts to codify protections aligned with national best practices, helping youth overcome barriers to education, housing, and stability.
 - Recommended youth engagement in rulemaking and program design, and investment in culturally responsive services and sustained support beyond age 18.

- **Director Theresa C. Arriola (Guam Department of Public Health & Social Services (DPHSS)), strongly supports the bill**, recognizing its significance in safeguarding the health, safety, and dignity of Guam’s most vulnerable populations—particularly individuals experiencing homelessness, youth in care, and those with disabilities.
 - Asserted that the bill would strengthen interagency coordination, enhance access to critical services, and uphold human dignity and public trust.
 - Highlighted the DPHSS’s commitment to trauma-informed, culturally competent service delivery.
 - Recognized the bill’s alignment with DPHSS’s goals of reducing systemic barriers and promoting holistic wellness across the lifespan.
 - Recommended clear guidance for implementation and mechanisms for accountability and evaluation, as well as ongoing stakeholder engagement, including voices of lived experience.

The Committee considered and incorporated many of the DPHSS’ recommendations during bill markup. Bill No. 139-38 (COR) was amended to ensure that the terms and processes referenced in the bill reflect current practice and procedures of the DPHSS and BOSSA, as follows:

- **§ 13321.1. Foster Children’s Bill of Rights.**
 - (a) Amended to reflect that the current standard basis to determine the appropriate care is the best judgment of the parents, caseworks, and the court.
 - (b) No changes.
 - (c) Amended to add wording to ensure that information is provided or explained in a manner appropriate to the child’s age.
 - (d) Amended to clarify that a child should be placed in a foster home that meets all their needs, not just communication.
 - (e) Amended to clarify that family visits and contact can be prohibited not only by court order, but also by the Child Protective Services.
 - (f) No changes.
 - (g) No changes.
 - (h) Amended to strike *placement worker*, which is not a term used by BOSSA.
 - (i) No changes.
 - (j) Amended to allow flexibility to cover other essential skills for which the child would have a right to receive training.
 - (k) No changes.
 - (l) Amended to strike *placement worker*, which is not a term used by BOSSA.
 - (m) No changes.
 - (n) Amended to add *culture* to ensure the child’s dietary needs are met with culturally familiar foods.
 - (o) Amended to reflect that the child can decide if they want to or are ready to have visits with their parents within reason.
 - (p) No changes.
 - (q) Amended to reflect current practice and to harmonize language with the Child Protective Act.
 - (r) No changes.
 - (s) Struck completely to reflect current practice and to harmonize language with the Child Protective Act.
 - (t) No changes.
 - (u) Amended to strike language to reflect current practice of providing foster parents with necessary information to care for the child, but not full access to a child’s record.
 - (v) Amended to add the caveat that prescribed medications must be taken as recommended by the health provider.
 - (w) Amended to strike language to reflect current widely accepted policy and practice that segregate children from adults in mental healthcare setting, and to strike *placement worker*, which is not a term used by BOSSA.
 - (x) Amended to strike language that contradict the intended statement of their rights and appropriate steps are taken if the report is proven to be malicious.
 - (y) No changes.










- **§ 13321.2. Foster Parents' Bill of Rights**
 - (a) No changes.
 - (b) Amended to specifically charge BOSSA to explain to foster parents their bill of rights.
 - (c) Amended to strike *other providers* to reflect current practice.
 - (d) No changes.
 - (e) Struck completely to avoid redundancy with previous subsection.
 - (f) No changes.
 - (g) No changes.
 - (h) Amended to reflect current practice of providing a verbal explanation; during emergency placements, the immediate plan is always to ensure placement and care of the child because plans are developed as the case progresses.
 - (i) Amended to specify BOSSA staff shall provide the assistance.
 - (j) Amended to use the term *foster care maintenance payments*.
 - (k) Amended to avoid ambiguity. The current practice is a two- (2) week notice unless in emergency situations requiring immediate removal.
 - (l) Amended to strike *ISP team*, which is not a term used by BOSSA.
 - (m) Struck completely to reflect current practice, which does not allow foster parents to have advocates. Foster parents can hire their own attorneys however the court must approve the attorney due to confidentiality.
 - (n) Amended to strike a sentence to reflect current practice. Presently the notice and its information are provided by the court; BOSSA forwards the notice to the foster parent.
 - (o) No changes.
 - (p) Amended to strike *ISP team*, which is not a term used by BOSSA, and to reflect current practice; the caseworker also facilitates communication between the child's parents and foster parents.
 - (q) No changes.
 - (r) Amended to and to harmonize language with the Child Protective Act.
 - (s) No changes.
 - (t) Struck completely to reflect current practice. The investigation of child abuse and neglect is confidential. BOSSA would take immediate steps to ensure the safety of the child including removal.
 - (u) No changes.
 - (v) No changes.
 - (w) No changes.
 - (x) No changes.
 - (y) Struck completely to reflect current practice. DPHSS Director has final authority in regard to licensing.
 - (z) Moved to subsection (b).
 - (aa) Amended to reflect current practice. Foster family homes are re-evaluated during licensing renewal based on the licensing standards.
 - (bb) Minor stylistic change.
 - (cc) No changes.

The Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women’s Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation & Hagåtña Restoration hereby reports out the **Bill No. 139-38 (COR), As Amended** – Shelly V. Calvo, Therese M. Terlaje, William A. Parkinson, V. Anthony Ada, Vincent A. V. Borja, Sabrina Salas Matanane, Joe S. San Agustin, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, and Sabina Flores Perez – **AN ACT TO ADD NEW §§ 13321.1 AND 13321.2 TO ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE “FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2025”** to *I Mina’trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* with a recommendation TO DO PASS.

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

Bill No. 139-38 (COR)

Introduced by:

Shelly V. Calvo 
Therese M. Terlaje 
William A. Parkinson 
V. Anthony Ada 
Vincent A. V. Borja 
Sabrina Salas Matanane 
Joe S. San Agustin 
Tina Rose Muña Barnes 
Sabina Flores Perez 

AN ACT TO *ADD* NEW §§ 13321.1 AND 13321.2 TO ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE “FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2025.”

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

2 **Section 1. Short Title.** This Act may be cited as the “Foster Care Bill of
3 Rights Act of 2025.”

4 **Section 2.** A *new* §13321.1 of Chapter 13, Title 19, Guam Code Annotated,
5 is hereby *added* to read as follows:

6 **“§ 13321.1. Foster Children’s Bill of Rights.**

7 **A foster child’s rights include, but are not limited to, the following:**

1 (a) The right to appropriate care and treatment in the least
2 restrictive setting available that can meet the child’s needs according to
3 the best judgment of the foster parent.

4 (b) The right to live in a safe, healthy and comfortable placement
5 where the child can receive reasonable protection from harm and
6 appropriate privacy for personal needs and where the child is treated
7 with respect.

8 (c) The right to know why the child is in foster care and what will
9 happen to the child and to the child’s family, including siblings, and
10 case plans.

11 (d) The right to, when practicable, be placed with a foster family
12 that can accommodate the child’s communication needs.

13 (e) The right to visit and contact family members, unless
14 prohibited by court order.

15 (f) The right to make and receive confidential telephone calls and
16 send and receive unopened mail, unless prohibited by court order.

17 (g) The right to be disciplined in a manner that is appropriate to
18 the child’s level of maturity.

19 (h) The right to attend community, school and religious services
20 and activities of the child’s choice to the extent that it is appropriate for
21 the child, as planned and discussed with the child’s placement worker
22 and caseworker and based on caregiver availability if transportation is
23 available through a responsible party.

24 (i) The right to go to school and receive an education that fits the
25 child’s age and individual needs.

26 (j) The right to training in personal care, hygiene and grooming.

1 (k) The right to clothing that fits comfortably and is adequate to
2 protect the child against natural elements such as rain, wind, cold, and
3 sun.

4 (l) The right to have personal possessions at home that are not
5 offensive to the foster family and to acquire additional possessions with
6 reasonable limits, as planned and discussed with the child's foster
7 parent, placement worker and case worker, and based on caregiver
8 ability.

9 (m) The right to personal space, in the foster home preferably, in
10 the child's bedroom for storing clothing and belongings.

11 (n) The right to healthy foods in healthy portions that are
12 appropriate for the child's age.

13 (o) The right to comply with any approved visitation plan, and to
14 have any restrictions explained to the child in a manner and level of
15 details deemed age appropriate by the foster parent in agreement with
16 the caseworker and documented in the child's record.

17 (p) If the child is six (6) years of age or older, the right to receive
18 contact information of the child's case worker, attorney or advocate and
19 to speak with them in private if necessary.

20 (q) The right to review his or her own case plan if he or she is
21 over twelve (12) years of age and to receive information about his or
22 her out-of-home placement and case plan, including being told of
23 changes to the plan.

24 (r) The right to have fair and equal access to all available
25 services, placement, care, treatment, and benefits, and not to be
26 subjected to discrimination or harassment on the basis of actual or
27 perceived race, ethnic group identification, ancestry, national origin,

1 color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or
2 physical disability, or HIV status.

3 (s) The right to participate in age-appropriate child's service
4 planning and permanency planning meetings and to be given a copy or
5 summary of each service plan and service plan review. The child may
6 request someone to participate on the child's behalf or to support the
7 child in this participation.

8 (t) The right to attend the child's court hearing and speak to the
9 judge.

10 (u) The right to have the child's records and personal information
11 kept private and discussed only when it is about the child's care except
12 the foster parent shall have full access to the records to determine if the
13 child will be successful in the home. During the foster placement, if the
14 foster parent requests to view the record upon experiencing problems
15 with the child's adjustment, the full record shall be made available for
16 viewing by the foster parent.

17 (v) The right to be free of unnecessary or excessive medication.

18 (w) The right to receive emotional, mental health care or
19 chemical dependency treatment separately from adults who are
20 receiving services, as planned and discussed with the child's placement
21 worker and caseworker, as is financially reasonable for the foster
22 parent.

23 (x) The right to report a violation of personal rights specified in
24 this section without fear of punishment, interference, coercion or
25 retaliation, except that an appropriate level of punishment may be
26 applied if the child is proven to have maliciously or wrongfully accused
27 the foster parent.

1 (y) The right to understand and have a copy of the Foster
2 Children’s Bill of Rights listed in this section. The Foster Children’s
3 Bill of Rights must be posted in a conspicuous place in all secure
4 facilities and/or residential placement facilities.”

5 **Section 3.** A new §13321.2 of Chapter 13, Title 19, Guam Code Annotated,
6 is hereby *added* to read as follows:

7 **“§ 13321.2. Foster Parents’ Bill of Rights.**

8 A foster parent’s rights include, but are not limited to:

9 (a) The right to be treated with dignity, respect, trust, value, and
10 consideration as a primary provider of foster care and a member of the
11 professional team caring for foster children.

12 (b) The right to receive information concerning the rights
13 enumerated in this section.

14 (c) The right to a concise written explanation of their role as
15 foster parents in partnership with children and their families, the
16 Department of Public Health & Social Services (“Department”), and
17 other providers; the role of the Department; and the rights and role of
18 the members of the birth family of a child in foster care.

19 (d) The right to training and support for the purpose of improving
20 skills in providing daily care and meeting the needs of the child in foster
21 care.

22 (e) The right to training, consultation, and assistance in
23 evaluating, identifying, and accessing services to meet their needs
24 related to their role as foster care providers.

25 (f) The right to provide input to the Department in identifying the
26 types of resources and services that would meet the needs of children

1 currently in their care and of their families, and advocate for the same
2 without threat of reprisal.

3 (g) The right to information concerning behavioral problems,
4 health history, educational status, cultural and family background, and
5 other issues relative to the child which are known to the Department at
6 the time the child is placed in foster care prior to the child's placement
7 with a foster parent or parents. When the Department knows such
8 information after placement, the Department shall make that
9 information available to the foster parent as soon as practicable.

10 (h) The right to a written explanation of the plan concerning the
11 placement of a child in the foster parent's home. For emergency
12 placements where time does not allow prior preparation of the
13 explanation, the Department shall provide such explanation within
14 seventy-two (72) hours. Prior to placement, the Department shall allow
15 the foster parent to review a written summary of information
16 concerning the child, including, but not limited to, assessments,
17 evaluations, and case plans, and allow the foster parent to assist in
18 determining if the child would be a proper placement for the
19 prospective foster family. For emergency placements where time does
20 not allow prior review of the information, the Department shall provide
21 the information within seventy-two (72) hours of placement.
22 Confidential information shall be kept confidential by the foster
23 parents, except as determined through the individualized service plan
24 (ISP) process to promote the health and welfare of the child.

25 (i) The right to a staff member representing the Department on
26 call twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, for the purpose
27 of aiding the foster parent in receiving departmental assistance.

1 (j) The right to fair and equitable board payments based on a
2 system of daily board rates and other financial reimbursement as
3 specified in a plan adopted by the Department after consultation with
4 foster parents, subject to the availability of funds.

5 (k) The right to accept or refuse placement within their home, or
6 to request, upon reasonable notice to the Department, the removal of a
7 child from their home for good cause without threat of reprisal for
8 acting on such good cause.

9 (l) The right to information of scheduled meetings and
10 appointments concerning the foster child and permission for the foster
11 parent to actively participate in and provide input to be used by the ISP
12 team in the case planning and decision-making process regarding the
13 child in foster care, including, but not limited to, individual service
14 planning meetings, foster care reviews, individual educational planning
15 meetings, and medical appointments.

16 (m) The right to request that a person or persons serve as a
17 volunteer advocate and to be present at all meetings with the
18 Department, including, but not limited to, individualized service
19 planning, administrative hearings, the grievance/mediation process, the
20 adoption process, and the allegation process where the foster parent is
21 present. All communications received by the volunteer advocate shall
22 be in strict confidence.

23 (n) The right to notice and an opportunity to be heard, including
24 timely information concerning all court hearings. This notification may
25 include, but is not limited to, notice of the date and time of the court
26 hearing, the name of the judge or hearing officer assigned to the case,
27 the guardian ad litem, the location of the hearing, and the court docket

1 number. The notification shall be made upon receipt of this information
2 by the Department. Although not a party to the case, the foster parent
3 may attend court hearings at the discretion of the judge.

4 (o) The right to communicate with professionals who work with
5 the foster child, including, but not limited to, therapists, physicians, and
6 teachers who work directly with the child.

7 (p) The right to communicate with the child's birth family, other
8 foster parents of the child, and prospective and finalized adoptive
9 parents of the child with ISP team approval and without the threat of
10 reprisal.

11 (q) The right to necessary information on an ongoing basis which
12 is relevant to the care of the child, including timely information on
13 changes in the case plan or termination of the placement and reasons
14 for the changes or termination of placement to the foster parent, except
15 in the instances of immediate response of child protective service.

16 (r) The right to first consideration as the resource for a child in a
17 foster parent's home who becomes free for adoption or another planned
18 permanent living arrangement.

19 (s) The right to a period of respite upon the request of a foster
20 parent. The foster parent shall provide reasonable notice of a request
21 for respite.

22 (t) The right to information, in person and in writing, of any
23 allegations of maltreatment of children in the home of the foster parent
24 alleged to have been perpetrated by a member of the foster parent's
25 household, the process for disposition of these allegations, and any
26 review process for reports of indicated child abuse and neglect upon
27 receipt of the allegations.

1 (u) The right to be provided a fair and timely investigation of
2 complaints concerning the operation of a foster home.

3 (v) The right to an explanation of a corrective action plan or
4 policy violation relating to foster parents.

5 (w) The right to copies of all information relative to their family
6 and services contained in the personal foster home record.

7 (x) The right to mediation procedures that may be developed and
8 adopted by the Department. The foster parent may request mediation in
9 accordance with any mediation policy adopted by the Department
10 without threat of reprisal.

11 (y) The right to appeal the closing of a foster family home by the
12 Department in accordance with any appeal procedure adopted by the
13 Department without threat of reprisal.

14 (z) The right to not be discriminated against on the basis of
15 religion, race, color, creed, sex, national origin, age or physical
16 disability.

17 (aa) The right to receive an evaluation on the foster parent's
18 performance.

19 (bb) The right to be apprised of information, laws, and guidelines
20 on the obligations, responsibilities, and opportunities of foster
21 parenting and to be kept informed of any changes in laws, policies, and
22 procedures regarding foster parenting by the Department's Bureau of
23 Social Services Administration in a timely manner and at least annually.

24 (cc) The right to have a copy of the Foster Parents' Bill of Rights
25 listed in this section."

26 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect immediately upon
27 enactment.

1 **Section 5. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
2 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity shall not
3 affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without
4 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of Act is severable.

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

Bill No. 139-38 (COR)

As Amended by the Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs,
Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services,
the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and Hagåtña Restoration

Introduced by:

Shelly V. Calvo
Therese M. Terlaje
William A. Parkinson
V. Anthony Ada
Vincent A. V. Borja
Sabrina Salas Matanane
Joe S. San Agustin
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Sabina Flores Perez

**AN ACT TO *ADD* NEW §§ 13321.1 AND 13321.2 TO
ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE
ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE
FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS; AND TO CITE THIS
ACT AS THE “FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF
2025.”**

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

2 **Section 1. Short Title.** This Act may be cited as the “Foster Care Bill of
3 Rights Act of 2025.”

4 **Section 2.** A *new* §13321.1 of Chapter 13, Title 19, Guam Code Annotated,
5 is hereby *added* to read as follows:

6 **“§ 13321.1. Foster Children’s Bill of Rights.**

7 A foster child’s rights include, but are not limited to, the following:

1 (a) The right to appropriate care and treatment in the least
2 restrictive setting available that can meet the child’s needs according to
3 the best judgment of the parents, the caseworker, and the court.

4 (b) The right to live in a safe, healthy and comfortable placement
5 where the child can receive reasonable protection from harm and
6 appropriate privacy for personal needs and where the child is treated
7 with respect.

8 (c) The right to know why the child is in foster care and what will
9 happen to the child and to the child’s family, including siblings, and
10 case plans in a way that is appropriate based on the child’s age.

11 (d) The right to be placed with a foster family that can
12 accommodate the child’s communication needs.

13 (e) The right to visit and contact family members, unless
14 prohibited by court order or by the Child Protective Services.

15 (f) The right to make and receive confidential telephone calls and
16 send and receive unopened mail, unless prohibited by court order.

17 (g) The right to be disciplined in a manner that is appropriate to
18 the child’s level of maturity.

19 (h) The right to attend community, school and religious services
20 and activities of the child’s choice to the extent that it is appropriate for
21 the child, as planned and discussed with the child’s and case worker
22 and based on caregiver availability if transportation is available through
23 a responsible party.

24 (i) The right to go to school and receive an education that fits the
25 child’s age and individual needs.

26 (j) The right to training in life skills such as personal care,
27 hygiene and grooming.

1 (k) The right to clothing that fits comfortably and is adequate to
2 protect the child against natural elements such as rain, wind, cold, and
3 sun.

4 (l) The right to have personal possessions at home that are not
5 offensive to the foster family and to acquire additional possessions with
6 reasonable limits, as planned and discussed with the child's foster
7 parent and case worker, and based on caregiver ability.

8 (m) The right to personal space, in the foster home preferably, in
9 the child's bedroom for storing clothing and belongings.

10 (n) The right to healthy foods in healthy portions that are
11 appropriate for the child's age and culture.

12 (o) The right to comply with any approved visitation plan, at the
13 child's discretion, and to have any restrictions explained to the child in
14 a manner and level of details deemed age appropriate by the foster
15 parent in agreement with the caseworker and documented in the child's
16 record.

17 (p) If the child is six (6) years of age or older, the right to receive
18 contact information of the child's case worker, attorney or advocate and
19 to speak with them in private if necessary.

20 (q) The right to review and participate or request the guardian ad
21 litem to participate on their behalf in his or her own case plan if he or
22 she is at least fourteen (14) years of age, and to receive information
23 about his or her out-of-home placement and case plan, including being
24 told of changes to the plan.

25 (r) The right to have fair and equal access to all available
26 services, placement, care, treatment, and benefits, and not to be
27 subjected to discrimination or harassment on the basis of actual or

1 perceived race, ethnic group identification, ancestry, national origin,
2 color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or
3 physical disability, or HIV status.

4 (s) The right to attend the child’s court hearing and speak to the
5 judge.

6 (t) The right to have the child’s records and personal information
7 kept private and discussed only when it is about the child’s care.

8 (u) The right to be free of unnecessary or excessive medication,
9 provided that prescribed medication must be taken as recommended by
10 the child’s health care provider.

11 (v) The right to receive emotional, mental health care or chemical
12 dependency treatment, as planned and discussed with the child’s case
13 worker, as is financially reasonable for the foster parent.

14 (w) The right to report a violation of personal rights specified in
15 this section without fear of punishment, interference, coercion or
16 retaliation.

17 (x) The right to understand and have a copy of the Foster
18 Children’s Bill of Rights listed in this section. The Foster Children’s
19 Bill of Rights must be posted in a conspicuous place in all secure
20 facilities and/or residential placement facilities.”

21 **Section 3.** A *new* §13321.2 of Chapter 13, Title 19, Guam Code Annotated,
22 is hereby *added* to read as follows:

23 **“§ 13321.2. Foster Parents’ Bill of Rights.**

24 A foster parent’s rights include, but are not limited to:

25 (a) The right to be treated with dignity, respect, trust, value, and
26 consideration as a primary provider of foster care and a member of the
27 professional team caring for foster children.

1 (b) The right to not be discriminated against on the basis of
2 religion, race, color, creed, sex, national origin, age or physical
3 disability.

4 (c) The right to receive an explanation from the Department of
5 Public Health & Social Services' ("Department") Bureau of Social
6 Services Administration (BOSSA) concerning the rights enumerated in
7 this section.

8 (d) The right to a concise written explanation of their role as
9 foster parents in partnership with children and their families, and the
10 Department; the role of the Department; and the rights and role of the
11 members of the birth family of a child in foster care.

12 (e) The right to training and support for the purpose of improving
13 skills in providing daily care and meeting the needs of the child in foster
14 care.

15 (f) The right to provide input to the Department in identifying the
16 types of resources and services that would meet the needs of children
17 currently in their care and of their families, and advocate for the same
18 without threat of reprisal.

19 (g) The right to information concerning behavioral problems,
20 health history, educational status, cultural and family background, and
21 other issues relative to the child which are known to the Department at
22 the time the child is placed in foster care prior to the child's placement
23 with a foster parent or parents. When the Department knows such
24 information after placement, the Department shall make that
25 information available to the foster parent as soon as practicable.

26 (h) The right to an explanation of the plan concerning the
27 placement of a child in the foster parent's home. For emergency

1 placements where time does not allow prior preparation of the
2 explanation, the Department shall provide such explanation within
3 seventy-two (72) hours. Prior to placement, the Department shall allow
4 the foster parent to review information concerning the child, including,
5 but not limited to, assessments, evaluations, and case plans, and allow
6 the foster parent to assist in determining if the child would be a proper
7 placement for the prospective foster family. For emergency placements
8 where time does not allow prior review of the information, the
9 Department shall provide the information within seventy-two (72)
10 hours of placement. Confidential information shall be kept confidential
11 by the foster parents.

12 (i) The right to a BOSSA staff member representing the
13 Department on call twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week,
14 for the purpose of aiding the foster parent in receiving departmental
15 assistance.

16 (j) The right to foster care maintenance payments, subject to the
17 availability of funds.

18 (k) The right to accept or refuse placement within their home, or
19 to request the removal of a child from their home for good cause
20 without threat of reprisal for acting on such good cause.

21 (l) The right to information of scheduled meetings and
22 appointments concerning the foster child and permission for the foster
23 parent to actively participate in and provide input in the case planning
24 and decision-making process regarding the child in foster care,
25 including, but not limited to, individual service planning meetings,
26 foster care reviews, individual educational planning meetings, and
27 medical appointments.

1
2 (m) The right to notice and an opportunity to be heard, including
3 timely information concerning all court hearings. The notification shall
4 be made upon receipt of this information by the Department. Although
5 not a party to the case, the foster parent may attend court hearings at the
6 discretion of the judge.

7 (n) The right to communicate with professionals who work with
8 the foster child, including, but not limited to, therapists, physicians, and
9 teachers who work directly with the child.

10 (o) The right to communicate with the child’s birth family, other
11 foster parents of the child, and prospective and finalized adoptive
12 parents of the child with case worker approval and facilitation, and
13 without the threat of reprisal.

14 (p) The right to necessary information on an ongoing basis which
15 is relevant to the care of the child, including timely information on
16 changes in the case plan or termination of the placement and reasons
17 for the changes or termination of placement to the foster parent, except
18 in the instances of immediate response of child protective service.

19 (q) The right to priority consideration as the resource for a child
20 in a foster parent’s home who becomes free for adoption or another
21 planned permanent living arrangement if the child was in the home for
22 at least twelve (12) months.

23 (r) The right to a period of respite upon the request of a foster
24 parent. The foster parent shall provide reasonable notice of a request
25 for respite.

1 (s) The right to be provided a fair and timely investigation of
2 complaints concerning the operation of a foster home.

3 (t) The right to an explanation of a corrective action plan or
4 policy violation relating to foster parents.

5 (u) The right to copies of all information relative to their family
6 and services contained in the personal foster home record.

7 (v) The right to mediation procedures that may be developed and
8 adopted by the Department. The foster parent may request mediation in
9 accordance with any mediation policy adopted by the Department
10 without threat of reprisal.

11 (w) The right to receive an evaluation on the foster parent's
12 performance based on licensing standards.

13 (x) The right to be apprised of information, laws, and guidelines
14 on the obligations, responsibilities, and opportunities of foster
15 parenting and to be kept informed of any changes in laws, policies, and
16 procedures regarding foster parenting by BOSSA in a timely manner
17 and at least annually.

18 (y) The right to have a copy of the Foster Parents' Bill of Rights
19 listed in this section."

20 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect immediately upon
21 enactment.

22 **Section 5. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
23 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity shall not
24 affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without
25 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of Act is severable.

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

Bill No. 139-38 (COR)

As Amended by the Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs,
Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services,
the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and Hagåtña Restoration

Introduced by:

Shelly V. Calvo
Therese M. Terlaje
William A. Parkinson
V. Anthony Ada
Vincent A. V. Borja
Sabrina Salas Matanane
Joe S. San Agustin
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Sabina Flores Perez

**AN ACT TO *ADD* NEW §§ 13321.1 AND 13321.2 TO
ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE
ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE
FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS; AND TO CITE THIS
ACT AS THE “FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF
2025.”**

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

2 **Section 1. Short Title.** This Act may be cited as the “Foster Care Bill of
3 Rights Act of 2025.”

4 **Section 2.** A *new* §13321.1 of Chapter 13, Title 19, Guam Code Annotated,
5 is hereby *added* to read as follows:

6 **“§ 13321.1. Foster Children’s Bill of Rights.**

7 **A foster child’s rights include, but are not limited to, the following:**

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1 (a) The right to appropriate care and treatment in the least
2 restrictive setting available that can meet the child’s needs according to
3 the best judgment of the ~~foster~~ parents, the caseworker, and the court.

4 (b) The right to live in a safe, healthy and comfortable placement
5 where the child can receive reasonable protection from harm and
6 appropriate privacy for personal needs and where the child is treated
7 with respect.

8 (c) The right to know why the child is in foster care and what will
9 happen to the child and to the child’s family, including siblings, and
10 case plans in a way that is appropriate based on the child’s age.

11 (d) The right to, ~~when practicable,~~ be placed with a foster family
12 that can accommodate the child’s communication needs.

13 (e) The right to visit and contact family members, unless
14 prohibited by court order or by the Child Protective Services.

15 (f) The right to make and receive confidential telephone calls and
16 send and receive unopened mail, unless prohibited by court order.

17 (g) The right to be disciplined in a manner that is appropriate to
18 the child’s level of maturity.

19 (h) The right to attend community, school and religious services
20 and activities of the child’s choice to the extent that it is appropriate for
21 the child, as planned and discussed with the child’s ~~placement worker~~
22 and caseworker and based on caregiver availability if transportation is
23 available through a responsible party.

24 (i) The right to go to school and receive an education that fits the
25 child’s age and individual needs.

26 (j) The right to training in life skills such as personal care,
27 hygiene and grooming.

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1 (k) The right to clothing that fits comfortably and is adequate to
2 protect the child against natural elements such as rain, wind, cold, and
3 sun.

4 (l) The right to have personal possessions at home that are not
5 offensive to the foster family and to acquire additional possessions with
6 reasonable limits, as planned and discussed with the child's foster
7 parent, ~~placement worker~~ and case worker, and based on caregiver
8 ability.

9 (m) The right to personal space, in the foster home preferably, in
10 the child's bedroom for storing clothing and belongings.

11 (n) The right to healthy foods in healthy portions that are
12 appropriate for the child's age ~~and culture~~.

13 (o) The right to comply with any approved visitation plan, ~~at the~~
14 ~~child's discretion~~, and to have any restrictions explained to the child in
15 a manner and level of details deemed age appropriate by the foster
16 parent in agreement with the caseworker and documented in the child's
17 record.

18 (p) If the child is six (6) years of age or older, the right to receive
19 contact information of the child's case worker, attorney or advocate and
20 to speak with them in private if necessary.

21 (q) The right to review ~~and participate or request the guardian ad~~
22 ~~litem to participate on their behalf in~~ his or her own case plan if he or
23 she is ~~over twelve (12) at least fourteen (14)~~ years of age, and to receive
24 information about his or her out-of-home placement and case plan,
25 including being told of changes to the plan.

26 (r) The right to have fair and equal access to all available
27 services, placement, care, treatment, and benefits, and not to be

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1 subjected to discrimination or harassment on the basis of actual or
2 perceived race, ethnic group identification, ancestry, national origin,
3 color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or
4 physical disability, or HIV status.

5 ~~(s) The right to participate in age-appropriate child's service~~
6 ~~planning and permanency planning meetings and to be given a copy or~~
7 ~~summary of each service plan and service plan review. The child may~~
8 ~~request someone to participate on the child's behalf or to support the~~
9 ~~child in this participation.~~

10 ~~(t) (s) The right to attend the child's court hearing and speak to~~
11 ~~the judge.~~

12 ~~(u) (t) The right to have the child's records and personal~~
13 ~~information kept private and discussed only when it is about the child's~~
14 ~~care except the foster parent shall have full access to the records to~~
15 ~~determine if the child will be successful in the home. During the foster~~
16 ~~placement, if the foster parent requests to view the record upon~~
17 ~~experiencing problems with the child's adjustment, the full record shall~~
18 ~~be made available for viewing by the foster parent.~~

19 ~~(v) (u) The right to be free of unnecessary or excessive~~
20 ~~medication, provided that prescribed medication must be taken as~~
21 ~~recommended by the child's health care provider.~~

22 ~~(w) (v) The right to receive emotional, mental health care or~~
23 ~~chemical dependency treatment separately from adults who are~~
24 ~~receiving services, as planned and discussed with the child's placement~~
25 ~~worker and case worker, as is financially reasonable for the foster~~
26 ~~parent.~~

1 ~~(x)~~ (w) The right to report a violation of personal rights specified
2 in this section without fear of punishment, interference, coercion or
3 retaliation, except that an appropriate level of punishment may be
4 applied if the child is proven to have maliciously or wrongfully accused
5 the foster parent.

6 ~~(y)~~ (x) The right to understand and have a copy of the Foster
7 Children’s Bill of Rights listed in this section. The Foster Children’s
8 Bill of Rights must be posted in a conspicuous place in all secure
9 facilities and/or residential placement facilities.”

10 **Section 3.** A new §13321.2 of Chapter 13, Title 19, Guam Code Annotated,
11 is hereby *added* to read as follows:

12 **“§ 13321.2. Foster Parents’ Bill of Rights.**

13 A foster parent’s rights include, but are not limited to:

14 (a) The right to be treated with dignity, respect, trust, value, and
15 consideration as a primary provider of foster care and a member of the
16 professional team caring for foster children.

17 (b) ~~The right to not be discriminated against on the basis of~~
18 ~~religion, race, color, creed, sex, national origin, age or physical~~
19 ~~disability.~~

20 (c) The right to receive ~~information~~ an explanation from the
21 Department of Public Health & Social Services’ (“Department”)
22 Bureau of Social Services Administration (BOSSA) concerning the
23 rights enumerated in this section.

24 ~~(e)~~ (d) The right to a concise written explanation of their role as
25 foster parents in partnership with children and their families, and the
26 Department ~~of Public Health & Social Services (“Department”), and~~

1 other providers; the role of the Department; and the rights and role of
2 the members of the birth family of a child in foster care.

3 ~~(d)~~ (e) The right to training and support for the purpose of
4 improving skills in providing daily care and meeting the needs of the
5 child in foster care.

6 ~~(e) The right to training, consultation, and assistance in~~
7 ~~evaluating, identifying, and accessing services to meet their needs~~
8 ~~related to their role as foster care providers.~~

9 (f) The right to provide input to the Department in identifying the
10 types of resources and services that would meet the needs of children
11 currently in their care and of their families, and advocate for the same
12 without threat of reprisal.

13 (g) The right to information concerning behavioral problems,
14 health history, educational status, cultural and family background, and
15 other issues relative to the child which are known to the Department at
16 the time the child is placed in foster care prior to the child's placement
17 with a foster parent or parents. When the Department knows such
18 information after placement, the Department shall make that
19 information available to the foster parent as soon as practicable.

20 (h) The right to an ~~written~~ explanation of the plan concerning the
21 placement of a child in the foster parent's home. For emergency
22 placements where time does not allow prior preparation of the
23 explanation, the Department shall provide such explanation within
24 seventy-two (72) hours. Prior to placement, the Department shall allow
25 the foster parent to review ~~a written summary of~~ information
26 concerning the child, including, but not limited to, assessments,
27 evaluations, and case plans, and allow the foster parent to assist in

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1 determining if the child would be a proper placement for the
2 prospective foster family. For emergency placements where time does
3 not allow prior review of the information, the Department shall provide
4 the information within seventy-two (72) hours of placement.
5 Confidential information shall be kept confidential by the foster
6 parents, ~~except as determined through the individualized service plan~~
7 ~~(ISP) process to promote the health and welfare of the child.~~

8 (i) The right to a BOSSA staff member representing the
9 Department on call twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week,
10 for the purpose of aiding the foster parent in receiving departmental
11 assistance.

12 (j) The right to ~~fair and equitable board payments based on a~~
13 ~~system of daily board rates and other financial reimbursement as~~
14 ~~specified in a plan adopted by the Department after consultation with~~
15 ~~foster parents foster care maintenance payments,~~ subject to the
16 availability of funds.

17 (k) The right to accept or refuse placement within their home, or
18 to request, ~~upon reasonable notice to the Department,~~ the removal of a
19 child from their home for good cause without threat of reprisal for
20 acting on such good cause.

21 (l) The right to information of scheduled meetings and
22 appointments concerning the foster child and permission for the foster
23 parent to actively participate in and provide input ~~to be used by the ISP~~
24 ~~team~~ in the case planning and decision-making process regarding the
25 child in foster care, including, but not limited to, individual service
26 planning meetings, foster care reviews, individual educational planning
27 meetings, and medical appointments.

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1 ~~(m)~~ The right to request that a person or persons serve as a
2 volunteer advocate and to be present at all meetings with the
3 Department, including, but not limited to, individualized service
4 planning, administrative hearings, the grievance/mediation process, the
5 adoption process, and the allegation process where the foster parent is
6 present. All communications received by the volunteer advocate shall
7 be in strict confidence.

8 ~~(n)~~ (m) The right to notice and an opportunity to be heard,
9 including timely information concerning all court hearings. This
10 notification may include, but is not limited to, notice of the date and
11 time of the court hearing, the name of the judge or hearing officer
12 assigned to the case, the guardian ad litem, the location of the hearing,
13 and the court docket number. The notification shall be made upon
14 receipt of this information by the Department. Although not a party to
15 the case, the foster parent may attend court hearings at the discretion of
16 the judge.

17 ~~(o)~~ (n) The right to communicate with professionals who work
18 with the foster child, including, but not limited to, therapists,
19 physicians, and teachers who work directly with the child.

20 ~~(p)~~ (o) The right to communicate with the child's birth family,
21 other foster parents of the child, and prospective and finalized adoptive
22 parents of the child with ~~ISP team~~ case worker approval and facilitation,
23 and without the threat of reprisal.

24 ~~(q)~~ (p) The right to necessary information on an ongoing basis
25 which is relevant to the care of the child, including timely information
26 on changes in the case plan or termination of the placement and reasons

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1 for the changes or termination of placement to the foster parent, except
2 in the instances of immediate response of child protective service.

3 ~~(r)~~(q) The right to ~~first priority~~ consideration as the resource for
4 a child in a foster parent's home who becomes free for adoption or
5 another planned permanent living arrangement ~~if the child was in the~~
6 home for at least twelve (12) months.

7 ~~(s)~~(r) The right to a period of respite upon the request of a foster
8 parent. The foster parent shall provide reasonable notice of a request
9 for respite.

10 ~~(t)~~ The right to information, in person and in writing, of any
11 allegations of maltreatment of children in the home of the foster parent
12 alleged to have been perpetrated by a member of the foster parent's
13 household, the process for disposition of these allegations, and any
14 review process for reports of indicated child abuse and neglect upon
15 receipt of the allegations.

16 ~~(u)~~(s) The right to be provided a fair and timely investigation of
17 complaints concerning the operation of a foster home.

18 ~~(v)~~(t) The right to an explanation of a corrective action plan or
19 policy violation relating to foster parents.

20 ~~(w)~~(u) The right to copies of all information relative to their
21 family and services contained in the personal foster home record.

22 ~~(x)~~(v) The right to mediation procedures that may be developed
23 and adopted by the Department. The foster parent may request
24 mediation in accordance with any mediation policy adopted by the
25 Department without threat of reprisal.

1 ~~(y) The right to appeal the closing of a foster family home by the~~
2 ~~Department in accordance with any appeal procedure adopted by the~~
3 ~~Department without threat of reprisal.~~

4 ~~(z) The right to not be discriminated against on the basis of~~
5 ~~religion, race, color, creed, sex, national origin, age or physical~~
6 ~~disability.~~

7 ~~(aa) (w) The right to receive an evaluation on the foster parent’s~~
8 ~~performance based on licensing standards.~~

9 ~~(bb) (x) The right to be apprised of information, laws, and~~
10 ~~guidelines on the obligations, responsibilities, and opportunities of~~
11 ~~foster parenting and to be kept informed of any changes in laws,~~
12 ~~policies, and procedures regarding foster parenting by the Department’s~~
13 ~~Bureau of Social Services Administration BOSSA in a timely manner~~
14 ~~and at least annually.~~

15 ~~(cc) (y) The right to have a copy of the Foster Parents’ Bill of~~
16 ~~Rights listed in this section.”~~

17 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect immediately upon
18 enactment.

19 **Section 5. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
20 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity shall not
21 affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without
22 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of Act is severable.




COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

May 22, 2025

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

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

Subject: **Fiscal Note Waiver for Bill No. 139-38 (COR)**

Håfa Adai!

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

Bill No. 139-38 (COR).

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





BUREAU OF BUDGET & MANAGEMENT RESEARCH

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Post Office Box 2950, Hagåtña Guam 96932



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR

LESTER L. CARLSON, JR.
DIRECTOR

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

MAY 21 2025

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

Hafa adai, Vice Speaker Ada:

The Bureau requests that Bill No. 139-38 (COR) be granted a waiver pursuant to Public Law 12-229 as amended for the following reason(s):

Bill No. 139-38 (COR) is an act to *add* new §§ 13321.1 and 13321.2 to Article 3, Chapter 13, Title 19, Guam Code Annotated, relative to establishing the Foster Care Bill of Rights; and to cite this act as the “Foster Care Bill of Rights Act of 2025.”

The proposed legislation seeks to implement the Foster Care Bill of Rights Act of 2025 to provide foster children and foster parents with information regarding their respective rights and protections relative to providing for the health, welfare, education and other needs of foster children. Thus, the proposed legislation is administrative in nature and poses no fiscal impact upon any funds of the Government of Guam.

Senseramento

LESTER L. CARLSON, JR.