

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
27-38 (COR)	William A. Parkinson	AN ACT TO AMEND §§ 60100, 60102, 60103, 60106, 60108(b)(5), 60111, 60114(b), AND 60118 OF CHAPTER 60, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO OWNERSHIP, POSSESSION, AND USE OF FIREARM SILENCERS.	1/15/25 10:33 a.m.	1/23/25	Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard.	Request 1/24/25 Waiver: 2/18/25	2/26/25 10:00 a.m.	4/24/25 As Amended.	Motion to append to the Committee Report No Objections 5/28/25



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

April 17, 2025


The Honorable Frank F. Blas, Jr.

Speaker

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan

163 Chalan Santo Papa

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

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

RE: Committee Report on Bill No. 27-38 (COR), As Amended by the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

Håfa Adai Speaker Blas:

Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report on Bill No. 27-38 (COR) - As Amended by the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard - **AN ACT TO AMEND §§ 60100, 60102, 60103, 60106, 60108(b)(5), 60111, 60114(b), AND 60118 OF CHAPTER 60, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO OWNERSHIP, POSSESSION, AND USE OF FIREARM SILENCERS.**

Committee votes are as follows:

_____ TO DO PASS

_____ TO NOT PASS

 5 TO REPORT OUT ONLY

_____ TO ABSTAIN

_____ TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE

Sincerely,



SHAWN GUMATAOTAO

Chairman

Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard



COMMITTEE ON RULES

RECEIVED:

April 17, 2025 4:42 p.m.

Marie Crisostomo

Revisions Received:

April 23, 2025 2:24 p.m.



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

COMMITTEE REPORT

BILL NO. 27-38 (COR), *AS AMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, AND GUAM NATIONAL GUARD*, SENATOR WILLIAM A. PARKINSON: AN ACT TO AMEND §§ 60100, 60102, 60103, 60106, 60108(b)(5), 60111, 60114(b), AND 60118 OF CHAPTER 60, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO OWNERSHIP, POSSESSION, AND USE OF FIREARM SILENCERS.



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

April 16, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

From: Chairman Shawn Gumataotao

Subject: Committee Report on Bill No. 27-38 (COR), As Amended by the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

Håfa Adai:

Transmitted herewith for your consideration is the Committee Report on Bill No. 27-38 (COR) - As Amended by the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard - **AN ACT TO AMEND §§ 60100, 60102, 60103, 60106, 60108(b)(5), 60111, 60114(b), AND 60118 OF CHAPTER 60, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO OWNERSHIP, POSSESSION, AND USE OF FIREARM SILENCERS.**

This report includes the following:

- Copy of COR Referral of Bill No. 27-38 (COR);
- Notices of Public Hearing;
- Copy of the Public Hearing Agenda;
- Public Hearing Sign-in Sheets;
- Copies of Submitted Written Testimony;
- Committee Vote Sheet;
- Committee Report Digest;
- Copy of Bill No. 27-38 (COR), As Introduced;
- Copy of Bill No. 27-38 (COR), As Amended by the Committee;
- Copy of Bill No. 27-38 (COR), As Amended by the Committee (Markup); and,
- Fiscal Note/Fiscal Note Waiver.

Please take the appropriate action on the attached vote sheet.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



SHAWN GUMATAOTAO

Chairman

Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

120 Father Duenas Avenue, Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Phone: (671) 647-1409, (671) 647-1411 • email: office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov



COMMITTEE ON RULES

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Chairperson

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guahan

38th Guam Legislature

January 23, 2025

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

Attorney Darleen Hiton
Legislative Legal Counsel

From: **Senator Christopher M. Dueñas** *CD*
Acting Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Subject: **Referral of Bill No. 27-38 (COR)**

Håfa Adai,

As per my authority as Acting 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. 27-38 (COR)** – William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO *AMEND* §§ 60102 & 60103 OF CHAPTER 60, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REMOVING THE RESTRICTIONS ON OWNERSHIP OF SUPPRESSORS AND SILENCERS; AND TO BE KNOWN AS THE “*HEARING PROTECTION ACT OF 2025.*”

Please ensure that the subject bill is referred to the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard chaired by Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao. I also request that the same be forwarded 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.



First Notice of Public Hearing - Wednesday, February 26, 2025

4 messages

Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Wed, Feb 19, 2025 at 10:39 AM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov

Bcc: "Speaker Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, "vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, "office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov" <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>, "senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov" <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>, "officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov" <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, "senatortelot@gmail.com" <senatortelot@gmail.com>, office.senatorborja@legislature.gov, Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>, vince.borja@guamlegislature.gov, "senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, "malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov" <malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov>, "senator.perez@guamlegislature.gov" <senator.perez@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Muna Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, "senator.parkinson@guamlegislature.gov" <senator.parkinson@guamlegislature.gov>, "senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com" <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, joann.camacho@guamlegislature.gov, clerks@guamlegislature.gov, legislativecounsel@guamlegislature.gov, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>, news@guampdn.com, publisher@glimpsesofiguam.com, publisher@pacificislandtimes.com, reporters@postguam.com, newsdirector@kuam.com, reporters@kuam.com, Troy Torres <troy@kanditnews.com>, news@kanditnews.com, raygibsonradio@gmail.com, context@pasquines.us, guamwebsites@gmail.com, managingeditor@glimpsesofiguam.com, editor@glimpsesofiguam.com, reporter2@glimpsesofiguam.com, kyle@power98.com, patti@thewave105.com, dice@power98.com, reese@power98.com, marc@postguam.com, fparedes@edisonresearch.com, dick.sheffield@abc.com, nlicanto@guampdn.com, ready@guamwebz.com, thomas.manglona@marianaspress.com, local@bayareanewsgroup.com, local@bakersfield.com, runner@csu.edu, jimk@ebpublishing.com, tritonscalluog@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media

From: Senator Shawn Gumataotao

Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

Subject: First Notice of Public Hearing - Wednesday, February 26, 2025, beginning at 10:00 am

Buenas yan Håfa adai! Please be advised that the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard will conduct a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, February 26, 2025, beginning at 10:00 a.m.** in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building in *Hagåtña*. The agenda will include the following discussion item:

- **Bill No. 27-38 (COR)** by Senator William A. Parkinson, which is *AN ACT TO AMEND §§ 60102 & 60103 OF CHAPTER 60, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REMOVING THE RESTRICTIONS ON OWNERSHIP OF SUPPRESSORS AND SILENCERS; AND TO BE KNOWN AS THE "HEARING PROTECTION ACT OF 2025."*

Watch Live

The Public Hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117 and stream online via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*'s live feed.

A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing.

How to Participate

If you are interested in participating in the Public Hearing to provide testimony, please contact the Office of Senator Shawn Gumataotao at (671) 647-1409/1411 or via email at office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov no later than **Monday, February 24, 2025**, for further guidance.

If written testimonies are to be presented at the Public Hearing, the Committee requests that copies be submitted prior to the hearing date and they should be addressed to Senator Shawn Gumataotao, Chairman of the Committee. Testimonies may be submitted via Senator Gumataotao's mailbox located at the Guam Congress Building in *Hagåtña* or via email to the Office of Senator Shawn Gumataotao at the aforementioned address.

Special Accommodations

Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids or services are asked to submit their request to Ms. Diana Topasna at the Office of Senator Shawn Gumataotao at (671) 647-1409/1411, 120 Father Duenas Avenue Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103, *Hagåtña*, Guam 96910, or via email at office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!

--

Office of Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard
38th Guam Legislature
120 Father Duenas Avenue Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103, *Hagåtña*, Guam 96910
(671) 647-1409/1411

 **02.19.25 (1st Notice) - 2.26.25 PH.doc**
131K

Mail Delivery Subsystem <mailer-daemon@googlemail.com>
To: office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov

Wed, Feb 19, 2025 at 10:39 AM



Address not found

Your message wasn't delivered to **office.senatorborja@legislature.gov** because the domain legislature.gov couldn't be found. Check for typos or unnecessary spaces and try again.

[LEARN MORE](#)

The response was:

DNS Error: DNS type 'mx' lookup of legislature.gov responded with code NXDOMAIN Domain name not found: legislature.gov For more information, go to <https://support.google.com/mail/?p=BadRcptDomain>

Final-Recipient: rfc822; office.senatorborja@legislature.gov
Action: failed
Status: 5.1.2
Diagnostic-Code: smtp; DNS Error: DNS type 'mx' lookup of legislature.gov responded with code NXDOMAIN
Domain name not found: legislature.gov For more information, go to <https://support.google.com/mail/?p=BadRcptDomain>
Last-Attempt-Date: Tue, 18 Feb 2025 16:39:41 -0800 (PST)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc:
Bcc: office.senatorborja@legislature.gov
Date: Wed, 19 Feb 2025 10:39:28 +1000
Subject: First Notice of Public Hearing - Wednesday, February 26, 2025
----- Message truncated -----

Mail Delivery System <Mailer-Daemon@business35.web-hosting.com>
To: office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov

Wed, Feb 19, 2025 at 10:40 AM

This message was created automatically by mail delivery software.

A message that you sent could not be delivered to one or more of its recipients. This is a permanent error. The following address(es) failed:

pasquines.us@gmail.com

(ultimately generated from context@pasquines.us)

host gmail-smtp-in.l.google.com [142.251.2.26]

SMTP error from remote mail server after end of data:

550-5.7.1 [199.188.200.76 19] Gmail has detected that this message is

550-5.7.1 likely suspicious due to the very low reputation of the sending

550-5.7.1 domain. To best protect our users from spam, the message has been

550-5.7.1 blocked. For more information, go to

550 5.7.1 <https://support.google.com/mail/answer/188131> d9443c01a7336-220d54589dcsi166386665ad.435 - gsmtmp

Action: failed

Final-Recipient: rfc822;context@pasquines.us

Status: 5.0.0

Remote-MTA: dns; gmail-smtp-in.l.google.com

Diagnostic-Code: smtp; 550-5.7.1 [199.188.200.76 19] Gmail has detected that this message is

550-5.7.1 likely suspicious due to the very low reputation of the sending

550-5.7.1 domain. To best protect our users from spam, the message has been

550-5.7.1 blocked. For more information, go to

550 5.7.1 <https://support.google.com/mail/answer/188131> d9443c01a7336-220d54589dcsi166386665ad.435 - gsmtmp

 **noname**
6K

Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>
To: Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Wed, Feb 19, 2025 at 10:47 AM

Hafa adai and posted on the calendar.

[Quoted text hidden]



Edward S. Pocaigue, Jr.
Sergeant-at-Arms

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Guam Congress Building, 1st Floor
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910



1-671-969-3514



sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov

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OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

February 19, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media

From: Senator Shawn Gumataotao
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and
Guam National Guard

Subject: First Notice of Public Hearing – Wednesday, February 26, 2025, beginning
at 10:00 a.m.

Buenas yan Håfa adai! Please be advised that the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard will conduct a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, February 26, 2025, beginning at 10:00 a.m.** in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building in *Hagåtña*. The agenda will include the following discussion item:

- **Bill No. 27-38 (COR)** by Senator William A. Parkinson, which is *AN ACT TO AMEND §§ 60102 & 60103 OF CHAPTER 60, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REMOVING THE RESTRICTIONS ON OWNERSHIP OF SUPPRESSORS AND SILENCERS; AND TO BE KNOWN AS THE "HEARING PROTECTION ACT OF 2025."*

Watch Live

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A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing.

How to Participate

If you are interested in participating in the Public Hearing to provide testimony, please contact the Office of Senator Shawn Gumataotao at (671) 647-1409/1411 or via email at office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov no later than **Monday, February 24, 2025**, for further guidance.

If written testimonies are to be presented at the Public Hearing, the Committee requests that copies be submitted prior to the hearing date and they should be addressed to Senator Shawn Gumataotao, Chairman of the Committee. Testimonies may be submitted via Senator Gumataotao's mailbox located at the Guam Congress Building in *Hagåtña* or via email to the Office of Senator Shawn Gumataotao at the aforementioned address.

Special Accommodations

Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids or services are asked to submit their request to Ms. Diana Topasna at the Office of Senator Shawn Gumataotao at (671) 647-1409/1411, 120 Father Duenas Avenue Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103, *Hagåtña*, Guam 96910, or via email at office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!

First Notice of Public Hearing - Wednesday, February 26, 2025 beginning at 10:00 am

First Notice of Public Hearing - Wednesday, February 26, 2025 beginning at 10:00 am



PUBLIC HEARING

📅 Posted on: 02/19/2025 08:27 AM

👤 Posted by: Diana Topasna

📅 Public Hearing Date: 02/26/2025 10:00 AM

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

🏢 Division(s): OFFICE OF SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO (/notices?division_id=294)

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

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

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

🔗 Share this notice

February 19, 2025

MEMORANDUM

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Bill No. 27-38 (COR)

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%2027-38%20\(COR\).pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%2027-38%20(COR).pdf)) by Senator William A. Parkinson, which is *AN ACT TO AMEND §§ 60102 & 60103 OF CHAPTER 60, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REMOVING THE RESTRICTIONS ON OWNERSHIP OF SUPPRESSORS AND SILENCERS; AND TO BE KNOWN AS THE "HEARING PROTECTION ACT OF 2025."*

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Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!

INTER-ISLAND COMMUNICATIONS INC.
1868 HALSEY DR.
HAGATNA, GU 96910
(671) 477-7108/9448

KISH Invoice

Invoice ID: 25020015
Invoice Date: 2/24/2025
Account ID: [REDACTED]
Order ID: 0734-001
Account Rep: Sandy Cruz

Amount Due: \$0.00

Amount Paid: _____

OFFICE OF SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO

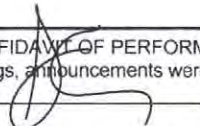
ALL TIMES SHOWN ARE
APPROXIMATE WITHIN
5 MINUTES.

Sponsor: Office of Senator Shawn Gumataotao
LIVE READ PUBLICATION AD

Page 1

Date	Time	Length	Description	CopyID / ISCI Code	Cost
2/19/2025	08:00 AM	:60	Spot	LIVE READ PUBLICATION	[Package]
2/19/2025	04:31 PM	:60	Spot	LIVE READ PUBLICATION	[Package]
2/24/2025	07:18 AM	:60	Spot	LIVE READ PUBLICATION	[Package]
2/24/2025	05:18 PM	:60	Spot	LIVE READ PUBLICATION	[Package]
2/24/2025			Package		0.00
4 Total Items				Total Cost:	0.00

AFFIDAVIT OF PERFORMANCE: I Certify that in accordance with the Official Station
Logs, announcements were broadcast as shown on this invoice.



Amount Due: **0.00**

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO INTER-ISLAND COMMUNICATIONS

INTER-ISLAND COMMUNICATIONS INC.
1868 HALSEY DR.
HAGATNA, GU 96910
(671) 477-7108/9448

Advertiser: Office of Senator Shawn Gumataotao
Co-Op:
ScriptID: LIVE READ PUBLICATION
Length: :60

SCRIPT:

"The following is a Guam Open Government Law Announcement.

The Legislative Committee on Public Safety will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 10:00 am in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building in Hagatna.

The agenda includes Bill 27-38 (COR), which is AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 60102 & 60103 OF CHAPTER 60, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REMOVING THE RESTRICTIONS ON OWNERSHIP OF SUPPRESSORS AND SILENCERS.

Individuals requiring assistance or accommodations should contact the Office of Senator Shawn Gumataotao at 671-647-1409 or via email at office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov.

The preceding was an Open Government Law Announcement."

Station Documentation Statement

This announcement was broadcast 4 times, as entered in the station's program log. The times this announcement was broadcast were billed to this station's client on our invoice number 25020015 dated 2/24/2025 at his earned rate of:

0.00 each for 4 announcements, for a total of	\$0.00
For a total of 4 announcements for a total of	\$0.00



Station Official Signature



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*
February 24, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media
From: Senator Shawn Gumataotao
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and
Guam National Guard
Subject: **Second Notice of Public Hearing – Wednesday, February 26, 2025, beginning at 10:00 a.m.**

Buenas yan Håfa adai! Please be advised that the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard will conduct a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, February 26, 2025, beginning at 10:00 a.m.** in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building in *Hagåtña*. The agenda will include the following discussion item:

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If written testimonies are to be presented at the Public Hearing, the Committee requests that copies be submitted prior to the hearing date and they should be addressed to Senator Shawn Gumataotao, Chairman of the Committee. Testimonies may be submitted via Senator Gumataotao's mailbox located at the Guam Congress Building in *Hagåtña* or via email to the Office of Senator Shawn Gumataotao at the aforementioned address.

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Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!



Second Notice of Public Hearing - Wednesday, February 26, 2025

4 messages

Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Mon, Feb 24, 2025 at 10:59 AM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov

Bcc: "Speaker Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, "vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, "office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov" <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>, "senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov" <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>, "officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov" <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, "senartelot@gmail.com" <senartelot@gmail.com>, office.senatorborja@legislature.gov, Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>, vince.borja@guamlegislature.gov, "senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, "malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov" <malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov>, "senator.perez@guamlegislature.gov" <senator.perez@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Muna Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, "senator.parkinson@guamlegislature.gov" <senator.parkinson@guamlegislature.gov>, "senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com" <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, joann.camacho@guamlegislature.gov, clerks@guamlegislature.gov, legislativecounsel@guamlegislature.gov, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>, news@guampdn.com, publisher@glimpsesofofguam.com, publisher@pacificislandtimes.com, reporters@postguam.com, newsdirector@kuam.com, reporters@kuam.com, Troy Torres <troy@kanditnews.com>, news@kanditnews.com, raygibsonradio@gmail.com, context@pasquines.us, guamwebsites@gmail.com, managingeditor@glimpsesofofguam.com, editor@glimpsesofofguam.com, reporter2@glimpsesofofguam.com, kyle@power98.com, patti@thewave105.com, dice@power98.com, reese@power98.com, marc@postguam.com, fparedes@edisonresearch.com, dick.sheffield@abc.com, nlicanto@guampdn.com, ready@guamwebz.com, thomas.manglona@marianaspress.com, local@bayareanewsgroup.com, local@bakersfield.com, runner@csu.edu, jimk@ebpublishing.com, tritonscalluog@gmail.com, [REDACTED], lee@mdaguam.com, Knox Williams <knox@amsuppressor.com>

February 24, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media

From: Senator Shawn Gumataotao

Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

Subject: Second Notice of Public Hearing – Wednesday, February 26, 2025, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Buenas yan Håfa adai! Please be advised that the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard will conduct a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, February 26, 2025, beginning at 10:00 a.m.** in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building in *Hagåtña*. The agenda will include the following discussion item:

- **Bill No. 27-38 (COR)** by Senator William A. Parkinson, which is *AN ACT TO AMEND §§ 60102 & 60103 OF CHAPTER 60, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REMOVING THE RESTRICTIONS ON OWNERSHIP OF SUPPRESSORS AND SILENCERS; AND TO BE KNOWN AS THE "HEARING PROTECTION ACT OF 2025."*

Watch Live

The Public Hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117 and stream online via *Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed.

A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing.

How to Participate

If you are interested in participating in the Public Hearing to provide testimony, please contact the Office of Senator Shawn Gumataotao at (671) 647-1409/1411 or via email at office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov no later than **Monday, February 24, 2025**, for further guidance.


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Special Accommodations

Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids or services are asked to submit their request to Ms. Diana Topasna at the Office of Senator Shawn Gumataotao at (671) 647-1409/1411, 120 Father Duenas Avenue Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103, *Hagåtña*, Guam 96910, or via email at office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!

--
Office of Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard
38th Guam Legislature
120 Father Duenas Avenue Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
(671) 647-1409/1411

 **02.24.25 (2nd Notice) - 2.26.25 PH.docx.pdf**
178K

Mail Delivery Subsystem <mailer-daemon@googlemail.com>
To: office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov

Mon, Feb 24, 2025 at 11:00 AM



Address not found

Your message wasn't delivered to **office.senatorborja@legislature.gov** because the domain [legislature.gov](https://www.legislature.gov) couldn't be found. Check for typos or unnecessary spaces and try again.

[LEARN MORE](#)

The response was:

DNS Error: DNS type 'mx' lookup of [legislature.gov](https://www.legislature.gov) responded with code NXDOMAIN Domain name not found: [legislature.gov](https://www.legislature.gov) For more information, go to <https://support.google.com/mail/?p=BadRcptDomain>

Final-Recipient: rfc822; office.senatorborja@legislature.gov

Action: failed

Status: 5.1.2

Diagnostic-Code: smtp; DNS Error: DNS type 'mx' lookup of [legislature.gov](https://www.legislature.gov) responded with code NXDOMAIN

Domain name not found: [legislature.gov](https://www.legislature.gov) For more information, go to <https://support.google.com/mail/?p=BadRcptDomain>

Last-Attempt-Date: Sun, 23 Feb 2025 17:00:07 -0800 (PST)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov

Cc:

Bcc: office.senatorborja@legislature.gov

Date: Mon, 24 Feb 2025 10:59:52 +1000

Subject: Second Notice of Public Hearing - Wednesday, February 26, 2025

----- Message truncated -----

postmaster@ipalabra.com <postmaster@ipalabra.com>
To: office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov

Mon, Feb 24, 2025 at 11:00 AM



Your message to nlcanto@guampdn.com couldn't be delivered.

nlcanto wasn't found at [guampdn.com](https://www.guampdn.com).

office.senatorshawn

Action Required

Unknown To address

Office 365

nlcanto

Recipient

How to Fix It

The address may be misspelled or may not exist. Try one or more of the following:

- Send the message again following these steps: In Outlook, open this non-delivery report (NDR) and choose **Send Again** from the Report ribbon. In Outlook on the web, select this NDR, then select the link "**To send this message again, click here.**" Then delete and retype the entire recipient address. If prompted with an Auto-Complete List suggestion don't select it. After typing the complete address, click **Send**.
- Contact the recipient (by phone, for example) to check that the address exists and is correct.
- The recipient may have set up email forwarding to an incorrect address. Ask them to check that any forwarding they've set up is working correctly.
- Clear the recipient Auto-Complete List in Outlook or Outlook on the web by following the steps in this article: [Fix email delivery issues for error code 5.1.10 in Office 365](#), and then send the message again. Retype the entire recipient address before selecting **Send**.

If the problem continues, forward this message to your email admin. If you're an email admin, refer to the **More Info for Email Admins** section below.

Was this helpful? [Send feedback to Microsoft](#).

More Info for Email Admins

Status code: 550 5.1.10

This error occurs because the sender sent a message to an email address hosted by Office 365 but the address is incorrect or doesn't exist at the destination domain. The error is reported by the recipient domain's email server, but most often it must be fixed by the person who sent the message. If the steps in the **How to Fix It** section above don't fix the problem, and you're the email admin for the recipient, try one or more of the following:

The email address exists and is correct - Confirm that the recipient address exists, is correct, and is accepting messages.

Synchronize your directories - If you have a hybrid environment and are using directory synchronization make sure the recipient's email address is synced correctly in both Office 365 and in your on-premises directory.

Errant forwarding rule - Check for forwarding rules that aren't behaving as expected. Forwarding can be set up by an admin via mail flow rules or mailbox forwarding address settings, or by the recipient via the Inbox Rules feature.

Recipient has a valid license - Make sure the recipient has an Office 365 license assigned to them. The recipient's email admin can use the Office 365 admin center to assign a license (Users > Active Users > select the recipient > Assigned License > Edit).

Mail flow settings and MX records are not correct - Misconfigured mail flow or MX record settings can cause this error. Check your Office 365 mail flow settings to make sure your domain and any mail flow connectors are set up correctly. Also, work with your domain registrar to make sure the MX records for your domain are configured correctly.

For more information and additional tips to fix this issue, see [Fix email delivery issues for error code 5.1.10 in Office 365](#).

Original Message Details

Created Date: 2/24/2025 12:59:52 AM
Sender Address: office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov
Recipient Address: nlicanto@guampdn.com
Subject: Second Notice of Public Hearing - Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Error Details

Error: 550 5.1.10 RESOLVER.ADR.RecipientNotFound; Recipient nlicanto@guampdn.com not found by SMTP address lookup
Message rejected by: MW4PR20MB4341.namprd20.prod.outlook.com

Notification Details

Sent by: MW4PR20MB4341.namprd20.prod.outlook.com

Message Hops

HOP	TIME (UTC)	FROM	TO	WITH	RELAY TIME
1	2/24/2025 1:00:08 AM		mail-ed1-f43.google.com	SMTP	16 sec
2	2/24/2025 1:00:08 AM	mail-ed1-f43.google.com	CH1PEPF0000A348.mail.protection.outlook.com	Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_3, cipher=TLS_AES_256_GCM_SHA384)	*
3	2/24/2025 1:00:08 AM	CH1PEPF0000A348.namprd04.prod.outlook.com	CH0PR03CA0090.outlook.office365.com	Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_3, cipher=TLS_AES_256_GCM_SHA384)	*
4	2/24/2025 1:00:09 AM	CH0PR03CA0090.namprd03.prod.outlook.com	MW4PR20MB4341.namprd20.prod.outlook.com	Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_2, cipher=TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384)	1 sec

Original Message Headers

Received: from CH0PR03CA0090.namprd03.prod.outlook.com (2603:10b6:610:cc::35) by MW4PR20MB4341.namprd20.prod.outlook.com (2603:10b6:303:168::22) with Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_2, cipher=TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384) id 15.20.8466.16; Mon, 24 Feb 2025 01:00:09 +0000

Received: from CH1PEPF0000A348.namprd04.prod.outlook.com (2603:10b6:610:cc:cafe::9f) by CH0PR03CA0090.outlook.office365.com (2603:10b6:610:cc::35) with Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_3, cipher=TLS_AES_256_GCM_SHA384) id 15.20.8466.20 via Frontend Transport; Mon, 24 Feb 2025 01:00:08 +0000

Authentication-Results: spf=softfail (sender IP is 209.85.208.43) smtp.mailfrom=guamlegislature.gov; dkim=pass (signature was verified) header.d=guamlegislature.gov.20230601.gappssmtp.com; dmarc=fail action=none header.from=guamlegislature.gov;

Received-SPF: SoftFail (protection.outlook.com): domain of transitioning guamlegislature.gov discourages use of 209.85.208.43 as permitted sender)

Received: from mail-ed1-f43.google.com (209.85.208.43) by CH1PEPF0000A348.mail.protection.outlook.com (10.167.244.4) with Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_3, cipher=TLS_AES_256_GCM_SHA384) id 15.20.8466.11 via Frontend Transport; Mon, 24 Feb 2025 01:00:08 +0000

Received: by mail-ed1-f43.google.com with SMTP id 4fb4d7f45d1cf-5e04f87584dso5556008a12.3 for nlicanto@guampdn.com; Sun, 23 Feb 2025 17:00:08 -0800 (PST)

DKIM-Signature: v=1; a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed; d=guamlegislature.gov.20230601.gappssmtp.com; s=20230601; t=1740358807; x=1740963607; darn=guampdn.com; h=to:subject:message-id:date:from:mime-version:from:to:cc:subject:date:message-id:reply-to; bh=k64EjNai8C7QyMQusbXzerLcUuUe2YPSAJhuY0WahZA=; b=xju+Kg5x7jAzU7iqx390PFMLBXG3gEaC07IatDZ1I8uyjQEs7fgtkp54grH12TXJB4U0WkQBHCmq/RLugiLr9aW1Eoua65QFVb0XpE1mo+h0Fu5UGgh0B+/efqZdM11A6Vtma0YM9vycwr35K0FCev54nL5gBBZQz0/nw0px3Bx5wScDBBGMGSkxTCSb4uAmw0ubYBr+vZ eClxuBBGG31tm8xzk0jjX/5iFdrb5ZHMWqyRX+vplZkSi7tDQNgmBZGKzm/10ii7bqQ0

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GISQ==
X-Google-DKIM-Signature: v=1; a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed;
d=1e100.net; s=20230601; t=1740358807; x=1740963607;
h=to:subject:message-id:date:from:mime-version:x-gm-message-state
:from:to:cc:subject:date:message-id:reply-to;
bh=k64EjNai8C7QyMQusbXzerLcUuUe2YPSAJhuY0WaHZA=;
b=ERwHu54JD92haUI2tzJW9vGpEb1Jv+8WLOuaFFHnmLzCn8kRIEOVjXpSVxipHNnNNo
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ZZF6VrRA5qUFDgNejQPTA-ngChGKn6u59RQ58YkqsD0FR0xmC/qqb/JIKqG1TCjj0QLT
Z+KQ==
X-Forwarded-Encrypted: i=1; AJvYcXC/AzQLbtFSsNUon7SDtBy+E7Ixs+wBREWaGznyVpcK0Aubr4iyDhHRnByEb
DgyZPGDKkTKcqtNiQ==@guampdn.com
X-Gm-Message-State: A0Ju0YxAS5NYNn5gr/NVzBD9eyCwimaEz1hIVE4HjoTD5m9cwf9sJ0Cn0
v1kcg0zMFko4igu81EkRdnASXTMCeDBsDppHmV8AX83fL29E5dsE0j0BFm69BbaCmowZJ2VINP
RWCQkZB+yk08jsD1CzspwUbnq3ZQbeVTv2POR
X-Gm-Gg: ASbGncsZnJiUgg8Auvq+EkktwEFae8u2ITF3NhBSIMXUApRd1HgSkXcpn7cL2t23cde
CVU9pXz6EvD5IYsFqCFLQE4Jde1NQ/89qPnxPH8rA3yVcpY0PYkywIfaM8vyp530Nt0fJ14ony
7xnsMdaQ7M
X-Google-Smtp-Source: AGHT+IHb3pgwjZpQuqw/QH0+BGLZgk1rTaDwaICOS546R3JP4MP5FhePmK/C0b6BiI0wRoStnZDb45wV4xkL8+m4WL0=
X-Received: by 2002:a05:6402:3788:b0:5e0:5feb:57d5 with SMTP id
4fb4d7f45d1cf-5e0b72500d1mr10386159a12.32.1740358806838; Sun, 23 Feb 2025
17:00:06 -0800 (PST)
MIME-Version: 1.0
From: Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>
Date: Mon, 24 Feb 2025 10:59:52 +1000
X-Gm-Features: AWEUYm2wk4oIDNZowVhQkbb0194t082FG-lZENio2eE2bCHxKXD3kbz7HQ8Goo
Message-ID: <CAGAZUR-yPHgpiDm_yqSmkS6=1mwaS8q0rq1FnzUGL3dKkSd28w@mail.gmail.com>
Subject: Second Notice of Public Hearing - Wednesday, February 26, 2025
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Content-Type: multipart/mixed; boundary="00000000000076e70f062ed8dc7d"
BCC: nicanto@guampdn.com
Return-Path: office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov
X-EOPAttributedMessage: 0
X-EOPTenantAttributedMessage: 35164726-7656-40c2-877e-cde6e52c473b:0
X-MS-PublicTrafficType: Email
X-MS-TrafficTypeDiagnostic: CH1PEPF000A348:EE_|MW4PR20MB4341:EE_
X-MS-Office365-Filtering-Correlation-Id: 93cedae6-437c-4587-e402-08dd546e956c

Final-Recipient: rfc822;nicanto@guampdn.com
Action: failed
Status: 5.1.10
Diagnostic-Code: smtp;550 5.1.10 RESOLVER.ADR.RecipientNotFound; Recipient nicanto@guampdn.com not found by SMTP address lookup

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov
Cc:
Bcc: nicanto@guampdn.com
Date: Mon, 24 Feb 2025 10:59:52 +1000
Subject: Second Notice of Public Hearing - Wednesday, February 26, 2025

February 24, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media

From: Senator Shawn Gumataotao

Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

Subject: Second Notice of Public Hearing – Wednesday, February 26, 2025, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

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- **Bill No. 27-38 (COR)** by Senator William A. Parkinson, which is *AN ACT TO AMEND §§ 60102 & 60103 OF CHAPTER 60, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REMOVING THE RESTRICTIONS ON OWNERSHIP OF SUPPRESSORS AND SILENCERS; AND TO BE KNOWN AS THE “HEARING PROTECTION ACT OF 2025.”*

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Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!

--
Office of Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard
38th Guam Legislature
120 Father Duenas Avenue Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
(671) 647-1409/1411

 **02.24.25 (2nd Notice) - 2.26.25 PH.docx.pdf**
178K

Mail Delivery System <Mailer-Daemon@business35.web-hosting.com>
To: office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov

Mon, Feb 24, 2025 at 11:00 AM

This message was created automatically by mail delivery software.

A message that you sent could not be delivered to one or more of its recipients. This is a permanent error. The following address(es) failed:

pasquines.us@gmail.com

(ultimately generated from context@pasquines.us)

host gmail-smtp-in.l.google.com [173.194.76.27]

SMTP error from remote mail server after end of data:

550-5.7.1 [199.188.200.76 19] Gmail has detected that this message is

550-5.7.1 likely suspicious due to the very low reputation of the sending

550-5.7.1 domain. To best protect our users from spam, the message has been

550-5.7.1 blocked. For more information, go to

550 5.7.1 <https://support.google.com/mail/answer/188131> ffacd0b85a97d-38f64b0f59csi5837490f8f.258 - gsmtpp

Action: failed

Final-Recipient: rfc822;context@pasquines.us

Status: 5.0.0

Remote-MTA: dns; gmail-smtp-in.l.google.com


Diagnostic-Code: smtp; 550-5.7.1 [199.188.200.76 19] Gmail has detected that this message is

550-5.7.1 likely suspicious due to the very low reputation of the sending

550-5.7.1 domain. To best protect our users from spam, the message has been

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550 5.7.1 <https://support.google.com/mail/answer/188131> ffacd0b85a97d-38f64b0f59csi5837490f8f.258 - gsmtpp

 **noname**
6K

Second Notice of Public Hearing - Wednesday, February 26, 2025 beginning at 10:00 am

Second Notice of Public Hearing - Wednesday, February 26,
2025 beginning at 10:00 am



PUBLIC HEARING

- 📅 Posted on: 02/24/2025 11:15 AM
- 👤 Posted by: Diana Topasna
- 📅 Public Hearing Date: 02/26/2025 10:00 AM
- 🏢 Department(s): GUAM LEGISLATURE (/notices?department_id=92)
- 🏢 Division(s): OFFICE OF SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO (/notices?division_id=294)
- 🔍 Notice Topic(s): PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?topic_id=74)
- 📋 Types of Notice: PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?type_id=7)
- 👥 For Audience(s): PUBLIC (/notices?public=1)
- ➔ Share this notice

February 24, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media

From: Senator Shawn Gumataotao
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and
Guam National Guard

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Bill No. 27-38 (COR)

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%2027-38%20\(COR\).pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%2027-38%20(COR).pdf)) by Senator William A. Parkinson, which is AN ACT TO AMEND §§ 60102 & 60103 OF CHAPTER 60, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REMOVING THE RESTRICTIONS ON OWNERSHIP OF SUPPRESSORS AND SILENCERS; AND TO BE KNOWN AS THE "HEARING PROTECTION ACT OF 2025."

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OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

February 19, 2025

Mr. John Lizama
Executive Director
POST Commission
Sent via: john.lizama@guam.gov

Subject: Public Hearing on Bill No. 27-38 (COR)

Hafa adai Executive Director Lizama. 

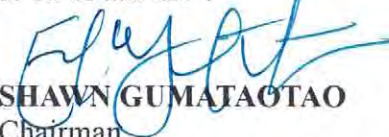
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The Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard invites you to participate in the public hearing.

Please contact my office at the numbers provided below or via email at office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov should you have any questions.

Si Yu'os ma'åse'!


SHAWN GUMATAOTAO
Chairman

Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

*Attachments: Notice of 2.19.25 Public Hearing
Bill No. 27-38 (COR)*



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

February 19, 2025

Mr. Rory J. Respicio
General Manager
Port Authority of Guam
Sent via: rjrespicio@portofguam.com

Subject: Public Hearing on Bill No. 27-38 (COR)

Håfa adai General Manager Respicio,

Please be informed that a public hearing on the bill referenced above is scheduled for Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building in *Hagåtña*.

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Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

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Bill No. 27-38 (COR)



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

February 19, 2025

Mr. Angel Sablan
Acting Director
Department of Parks and Recreation
Sent via: angel.sablan@dpr.guam.gov

Subject: Public Hearing on Bill No. 27-38 (COR)

Hafa adai Director Sablan,

Please be informed that a public hearing on the bill referenced above is scheduled for Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building in *Hagåtña*.

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Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

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OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

February 19, 2025

Mr. Douglas B. Moylan
Attorney General of Guam
Office of the Attorney General of Guam
Sent via: administration@oagguam.org

Subject: Public Hearing on Bill No. 27-38 (COR)

Håfa adai Attorney General Moylan,

Please be informed that a public hearing on the bill referenced above is scheduled for Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building in *Hagåtña*.

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SHAWN GUMATAOTAO

Chairman
Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

Attachments: Notice of 2.19.25 Public Hearing
Bill No. 27-38 (COR)



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

February 19, 2025

Ms. Danielle Rosete
Administrator of the Courts
Unified Judiciary of Guam
Sent via: drosete@guamcourts.gov

Subject: Public Hearing on Bill No. 27-38 (COR)

Håfa adai Administrator Rosete,


Please be informed that a public hearing on the bill referenced above is scheduled for Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building in *Hagåtña*.

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Si Yu'os ma'åse'!


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Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

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Bill No. 27-38 (COR)



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

February 19, 2025

Mr. John "JQ" M. Quinata
Executive Manager
Guam International Airport Authority
Sent via: john.quinata@guamairport.net

Subject: Public Hearing on Bill No. 27-38 (COR)

Hafa adai Executive Manager Quinata,

Please be informed that a public hearing on the bill referenced above is scheduled for Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building in *Hagåtña*.

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Si Yu'os ma'åse'!



SHAWN GUMATAOTAO

Chairman

Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

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Bill No. 27-38 (COR)*



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

February 19, 2025

Mr. Daren D. Burrier
Fire Chief
Guam Fire Department
Sent via: daren.burrier@gfd.guam.gov

Subject: Public Hearing on Bill No. 27-38 (COR)

Hafa adai Chief Burrier, *Chief*

Please be informed that a public hearing on the bill referenced above is scheduled for Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building in *Hagåtña*.

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Chairman

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OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

February 19, 2025

Ms. Melanie W. Brennan
Director
The Department of Youth Affairs
Sent via: melanie.brennan@dya.guam.gov

Subject: Public Hearing on Bill No. 27-38 (COR)

Håfa adai Director Brennan, *Lani*

Please be informed that a public hearing on the bill referenced above is scheduled for Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building in *Hagåtña*.

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Si Yu'os ma'ase'!


SHAWN GUMATAOTAO
Chairman

Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

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OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

February 19, 2025

Mr. Fred Bordallo Jr.
Director
Guam Department of Corrections
Sent via: fred.bordallo@doc.guam.gov

Subject: Public Hearing on Bill No. 27-38 (COR)

Hafa adai Director Bordallo, 


Please be informed that a public hearing on the bill referenced above is scheduled for Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building in *Hagåtña*.

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Chairman

Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

Attachments: Notice of 2.19.25 Public Hearing
Bill No. 27-38 (COR)



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

February 19, 2025

Ms. Chelsa Muna
Director
Guam Department of Agriculture
Sent via: chelsa.muna@doag.guam.gov

Subject: Public Hearing on Bill No. 27-38 (COR)

Håfa adai Director Muna, *Chelsa*

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Chairman
Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

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Bill No. 27-38 (COR)*



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

February 19, 2025

Mr. Ignacio "Ike" Peredo
Director
The Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency
Sent via: ignacio.peredo@cqa.guam.gov

Subject: Public Hearing on Bill No. 27-38 (COR)

Håfa adai Director Peredo,

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OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

February 19, 2025

Mr. Stephen Ignacio
Chief
Guam Police Department
Sent via: stephen.ignacio@gpd.guam.gov

Subject: Public Hearing on Bill No. 27-38 (COR)

Håfa adai Chief Ignacio, *Chief*

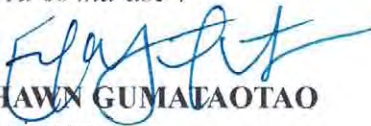
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Chairman

Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

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Bill No. 27-38 (COR)*



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

February 19, 2025

Mr. Lee Webber
Sent via: lee@mdaguam.com

Subject: Public Hearing on Bill No. 27-38 (COR)

Håfa adai Mr. Webber,

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Chairman

Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

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OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

February 19, 2025

Mr. Joseph B. Arriola

Sent via: [REDACTED]

Subject: Public Hearing on Bill No. 27-38 (COR)

Hafa adai Mr. Arriola,

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Bill No. 27-38 (COR)*



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

Public Hearing
Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building
Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Opening Remarks/Housekeeping
- III. Public Comment Section:
Bill No. 27-38 (COR) - W. Parkinson

AN ACT TO AMEND §§ 60102 & 60103 OF CHAPTER 60, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REMOVING THE RESTRICTIONS ON OWNERSHIP OF SUPPRESSORS AND SILENCERS; AND TO BE KNOWN AS THE "HEARING PROTECTION ACT OF 2025."

- IV. Question-and-Answer Section
- V. Closing Remarks
- VI. Adjournment

February 28, 2025

The Honorable Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
38th Guam Legislature
Capitol Plaza Building Suite 103
120 Father Duenas Avenue
Hagåtña, Guam 96910
Email: office@senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov

Subject: **Written Testimony**
Re: Opposition to Bill 27-38 (COR)

Dear Senator Gumataotao,

Buenas yan Hafa Acha! I am submitting this written testimony in opposition to Bill 27-38. In reading Bill No. 27-38 (COR) The Hearing Protection Act Of 2025...As a mother and a woman...I'm very worried. I'm not in favor of taking anyone's 2nd Amendment Rights. In fact, I believe in the 2nd Amendment. I grew up around guns, my father is a Retired E-8 from United States Marine Corps (USMC), and my uncle served in the United States Marine Corps and Retired as a Police Captain (Capt.) of Montgomery Alabama Police Department.

Having a Silencer in my home with my gun does not make me feel any safer. If anyone who breaks into my home and attempts to do bodily harm to me and my family, I will not be thinking about attaching a Silencer to my weapon to protect mine and my family's hearing. My concern at that point is to protect my family and our lives...period. A gun fired in any home without a Silencer, could alert neighbors and they can hopefully call the police to send help. (Not unless you live in the jungle with no neighbors)

We don't go and shoot our guns in public because it's illegal. However, in New Year's Eve, we have idiots out there, who are supposedly responsible gun owners. They fire their weapons in the air, not understanding when you shoot your guns in the air, bullets tend to fall back down. Imagine, you legalize Silencers, would neighbors be able to hear it clearly and report it? If you don't report them, they are going to keep firing their guns.

Others shoot their weapons in the range, hence they wear protective gear (ear plugs and protective clothing). We are taught and trained how to hold and fire a gun safely, so we don't get hurt or hurt anyone around us. If you choose to have a gun and shoot it, then wear protective gear.

The Honorable Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
38th Guam Legislature
Subject: Written Testimony
Re: Opposition to Bill 27-38 (COR)
February 28, 2025
Page 2 of 3

Yes, we should have guns, have it licensed, registered, and stored safely...but we have many break ins within the neighborhoods in our island. We have criminals that are still able to get their hands on guns and Silencers/Suppressors illegally. What can we do to protect civilians if they are used? This bill does nothing for our island. Our children in school have so much to worry about...Earthquake Drills, Tsunami Drills, Fire Drills, and most importantly Active Shooter Drills. Since our children started school, we familiarized them on how a gun would sound when it's being fired (from TV Shows or Movies). They are not too familiar with how a Silencer/Suppressor on weapon sounds like. If a student or a criminal gets their hands on a Silencer/Suppressor and use it in our schools while our children are at the playground or at lunch at the cafeteria..., how would they know the sound for a gun being fired with a silencer? Shootings can happen at the mall, Hotel or Business Establishments. Should our main priority be the safety of everyone's hearing instead of our lives?

Ambulances, Fire Trucks, Police Cars and other emergency vehicles on the road have sirens that are extremely loud, yet I don't see this concern in this Bill. I was rushed to GMH via Ambulance which took 12 mins, and it was the longest and loudest ride to the hospital for me. If this is the HEARING PROTECTION ACT OF 2025, why are the sounds of the emergency vehicles not in this Bill? Only Silencers!

We have Police Officers, Fire Fighters, Emergency Personnel, Military...etc. who already have hearing issues, but that is the line of work they chose, and I thank them so much for choosing those careers. My husband served in 3 branch of service and retired from the Guam Police Dept. He has suffered some hearing loss, but that is the career he chose...He chose to serve his country and this island.

Bill No. 27-38 (COR) Hearing Protection Act Of 2025 to me has nothing to do about protecting our hearing. It's allowing gun owners to buy and own Silencers/Suppressors for their weapons legally. It is an accessory for their gun. It's like me going to buy a night vision scope, leather initialed case, Silencer...etc. It's supposed to protect our hearing you say...only if you fire your gun frequently where people can hear it every day (like near the gun range). If you choose to do so, you and whoever is around you need to wear protective gear while you fire your weapon. The only people that would probably benefit this bill are residents that live around or close to a gun range. Not the whole island.

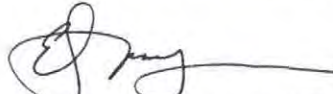
The Honorable Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
38th Guam Legislature
Subject: Written Testimony
Re: Opposition to Bill 27-38 (COR)
February 28, 2025
Page 3 of 3

I have never testified or sent a written testimony to any Senator in the Guam Legislature for as long as I have lived here in Guam. But this bill that you are attempting too past. I feel as though it is personal. I believe in owning a gun for protection for me and my family. I'm pretty sure everyone on the island have not heard gun fire every day to affect their hearing...we are not at war here...so legalizing Silencer/Suppressor is just another sneaky way of allowing gun owners to buy Silencers/Suppressors for their weapons.

Naming this bill, The Hearing Protection Act of 2025 is just an excuse to make it look like an important bill.

I, ELIZABETH M. AMAGUIN, humbly ask all of you to **VOTE NO** on Bill 27-38 for the sake of our people and our island. God Bless every one of you.

Respectfully submitted,



ELIZABETH M. AMAGUIN





Final/Amended 4 pages of electronically signed Written Testimony in Opposition to Bill 27-38

Stephen Amaguin <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Mar 4, 2025 at 10:20 AM

To: office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov, speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov, senatortelot@gmail.com, malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov, senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov, senator.parkinson@guamlegislature.gov, vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov, office.SenatorBri@guamlegislature.gov, senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov, senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov, officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov, vince.borja@guamlegislature.gov, senatorperez@guamlegislature.gov, senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com, senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com

Hafa Adai Honorable Senators,

Attached herein is a signed electronic copy of my Written Testimony regarding my Strong Opposition to a very deceptive Bill "Hearing Protection Action Act of 2025"

As a start, just a friendly reminder of the Governor's Veto Message for the same Bill (Bill 73-36) and please consider the Governor's message and VOTE NO on the Current Bill 27-38:

[https://www.guamlegislature.com/36th_Guam_Legislature/Vetoed_Bills_36th/Bill%20No.%2073-36%20\(COR\)%20V.%20Anthony%20Ada%20VETOED.pdf](https://www.guamlegislature.com/36th_Guam_Legislature/Vetoed_Bills_36th/Bill%20No.%2073-36%20(COR)%20V.%20Anthony%20Ada%20VETOED.pdf)

Bill 27-38 Will delete and legalize the ownership of prohibited devices that has kept Guam Safe since the passage of our local firearms law in 1969.

Guam Code Annotated
Title 10 (HEALTH AND SAFETY)
Chapter 60
Firearms
§ 60102. Ownership, etc., of Certain Firearms Prohibited.

Mufflers, silencers OR devices for deadening the sound of discharged firearms are also prohibited.

This will legalize all of the above and what are "devices for deadening the sound of discharged firearms?"

The following are the the STATES that cares about Public Safety:

HAWAII banned silencers because of concerns that they could be used by criminals to easily conceal gunfire, making it harder for law enforcement to respond to incidents and locate shooters, thus posing a significant threat to public safety; this aligns with the state's generally strict gun control laws and the perception of silencers as primarily used for nefarious purposes.

NEW YORK banned silencers to reduce the risk of crime and to make gunshot detection systems more effective.
Explanation

- **Crime:** Silencers can help criminals avoid being detected by law enforcement and increase the risk of ambush attacks.
- **Gunshot detection:** Suppressors can make it harder for gunshot detection systems to work.

New York's Penal Law § 265.02(2) bans suppressors. The state also bans the use of suppressors while hunting, except for law enforcement officers.

CALIFORNIA banned suppressors, also called silencers, due to its strict gun control laws, primarily citing concerns about the potential for increased criminal activity and the ability for a perpetrator to quietly fire a weapon without detection, making it harder for law enforcement to respond effectively; essentially, the state views suppressors as devices that could significantly increase the danger posed by firearms in civilian hands.

Key points about California's suppressor ban:

To: Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>
Subject: Final/Amended 4 pages of electronically signed Written Testimony in Opposition to Bill 27-38

Hafa Adai Honorable Senator Gumataotao,
Please disregard my last electronic submission. Attached herein is my final electronically signed 4 pages of testimony in opposition to Bill 27-38.

Very Respectfully,

STEPHEN A. AMAGUIN
"FROM DEDEDO"

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

Psalm 23:1-4 KJV
<https://bible.com/bible/1/psa.23.1-4.KJV>

2 attachments



Bill No. 73-36 (COR) V. Anthony Ada VETOED.pdf
1075K



FINAL WRITTEN TESTIMONY For BILL 27-38.pdf
106K

March 1, 2025

The Honorable Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
38th Guam Legislature
Capitol Plaza Building Suite 103
120 Father Duenas Avenue
Hagåtña, Guam 96910
Email: office@senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov

Subject: **Written Testimony**
Re: Opposition to Bill 27-38 (COR)

Dear Senator Gumataotao,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai! I am submitting this written testimony in opposition to Bill 27-38. This bill as a start is a form of CLICK BAIT Legislation whereas the whole content of the bill is to plainly remove the SILENCER from our local law codified in Guam Code Annotated (GCA) Title 10, Chapter 60 and how to PROTECT THE HEARING of our people.

The complete removal of the SILENCER automatically just legalized the ownership of the device, locally but will remain a federal violation, like pretty much the federal law that bans cockfighting. But be mindful that the possession of silencer still has federal requirements of registering the device with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, (BATFE/ATF). Removing the silencer in its entirety is pretty much owning a slingshot without any repercussion not unless it is used as a weapon by itself to commit harm or physical injury to a person (i.e., our local Assault or Aggravated Assault in our local law in Guam Code Annotated Title 9)

Similar bill was passed by the 36th Guam Legislature, Bill 73-36 (COR), vetoed by our Honorable Governor Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, due to her concerns of jeopardizing public safety in its entirety. The 36th Guam Legislature did not attempt to override the veto thus indicates that the body has in agreement with Governor's public safety concerns. The preceding text was the Veto Message from our Honorable Governor Leon Guerrero.

The Honorable Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
38th Guam Legislature
From: Stephen A. Amaguin
Subject: Amended Written Testimony
Re: Opposition to Bill 27-38 (COR)
March 1, 2025
Page 2 of 4

Dear Madame Speaker,

"Bill No. 73-36, the "Hearing Protection Act of 2021," seeks to remove existing restrictions on the ownership of suppressors and silencers in Guam law. The Bill points out that such devices do not actually "silence" guns, but rather reduce the noise guns produce by tens of decibels. Advocates of the Bill further point out that the stigma associating the use of such devices with criminal activity is unfair, and that in reality, the main reasons people own such devices is to reduce noise pollution, for hearing protection, and in safety training. While hearing protection devices are available, proponents of this Bill preach that layering use of earmuffs with suppressor use substantially reduces the impact on a shooter's inner ear.

Finally, addressing the concern that the availability of suppressors may lead to misuse or criminal activity, the Bill points out that federal safeguards exist to screen purchasers for criminal history, mental illness and substance abuse.

I have considered the factors and supporting information proffered in the Bill to determine whether the benefit to removing restrictions on suppressor-ownership in Guam outweigh the associated risks, and I find that it does not. The very reason proponents of the Bill advocate for lifting of the restrictions is the reason the restriction must remain in place - while they do not eliminate it, suppressors and silencers, by design, substantially suppress the sound of gunfire, which is one of the most easily recognizable warnings that a gun has been fired in a person's vicinity, lawfully or unlawfully, and enables that person to get to safety.

The non-lethal auditory safety concerns for hobbyists and hunters may be mitigated by the proper use of protective items such as earplugs and earmuffs, but the safety concerns for the wider population associated with the broad availability of suppressors include potentially lethal consequences and simply cannot be mitigated. The existence of federal regulations affecting the purchase of suppressors does not alleviate this concern - bills to amend the National Firearms Act to remove registration and licensing requirements for suppressors are periodically introduced before the U.S. Congress, including the most recent version introduced in June 2021, also called the Hearing Protection Act. And again, while the use of suppressors in violent crime does in fact

The Honorable Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
38th Guam Legislature
From: Stephen A. Amaguin
Subject: Amended Written Testimony
Re: Opposition to Bill 27-38 (COR)
March 1, 2025
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occur, restricting their use also protects people who find themselves in the vicinity of lawful shooters.

On the balance, we must continue to prioritize the community's safety from potentially life-threatening harm over the auditory safety of the few.

For this reason, I veto Bill No. 73-36 and urge our hobbyist and hunting communities to exercise appropriate safety measures to protect their hearing while shooting, including the use of safety devices intended for this purpose."

The reintroduction of this bill is a suspect of a strong possibility of being passed or pocket vetoed and will finally becomes a law within a hidden compromise, behind closed doors, favor for favor agreement unbeknownst to our people. This bill will become a law in return of full support for the the construction of the well-known "Medical Campus" in a location without the public's input. Again, it is an assumption, and I hope there is no hidden agenda/truth behind the reintroduction, changed of main sponsorship of this bill, from a known ally of this administration and will pass contrary to previous VETO message.

If my assumption is indeed true, even with my full opposition to this legislation, the National Firearms Act (NFA) continues to regulate *SILENCERS* because they were seen as a potential threat to public safety, I suggest the following addendum/amendment to our local law, 10GCA Chapter 60.

1. Add the legal definition of the SILENCER, in definition section.
2. Amend legal length of the barrel in 10 GCA Chapter 60, Section 60102 inclusive of the attachment of the silencer; set penalties for illegal/unlawful possession, transfer of a silencer.
3. Identify a process that mandate the required registration with BATFE/ATT; registration with the Guam Police Department (GPD) with the approval from BATFE/ATF, what firearms the silencer will be attached to and inspection by the GPD Armorer prior to the issuance of a registration card separate from their firearms registration card.
4. GPD shall established a data base to track SILENCERS and fee schedule as an added revenue to their Police Service Fund.

The Honorable Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
38th Guam Legislature
From: Stephen A. Amaguin
Subject: Amended Written Testimony
Re: Opposition to Bill 27-38 (COR)
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5. Set a provision in our local law, 10GCA Chapter 60 that the authorized ownership of a silencer be indicated in their Firearms Identification Card.
6. *An added benefits of \$1. million be given to families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty with the usage of a silencer, on top of their government of Guam life insurance, from the Guam Legislature's Budget or through the Rainy Day Fund; and if he/she has not met the required retirement age, the family shall receive 50% of their average salary as an annuity.*

If my suspicion is true with the passage of this bill into law either by final approval or a pocket veto, a full cooperation of the Legislative Majority will transpire to advance the full construction of the Medical Campus that will place more financial burden to our taxpayers of another annually obligation of \$35 Million a year for 40 years and a possibility of an extension.

We have heard testimonies stating that there are no known firearms related incidents since the inception of our firearms law in 1969. But the only reasons behind that because it is regulated and illegal. The PASSAGE of this bill like the local CASTLE DOCTRINE will continue to place our community, law enforcement officers in harm's way and JEOPARDIZE their lives that even a \$100K death payment being killed in the line of duty is not sufficient to replace them and the void that they will leave behind. ***Life is precious and we can help protect it.***

I, STEPHEN A. AMAGUIN, humbly ask all of you to REVIEW THE VETO MESSAGE OF HONORABLE GOVERNOR LEON GUERRERO, and with your comprehension, PLEASE **VOTE** **NO** on Bill 27-38 for the sake of PUBLIC SAFETY and THE LIVES OF OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS. ***"LET US MAKE GUAM, GUAM AGAIN!", GOD BLESS GUAM AND HER PEOPLE.***

Respectfully submitted,



STEPHEN A. AMAGUIN




Fwd: testimony for 27-38 (COR)

1 message

Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>
To: Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Tue, Mar 4, 2025 at 2:51 PM

Hafa Adai,

Please see below that we received via email.

Regards,



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

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Toni Brooks [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Mar 4, 2025 at 11:26 AM
Subject: testimony for 27-38 (COR)
To: <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>

Good morning Senator Duenas,

I write today to submit the following testimony for Bill 27-28 (COR):

Silencers are one of the most heavily regulated products in the gun industry, and for good reason.

As someone who has shot guns in the military, I believe anyone who shoots a gun should know and understand the consequences of their actions. They should fully comprehend the gravity of injuring or even killing another living creature in such a brutal and painful way.

Guns should be loud and recognizable as a safety measure for everyone in the vicinity of a weapon being fired. People on the receiving end of the bullet should be able to tell when someone is shooting at them.

For example, won't a silencer confuse the police or the public during a shooting and allow an active shooter to not give away their location?

As a person who is also hard of hearing, I think it is disingenuous to claim hearing protection as the inspiration for this bill. Any hunter can tell you it's easy to don proper hearing protection when needed. Further, in emergency situations, you're more concerned about life and limb than your hearing.

What this bill will end up doing is making it easier for criminals to terrorize villages with the threat of silenced guns. This bill will also endanger public servants including law enforcement personnel, often the targets of organized crime.

Si yu'us ma'åse
Toni Brooks



Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Written Testimony for the 27-38COR.

1 message

Jon Buasuwan

Fri, Feb 28, 2025 at 7:26 AM

To: "office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov" <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Hafa adai & good morning, I Jonathan Buasuwan SUPPORT the Hearing Act Bill.
Hearing loss is already been part of my life The Suppressors will NOT replace thr hearing PPE but will add an additional protection. The Suppressor itself will not completely eliminates the Hazardous noise as many people think it does thanks to the influences from Hollywood Films.

The Hearing Act Bill will not only protect the user, but will also protect the people in the area.

THANK YOU AND YOUR TEAM FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!

V/r,

Jon



Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Bill No. 27-38-Written Testimony

2 messages

phil diaz <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Feb 27, 2025 at 11:44 PM

To: "office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov" <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc: "malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov" <malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov>, "senator.parkinson@guamlegislature.gov" <senator.parkinson@guamlegislature.gov>, "officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov" <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, "speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov" <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, "vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, "vince.borja@guamlegislature.gov" <vince.borja@guamlegislature.gov>, "senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov" <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, "senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov" <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>, "office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov" <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>, "senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov" <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, "office.senatorperez@guamlegislature.gov" <office.senatorperez@guamlegislature.gov>, "senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com" <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, "senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, "senatorlot@gmail.com" <senatorlot@gmail.com>

Dear Senator Gumataotao,

I made an Oral Statment and I also indicated that I will also submit a Written testimony(forgot my notes at home) in regards to Bill No. 27-38 The Hearing Protection Act of 2025. I wanted to add for the the rest of your colleagues who are still unsure of the suppressors device for firearms.

I forgot to give a simple example which is, We all experience in our lifetime growing up on Guam, when a car or truck has no muffler, the sound is very loud, extremely harmful to our ears and can be heard about mile away. But when the muffler is inplace and working properly, the sound of the vehicle can still be heard but reasonably comfortably to our hearing. That is the closest example of understanding of how a Suppresoor works on a Firearm. The sound can still be heard but a lot comforting to the shooter and persons close by, not like the Movies of how they portrayed suppressors as Silencers.

I noted on the response of the previous Hearing Act and this recent 2025 Public Hearing, the ones who opposes, makes it sound and appears that the Gun Owners of Guam are like Crimminals and can not be trusted.

My Oral Statement about the Weber Law since its been enacted due incidents of accidental shooting resulting in injuries/death ,of occupants/minors of the residence accessing unsecured firearms. As a retired Guam Police Officer, my shift handled **One** Accidental Shooting with minor injuries around 2007-2009. That record shows how responsible the Guam Gun Owners.have been, Compared to the Drivers of Guam-which year after year, there's **ALWAYS** Traffic Fatatities in double digits. In 2018 alone about 14 Auto Pedestrian Fatalities.

I hope your colleagues will vote majority on passing Bill No. 27-38 to give the resposable Gun Owners of Guam a choice if they wish to purchase a Suppressor for their firearm, so they can continue to **Hear** the upcoming Pulic Hearings of Bills from the 38th Guam legislature on Making Guam Great Again. Thank You.

Sincerely,
Philip Diaz

Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Fri, Feb 28, 2025 at 9:18 AM

To: phil diaz <[REDACTED]>

Hafa Adai Mr. Diaz,

Thank you for submitting your written testimony regarding Bill No. 27-38, The Hearing Protection Act of 2025. I appreciate you taking the time to share your perspective and additional insights on this matter.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase



Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Support for Bill 27-38 (COR)

2 messages

ray.diaz.gu (Gmail) <[REDACTED]>
To: office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov

Fri, Feb 28, 2025 at 6:56 AM

Hafa Adai Senator,

I support this bill. Please vote in favor to pass into law.

My name is Raymond C. Diaz and I reside in Barrigada.

Ray Diaz [REDACTED]

Confidentiality Notice: This e-mail message is for sole use of intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, distribution, or copying is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by replying to this e-mail and destroy/delete all copies of this e-mail message.

Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>
To: [REDACTED]

Fri, Feb 28, 2025 at 10:09 AM

Hafa Adai Mr. Diaz,

Thank you for expressing your support for this bill.

Our office is accepting written testimonies if you would like to submit one until March 4,2025.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase

[Quoted text hidden]

—
Office of Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard
38th Guam Legislature
120 Father Duenas Avenue Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103, Hagátña, Guam 96910
(671) 647-1409/1411



Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Bill No. 27-38 _ Diaz, VA

1 message

Victoria Diaz <[REDACTED]>
To: office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov

Fri, Feb 28, 2025 at 8:11 AM

Senator Gumataotao,

My name is Victoria Ashley C Diaz. Born and raised on Guam; still my home of record while serving overseas.

I am writing to give you my written testimony in support of Bill No. 27-38 Hearing Act of 2025.

Very Respectfully,
Victoria Ashley C Diaz



Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Subject: Support for Bill 27-38 (Hearing Act of 2025)

1 message

Brett Duenas <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Feb 28, 2025 at 4:55 PM

To: speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov, vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov, office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov, senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov, senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov, officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov, vince.borja@guamlegislature.gov, office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov, senatortelot@gmail.com, senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov, malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov, senator.parkinson@guamlegislature.gov, office.senatorperez@guamlegislature.gov, senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com, senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com

Hafa Adai Speaker, Vice Speaker & Senator(s),

I am in support of Bill 27-38.

I Humbly ask that you Please support and Vote in Favor of Bill 27-38 (Hearing Act of 2025) to pass into Law.

I am from the Village of Santa Rita.

Respectfully,

Brett WT Duenas



Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Testimony Bill 27-38

1 message

Monaeka Flores <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Mar 4, 2025 at 5:01 PM

To: speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov, vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov, office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov, senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov, officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov, vince.borja@guamlegislature.gov, office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov, senatortelot@gmail.com, malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov, office.senatorperez@guamlegislature.gov, senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com, senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com, senator.parkinson@guamlegislature.gov, senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov, senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov

Håfa Adai Honorable Members of the 38th Guam Legislature:

I submit this written testimony in opposition of Bill 27-38. I submit articles where a man used a legally purchased suppressor or silencer in commission of a mass shooting in Virginia Beach, as well as two articles about other shooters attempting to use one in a crime. Suppressors, although regulated, will be abused.

Thank you,
Monaeka Flores

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/virginia-beach-shooter-killed-12-using-silencer-high-capacity-magazine-n1012771>

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/suspected-virginia-beach-gunman-resigned-personal-reasons-massacre/story?id=63449625>

<https://nypost.com/2019/06/04/silencer-used-in-virginia-beach-shooting-made-it-deadlier-survivor/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/01/26/us/monterey-park-shooting-gun.html>

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/alleged-maine-gunman-buy-silencer-months-lewiston-shootings/story?id=104453990>



Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Support Bill 27-38 COR

1 message

Kevin G. <[REDACTED]>
To: office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov

Sat, Mar 1, 2025 at 12:18 PM

Hafa Adai Senator,

I support this bill. With proper and strict guidelines, I believe our citizens will comply. Just as we do with all other rules and regulations for firearm ownership.

Please vote in favor of this bill.

Thanks for your consideration,

Kevin Gumataotao
Citizen of Maite



GUAM POLICE DEPARTMENT
DIPATTAMENTON POLISIAN GUAHAN
Government of Guam



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
Governor

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor

Bldg. 13-16A Mariner Avenue, Tiyan
Barrigada, Guam 96913-1616
P.O. Box 23909 Guam Main Facility 96921-3909
Telephone: (671) 475-8473 (Switchboard), (671) 475-8508 / 8509 8512
Fax: (671) 475-3222

STEPHEN C. IGNACIO
Chief of Police

COL. JOSEPH S. CARBULLI ID
Police Commander

February 20, 2025

The Honorable Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management,
and the Guam National Guard
38th Guam Legislature
Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103
120 Father Duenas Avenue
Hagatna, Guam 96910
Email: office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov

Subject: **Written Testimony**
RE: Bill No. 27-38 (COR)

Dear Senator Gumataotao:

Buenas yan Hafa Adai! I am submitting this written testimony regarding Bill No. 27-38 (COR), "AN ACT TO AMEND §§ 60102 & 60103 OF CHAPTER 60, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REMOVING THE RESTRICTIONS ON OWNERSHIP OF SUPPRESSORS AND SILENCERS; AND TO BE KNOWN AS "THE HEARING PROTECTION ACT OF 2025," as introduced by Senator William A. Parkinson on January 5, 2025.

Chairperson Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, Honorable Members of the Committee, distinguished colleagues and members of the public.

Hafa Adai, and thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding Bill No. 27-38 (COR), also known as "The Hearing Protection Act of 2025."

The Guam Police Department (GPD) recognizes the importance of ensuring that individuals' rights to personal protection and firearm safety are balanced with the safety of the community. In this regard, to the proposed amendments to §§ 60102 & 60103 of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, specifically the removal of restrictions on the ownership of suppressors, also known as silencers, mufflers, moderators, or noise reduction devices, we have several concerns with the proposed amendments and have a few recommendations for the bill.

The Guam Police Department (GPD) is committed to the safety and well-being of our community, and we believe that the responsible use of suppressors, also referred herein as devices, can enhance both public safety and even the quality of law enforcement operations.

The Honorable Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management,
and the Guam National Guard
38th Guam Legislature
Subject: Written Testimony
RE: Bill No. 27-38 (COR)
February 20, 2025
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On average, suppressors reduce the noise of a gunshot by about 20-35 decibels (dB). Even the most effective suppressors on the market, on the smallest and quietest calibers (.22LR) reduce the peak sound of the gunshot to about 110-120 decibels (dB), which according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety (NIOSH), is about as loud as a jackhammer (110 dB) or an ambulance siren (120 dB).

Movies and media have created a false belief that a suppressor device is so quiet it cannot be heard, when in reality it is still very audible and distinctive as a gunshot. The use of a suppressor device probably would not greatly reduce a persons' perception of gunshots when considering the level of noise only, or decibels that are still audible.

Currently, suppressor devices are governed under the National Firearms Act (NFA) of 1934 and the Gun Control Act of 1968. They are regulated and must be registered with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), by the National Firearms Act Division (NFA Division), and recorded in the central registry of all NFA firearms/devices in the United States, also known as the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record (NFRTR).

Additionally, under US Federal Law, possession or the use of suppressors is a violation of the National Firearms Act if the device does not have a serial number, or is not registered with the ATF properly. Since the suppressors are identified as "firearms" in the NFA, they are required to have a serial number and be registered with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

A recent ATF report indicated there were over 830,000 new suppressor devices purchased and registered in the United States between May 2021 and January 2024, bringing the total number of registered devices to 3.5 Million.

The Guam Police Department (GPD) suggests that these federal laws, rules, and regulations also be applicable and statutory required in proposed legislation. GPD also submits the following additional concerns and suggestions, that we believe should be addressed in legislation or amendments.

In consideration of amending § 60102 & § 60103 of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, we noted there are several other statutes within 10 G.C.A. Chapter 60 Firearms, that should be amended, if this proposed legislation was passed. We strongly recommend *I Liheslaturan Guahan* in considering the following:

- A. Enacting or amending corresponding local statute governing the purchasing, ownership, and use of a suppressor and silencing devices, hereafter referred to as a device.**

Following the current process, administered by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), people seeking to purchase, possess, or own devices need to complete an

The Honorable Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management,
and the Guam National Guard
38th Guam Legislature
Subject: Written Testimony
RE: Bill No. 27-38 (COR)
February 20, 2025
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established federal process listed in this written testimony. Completion of the process, which must be done for each individual device, is similar to the Guam statute of having each individual firearm registered on island. Just like firearms purchases, possession, and use, we should also enact Guam statutes related to these devices, and not just amend statutes related to ownership. Some states do not require the local/state registration of firearms, but on Guam we have long made this a requirement. All firearms need to be registered with the Guam Police Department. To assist in identifying legal ownership and possession, mandating a Guam registration of devices is crucial. Without this requirement there could be misuse and criminal use that cannot be regulated, enforced, and monitored.

These statutes are generally found within § 60110. Registration. Chapter 60, Title 10 G.C.A.

Since ownership of a device mandates an approved and completed federal process, we suggest that a requirement for device registration on Guam require a copy of the approval be provided to and kept by GPD upon registration as proof of legal federal registration before being allowed to register on Guam. This process should take place with a Federal Firearms License (FFL) Dealer and the GPD Armory Section, based on or similar to the current practice of firearms registration.

B. Enacting or amending Guam statute and amendments which address the requirement of a licensed and registered Federal Firearms License (FFL) dealer being the conduit for obtaining, through new ownership purchase, all devices coming to Guam.

Currently on island, all newly-purchased firearms must be through a verified FFL dealer. This relates to firearms that are purchased from a dealer, manufacturer, or retail source. Proof of purchase is verified by documents provided by the FFL to GPD upon inspection and during the registration process. There is a similar process for suppressor devices in areas where the ownership of devices is legal.

We suggest that this requirement be applied to all purchased devices on island. This suggestion would assist in verifying legal purchases of devices coming to Guam and further assist in tracking and registering legal devices on island. This is perhaps the intent of the local statute related to registering firearms purchased or brought to Guam.

C. Enacting or amending Guam statute and amendments to address the legal transfer of legally possessed devices to other legal federally approved individuals.

As detailed and mandated in the ATF laws and rules, a person may only legally transfer ownership of a device to someone who has also completed the required process, been approved, and follows the requirements within the NFRTR.

Completion of the process, which must be done for each individual device, is similar to the Guam process of having each individual firearm registered by the new owner with GPD. Just like firearm transfers of ownership on island, we highly suggest enacting a similar Guam statute related to the transfers of these devices.

The Honorable Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
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These statutes are generally found within § 60118. Private sale or Transfer. Chapter 60, Title 10 G.C.A.

Furthermore, since ownership and transfer of a device mandates an approved and completed federal process, we suggest that a requirement of device transfer on Guam demand a copy be provided to and kept by GPD upon transfer registration as proof of the legal federal process by both parties involved.

Specific language in the Guam statute should mandate the federal ATF approval, specifically the NFRTR process and requirements be completed and approved by both parties involved, before any legal transfer of ownership can be approved and the device registered with GPD by the new owner. This will also assist in trying to ensure device ownership is not transferred without the required federal approval while on island.

These statutes are generally found within § 60110. Registration. Chapter 60, Title 10 G.C.A.

Related to this is the issue of transfer of ownership or possession to someone without proper federal approval, such as when the legal owner passes away and the next of kin has no valid federal approval or possibly even a valid Guam Firearms Identification Card. This problem has occurred as it relates to firearms, and should also be addressed as it relates to suppressor devices.

D. Enacting or amending Guam statute and amendments to address the legal shipment of possessed devices to the island by military personnel, people relocating to Guam, and other legal owners that may bring the device to Guam.

Similar to current statutes and requirements for individuals bringing firearms to Guam, there should be similar statutes defining the time to register devices by people who move to Guam, or are visiting for a substantial time, and are in possession of devices that need to be registered as defined by the statutes.

These statutes are generally found within § 60127. New Residents. Chapter 60, Title 10 G.C.A.

The need to ensure any device purchased or acquired legally on Guam be done within the federal requirements, like the NFRTR, is important because it also will ensure people purchasing or legally acquiring devices on Guam will not be in violation of federal statute if they leave island and bring their legally acquired devices with them to an area where devices are legal.

E. Enacting or amending Guam statute and amendments to address the possession or ownership authority of devices on the Guam, within a Firearms Identification Card.

GPD also would like consideration be made regarding possible amendments to the Firearms Identification Cards statutes. Similar to firearms, in which there are statutes enforcing the

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possession of a valid Firearms Identification Card when in possession of a firearm, we suggest this should also be applied when in possession of a suppressor device, and penalties for violating this statute be identified and enforced.

These statutes are generally found within § 60106. Identification Card: Required. Chapter 60, Title 10 G.C.A.

We also suggest that the current Firearms Identification Card be amended and statute mandated to identify the possessor as authorized to be in possession or own a device on the Firearm Identification Card, similar to the requirements identifying the possessor as being authorized to be in possession of a concealed firearm. Since these devices are federally considered firearms, but are unique and regulated separately under the NFA, we suggest their unique ownership and possession also be identified on the Guam Firearms Identification Card.

These statutes are generally found within § 60107. Same: Contents. Chapter 60, Title 10 G.C.A.

F. Establishing different fees related to these devices on Guam and codifying the fees in statute.

Similar to the registration of firearms, which is done through the GPD, we suggest a fee be identified and codified in statute for the registration of each device. This fee will help with the processing costs associated with these devices. Currently the fee to register a firearm is \$49.00 per firearm, however, consideration on the exact fee for suppressor devices, which could be the same or increased, should be discussed and decided, so it can be codified into law during any statutory changes and possibly avoid the lengthy Triple A Process to enact.

Registration should be for each device. Essentially, each device is registered as equally as each individual firearm on Guam is registered with an associated cost to be paid for the completion of the process.

An increase in fees should be considered when considering the negative fiscal impact of the inspection, registration, and handling of these devices to GPD, estimated to be about \$100,000.00. There will be requirements for additional Armorer training, processing supplies and data storing platforms, public information materials, and safety requirements. To offset these additional costs GPD recommends enacting fees, similar or increased, to the current fees for firearms, while amending legislation on this issue.

The registering of devices and the costs associated with inspecting and processing devices would be a negative fiscal impact on GPD, considering the additional man-hours and materials used during the processing and records keeping. To mitigate this negative impact, additional fees for these additional services would ensure we don't experience a negative fiscal impact and possibly could even benefit from a positive fiscal impact.

As an example, in 2024, GPD registered 3,628 firearms and recovered \$177,813.00 in revenue for firearm registrations and \$76,587.00 in revenue for firearm transfers. Similar fees for

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Suppressor devices might negate any possible negative fiscal impact on GPD and could generate a positive fiscal gain for the department, if a similar number of devices were registered. In actuality, the revenue could possibly be less because of the lower number of devices registered.

These statutes are generally found within § 60122. Fees. Chapter 60, Title 10 G.C.A.

G. Establishing and codifying penalties for criminal use of suppressor/ silencer devices or violation of proposed statutes.

Under the current statutes, there are specific prohibitions and penalties associated with different Chapter 60. Firearm related offenses. Similar statutes defining prohibitions and penalties associated with suppressor devices should also be considered, established, and codified into law. Some examples of these could be:

1. Illegal manufacture of suppressor /silencer will be considered a felony.
2. Use of a suppressor/silencer in a commission of a crime is a felony.
3. Possession of an unregistered suppressor/silencer is a felony.
4. Possession of a suppressor/silencer without a firearms identification card is a felony.

These statutes are generally found within § 60121. Prohibitions and Penalties. Chapter 60, Title 10 G.C.A.

H. Establishing a Guam statute with an age restriction for the ownership and possession of a suppressor device.

Under the federal law a person must (1) Be at least 21 years of age to purchase a suppressor from a dealer; (2) Be at least 18 years of age to purchase a suppressor from an individual on a Form 4 to Form 4 transfer (contingent on state laws); and (3) Be at least 18 years of age to possess a suppressor as a beneficiary of a trust or as a member of a corporation (contingent on state laws).

Local or state law cannot minimize federal laws, but it can be more restrictive in nature, therefore we recommend a local statute that mandates a person be 21 years of age to legally own a device, however, we further suggest persons under 21 years of age may be in possession and legally responsibly use a device only in the physical presence of the legal owner. This suggestion is more restrictive than the federal laws regarding device ownership but we believe it demonstrates that a more mature, responsible ownership is important for the safety on our island.

GPD hopes that serious, thoughtful consideration and possible additions to the proposed legislation be made, which identifies and addresses the concerns and issues presented. We also offer the following points that we consider positive in this proposed bill:

1. Enhanced Hearing Protection for Law-abiding Gun Owners

The primary function of a suppressor is to reduce the noise generated by firearms. With the use of firearms in both recreational shooting and hunting activities on Guam, as well as law enforcement operations, there is a benefit with the use of hearing protection devices. Many officers and gun owners currently rely on earmuffs and earplugs, but these forms of hearing protection are also not always available, especially in emergency situations or during an enforcement action. The removal of the restrictions on suppressors would enable individuals to exercise another method of reducing harmful sound levels, for them and others around them.

2. Improved Safety and Accuracy in Law Enforcement Operations

The reduction of noise from firearms helps officers maintain auditory and situational awareness and communication with their partners. Suppressors also reduce the muzzle flash, making it less likely to give away an officer's position during nighttime operations and minimize loss of night vision.

3. Responsible Ownership and Regulation

The Guam Police Department acknowledges that the potential misuse of any firearm-related accessory, including suppressors, exists. However, with proper regulations and appropriate licensing procedures, we believe that the removal of the suppressor restriction will not lead to an increase in crime. Rather, it can provide an opportunity for responsible gun owners to access tools that promote safer firearm use. The GPD supports establishing clear guidelines for the legal acquisition and possession of suppressors, including following the mandatory NFRTR requirement, including background checks, and mandatory registration of devices.

4. Alignment with National Standards

Currently, suppressors are legal in forty-two (42) states, some of them with certain restrictions in place. Suppressors have been federally regulated since the passage of the National Firearms Act of 1934 (NFA) and Title II of the Gun Control Act of 1968 (GCA). By amending our statutes to remove the restrictions on these devices, Guam would align more closely with those national standards. This would foster consistency in firearm regulations and enhance the rights of law-abiding citizens to access the tools necessary to protect their hearing, while still maintaining appropriate oversight and regulation of their use.

5. Public Safety Considerations

The proposed amendments would not only benefit gun owners but also reduce the impact of firearm noise on the surrounding public. With the presence of recreational shooting ranges and hunting activities, less noise pollution can positively affect communities, especially in

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more densely populated areas. The use of suppressors can make shooting activities less disruptive to the general public, promoting a safer and quieter environment.

For all the above-mentioned reasons, the Guam Police Department would support a law that is consistent with the Federal requirements, specifically the NFRTR, and addresses GPD's capacity to meet our mission in compliance with existing laws and administrative rules.

If the suggested creation or amending of other statutes related to the ownership and possession of suppressor devices were addressed and codified into statute, during this proposed legislative action, the Guam Police Department would be more agreeable to the proposed legislation and others related to the ownership, possession, and use of suppressor devices.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to submit our views, and we respectfully request for the recommendation mentioned herein be considered and included in Bill No. 27-38 (COR).
Dangkulo na si Yu'os ma'ase!

Respectfully submitted,


STEPHEN C. IGNACIO
Chief of Police

SCI:SGW/scr



Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

OP ED - Testimony Against Legalized Silencers

1 message

Ken Leon-Guerrero <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Feb 27, 2025 at 2:21 PM

To: The Post Editor In Chief <editor@postguam.com>, office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov

Cc: William Parkinson <senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org>, KLG Yahoo <[REDACTED]>

Testimony Against Legalizing Silencers for Guns on Guam

Ken Leon Guerrero/Santa Rita Resident

The only warning the public gets that a mass shooting is taking place in a school, shopping center, sporting event, nightclub, or even a back yard barbecue is the sound of gunshots.

Bill 27-38 is mis-labeled as a "Hearing Protection Act" aimed at protecting the hearing of recreational shooters; all of whom have the time and means to buy hearing protection to use on target ranges. What the bill does not address is the risks silencers inflict on ordinary people. Nothing in this bill offers protection for students, shoppers, tourists, and ordinary people who do not have the resources to purchase and wear body armor whenever they leave their home.

In 2019; a mass shooter in Virginia Beach, shot and killed 12 people with a silenced semi automatic pistol with a high capacity magazine. The the only warning the public had that a mass shooting event was taking place were the screams of the victims.

As a former gun owner; I know from actual experience silencers can defuse the sound of a gunshot well below pubic awareness levels. I can truthfully make this claim because I have test fired devices on the market that reduce the noise of guns to the point you can not hear the gunshot if you are more than 20 away. Even then; the sound less than 20 away is so soft ordinary conversations are louder than the muzzle blast.

There are hundreds of videos on YouTube that will demonstrate the truth of my argument that silencers that are too effective to be legalized for use in a community that does not provide body armor "free of charge" to the non-gun owning public. The video I sent senators when Senator Tony Ada introduced the same bill in the 36th Legislature showed two people talking as they fired a silenced semiautomatic pistol. The conversation was clear and easy to understand, and sound of the bullets hitting the steel target 20 feet away, was louder than the sounds of the muzzle blast of the pistol.

What is a more pressing public concern, protecting the hearing of a few people who have the ability to wear ear protection before they shoot guns for recreation; or protecting the lives of people in public places from a silenced shooter? As the saying goes: "The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few."

I am hoping the senators put the safety needs of many tens of thousand of unarmed students, shoppers, and tourists outweighs the needs of a few hundred target shooters, for whom putting on ear protection takes too much time; and vote NO on this bill.

Sent from my iPad

Ariana Millard

Testimony in Opposition to Bill 27-38 (COR)

Håja Adai Senators,

I am submitting this testimony in my capacity as a community member. I have several concerns regarding Bill 27-38 (COR) that I hope you take into consideration before moving forward with a vote. I am in opposition to the Bill for the following reasons.

- With the unsettling climate of gun violence across the nation, it is incredibly important that we explore avenues to address and reduce the use of firearms in criminal behavior through increased regulations and safeguards. Although law-abiding citizens have the right to bear arms, this right can be provided and protected in a more responsible manner. We should not be moved by firearms lobbyists' attempts to undermine the severity and magnitude of gun violence in America, which ranks extremely high in gun-related deaths in the world- whereas, other nations have successfully decreased gun violence by enacting stricter regulations for firearms. Guam has not seen the severity of gun violence similar to the States, but we should do everything we can to keep it that way.
- According to the Commonwealth Fund, a private American foundation dedicated to improving access to high quality healthcare, “firearms are the leading cause of death for children in the U.S. and are the weapons used most often in domestic violence against women... Globally, the U.S. ranks at the 93rd percentile for overall firearm mortality, 92nd percentile for children and teens, and 96th percentile for women” (The Commonwealth Fund, 2024). It is disturbing and ironic to co-opt the issue of domestic violence against women to promote a Bill that would authorize the use of a potentially dangerous firearm accessory.
- Although proponents of the Bill highlight that firearm suppressors and silencers do not completely ‘silence’ a gunshot, several public safety concerns required the

enactment of strict federal regulation in the 1930s which have been maintained since. The Center for American Progress notes that:

- Shots fired using a silencer can make it difficult to pinpoint a shooter's exact location, creating a significant challenge for law enforcement officers and the general public during an active shooting.
 - The average citizen cannot discern a gunshot made with a silencer the same way they'd be able to recognize and react to typical gunfire.
 - Suppressors/silencers can also reduce recoil and muzzle flip allowing for more accurate and faster follow-up shots. This creates the potential for a more accurate and lethal shooting.
 - (Center for American Progress, 2017).
 - Silencers can also create the impression that gunfire is coming from the opposite direction which could create a significant hazard for law enforcement and other first responders (Violence Policy Center, 2019).
 - In my opinion, the use of firearm suppressors have the potential to embolden criminal behavior— especially if it is not common knowledge that suppressors are unable to completely silence gunfire.
- Proponents of legislation such as this also like to point out data which shows that firearm suppressors/silencers have not been heavily used in crime across the U.S. However, they ignore that this can be attributed to the highly strict federal regulation of these firearm accessories. Federal regulation requires all suppressors/silencers and parts to be registered, individuals must apply to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in order to purchase silencers which would require fingerprints, passport photos, a \$200 tax, and a notification to local law enforcement (American Suppressor Association). According to the Violence Policy Center, “since 1934, the strict regulations contained in the National Firearms Act (NFA) have worked to limit crimes committed with silencers. Recognizing this, silencers should remain regulated

under the NFA. Making these weapons available to the general public with far fewer restrictions **will ensure that their use in crime will increase**" (Violence Policy Center, 2017).

- Although Bill 27-38 (COR) requires that the ownership or use of suppressors/silencers comply with applicable federal laws, there have been several attempts by gun lobbyists and U.S. legislators to weaken or dismantle federal regulations for firearm suppressors. If any of these Bills were to pass in the U.S. Congress, then this Section of 27-38 (COR) would be rendered completely useless, would not provide any safeguards for the public in the form of preventative regulations, and would remove Guam's ability to implement taxes for the purchase of suppressors.
 - U.S. lawmakers introduced the "Silencers Help Us Save Hearing (SHUSH) Act" this past January. This Bill aims to deregulate suppressors and remove them from under the purview of the NFA, in order to:
 - Make ownership easier and cheaper (by removing the \$200 tax); and
 - Erase all federal, local, and state restrictions on suppressors, including record-keeping, marking, and registration laws.
 - **Similar Bills have been introduced in 2019, 2021, and July 2024** (Pew Pew Tactical, 2025).
- According to the Center for American Progress:
 - "There are currently a wide variety of hearing protection devices available to hunters and sport shooters, including sophisticated earpieces that simultaneously enhance and protect hearing, enabling users to listen carefully to their surroundings while maintaining a high level of protection from high impact sounds.
 - These hearing protection devices are just as effective as silencers at reducing the noise of gunshots and do not pose any risk to public safety.



Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Testimony for Bill 27-38 (COR)

1 message

Julia Faye Munoz <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Mar 4, 2025 at 2:34 PM

To: senator.parkinson@guamlegislature.gov


Cc: office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov, vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov, speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov, office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov, senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov, senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov, officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov, vince.borja@guamlegislature.gov, senatortelot@gmail.com, senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov, malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov, office.senatorperez@guamlegislature.gov, senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com, senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com

Hafa Adai,

My name is Julia Faye Munoz and I am providing testimony as a community member in opposition of Bill 27-38 (COR). Please see my attached testimony.

Senseramente,

Julia Faye Munoz

 **Bill 27-38 Testimony_Julia Faye Munoz.pdf**
32K



Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

SUPPORT for BILL 27-38 (COR)

2 messages

Kamuela Rhoads <[REDACTED]>
To: office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov

Mon, Mar 3, 2025 at 11:43 PM

Hafa Adai Senator,

My name is Kamuela Rhoads of Mangilao, formerly of Dededo. I, along with many others in the 2A community SUPPORT BILL 27-38 (COR).

Please vote in favor to pass this bill into law.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase!

Respectfully,

Mr. Kamuela Rhoads

Kamuela Rhoads <[REDACTED]>

Mon, Mar 3, 2025 at 11:47 PM

To: speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov, vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov, office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov, senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov, senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov, officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov, vince.borja@guamlegislature.gov, office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov, senatortelot@gmail.com, senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov, malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov, senator.parkinson@guamlegislature.gov, office.senatorperez@guamlegislature.gov, senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com, senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com

Hafa Adai Senator(s),

My name is Kamuela Rhoads of Mangilao, formerly of Dededo. I, along with many others in the 2A community, SUPPORT Bill 27-38 (COR).

[Quoted text hidden]



Judiciary of Guam

Administrative Office of the Courts
Guam Judicial Center • 120 West O'Brien Dr • Hagåtña, Gu. 96910
Tel: (671) 475-3544



HON. ROBERT J. TORRES
CHIEF JUSTICE

HON. ALBERTO C. LAMORENA, III
PRESIDING JUDGE

DANIELLE T. ROSETE, ESQ.
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS

March 4, 2025

The Honorable Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety
Capitol Plaza Building Suite 103
120 Father Duenas Avenue
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Re: JOG Testimony on Bill No. 27-38 (COR)

Håfa Adai, Chairman Gumataotao:

The Judiciary of Guam extends its appreciation to submit testimony on **Bill No. 27-38 (COR)**, introduced by Senator William A. Parkinson, "relative to removing the restrictions on ownership of suppressors and silencers; and to be known as the 'Hearing Protection Act of 2025.'"

While the Judiciary views the bill as a policy matter to be decided by the legislative body, we offer our perspective on its potential impact on our law enforcement operations. Our officers are trained to respond quickly to the sound of gunfire, which is an important indicator in managing active threat scenarios. The use of suppressors could hinder the rapid identification of threats within court facilities and during field operations, potentially delaying response time and increasing risks to both our law enforcement personnel and the general public.

We trust that our lawmakers will weigh these considerations carefully to ensure the safety and security of both our officers and the public they serve. Should you have additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Senseramente,

Handwritten signature of Danielle T. Rosete in cursive.

DANIELLE T. ROSETE
Administrator of the Courts



Information regarding your upcoming markup for the hearing protection act.

4 messages

Ben Suissa <[redacted]>
To: office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov

Thu, Feb 27, 2025 at 8:20 AM

Hafa Adai Senator!

I watched the presentation yesterday regarding the Suppressor bill before you. I feel like I might be of great use to you and the other senators in making an informed decision. The panel of knowledgeable folks that were giving you their opinions, while heartfelt, were shall we say a little bit light on factual points that might be salient to the bills passage.

A bit about my credentials, I am a former US Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician who now lives full time in Agat since 2016. I am the owner of Foothills Firearms, a retail firearms shop that I moved here from Yuma Arizona. I have held a FFL Type 1 and 3 for almost two decades and in my stick and mortar store in Yuma I have sold hundreds of suppressors since I opened our shop in 2008. I am intimately familiar with the paperwork process and legalities of transferring a suppressor to private citizens as well as gov't agencies.

I also have been involved in the legal side of dealing with the ATF as I and J&G sales are the two gun shops who sued the ATF to stop Demand Letter 5. Although that lawsuit was unsuccessful (the Gov't found in their own favor) it did afford me the opportunity to be interviewed on Fox National TV. I have also been of service to both Defense and Prosecutions in courts as an "Expert Witness" on a few cases. I was also asked to deliver a speech to the NRA for Duncan Hunter when he was running for President. The reason I am mentioning this is to show that I understand "optics".

I absolutely believe we should have Suppressors here on Guam and want to do what I can to assist in possibly ensuring its passage this time around. Interestingly the head of the NFA branch declined my submission to move my S.O.T. (Special Occupational Taxpayer License) which is the license you need to sell them. Reason for denial was that I had moved to Guam. They did renew my normal FFL license of course, but I would very much like to continue my business in selling suppressors here one day!

Please feel free to reach out to me regarding any way I can be of assistance to you or the legislators in this matter.

Sincerely, Benjamin Suissa Owner Foothills Firearms
[redacted]

If you need my CV I can send that as well, it is chock full of firearms and explosives certifications, but this email was just to see if you are interested in having me help. You can check with Von to see that I am who I say I am. I will include a copy of my current FFL here as proof.

FFL 2026.pdf
602K

Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>
To: Ben Suissa <[redacted]>

Thu, Feb 27, 2025 at 8:27 AM

Hafa Adai Mr. Suissa,

Acknowledged receipt of your email.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase
[Quoted text hidden]

Office of Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard
38th Guam Legislature
120 Father Duenas Avenue Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103, Hagatña, Guam 96910
(671) 647-1409/1411

Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>
To: Ben Suissa <[redacted]>

Tue, Mar 4, 2025 at 2:55 PM

Hafa Adai Mr. Suissa,

Thank you for your interest and testimony in support of Bill 27-38. At this time we would like to advise that the markup meeting is primarily for the committee members to discuss all testimony and other information gathered during the public hearing. Senator Gumataotao welcomes any additional testimony you would like to provide following your recent submission no later than the close of business today at 5:00 pm.

Again, thank you for your valuable input.

On Thu, Feb 27, 2025 at 8:21 AM Ben Suissa <[redacted]> wrote:
[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Suissa <[redacted]>
To: Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Tue, Mar 4, 2025 at 4:40 PM

Senator,

Thank you for this opportunity to help address those lawmakers who want a clearer picture of the process it takes to get an NFA item (Colloquially known as a class Three item) registered to a new owner. It is neither an easy or quick process and is one of the reasons that Suppressors are exceedingly rarely used in a crime.

First off the FFL dealer needs to apply and receive a NEW FFL by applying for a Type One AND a Type Three Special Occupational Taxpayer license to resell them, or a Two and Seven if they want to manufacture them. This license is not inexpensive.

Once the S.O.T has his license he can then start to purchase Suppressors from a manufacturer. After Receiving the suppressor, it gets logged into his Bound Book by Serial Number much the same as a firearm.

A customer then comes in and buys the suppressor, gets his receipt and depending on how the dealer sets his business up, can do the next paperwork there or go home and submit. The paperwork is known as a Form 4 and it is an application to the NFA division of ATF to have a tax stamp for the Suppressor. The tax stamp is literally just that, it looks like a postage stamp but says \$200 dollars on it (old ones are quite collectable to stamp collectors!) a set of fingerprints done by the Dealer or Police station and a check for the \$200 dollars. which then gets mailed to the NFA Branch.

It is now possible to submit the application online! The old wait times were up to a year, but since moving to Online the latest posted wait times is 42 days.

After the NFA responds with an approved Tax Stamp and Form 4 the Suppressor owner (his suppressor has been sitting in the dealers safe this whole time) comes back to the shop, and fills out a form 4473 with the attendant background check, once approved, the dealer then and only then gives the customer the Suppressor.

The FBI, the ATF, the Guam Police Dept AND the Guam PD Armory will ALL know exactly WHO owns the Suppressor, and what address it is kept at. If the owner wants to take the Suppressor to the range and use it he will be instructed to have a copy of the paperwork in his possession showing that it is a legal Suppressor.

Suppressors do not fit all guns or calibers or pressure ratings, so a thrifty consumer will buy a suppressor that is stronger and larger than a few of his firearms so he can put the suppressor on more than one gun (this was not accurately described by the panel I saw but will take a bit of time to explain later if needed). Suffice to say this is neither an easy or inexpensive process and because of this Suppressors are almost NEVER used in crimes. The punishment for NOT following these procedures is a stiff one 10 years in prison on federal charges....So you can see that gun owners who have one WILL GUARD THEM and not loan them out or leave them lying around!

In all my years of owning and selling them I have seen but one mis-use and this was in Murder/Suicide that the Suppressor made no difference in it just happened to be present.

Which brings me to the point that the Governor used in her Veto, Suggesting that "Gunshots are the most readily identifiable sound for Police to know a crime is being committed is a spurious argument as the crime being committed isn't the SOUND of the gunfire, but rather the impact from a bullet fired during a criminal act! Knives make no sound but stabbing someone with one is still illegal, and yet the police have the same tools they always had to discern that a crime has been committed!

Why use a suppressor? Well they remove not only the damaging noise from the shooter's perspective they do the same for the people of Guam like my neighbor who calls the police everytime she hears a gunshot in Agat, even if they are completely legal gunshots up on the hill with a safe backstop.

Another reason is because they remove a great deal of the kick from a rifle or handgun! So if teaching the fundamentals of trigger squeeze and sight alignment to a newer shooter it removes the Kick and blast allowing for faster learning points!

On a side note the Suppressor is only really effective on Subsonic rounds as the crack of a supersonic round is still quite loud, but manageable with ear pro. Subsonic rounds can be very quiet indeed.

I would REALLY like to answer all your questions and am here for you guys in any way I can be of use.

Please let me know

Ben Suissa

Foothills Firearms

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

Federal Firearms License
(18 U.S.C. Chapter 44)

In accordance with the provisions of Title I, Gun Control Act of 1968, and the regulations issued thereunder (27 CFR Part 478), you are licensed to engage in the business specified in this license, within the limitations of Chapter 44, Title 18, United States Code, and the regulations issued thereunder, until the expiration date shown. **THIS LICENSE IS NOT TRANSFERABLE UNDER 27 CFR 478.51.** See "WARNINGS" and "NOTICES" on reverse.

Direct ATF Correspondence To	ATF - Chief, FFLC FFLC @ atf.gov 1-866-662-2750	License Number	[REDACTED]
Chief, Federal Firearms Licensing Center (FFLC)	<i>Tracy Robertson</i>	Expiration Date	October 1, 2026
Name	FOOTHILLS FIREARMS		

Premises Address (Changes? Notify the FFLC at least 30 days before the move.)

[REDACTED]

Type of License

01-DEALER IN FIREARMS OTHER THAN DESTRUCTIVE DEVICES

Purchasing Certification Statement

The licensee named above shall use a copy of this license to assist a transferor of firearms to verify the identity and the licensed status of the licensee as provided by 27 CFR Part 478. The signature on each copy must be an original signature. A faxed, scanned or e-mailed copy of the license with a signature intended to be an original signature is acceptable. The signature must be that of the Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL) or a responsible person of the FFL. I certify that this is a true copy of a license issued to the licensee named above to engage in the business specified above under "Type of License."

Main Address (Changes? Notify the FFLC of any changes.)

SUISSA, BENJAMIN C
FOOTHILLS FIREARMS

Benjamin C. Suissa

Licensee/Responsible Person Signature
BENJAMIN C. SUISSA
Printed Name

OWNER

Position Title
9/15/2023

Date

Previous Edition is Obsolete SUISSA, BENJAMIN C. 2023 (FORM 5300-38) 0101 01 04 2023 October 1, 2023 01 DEALER IN FIREARMS OTHER THAN DESTRUCTIVE DEVICES ATF Form 5300-38 (10-11) Revised October 2011

Federal Firearms License (FFL) Customer Service Information

Federal Firearms Licensing Center (FFLC) 244 Needy Road Martinsburg, WV 25405-9431	Toll-free Telephone Number: (866) 662-2750 Toll-free Fax Number: (866) 257-2749 E-mail: FFLC@atf.gov	ATF Homepage: www.atf.gov FFL e/ Check: www.atfonline.gov/fezcheck
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Change of Address (27 CFR 478.52) Licensees may during the term of their current license remove their business or activity to a new location at which they intend regularly to carry on such business or activity by filing an Application for an Amended Federal Firearms License, ATF Form 5300.38, in duplicate, not less than 30 days prior to such removal with the Chief, Federal Firearms Licensing Center. The application must be executed under the penalties of perjury and penalties imposed by 18 U.S.C. 924. The application shall be accompanied by the licensee's original license. The license will be valid for the remainder of the term of the original license. (The Chief, FFLC, shall, if the applicant is not qualified, refer the application for amended license to the Director of Industry Operations for denial in accordance with § 478.71.)

Right of Succession (27 CFR 478.56) (a) Certain persons other than the licensee may secure the right to carry on the same firearms or ammunition business at the same address shown on, and for the remainder of the term of, a current license. Such persons are: (1) The surviving spouse or child, or executor, administrator, or other legal representative of a deceased licensee, and (2) A receiver or trustee in bankruptcy, or an assignee for benefit of creditors. (b) In order to secure the right provided by this section, the person or persons continuing the business shall furnish the license for that business for endorsement of such succession to the Chief, FFLC, within 30 days from the date on which the successor begins to carry on the business.

(Continued on reverse side)

Cut Here ✂

Federal Firearms License (FFL) Information Card

License Name: **SUISSA, BENJAMIN C**

Business Name: **FOOTHILLS FIREARMS**

License Number: **9-98-010-01-6K-00082**

License Type: **01-DEALER IN FIREARMS OTHER THAN DESTRUCTIVE DEVICES**

Expiration: **October 1, 2026**

Please Note: Not Valid for the Sale or Other Disposition of Firearms.

FFL Newsletter - Electronic Version Available

Sign-Up Today!

FFLs interested in receiving the electronic version of the FFL Newsletter, along with occasional additional information, should submit name, FFL number, and e-mail address to: FIPB@atf.gov.

The electronic FFL Newsletter will enable ATF to communicate information to licensees on a periodic basis.



Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Hafa adai senator

3 messages

Joshua Taisague <[REDACTED]>
To: office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov

Mon, Mar 3, 2025 at 10:13 PM

I support this bill. Please vote into favor to pass into law.
My name is Joshua Taisague and I reside in Dededo

Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>
To: Joshua Taisague <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Mar 4, 2025 at 9:44 AM

Hafa Adai Mr. Taisague,

We are in receipt of your email however, please advise which bill you are in support of as it was not indicated in your email.

Si Yu'os Maase'!

[Quoted text hidden]

--
Office of Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard
38th Guam Legislature
120 Father Duenas Avenue Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
(671) 647-1409/1411

Joshua Taisague <[REDACTED]>
To: Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Tue, Mar 4, 2025 at 9:47 AM

I support Bill 27-38 (COR) to be voted into law
[Quoted text hidden]



Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Supporting Bill 27-38 Firearm suppressor

1 message

thomas tomasiak <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Feb 28, 2025 at 9:39 AM

To: office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov

Good Morning, Buenas Senator,

My name is Thomas M. Tomasiak. I am a retired Guam Police Officer, served 33yrs, 1987-2021. A retired US Army veteran, served 30yrs, 1984-2014.

I am a firearm owner and I support Bill 27-38. The suppressors are not "silencers." They jus lessen the decibel level of a weapon being fired, and it still produces a noise.

I have Tinitis, and have a hearing problem. I used hearing protection for military and law enforcement operations. I realized the protection I used wasnt adequate enough.

Now I just leisurely shoot. If i'm able to use the suppressor, this will help lesson the noise and along with hearing protection I use, hearing won't be lost.

Guam has strong, effective laws for firearms, we register our firearms, we have firearms ID. Law abiding gun owners are responsible. If it helps, register the suppressors.

When we buy a firearm and ammunition, we present our firearms ID card. Let us purchase the suppressor like a firearm and register it at GPD armory, like a firearm.

I am a lifetime member of the National Rifleman's Association, I believe in the 2nd Ammendment and I feel our island should be able to obtain a suppressor.

I support this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Thomas M. Tomasiak

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone



**Written Testimony to the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam
National Guard**

In Support of Bill No. 27-38

Objectives:

The American Suppressor Association fully supports Bill No. 27-38, Senator William A. Parkinson's legislation that seeks to repeal the prohibition of firearm suppressors in Guam.

The prohibition of firearm suppressors in Guam is built on the misconception that suppressors can render the noise of a gunshot silent or inaudible. This could hardly be further from the truth as even the quietest suppressed gunshot is as loud as a jackhammer striking concrete. Suppressors are not a danger to society; rather, they are an effective tool that can help protect hearing.

Background:

Suppressor Basics

The terms "silencer" and "suppressor" refer to the same thing – a muffler for a firearm. Contrary to popular belief, no tool will ever be able to make a gunshot silent. Outside of the context of shooting, nothing will even be able to make them quiet. Guns are simply too loud.

On average, suppressors reduce the noise of a gunshot by 20 – 35 decibels (dB), roughly the same sound reduction as earplugs or earmuffs. Even the most effective suppressors on the market, on the smallest and quietest calibers (.22 LR) reduce the peak sound level of a gunshot to around 110 – 120 decibels. To put that in perspective, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), that is as loud as a jackhammer (110 dB) or an ambulance siren (120 dB).

When a gun is fired, a controlled explosion of gunpowder propels the bullet through the barrel. Once the bullet exits the barrel, these hot gases are rapidly released into the atmosphere. The result is the muzzle blast, one of several primary noise sources associated with a gunshot. This is also the only noise source that suppressors abate.

Suppressors work by trapping and disrupting these gases, allowing them to slowly dissipate. It is the exact same science behind automobile mufflers, which should come as no surprise considering the muffler was invented by the same man who invented the firearm suppressor.

So why would anyone want a suppressor? In two words: hearing protection. Firearms are so loud that any exposure to unsuppressed gunshots without adequate hearing protection can instantly cause permanent hearing damage.

Hearing Conservation

According to Dr. William W. Clark, Director of the Washington University School of Medicine's Program in Audiology and Communication Sciences, "**the most serious threat to hearing comes from recreational hunting or target shooting**".¹ This is in large part because many people choose not to use traditional hearing protection devices.

Multiple studies have found that between **70 to 80% of hunters never wear earplugs or earmuffs**, and nearly half of all target shooters don't consistently wear traditional hearing



protection.² Thus, it should come as no surprise that **for every five years of hunting, hunters become seven percent more likely to experience high frequency hearing loss.**³

In 2011, a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) study found that **“the only potentially effective noise control method to reduce students’ or instructors’ noise exposure from gunfire is through the use of noise suppressors that can be attached to the end of the gun barrel.”**⁴

In a similar study from 2014 on noise exposure at shooting ranges, NIOSH recommended, **“if feasible and legally permissible, attach noise suppressors to firearms to reduce peak sound pressure levels.”**⁵

On October 21, 2019, the National Hearing Conservation Association (NHCA) wrote a letter detailing their support of suppressors as a tool to help curb preventable hearing damage. In the letter they stated, **“although firearm suppressors do not completely eliminate the risk of [noise-induced hearing loss] from firearm noise, the risk can be significantly reduced...Therefore, NHCA supports the use of firearm noise suppressors as a form of an engineering noise control to reduce hazardous firearm noise exposures.”**⁶

The Academy of Doctors of Audiology penned a similar letter to Senator Parkinson in which ADA President Dr. Aryn Amlani stated, **“conventional hearing protection alone does not always offer adequate protection from noise exposure. Firearm noise suppressors can be an effective supplement to traditional hearing protection.”**⁷

Sound Pressure Levels (SPLs)

Sound pressure levels are measured on a logarithmic scale, meaning that they increase in a nonlinear fashion. Every 3 dB increase doubles the sound pressure level; every 10 dB increase raises the SPL by a factor of 10. The following table illustrates the relationship between dB levels and the logarithmic scale:

Decibel Levels:	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	(+3)
Logarithmic Scale:	1	2	4	8	16	32	64	128	256	512	1024	(x2)

In 1998, NIOSH established recommended exposure limits (REL) for occupational noise exposure. Per the NIOSH REL, workers can safely expose their ears to 85 A-weighted decibels (dB[A]) for an eight-hour time-weighted average in a given day. The REL utilizes the equal-energy rule, so “for every 3-dB increase in noise level, the allowable exposure time is reduced by half. For example, if the exposure level increases to 88 dB(A), workers should only be exposed for four hours. Alternatively, for every 3-dB decrease in noise level, the allowable exposure time is doubled, as shown in the table below.”

Average Sound Exposure Levels Needed to Reach the Maximum Allowable Daily Dose of 100%

<u>Time to reach 100% noise dose</u>	<u>Exposure level per NIOSH REL</u>
8 hours	85 dB(A)
4 hours	88 dB(A)
2 hours	91 dB(A)
60 minutes	94 dB(A)
30 minutes	97 dB(A)
15 minutes	100 dB(A)



Sound pressure levels of suppressed gunshots begin to register around 110 dB for .22 Long Rifle, the smallest and quietest rimfire caliber that Boy Scouts use to earn the Rifle Shooting Merit Badge. At 110 dB the NIOSH recommended exposure limit is 1 minute and 29 seconds. As the size and power of calibers increase, so too do SPLs. At 130 dB, the SPL of the quietest suppressed hunting caliber rifles, the NIOSH REL is 0.8789 seconds.

According to Dr. Michael Stewart, Professor of Audiology at Central Michigan University, **“[t]he level of impulse noise generated by almost all firearms exceeds the 140 dB peak SPL limit recommended by OSHA and NIOSH.”** For this very reason, he goes on to state that **“it is not surprising that recreational firearm noise exposure is one of the leading causes of NIHL [Noise Induced Hearing Loss] in America today.”**³

The SPL of most unsuppressed rifles and pistols range between 160 to 185 dB. At these levels, even earplugs and earmuffs are often incapable of providing complete protection. According to the National Hearing Conservation Association:

*“Persons wearing conventional hearing protection are not without risk of NIHL when using firearms. The noise reduction of hearing protection devices varies considerably across users and may provide significantly less protection from noise than the labeled noise reduction rating (NRR) suggests. The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has recommended the NRR of conventional hearing protection be derated by 25% for earmuffs, 50% for formable earplugs, and 70% for all other earplugs to correspond to existing real-world data. NIOSH research has demonstrated that as many as 50% of persons using earplugs fail to achieve 25 dB of noise reduction for their earplugs. However, using conventional hearing protection in conjunction with a suppressor can significantly reduce the risk of NIHL more than using either device alone.”*⁶

Laws and Regulations

Suppressors have been federally regulated since the passage of the National Firearms Act of 1934. In order to purchase a suppressor, prospective buyers must live in a state where suppressors are legal, send in an application including fingerprints and passport photos to ATF, pay a \$200 transfer tax, notify their Chief Law Enforcement Officer (CLEO), and wait an indeterminate amount of time for ATF to process the application.

In 2011, the year that the American Suppressor Association was formed, there were 285,000 lawfully obtained suppressors in circulation in the 39 states where they were legal to own. A mere 22 of these states allowed their use while hunting. Today, there are over 4,000,000 lawfully obtained suppressors in the 42 states where they are legal to own – 41 of which allow their use while hunting.

Bipartisan Support

In 2013, Montana Governor Steve Bullock (D) held the common misconception that suppressors could silence a firearm, which led him to veto suppressor hunting legislation in his state. However, once he became properly educated on the issue, he reversed course and urged the Montana legislature to legalize their use in the field. In a letter to the Speaker of the House from March 2015, he wrote:



“The public perception of suppressors as the same thing as silencers, where the assassin quietly dispatches his victim, no longer holds true. Suppressors mitigate the sound of a shot, but do not silence it. The use of suppressors for hunting, when hunters cannot wear ear protection because they need to be aware of their surroundings, can help protect against hearing loss. This is especially true for our younger hunters, even those who are not actually hunting but are accompanying their parent in the field.

I understand the concerns regarding the risks of increased poaching and do not take this lightly, but other states have not found this to be the case.”

Gov. Bullock’s change of opinion wasn’t ideological, it was educational. Unlike many firearms issues, pro-suppressor reform has received a tremendous amount of bipartisan support across the country. In recent years, four Democratic Governors have signed standalone pro-suppressor bills into law - Gov. Steve Bullock (MT) in 2015, Gov. Peter Shumlin (VT) in 2015, Gov. Maggie Hassan (NH) in 2016, and Gov. Janet Mills (ME) in 2021.

Public Safety

According to a white paper titled “*Options to Reduce or Modify Firearms Regulations*”, by Ronald Turk, former Associate Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), **“silencers are very rarely used in criminal shootings. Given the lack of criminality associated with silencers, it is reasonable to conclude that they should not be viewed as a threat to public safety”.**

Most criminals are not interested in suppressors because they do not actually silence a gunshot. According to Ralph Clark, the CEO of ShotSpotter, the law enforcement tool that helps police identify and localize gunshots in cities and urban areas, suppressed gunfire can still be detected by their technology. Suppressors also add length and weight to their host firearm, which make them inherently harder to conceal.

Furthermore, using a suppressor in the commission of a crime carries stiff State and Federal penalties. At the Federal level, using a suppressor in the commission of a crime carries a 30-year mandatory prison sentence. Very few laws are more punitive than this.

Conclusion

For these reasons, the American Suppressor Association asks that you support the legalization of suppressors in Guam. Should any legislators want to learn more about suppressor technology, ASA would be happy to host an educational suppressor demonstration at any time of your choosing.

¹ Clark WW. (1991) Noise exposure from leisure activities: a review. *J Acoust Soc Am* 90(1):175-181.

² Wagner A, Stewart M, Lehman ME. (2006) Risk patterns and shooting habits of recreational firearm users. In: Abstracts of the National Hearing Conservation Association Annual Conference 2006, Tampa, Florida. *NHCA Spectrum* 23(Suppl. 1):28.

³ Stewart M, Foley L, Lehman ME, Gerlach A. (2011) Risks Faced by Recreational Firearm Users. *Audiology Today*, March-April:38-52.

⁴ Chen L, Brueck SE. (2011) Noise and Lead Exposures at an Outdoor Firing Range - California. Health Hazard Evaluation Report HETA 2011-0069-3140:5.

⁵ Brueck SE, Kardous CA, Oza A, Murphy WJ. (2014) Measurement of Exposure to Impulsive Noise at Indoor and Outdoor Firing Ranges during Tactical Training Exercises. Health Hazard Evaluation Report HETA 2013-0124-3208:14.

⁶ Blank A. (2019) National Hearing Conservation Association. Letter to Knox Williams: 1-2.

⁷ Amlani A, Czuhajewski S (2025) Academy of Doctors of Audiology. Letter to Senator William A. Parkinson: 1.

February 26, 2025



Senator William A. Parkinson
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Dear Senator Parkinson,

The Academy of Doctors of Audiology (ADA) supports evidence-based practices in the delivery of audio-vestibular care. Hearing protection and other hearing conservation tools, resources, and programs are essential for ensuring optimal hearing throughout one's lifetime. ADA supports the Hearing Protection Act of 2025 in Guam to improve access to firearm noise suppressors, which are recommended by the National Hearing Conservation Association (NHCA)¹, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) as a tool to prevent noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL).²

Millions of Americans of all ages routinely shoot firearms for sport. For example, nearly 7.5 million Americans hunt with a firearm each year, and an estimated 19 million Americans, six years of age and older, participate in firearms target shooting.³ Firearm users are at high risk of developing NIHL.⁴ Peak sound pressure levels (SPLs), from firearms, range from 130 to 175 decibels (dB).⁵ According to the CDC, loud noises, above 120 dB, can cause immediate, permanent harm to hearing.⁶

"The Hearing Protection Act of 2025 will open up access to important hearing protection for the law-abiding citizens of Guam," said Aryn Amlani, Ph.D., ADA President. "While, the use of conventional hearing protection tools, such as earplugs and earmuffs are fundamental for preventing noise induced hearing loss in firearm users, conventional hearing protection alone does not always offer adequate protection from noise exposure. Firearm noise suppressors can be an effective supplement to traditional hearing protection."

Depending on the environmental conditions and the technical specifications of the firearm and ammunition, firearm noise suppressors can reduce noise levels at the shooter's ear by 7-32 dB.⁷ Importantly, using both conventional hearing protection and a firearm noise suppressor, concurrently, has been demonstrated to significantly reduce the risk of NIHL, compared with using either device alone.⁸

Hearing health is essential to public health and quality of life. ADA is committed to advancing public policy initiatives related to hearing loss prevention and early intervention. Therefore, ADA endorses the Hearing Protection Act of 2025 to provide improved access to firearm noise suppressors to support hearing conservation. Please contact us at sczuhajewski@audiologist.org for additional information.

Thank you,

Aryn Amlani, Ph.D., President

Stephanie Czuhajewski, MPH, CAE, Executive Director

¹ <https://www.hearingconservation.org/assets/NHCA%20Hearing%20Protection%20Act%20with%20Encl%2020191028.pdf>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2013-0124-3208.pdf>

³ <https://huntingmark.com/hunting-statistics/>

⁴ <https://pubs.aip.org/asa/jasa/article/151/3/1769/2838222/Auditory-changes-following-firearm-noise-exposure>

⁵ See 1

⁶ https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hearing_loss/what_noises_cause_hearing_loss.html#:~:text=Sound%20is%20measured%20in%20decibels,immediate%20harm%20to%20your%20ears.

⁷ See 1

⁸ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5634813/>



GUAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

DIPATTAMENTON POLISIAN GUAHAN
Government of Guam



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
Governor

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor

Bldg. 13-16A Mariner Avenue, Tiyan
Barrigada, Guam 96913-1616
P.O. Box 23909 Guam Main Facility 96921-3909
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Fax (671) 475-3222

STEPHEN C. IGNACIO
Chief of Police

COL. JOSEPH S. CARBULLID
Police Commander

March 31, 2025

The Honorable Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management,
and Guam National Guard
38th Guam Legislature
120 Father Duenas Avenue
Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103
Hagatna, Guam 96910

RE: **BILL NO. 27-38 (COR) Concerns and Recommendations – Second Amended Version**

Dear Senator Gumataotao:

Buenas yan Hafa Adai!

I, Stephen C. Ignacio, Chief of Police, Guam Police Department, would like to offer additional comments and observations with regards to Bill No. 27-38 (COR) as presented in its second amended version.

The Guam Police Department (GPD) recognizes the importance of ensuring that individuals' rights to personal protection and firearm safety are balanced with the safety of the community. In this regard, we are not opposed to the proposed amendments to §§ 60100, 60102, 60103, 60106, 60111, and 60118 of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, related to firearm suppressors, also known as silencers, mufflers, moderators, or noise reduction devices. However, we have a few issues that we request should be addressed in other amendments to the current statutes.

First, we would like to address the possible fiscal impact the proposal, in its current form could have on the Guam Police Department (GPD). In our initial submitted testimony, we addressed an amendment to the statute related to fees associated, which are not included in the current form, that could help offset some of the possible fiscal impact. In the current proposed amendment of the bill, there is a requirement for the ownership, possession, use or carrying concealed or otherwise of a silencer or suppressor, herein referred as a device, to be evidenced upon the face of a card, or a Firearm Identification Card, issued by the Department, or GPD.

The Honorable Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management,
and Guam National Guard
38th Guam Legislature

Subject: BILL NO. 27-38 (COR) Concerns and Recommendations – Second Amended Version
(Relative to amend 60100, 60102, 60103, 60106, 60108(b), 60111, 60114(b), and 60118
of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, relative to ownership, possession, and use of
firearm silencer)

March 31, 2025

Page 2 of 4

This requirement will involve amending the current GPD Firearm Identification Card, or FAID Card, or creating a new one to identify the holder as authorizing ownership, possession, use or carrying concealed or otherwise of a silencer device. This would involve personnel to review the current format and make the necessary changes to ensure this information is affixed to the FAID. A specific notation, indicating the applicant has met the federal and local requirements for lawful ownership, possession, use or carrying concealed or otherwise of a silencer would have to be included to differentiate the bearer from unauthorized persons.

Additionally, there would also be personnel costs associated with generating a new, or amending, a current FAID Application to allow applicants the ability to apply for the new, amended FAID Card and provide all the necessary information. The current Application does not have a section for that and additional language attesting to the approval of the required federal requirements would also have to be added to the application form. This would involve developing, creating, and publishing the new application form.

Because so many things are electronically published, to include information and instructions on application or registration requirements, the financial impacts will also be experienced by the department by people tasked to develop, create, and publish these changes electronically. Currently, an applicant can obtain information and a copy of a FAID Card Application, both concealed and non-concealed, and information regarding the firearm registration process on the GPD website. This information and the inclusion of revised forms for devices will need to be developed and posted on the website, in order to keep the public properly informed and give them access to the amended forms necessary to complete the processes.

Secondly, the legislation amends §§ 60100, Definitions, of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, to include silencer devices as "firearms", thereby de facto applying any and all statutes related to firearms to silencer devices. This could be interpreted as applying to not only Ownership, Identification Card required, Transfer, and Sale statutes, but should also apply to statutes relating to registration found, within §§ 60110, Registration, of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated.

If this is the intent and impact, by defining silencer devices as "firearms", it therefore requires registration as defined by the statutes. This process will also impact the department in a fiscal manner. The process to register devices could use the same forms currently in use for other firearms, however, there would also need to be publication to inform the public of the necessary requirements, both in print and electronic format. This again will involve man hours and personnel costs, in addition to the costs associated with additional printed material like public notices or printed instructions.

The Honorable Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management,
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38th Guam Legislature

Subject: BILL NO. 27-38 (COR) Concerns and Recommendations - Second Amended Version
(Relative to amend 60100, 60102, 60103, 60106, 60108(b), 60111, 60114(b), and 60118
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firearm silencer)

March 31, 2025

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These changes, considering manpower to perform web site updates, create and post updated electronic forms would involve about forty hours from the department's Information and Technology Section, at an estimated cost of about \$1,200.00. The cost to the personnel of the Records and Identification Section, considering work hours to amend these could be about \$1,000.00. Additionally, the costs associated with the creation of new forms, involving development, application of changes, and printing of new forms material could be at an estimated cost of about \$6,000.00.

Finally, there could also be a financial impact to the department's budget for any specialized training in the identification, application or use, and repairing of silencer devices needed by the department Armorer, who would be tasked to verify the device before it can be registered, similar to the mandatory process when registering a firearm. The average cost for training and certifying an Armorer, including an annual membership fee is about \$25,000.00. In total, based on these estimates, the financial impact to the GPD budget would be about \$33,200.00.

Because fees were not included in the proposed amendments, we would like to share our concerns that the financial impacts might be experienced by the department, if the legislation is passed in the current form. If not amended, the financial impacts could be felt within the department's current and future budgets. In 2024, GPD registered 3,628 firearms and recovered \$177,813.00 in revenue for firearm registrations and \$76,587.00 in revenue for firearm transfers. Similar fees for suppressor devices might negate any possible negative fiscal impact on GPD and could generate a positive fiscal gain for the department, if a similar number of devices were registered. However, the revenue would possibly be a lot less because of the lower number of devices to be registered and new FAID Cards to be issued.

The financial impact is presented, to inform the *I Liheslaturan Guahan* of the possible budgetary impact the proposed legislation could have on the Guam Police Department, since no amendments were introduced to address fees that would help offset these additional costs.

Additionally, during the review of the recent amended proposed legislation, we have also noted a few other proposed amendments and would like to share some possible consequences and share some possible suggestions regarding those amendments.

First, the legislation amends §§ 60100. Definitions, of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, to include silencer devices as "firearms", thereby de facto applying any and all statutes related to firearms to silencer devices, to include registration which is not separately defined, and which might cause confusion with some members of the public. Also, §§ 60103. Ownership, etc., Permitted, of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, should be amended to specifically include silencer

The Honorable Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management,
and Guam National Guard
38th Guam Legislature

Subject: BILL NO. 27-38 (COR) Concerns and Recommendations – Second Amended Version
(Relative to amend 60100, 60102, 60103, 60106, 60108(b), 60111, 60114(b), and 60118
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firearm silencer)

March 31, 2025

Page 4 of 4

device, because that statute specifically defines the types of firearms, or the other types of “firearm”, which the other amended definition will change to include silencer devices as a firearm.

Second, the proposed legislation addresses the issuance of a Guam FAID as defined in §§ 60106. Identification Card: Required, of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, but it does not contain specific language that require the person to prove their authority under federal statute or a record of ownership, as detailed and mandated in the suggested amended statute §§ 60118. Private Sale or Transfer, of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, specifically:

“...the record of ownership and transfer as approved by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives must be provided to the department for each firearm silencer sold or transferred pursuant to this Section. The department is prohibited from authorizing the sale or transfer of a firearm silencer to any person who is not authorized by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to own or otherwise possess such devices in accordance with established federal and local laws and regulations. “

We suggest this specific language also be included and amended into §§ 60106. Identification Card: Required, of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated. Furthermore, it should also be included and amended into §§ 60110. Registration, of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated. This would help define the requirement to display proof of federal approval before one could apply for a FAID that notates authority to have ownership, possession, use or carrying concealed or otherwise of a silencer device, and also to register a silencer device.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to submit our views, and we respectfully request for the recommendation mentioned herein be considered and included in Bill No. 27-38 (COR). *Dangkulo na si Yu'os ma'ase!*

Respectfully submitted,


STEPHEN C. IGNACIO
Chief of Police



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

COMMITTEE VOTE SHEET

BILL NO. 27-38 (COR) AS AMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, AND GUAM NATIONAL GUARD – “AN ACT TO AMEND §§ 60100, 60102, 60103, 60106, 60108(b)(5), 60111, 60114(b), AND 60118 OF CHAPTER 60, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO OWNERSHIP, POSSESSION, AND USE OF FIREARM SILENCERS.”

Committee Members	Signature	TO DO PASS	TO NOT PASS	TO REPORT OUT ONLY	TO ABSTAIN	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE
Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao <i>Chairperson</i>				✓		
Vice-Speaker V. Anthony Ada <i>Vice-Chairperson</i>				✓		
Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr. <i>Committee Member</i>				✓		
Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <i>Committee Member</i>				✓		
Senator Tina R. Muña Barnes <i>Committee Member</i>				✓		



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guahan*

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

I. OVERVIEW

The Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard, convened a public hearing on Bill No. 27-38 (COR) on Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the Public Hearing Room of *I Liheslaturan Guahan*.

Bill No. 27-38 was introduced on **January 15, 2025**, by Senator William A. Parkinson and was subsequently referred to the Committee of Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard on **January 23, 2025**.

Public Notice Requirements

Public Hearing Notices for this oversight hearing were sent out via email to all Senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 (5 Day Notice) and again on Monday, February 24, 2025 (48 Hour Notice). The notice was also published via radio advertisement and on the Guam Public Notice Website on the aforementioned dates.

Senators Present

Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, Chairperson
Vice-Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Vice-Chairperson
Senator Darrel Christopher Barnett
Senator Shelly V. Calvo
Senator Christopher M. Duenas
Senator Jesse A. Lujan
Senator William A. Parkinson
Senator Therese M. Terlaje

Attendees

Mr. Stephen Amaguin, Private Citizen
Mr. Joseph Arriola, Private Citizen
Mr. Phillip Diaz, Private Citizen
Mr. John Gary Hickenbottom, Private Citizen
Mr. Frank Lai, Private Citizen
Dr. Adam Mehlenbacher, Audiologist (Via Zoom)
Mr. Jade Templo, Private Citizen
Mr. Mike Ulloa, Private Citizen
Mr. Knox Williams, President and Executive Director of the American Suppressor Association (Via Zoom)

Written Testimony Provided by

Ms. Elizabeth Amaguin, Private Citizen
Mr. Stephen Amaguin, Private Citizen
Ms. Toni Brooks, Private Citizen
Mr. Jon Buasuwan, Private Citizen
Mr. Philip Diaz, Private Citizen
Mr. Ray Diaz, Private Citizen
Ms. Victoria Ashley C. Diaz, Private Citizen
Mr. Brett Duenas, Private Citizen
Ms. Monaeka Flores, Private Citizen
Mr. Kevin Gumataotao, Private Citizen
Mr. Stephen Ignacio, Chief of Police, Guam Police Department
Mr. Ken Leon Guerrero, Private Citizen
Dr. Adam Melenbacher, Audiologist
Ms. Ariana Millard, Private Citizen
Ms. Julia Faye Munoz, Private Citizen
Ms. Kamuela Rhoads, Private Citizen
Ms. Danielle T. Rosete, Administrator, Judiciary of Guam
Mr. Ben Suissa, Private Citizen
Mr. Joshua Taisague, Private Citizen
Mr. Thomas Tomasiak, Private Citizen
Mr. Knox Williams, President and Executive Director of the American Suppressor Association

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Okay. Good afternoon, everyone. This public hearing by the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard is hereby called to order. Today is Wednesday, February 26, 2025, and the time is now 10:13 AM.

For the record and in accordance with the Open Government Law, notices for this hearing were sent on February 19, 2025, and again on February 24, 2025. This hearing was also published on the Guam Legislature website and the Guam Public Notice website.

Joining me here this morning are committee members and our Vice-Speaker Tony Ada, as well as my colleagues, Senator Chris Duenas, Senator Shelly Calvo, Senator William Parkinson, Senator Therese Terlaje, and Senator Chris Barnett. *Si Yu'os ma'ase'* colleagues for joining me this morning.

Before we proceed with this discussion, I'd first like to provide some general rules of conduct for those that are in attendance today. The conduct of this hearing shall be as follows. Written comments or presentations shall be submitted to the committee.

Please provide my legislative staff with your written comments for photocopying. Comments may be read, and lengthy presentations should be summarized to about five minutes. Those offering comments will be allowed to present written or oral testimony. Once you are done, please remain in the room for questions or additional comments as may be desired by members of the committee.

Questions and comments shall be confined to the nature of the agenda. Today's public hearing agenda covers Bill No. 27-38 by Senator William A. Parkinson, which is an act to amend 60102 and 60103 of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code annotated relative to removing the restrictions on ownership of suppressors and silencers and to be known as the Hearing Protection Act of 2025.

The Chair will invite individuals who wish to testify on Bill 27-38 (COR). Before speaking the individuals who wish to make a presentation shall first be recognized by the chair and shall state their names for record purposes. The order of questioning will begin with a panel of Senators who shall complete their lines of questioning on Bill 27-38 (COR).

Personal inferences about the character or motive of any Senator or any individual commenting is not permitted. Any violations of this general rule of conduct will result in removal from the public hearing room for this particular proceeding. Individuals who fail to maintain proper form or decorum may be restricted from providing oral testimony and/or may be asked to leave or be escorted and removed from the room. Proper form, decorum shall be practiced by all present here in the public hearing room.

At the request of the American Suppressor Association, the committee will first receive testimony from the organization via Zoom after the bill's sponsor's opening remarks, and we will begin testimony from Mr. Knox Williams, the President and Executive Director of the American Suppressor Association, followed by questions from Senators.

Senator Parkinson, please proceed with your opening remarks.

Senator William A. Parkinson: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good morning, esteemed colleagues and advocates of our constitutional liberties. Thank you for being here. Bill 27-38, also known as the Hearing Protection Act of 2025, is a legislative initiative designed to harmonize the preservation of public health with a commitment to our Second Amendment rights.

This bill proposes the legalization and regulations of firearm suppressors in Guam, aiming to protect the auditory health of firearm users and mitigate noise pollution within our communities. I want to first thank Vice-Speaker Tony Ada, who first advocated for this bill several legislatures ago. And, I look forward to working together to make sure this important bill makes it to law this time.

So, thank you again, Vice-Speaker Ada, for your consistent Second Amendment leadership. Firearm enthusiasts, law enforcement personnel, and military service members are routinely exposed to hazardous noise levels during shooting activities.

The discharge of firearms typically exceeds 140 decibels, with some firearms reaching up to 175 decibels. To contextualize, exposure to noise above 140 decibels can cause immediate and irreversible hearing damage. Suppressors, functioning analogously to automotive mufflers, can reduce the noise of a gunshot by an average of 20 to 35 decibels, therefore significantly reducing the risk of noise-induced hearing loss.

Despite the well-documented risk, studies reveal that a substantial number of firearm users neglect traditional hearing protection. Research indicates that between 70 to 80 percent of

hunters and nearly 50 percent of target shooters do not consistently utilize earplugs or earmuffs. Consequently, for every five years of hunting, individuals become 7% more likely to experience high frequency hearing loss.

The integration of suppressors offers a solution, enabling users to protect their hearing without compromising situational awareness, a critical factor in both recreational and defensive shooting scenarios. The adoption of suppressors also fosters harmonious community relations. Unmitigated firearm noise can disrupt residential areas leading to tensions between shooting facilities and their neighbors. We have had an instance here on Guam where a licensed and legally operated shooting range has been shut down by the government due to noise complaints from nearby neighbors, causing great financial stress to a local business owner trying to make an honest living. By reducing the sound signature of gunfire, suppressors help minimize noise complaints, allowing shooting ranges to potentially operate responsibly and coexist peacefully with surrounding communities.

A common misconception is that suppressors render firearms silent, potentially facilitating criminal activity. However, empirical evidence contradicts this notion. Data from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives indicate that over 1.3 million suppressors registered in the United States, among them, they are rarely used in crimes. The ATF reports an average of only 44 suppressor-related prosecutions annually, constituting approximately 0.003% of all registered suppressors... this statistic shows that suppressors are predominantly utilized by law-abiding citizens for legitimate purposes, such as hearing reduction and noise reduction.

Furthermore, the legal acquisition of suppressors involves stringent federal regulation under the National Firearms Act of 1934. Prospective owners must undergo extensive background checks, registration, pay a tax, ensuring that only responsible individuals obtain these devices. The Hearing Protection Act of 2025 seeks to align Guam's laws with these federal standards, streamlining the process for law-abiding citizens while maintaining oversight to prevent misuse.

The current regulatory framework under the NFA imposes substantial administrative burdens, resulting in processing times of approximately eight months for suppressor applications. By aligning Guam legislation with federal standards and potentially streamlining the application process, we can reduce bureaucratic delays, facilitating timely access for responsible firearm owners.

Hearing loss not only diminishes the quality of life, but also imposes significant economic burdens due to medical treatments and loss of productivity. Preventative measures such as the adoption of suppressors can mitigate these costs, benefiting both the individual and the broader health care system. The Second Amendment of the United States guarantees the right of individuals to keep and bear arms. This fundamental liberty encompasses not only the possession of firearms, but also the ability to use them safely and effectively.

Suppressors serve as a safety accessory that enhance the shooting experience by reducing recoil and reducing noise, thereby improving the accuracy and preserving hearing. The regulations should be considered within the broader context of the Second Amendment. Let's not infringe upon the constitutional rights of firearm owners. It is also pertinent to acknowledge that

suppressors can be particularly beneficial for individuals who rely on firearms for personal protection, including survivors of domestic violence.

Research indicates that many women turn to firearms for self-defense and the use of suppressors allows them to train effectively without risking hearing damage. This underscores the role of suppressors in empowering vulnerable groups to exercise their rights safely. In summation, the Hearing Protection Act of 2025 represents a balanced and judicious approach to firearm regulation, one that safeguards public health, upholds constitutional rights, and promotes community well-being.

By legalizing and regulating suppressors in Guam, we provide our citizens with the means to protect their hearing, enhance shooting safety, and reduce noise pollution, all while maintaining stringent oversight to prevent misuse. I implore my esteemed colleagues and fellow citizens to support this legislation, recognizing that the true silencer is the silence that accompanies hearing loss, a preventable condition that we have the responsibility to address through informed and compassionate policymaking.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Thank you, Senator Parkinson. At this time I'd also like to welcome my colleague, Senator Jesse Lujan, for being with us this morning. Thank you Senator for joining us for this public hearing on Bill 27-38.

So, before proceeding with testimony from Mr. Knox Williams, consistent with the guidelines that are established by the Guam Legislature for testimonies offered via Zoom. These individuals and others wishing to testify on Bill 27-38 (COR) are asked to state their name for the record, the name of their organization or agency if their testimony is provided on behalf of the entity, and whether they support or oppose Bill 27-38 (COR). So, at this time I'd like to hear if we can from Mr. Knox Williams via Zoom.

Good morning, sir.

Mr. Knox Williams: Good morning, sir.

Chairperson Gumataotao, Vice-Chair Ada, Senator Parkinson, honorable members of the committee, I'd like to start by thanking you all very much for your time. My name is Knox Williams, and I'm the President and Executive Director of the American Suppressor Association. In addition to some written testimony that we've submitted to the committee, I'm testifying today to offer our organization's full support of Senator Parkinson's legislation to legalize suppressor ownership in Guam.

Within the United States, suppressors are currently legal to own in 42 states and are legal to hunt within 41. It is critical to note that no device can silence the noise of a gunshot. Physics simply will not allow it. However, suppressors absolutely reduce the dangerously loud noise levels produced by a gunshot to safer sound levels. That's why the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the National Hearing Conservation Association, and the Academy of Doctors of Audiology all recommend the use of suppressors as a tool to mitigate preventable hearing damage.

According to the CDC, and this is a direct quote, “the only potentially effective noise control method to reduce students or instructors' noise exposure from gunfire is through the use of noise suppressors that can be attached to the end of the gun barrel.” According to NIOSH, again a direct quote, “if feasible and legally permissible, attach noise suppressors to firearms to reduce peak sound pressure levels.” According to the National Hearing Conservation Association, and I quote, “although firearm suppressors do not completely eliminate the risk of noise-induced hearing loss from firearms noise, the risk can be significantly reduced.” Therefore, the National Hearing Conservation Association supports the use of firearm noise suppressors as a form of an engineering noise control to reduce hazardous firearm noise exposures.

The Academy of Doctors of Audiology echoes this statement in their endorsement of Senator Parkinson's legislation by stating, “The Hearing Protection Act of 2025 will open up access to important hearing protection for the law-abiding citizens of Guam”. While the use of conventional hearing protection tools such as earplugs and earmuffs are fundamental for preventing noise and noise hearing loss in firearms users. Conventional hearing protection alone does not always offer adequate protection from noise exposure. Firearm noise suppressors can be an effective supplement to traditional hearing protection.

At the end of the day, this is a matter of public health and safety, and it is in fact a bipartisan issue. In 2021, similar legislation led by Vice-Chair Ada passed this legislature by a 7 to 6 margin only to be vetoed by Governor Leon Guerrero. In a similar set of circumstances, Democratic Governor of Montana Steve Bullock held the common misconception that suppressors could silence a firearm. This led him to veto suppressor hunting legislation the first time it crossed his desk in 2013.

However, during the next session, once he became properly educated on the issue, he actually reversed course and not only did he sign the legislation, he urged the Montana legislature to legalize their use in the field. In a letter to then Speaker of the House in March of 2015, he wrote, and I quote, “The public perception of suppressors as the same thing as silencers, where the assassin quietly dispatches his victim, no longer holds true. Suppressors mitigate the sound of a shot but do not silence it. The use of suppressors for hunting, when hunters cannot wear ear protection because they need to be aware of their surroundings, can help protect against hearing loss. This is especially true for our younger hunters, even those who are not actually hunting but are accompanying their parent in the field. I understand the concerns regarding the risks of increased poaching and do not take this lightly, but other states have not found this to be the case.”

And that rings true even today, 10 years later. Governor Bullock's change of opinion wasn't ideological, it was educational. Unlike many firearms issues, pro-suppressor reform has received a tremendous amount of bipartisan support across the country, and Guam is proving to be no exception.

Senator Parkinson, the chief sponsor of this legislation, is a Democrat. In fact, four Democratic governors have recently signed pro-suppressor legislation into law, including Governor Stephen Bullock in Montana, Governor Peter Shumlin in Vermont, Governor Maggie Hassan in New Hampshire, and most recently Governor Janet Mills in Maine, where a suppressor hunting bill

was passed unanimously by the Maine legislature. Again, that's because this truly is a matter of public health and safety.

For these reasons and many more, the American Suppressor Association asks you all to support Senator Parkinson's Hearing Protection Act to legalize suppressors in Guam. Should any legislators want to learn more about suppressors, we would be more than happy to host an educational demonstration at any time of your choosing. However, unfortunately, until this legislation passes, and it becomes law, it would have to be on the mainland.

Thank you all very much for your time and I would be more than happy to answer any questions.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Thank you, Mr. Williams. At this time, I'd like to ask Dr. Adam Mehlenbacher for his testimony.

Dr. Adam Mehlenbacher: Good morning. Thank you so much for allowing me the honor of being able to testify in front of you. I'm an audiologist, and the majority of my patients have noise-induced hearing loss. I perform research on blast injury and head

trauma at Duke University. I'm a member of the board of the American Suppressor Association Foundation. Before all of this, I was a soldier and I deployed to ground zero on 9-11, to Bosnia and Iraq.

So, I have intimate knowledge of harmful noise, hearing loss, and tinnitus on many levels. Some of the consequences of hearing loss are difficulty understanding speech, the increased risk of dementia, difficulty getting employment or loss of earning potential, and difficulty in school. One of the most serious threats to hearing comes from recreational shooting.

This is completely preventable. Suppressors are one of the most effective tools available to reduce the noise of a gunshot to a less dangerous level. Hearing protection is rarely worn to a manufacturer's specification. For example, the foam earplugs that I think everybody is familiar with, the manufacturer recommends that the outer surface is flush with the ear canal. The majority of people don't wear them that way. Earmuffs in a place with high humidity like Guam can be like mini saunas. Not only can they become uncomfortable, but they can shift on the head, reducing their effectiveness. The exposure to one unsuppressed gunshot with a device out of place can cause permanent damage and tinnitus.

Earplugs and earmuffs on their own are not sufficient. Using hearing protection with suppressors can reduce the risk of noise-induced hearing loss more than either device alone. The Association of Doctors of Audiology, the CDC, the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, the National Hearing Conservation Association all support the use of suppressors to reduce harmful exposure to noise. I did an internet search before I came on here for audiologists in Guam, and I found that there was three that hold an active license. In searching for practices, I really only found one. And from what I found, that audiologist seemed really impressive. It looks like she sees everything from infants that don't pass infant hearing screenings at the hospital when they're born to my fellow veterans.

It seems she's so busy that she has to limit how many veterans she can see per month. This may sound bad for my colleague's business, but I'd like to reduce the amount of patients that she's

getting from noise-induced hearing loss. And one way of doing that is seeing this preventable noise that can damage hearing. I'd like to thank you for letting me speak today and I hope Guam can continue to communicate with their loved ones without hearing loss if they allow them to reduce their exposure to noise by using suppressors.

Thank you.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Thank you Dr. Mehlenbacher. Again, thank you Mr. Williams and Dr. Mehlenbacher, and now I will ask if any of my colleagues have any questions specifically for these two individuals who have joined us via Zoom. If I can, I would like to begin with our bill's author, Senator Parkinson.

Senator William A. Parkinson: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At this time, I just prefer to listen to the testimony and questions, and I will save my comments for the close.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Thank you so much. I'd like to move on to members of my committee and the Vice-Speaker of the Guam Legislature, Tony Ada. Senator Tony Ada?

Vice-Speaker V. Anthony Ada: I don't have any questions for the gentleman that has just spoken, perhaps later in the testimony.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: All right. Thank you, Senator. Can I ask Chris Duenas? Senator Duenas, do you have any questions for the men on Zoom?

Senator Christopher Duenas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I enjoyed their testimony and their facts that they put out. I also am going to listen at this point and perhaps after other testimonies or questions I may have a follow-up. That's all. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Thank you, Senator Duenas. Senator Therese Terlaje, do you have any questions for the gentlemen on Zoom?

Senator Therese Terlaje: I just wanted to clarify if any of them is registered with the Guam Legislature as a lobbyist or if they are receiving compensation as part of their duties to submit this testimony?

Mr. Knox Williams: I'll take that question. Again, Knox Williams with the American Suppressor Association. We're in the process of registering as a lobbyist within Guam. However, appearing on this Zoom hearing to provide testimony, we don't believe triggers the threshold, and this is the extent of our contact to this point.

Dr. Adam Mehlenbacher: I can say I don't receive any compensation for what I do. I'm here purely as an expert witness, not as a lobbyist.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Thank you. Doctor, the audiologist, can I just confirm, did you say that you were a member of the ASA also?

Dr. Adam Mehlenbacher: I'm on the board of the ASA Foundation.

Senator Therese Terlaje: All right, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Thank you, Senator Terlaje. Senator Chris Barnett, do you have any questions for the gentleman on Zoom?

Senator Chris Barnett: Thank you, Mr. Chair, for the opportunity to speak. I just had just one question for the hearing doctor. In the bill's intent, maybe just for clarification, it says here the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health says noise levels above 85 decibels can lead to permanent hearing loss after repeated or prolonged exposure and firearm discharges commonly exceed 140 dB.

Published research indicates that the use of firearm suppressors can reduce the noise of a firearm discharge by an average of 20 to 35 decibels, therefore significantly mitigating the risk of noise-induced hearing loss. I just would ask, though, if noise levels above 85 decibels can lead to permanent hearing loss and firearm discharges commonly exceed 140 dB, the reduction of 20 to 35 decibels still puts the, I guess, loudness, for lack of a better term, above the levels that cause permanent hearing loss. So, I guess my question, because I'm very, don't have a lot of information about this, how significant then is that protection if the use of the suppressor still leaves the firearm at a level that can lead to permanent hearing loss?

Dr. Adam Mehlenbacher: Yes, so OSHA states that a noise level above 85 decibels can be harmful, and that's for more of a steady-state noise, like, you think, industrial machines or in a factory kind of situation. Impulse noises like a gunshot or an explosion or something that is more short duration, the OSHA threshold is 140 decibels. So it's two different types of noise exposure. And they have different thresholds for time that you can be safe in an environment. So something like 90 decibels, it might drop down so you can have six hours of exposure before you're at risk for permanent hearing damage.

But, for an impulse noise like a firearm, the OSHA standard, they determined 140 decibels is significant and could potentially cause hearing damage. So if you're looking at a firearm that may have an unsuppressed level of 170 and you reduce it down to by 20 to 30 decibels, that might get you closer to the 140.

Senator Chris Barnett: Okay, so is your medical advice then for individuals who would be using suppressors to also use the earmuffs or the earplugs?

Dr. Adam Mehlenbacher: Yes, it's essentially a second level of safety. It's always better to control noise at its source, but to be extra safe, you would want to have both. It's kind of like if you're riding in your automobile, you would wear your seat belt, even though you also have an airbag.

Senator Chris Barnett: Thank you, sir. *Si yu 'os ma 'ase'* Mr. Chair.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Thank you, Senator Barnett.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Senator Shelly Calvo, do you have any questions for the gentlemen on Zoom?

Senator Shelly Calvo: Thank you, Mr. Chair. *Hafa adai and buenas.* No further questions from me, but I just wanted to thank the two gentlemen who called in for their statements and their testimonies. *Si yu 'os ma 'ase'*.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Thank you, Senator Calvo. Senator Jesse Lujan, do you have any questions for our panelists on Zoom?

Senator Jesse Lujan: Mr. Chairman, I don't have any questions for the panel on Zoom this morning.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: All right. Thank you so much and again Mr. Williams, Dr. Mehlenbacher, thank you for your input on this and I'm hoping you'll be able to monitor the rest of the hearing here in Guam and again good evening to you as well. We're now going to proceed to others who signed in to testify on Bill 27-38 (COR).

I'm going to ask them to take a seat in the front here. I think we should have room. John Gary Hickenbottom, can you please come forward? If you're going to be providing testimony. Thank you, sir. Mike Ulloa, please come on up. Joseph Arriola, are you here?

Please, please join us in the front here. Frank Lai, are you going to be testifying? No? Also, is Stephen Amaguin here? I know he's over there. Thank you for coming, Stephen. Please have a seat. And, okay. I think that's it. And, does anyone else want to testify this morning? All right. I'll go ahead and I'll begin with Mr. Hickenbottom. Thank you, and you have the floor, sir.

Mr. John Gary Hickenbottom: Well, my name is John Gary Hickenbottom. I'm a disabled veteran, U.S. Navy, 100%. I've been in and around firearms all my life. I'm an avid collector, shooter. I've done that in the military and up until today. I have considerable hearing loss from my military time. Even though I used all the required Navy ear protections and earplugs and everything, it's still gotten to me. I am a strong supporter of Senator Parkinson and Senator Ada.

I want to thank you for trying to push this through. This is part of our right as veterans and as American citizens under the Second Amendment to be able to have the safety measures in place. Now I am also, because I didn't have time to get it in writing, a strong supporter of the range that Senator Parkinson mentioned. I'm a life member of that range and have been involved with John Sablan for over 20 years, shooting with him and around his place. He was wrongfully destroyed by a simple little unsubstantiated hearing losses, you know, hearing complaints.

I happened to be there when they came in that day and served notice at the range. And they never knew of proof. It was all verbal. So, I'll just leave it there. He was wrong. He's a veteran. He is a fire department captain. He is a firearms expert. And his family, local Chamorro family, was destroyed. Destroyed their livelihood. That was their family's livelihood, whereas children, they were part of this. I would like to support it because it is a safety issue. People go hunting on this island. They hunt pigs, right? Twelve-gauge shotgun, shotguns are loud.

When the shotgun goes off in the jungle, people hear it. They get scared. Why? If we were hunting with suppressors, that whole issue would never come up at the range. You know? I started out as a member of their Empire group here a couple years ago, and I only attended one match because of what had happened. But when you get 10, 15 shooters on the line with .22 caliber rifles shooting, it's loud, but if you go outside the barricades, you can't really hear it. If you had suppressors, you wouldn't hear it at all. And there wouldn't be any basis for any complaints about hearing, you know, the fear of people hearing firearms.

It really needs to be addressed as a safety issue. It is a safety issue for me. My hearing's not gonna come back. I have to protect it. I wear super, super protection every time I shoot. But I can't shoot anymore. There isn't anywhere on this island, I can legally shoot, and we're not going to go up in the jungle and shoot. You've driven all the shooters that were using that range away from the only safe, efficient, well regulated range on this island. And now, where are they? They're up in the hills. That's dangerous for everybody on this island.

So, I strongly support Senator Ada, Senator Parkinson, whatever I can do. John Sablan's busy right now to try to get here today. He's fighting his battles right now. But we need to do this. You know it's a big cost. It's \$200. You have to go through the NFA. But there's always, I don't know why couldn't you add a little tax here, when you just like, we are one of the most well-regulated firearms places in the United States. I'm a collector. You have to go down and register your weapon, inspect your weapon. You pay your \$49, right? Your handling fees. Everything's recorded, documented you know.

Everything in this island is safe. I don't see people running around like crazy. But, I've heard rumors of that one range that recently opened. There's a lot of scary things going on. So I want to just leave it there. I don't go there. I won't go where it's not safe. John Sablan had it safe, monitored. He fought for years to get that through this government. Everybody here fought to get 'em, and they opened that up, and it was a fantastic organization. So, that's what I'd like to say. If you have any questions, I'm willing to answer cause I came here in 2025. I've been here 20 years, and I worked out at Naval Magazine as a manager of a contract out there until 2008. I have 35 years federal government and contract working on explosives, firearms, and that's where my hearing went. So...

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: All right, thank you, sir, and thank you for your service to our country, Mr. Hickenbottom. Mr. Ulloa, please proceed if you can.

Mr. Mike Ulloa: Oh, hi everybody, good morning. Initially, I wasn't expecting to testify or give any comments. I was just intending to give feedback to Federal Firearms Attorney Alan Beck. You know, he's a friend of mine. He's been interested in the suppressor bill that Mr. Parkinson has. I was just going to give him feedback on today's proceedings. But I think a big safety concern that everybody has is what they see on TV and in the movies, as far as like Hollywood portrays firearms and suppressors, you know. You know, I kind of can equate that to maybe like a lot of the fight scenes that you see, that's not how it is in real life. And I believe some of you guys know my expertise on that area. But you know it is, I've been, I've been to the range many times, both ranges Piti and MTM but you know like it is, the noise pollution factor, you know, it is a large concern. And you know, if we can mitigate that, that'd be great. One thing that, that you know, we do have on Guam is I know that the firearms process here is very stringent, very, very stringent.

We do, you know, the background check for the initial firearms ID application. And on top of that, every time you purchase a brand new firearm, you must go through additional background checks with the FBI and ATF. So it's not just like a one time, you know all said and done you know kind of deal. Every time you make a purchase, you will get screened. And you know I believe, I think it's like, sometimes it's like up to three days, if you walk into any gun store to try

to make a purchase. It takes them, like they hold the firearm for up to three days before you can actually take it home. You know, that's if you pass the background check. So, yeah, and then plus, you know, we do have to renew, you know, and, you know, our laws here are pretty tough already. You know, they're very good, but I do support the, you know, the suppressor bill that Mr. Parkinson has put forth.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: All right, thank you, Mr. Ulloa. Mr. Arriola, you are to testify. Thank you so much for being with us this morning.

Mr. Joseph Arriola: Hello. Good morning. I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Joseph Arriola. I'm the son of the late Francisco Blas Arriola, a *familian Arrot*, a retired police officer who served honorably in the Department of Public Safety, now known as the Guam Police Department. So I have been with firearms ever since I was a young man. I'd like to thank Senator Gumataotao for extending the invitation. Thank you so much for that. And to address this body, and thank you for holding this hearing for Bill 27-38 (COR), the Act of 2025, sponsored by Senator Parkinson and co-sponsored by Senator Ada. I would like to start with this, the bang.

When you fire ammunition from a firearm, the ammo generates hot, pressurized gases that need a place to escape. As these turbulent gases exit the firearm, the dramatic change in pressure causes a loud, blasting sound. A suppressor's job is to redirect these heated gases through a system of chambers and baffles to slow down, cool, and limit the pressure and noise emitted from a firearm's barrel. You notice I keep saying suppressors. There's no such thing as silencers. When used in action movies, as the gentleman earlier said, the bad guys are usually running around gunning down their targets, all while maintaining or remaining undetected due to the whisper-like sound levels of their evil guns. It's like that TV series *Airwolf*. You press a button and it goes on whisper mode. It doesn't work that way.

While this makes for a great storytelling device, the real-world accuracy of how a suppressor actually performs is much different than its Hollywood portrayal. In reality, most civilian accessible firearms emit sounds ranging, as the Senator, Parkinson said earlier, between 140 up to 175 decibels. Suppressors only marginalize and suppress a gun blast, bringing the levels down to around 120, 150 dB. A greater percentage of the time, the sound is still very obviously identifiable as a gunshot and this is where most people think that suppressors will actually eliminate the sound of a gunshot and you will not know if a firearm is being shot.

Along with the sound of the action, there is an additional insuppressible noise that comes into play, but it has to do with the actual projectile itself. Since the use of a suppressor does not alter the performance or velocity of the bullet being fired, when the projectile breaks that sound barrier, you will hear what's commonly known as a sonic boom, which is also harmful to the ear. Or in this case, it's called a sonic crack. This audible confirmation of a high-velocity projectile breaking the sound barrier can reach upwards of an additional 150 dB, a level that is capable of rupturing eardrums. Even if you are not an avid shooter or gun owner, it is easy to understand one simple fact. Exploding gunpowder is loud.

It doesn't take an audiologist to understand that constant exposure to loud noises can lead to hearing loss. Hearing loss and tinnitus caused by overexposure to loud noises are two of the most common medical conditions for recreational shooters and hunters. In fact, some of the things I'm

about to say is just parodying what Senator Parkinson said and the two gentlemen. In fact, WebMD, my source, claims hearing loss is the third most common health problem in the United States.

The use of a suppressor can reduce the deafening sound of gunfire for hunters and recreational shooters by 30, 40, sometimes up to 50 dB, depending on the quality of the suppressor, okay. This is comparable to benefits of using an in or over the ear hearing protection. So why not just wear hearing protection all the time? Well, I definitely recommend using some form of hearing protection.

Every shooting situation is different and ear probe may not always be an option. For example, in a law enforcement shooting situation, an officer may not have time nor the desire to worry about protecting their hearing. Safety and survival of the officer and innocent bystanders is the key concern. Also, shooting in tight and closed spaces, like in a potential home defense situation, can also lead to permanent hearing damage. The reverberations, such as this chamber, of a gunshot of surrounding walls and ceiling can amplify the blast, regardless of the firearm use. Also, hunters typically do not wear protection when traveling out in the field. For starters, a hunter needs to be able to clearly listen for the game they are after.

They also need to have full situational awareness with the ability to clearly communicate with other companions. A research to demonstrate the superiority of suppressors over traditional ear protection, as published by Matthew P. Branch, MD, he found, all suppressors offer significantly greater noise reduction than ear-level protection. Noise reduction of ear-level protectors are unable to reduce impulse pressure, as mentioned earlier, below 140 dB for certain common firearms. Modern muzzle level suppression is vastly superior to ear level protection and the only available form of suppression capable of making certain sporting arms safe for hearing. So there you have it. The bang of a firearm is not some fantastical thing that popular culture has ingrained in our minds to make movies seem more exciting. Instead, it is a very real thing with a clear scientific basis.

The Hollywood narrative that suppressors are silent are nothing more than Hollywood, Hollywood dramatical effects, and it ignores the reality that it serves a genuine purpose in protecting the hearing of our law-abiding gun owners in exercising their Second Amendment rights. Incidentally, as the Senator Parkinson mentioned earlier, the use of these devices for unlawful purposes is virtually unheard of. There are millions of suppressors, I think if I have my numbers correct here, reported as of July 2024, 4.9 million suppressors, according to data provided by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. Compare this previous reporting to updated total reflects an alarming surge in suppressor sales.

In the first six months of 2024 alone, Americans purchased and registered a staggering 1.4 million suppressors. There has also been an increase in education and awareness of hearing loss caused by firearms. However, there have been increased efforts by anti-gun groups to regulate these devices even further. Some groups have even called for a complete and total ban of suppressors for firearms, the arguments in favor of bans and confiscations rate from house suppressors make a firearm more deadly all the way to only murderers use them. But if they are so horrible and deadly, why isn't there a plethora of crimes to connect them with?

Ok, and the fight against such ridiculous and unsubstantiated claims in recent years and legislation and research have been introduced to try and deregulate the sale of suppressors altogether. The Bureau of Tobacco and Alcohol Statistics shows that 4.9 million suppressors are registered in the United States. The ATF has confirmed that suppressors are rarely used in crimes despite their explosion in popularity. And I think this is one of the issues is suppressors will be used, I think, more to injure people, to hurt people, to kill people because it's a suppressor. It just doesn't work that way. That's 4.9 million suppressors in the hands of law-abiding gun owners. Currently, suppressors are regulated by the Restrictive National Fire Act, which also regulates machine guns. I'm almost done. Thank you for your patience.

I'm just going to move on here because most of the things I was about to say was already, oh, incidentally, anti-gun activists and the ATF prefer to use the term silencer, which fits their narrative. There is no such thing as a silencer. No attachment can 100% completely eliminate the explosive noise from any firearm it can reduce. And I have a chart here if you guys would like to see that on the noise levels that will cause harms. One last thing if I can find it. It's quiet in here. I beg your patience. Okay. Okay, and here's a very interesting fact. I was up to about 3 o'clock this morning researching and I had to double check before I bring it.

Interestingly, many European countries, suppressors on firearms are mandatory to make target shooting and hunting quieter and less disturbing to neighbors. Firearms in France, and I did the research, for example, are fined and penalized for firing guns without a suppressor to quiet the noise. I couldn't believe that when I first read it. But up to 3 o'clock this morning, all the same, it was all the same answers. So European countries make it mandatory to use firearms suppressors when hunting or shooting within their own property.

Okay, and I would like to close with this. As you can see, the chart that will damage your ear. By the way, there are only eight states that do not permit the use of, in the continental United States and Hawaii, the use of suppressors that is Hawaii, California, Illinois, New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey and Delaware. Forty-two states have permissible use of suppressors oh and the District of Columbia. In closing, I humbly and respectfully ask for your kind consideration to remove the barriers in accessing this equipment and for the hearing protection of Guam's hunters and sportsmen, law-abiding gun owners. Thank you.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Thank you, Mr. Arriola. Now I'd like to turn the mic over to Mr. Lai. Thank you for being with us this morning.

Mr. Frank Lai: Senators, my name is Frank Lai. I'm a U.S. citizen, just a law-abiding citizen. So I'm here to represent, just like you guys, for the people, for the best interests, that that we believe that the NFA of 1934, those grounds are absolutely outdated throughout all the expert testimonies and all the studies throughout the histories. That the hearing protections that we understand is that most of the common categories that we use nowadays, whether it's rifle, is a 556 or 233 Remington. Or we use is a 762 times 39, which is 8K rounds. That's the most common rounds that we see here on Guam. They both generate about 155 to 175 decibels.

When we put suppressors on, as we know from the expert testimonies, they only reduce about 25 to 30. Now, when a projectile creates such energies, at 175, it will absolutely do a lot of damage to your ears. Now when you reduce that by 25 to 30, it will significantly reduce that harmness.

And I personally do have experience with those. And I could tell you, if you want, I believe some of the military personnel will be very happy to demonstrate that it will save a lot of people's hearing. Additionally to that is that I believe that the suppressors also save lives. Most of the situation arrives in middle of the night or early in the morning where our physical and mental state of mind is not all there when individual has to defend himself in these kind of cases that to utilize a deadly force to protect themselves and their homes is that when that first shot of fire and there was no mitigations towards the sounds towards that energy, she will not be able to have a proper second follow shot to defend herself.

I'm also a certified NRA instructor, so we are trained extensively for that. If you're not trained extensively, an expert in doing that, that second shot and that third shot becomes extremely important between you standing here today or not seeing your family today. And additionally, besides the sounds, also the suppressors mitigate the flashes on that. So it not only disoriented your hearings, but it also disoriented your visions. That is why suppressors are extremely important. It saves lives. It is extremely beneficial to the people.

Finally, I think economically, it also helps in some sense. Suppressors are not cheap. 5% GRT. And additionally, I was formerly also a FFL. So in order for any individuals that want to sign up for suppressors, you have to go through a Form 4, you have to pay \$200. And additionally, many of the local governments do have additional fees on top of that. So I really think that with all those grounds, we should create a win-win-win situation for the people. And at the same time, take the best interest of the people for their lives and their children's, their futures. Thank you.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: All right, thank you, Mr. Lai. Moving now to Mr. Amaguin, and you have the mic. And thank you for your service, and thank you as well for your service to the people of Guam. I'm sorry, proceed.

Mr. Stephen Amaguin: *Hafa adai.* My name is Stephen Amaguin. I'm a former public servant. I have been on Guam for 31 years. I served three branches of military service, and yes, I trained with firearms. And right now, I have tinnitus and I know that during my training with the military I was told to wear protection because in reality when you go out there in the middle of the night and the listening post I need my earrings. Can you imagine having to have hearing protection right? Trying to be the listening post you're not able to listen to.

So all of this is pretty much about self-preservation, about how you are able to protect yourself, and not to mandate anybody to abide with the law that they have. I know there's about 42 states that now allow fire suppressors, I mean suppressors, or people knows it as silencers. And it doesn't mean that Guam has to abide with it. If you guys review the law that we have in Guam, we have a lot of protections. Guam is the only territory or U.S. soil that actually have a very stringent process of how to acquire firearms.

We need, not like compared to other states, that's why other states can just go in and pick up a firearm at a gun show. Guam is very strict and we are blessed to have that. Please, by having this fire suppressors, I know they say silencers in the movie, you know I understand that it's a movie, but you know as a former police officer I know how it is to be out there listening to guns, to firearms, to gunshots, right? Now I'm going to have to have the officers get familiarized with how the new firearms sounds going to be.

It's going to be unsafe for our police officers. We're being so, you call this selfish, because we worry about our ears, but we don't worry about the safety of the people that protect this island, which is our police officers, ok. As a matter of fact, the National Firearms Act, NFA, regulates silencers because they were seen as a potential threat. Potential threat to public safety.

Okay? I'm Filipino, and I look at that potential threat to public safety, I'm not going to reiterate more. I think for me, it's common sense, it's a threat to my fellow officers. Okay? And there's a process also. I'm not sure if you guys have corroborated at the bottom of your law, the bill, is that you have to be in compliance with the established federal law and all that, right?

Did we get with the ATF exactly how you guys are going to go about with the requirements with the federal law that you need to register for \$200? And you have to go to a background check. And you guys, without and if I'm reviewing the law that we have, I mean, you crossed out fire suppressors. But I'm not sure. I didn't have time, because I was too busy with the veteran task force. But I have time to take a look at the law that we have that is there any provision by crossing out the allowing fire suppressors, I mean, not the suppressors, to be used in Guam. Is there a law that will prohibit or penalize the people from owning it without registering it with the ATF? Because you have to coordinate with the ATF and the Guam Police Department.

The Guam Police Department have to establish a new process of registration. It's going to cost money. Can you imagine the Guam Police Department, every police officer wants to use suppressors, \$200 each. How much is that going to cost our government in Guam? You think the government in Guam will be able to afford that now? ARP money is running out. We're depending on the military buildup. Military buildups can be done in six years. Our tourism is hurting.

We have to be realistic. Tourism is hurting. How are we going to be able to afford all these expenditures to support what we want. We think that we should be able to protect our ears. It's you, how are you going to be able to protect yourself? I've served 31 years in the military, and the only time that I was wearing a hearing protection was when I was riding the helicopters around Afghanistan.

Because it was loud. But when I'm underground, I never use hearing protection because my ears is very important. And my eyes, having that form of hearing protection. Can you imagine if we have to go through Afghanistan or to the war and all of our opponents have their suppressors, right? It's going to be harder for us. At nighttime, what we have to do is take a look at the flash to identify exactly where the rounds are coming from. But in that notion, though, again, we have laws that protect us. You guys are talking about noise protection, I mean, noise pollution. That's why the firing range in the Dededo was closed down, because it was near a residential area.

Yes, they may have fire suppressors, but what happened, the rounds that goes off and lands into some of those residences. But there's a law that disallow people from firing firearms within the residential area. It's not because of the hearing, because of safety of our people. And there's also a law that prohibits people from firing their weapons around school areas. There's also a law that disallows you guys from carrying a firearm to this Guam legislature. Ok, so Second Amendment rights?

Second Amendment rights is now applied in this building for the protection of our lawmakers, protection of the public that testify, protection from the people that are the, is opposing or get mad because I'm opposing it. Right? But you me if it's my time to go it's my time to go. The bill, you know, I was just here last week. There was a bill that you guys are trying to pass, \$100,000, right? We're all concerned about the family members, about law enforcement officers that's killed in the line of duty. \$100,000 that you guys are going to pay the family members that was left behind by the officers that was killed in the line of duty by turning around and introduce this bill that will kill them?

Come on guys, wake up! Smell the coffee! If you guys are going to pass this bill, I highly suggest that when this bill is passed, anybody that's killed, any police officer that's killed in the line of duty, by the use of this suppressor, should be awarded, the family should be awarded one million dollars, and the money should come from this body. Because you guys are passing it. You guys are negating the fact that our guys out there, the men in blue are out there protecting us. I've done that for 31 years. I was at, most of my assignments were narcotics unit, narcotics investigation.

And I know how it is to go into a house. Nowadays it's harder now because of the standing ground law that was passed, it's hard enough for police officers to even approach a house because of that law. Hey uh, my suggestion if you guys decide to pass it, okay, take a look at the violations that they have under the federal law because we're still a US territory, right? Possession of an unregistered suppressor is illegal under the federal law and punishable by 10 years in prison and \$250,000 fine.

To mere possession of silencer during the commission of a crime is punishable under federal law by a minimum sentence of 30 years in prison. A second offense is punishable by life imprisonment. So you know with this, right? I'm not sure if we have a provision in the law that will allow us to enforce illegal possession of suppressors. Because if it's not, guess what's going to happen, ladies and gentlemen?

ATF, illegal possession of this suppressor, if you don't register it, it automatically becomes a federal case. I'm quite sure my former colleagues in the Guam Police Department is assigned to the ATF task force. We'd be more than happy to take on this case and apply the federal law that our people is pretty much violating. So you just have to think, yes, I know there's 42 states that allow it, but if you look at this other states, Hawaii, just goes by. Other states that don't allow it.

And some states, they don't even allow the usage of suppressors during hunting. A lot of people, a lot of colleagues here, a lot of fellow islanders love to go hunting. It's a safety issue. And I suggest if you guys decide to pass this bill into a law. Just minimize it. I know this can be a lot of you guys are supporting it, but I'm sorry, but I'm opposing it. I'm a veteran of three branches of military service, United States Marine Corps, deployed twice in Afghanistan, deployed twice with the Marines. I do all we do is train, train, train, train, train. All right? We don't use hearing protection during live fire training exercise because we have to train realistically the real reality of life of being going under fires, right?

I can say because I've been through that if you guys gonna decide to pass this bill put a provision in that that if anybody any of my colleagues and the public safety gets killed because of this

suppressor. One million dollars be given to the family automatically coming off on the budget of this Guam legislature and make it only for training purposes because you guys talk about training you guys talk about when you guys fire your weapons because you guys have the Second Amendment rights issues and all that right? So have them just use it allow them to use it during training. Anything outside the training environment would be a violation and make sure that we implement that, make sure that we put that in our Guam Code annotated under chapter 60 under the firearms law and put some, some form of a punishment.

Okay I'm just gonna close this okay I know I'm getting so emotional about this guys, I am speaking of my experience as a law enforcement officer. We don't need this. Our officers don't need to deal with this. And can you imagine, you know, we're blessed that we, the only active shooter incident that we have here, guess what? SDA. Can you imagine if you have an active shooter incident in the schools?

We're going to have to train our students how to listen to actual firearms with the suppressors and firearms without suppressors. We have to hire or get an instrument to measure the dispersion. So, oh yeah, this is good. Are we going to teach our students that? No. They know exactly why it will be harder for police officers to respond. It will be based on this NFPA that I quoted, it's not safe for public officers, for law enforcement officers.

So if you guys, if you all care about our hearing, but never mind the police officer that protect this island, then go ahead and pass the bill. But make sure \$1 million are attached to the bill, be given to the family members that killed in the line of duty with the use of the suppressor. That's all I want to say.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Alright, thank you Mr. Amaguin. Appreciate it. Mr. Phillip Diaz, are you wanting to come up and testify? Or are you here to listen? I mean, if you would like to, you can come up if you would like. Again, thank you for joining us this morning. You can press the button there, we can hear you. Thank you, sir. There you go.

Mr. Phillip Diaz: Thank you. Hi, my name is Phillip Diaz. I'm also a retired police officer for 27 years.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Thank you for your service, sir.

Mr. Phillip Diaz: You're welcome. I'm also a four-year veteran, non-war veteran, and I'm the opposite. I agree with the suppressor. For I am a NRA member. And also the fact that so far, I don't think any police officers have been killed by a suppressor. I don't have the facts, but so far. But what I want to speak about is, it's going to throw everyone's spoke about statistics here and everything so it's up to you senators to decide. What I'm going to say is the legislature way back then raised the drinking age and they didn't listen to the public. The people, and we all voted against raising from 18 to 21. If you all know that, I'm one of them that voted for it because if you can send our sons and daughters to war, why can't they have a drink?

But the senators just went ahead and did it, even though the people objected to it being raised. Did that solve the traffic fatalities on Guam? Year after year, two-digit numbers every year. Now we're at number four in 2025. We're on four traffic fatalities. When the Weber Law was created, how many incidents after the Weber Law. The Guam owners, Guam gun owners, have shown

that they are responsible people. When they pass the Weber Law, how many incidents? I can count with one hand. One. It's almost 20 years from the Weber Law. And we, the legislature learned, the people of Guam learned, when you guys give a law, we, we people of Guam listens to it and obey it.

The only people who's going to shoot police officers who are suppressors are criminals, not the law-abiding Guam owners. Guam is blessed, like my fellow officer stated. We were blessed by having the ID card, firearms ID card. That is the most strictest. We are way advanced than all the other states. That's why they have the active shooting back there in the states. I went to California. What do I have to do to get a firearms ID? They laughed at me. They didn't know what a firearms ID was. That was back in the 80s when I was, when got out in the Marine Corps in '85. They didn't know what a firearms ID is. No one knows. Guam was way in advance and we proved it and we are strick in our firearms just by having a firearms ID and that's all that's needed.

All the gun owners of Guam, law-abiding citizen, when the Weber Law was passed, they all secured their firearms. I've only known one incident and that was a hunter who was tired who didn't secure his firearm. That's the only one I've known so far. So that's all I'm saying. You guys base yourself on the fact that I'm an NRA member. I'm also a law enforcement. I'm for whatever the people, which is suppressors. My colleague was a war veteran, but you're talking about civilians who want to home defense. They're not used to the sound of gun going off in an enclosed area. Have any of you shot a firearm in an enclosed area? I have with GPD.

Just to be from a distance down the hallway, I didn't have that. My ears rang real loud. So if the homeowner is going to defend himself with the castle doctrine without a suppressor, that first round is going to startle them, and if they miss, it's going to freak them out because of that loud ringing sound in their head. Because they're not trained, they're not military.

They're not special forces, they're not Marines, they're not Army, which is the two basic grunts. I, for one, shot the M16 when I was in the Marine Corps. I didn't. They had this weird ass earplug. My ears rang like hell. And we were in an open area, open range. So imagine a homeowner, which the people who were for it, is for the family members. You don't want to startle them. You don't want to have that ringing sensation that's going to freak them out. Because no one shoots indoors, not that I know of, but it'll ring your ears. So that's all I got to say is that year after year after year, all the restrictions on firearms, we are, we're good at obeying the laws. But you look at all the people and the drivers of this island. You guys post speed limits. You guys do traffic enforcement. The police even do the holiday DUI checkpoints.

But still, come on, I guarantee you it's going to be over 10 fatalities this year. But how many incidents after the Weber Law? One. And that's going on 20 years. That's how good the Guam owners are. And I support them because I am an NRA member. And that's all I'm going to say is if they are going to shoot or use it against the police, it's not going to be the law-abiding gun owners, it's going to be the criminals.

How they get it? Well, then make it strict like you did, make the gun owners responsible, make sure you secure it, like they did with their firearms. So yes, it's both, half of me says support it, half of me says, hmm. So you guys decide, and I hope you guys choose what's best for our

island. And like I said, there's no restrictions on cars, but yet they still speed, they still kill people. It's an inanimate object just like a firearm. You know, 5.7 liter hemi engines, you got four cylinders with a dual turbo charge, I didn't realize there's a dual turbo charge.

You got NAS, there's no restrictions on vehicles. And our speed limit is 35. But yet every year there's fatalities on cars, but when it comes to firearms, oh no, no, no, no, no. Firearms this, firearms that. Senator Therese Terlaje even mentioned on the previous, when she was speaker, is why does Guam have a separate firearms law and the ATF has a separate? Why don't we just follow the ATF, which is what they're trying to do here. Just follow the ATF.

If you want it, you pay the price. And it is pricey. I don't think I'm going to pay a price for a suppressor because by the time it gets to the ATF I think you guys are gonna probably put in a charge for the local law to get one and then by the time it gets all the paperwork but you know I just want to say you know try and balance it out if the majority of the people that either email you guys are all supportive for the, you know, give the gun owners that chance if that's what they want. Me as a police officer, I don't recall anyone being shot by suppressor yet. Knock on wood.

Has there been threat on police officers? Of course. Our island is so small. Everyone knows where we live. Just to let you guys know, drug dealers, everybody threatens to kill us. Once we kill one of their family, a police officer shoots and kills someone, we've been threatened by different family members. That one of us, they're going to get one of us. Not the shooter that killed the person, but they're going to get one of our families. Our husband, our wives, anyone.

And that's what that's what the threat that we have to go through. We've gone through it. We live with it. But you know what? That's a profession we chose and we gotta live with it. You can hear the suppressor. Criminals don't use it. They stated all the facts. So you guys make a good decision on this and hopefully it's better for our island. I am, I am sadly to say from my other colleague who opposes, I'm for the Hearing Act. Thank you.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Thank you, Mr. Diaz. We're now going to proceed to some questions. And I'll go ahead and begin with our bill's author, Senator Parkinson. Do you have any questions for the panel?

Senator William A. Parkinson: No, I don't. Just thank you, everyone, for sharing your perspective and your advocacy today. Thank you so much.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Also, I'll go to our committee first. I'll start with our Vice-Speaker, Tony Ada. Do you have any questions for the panel?

Vice-Speaker Tony Ada: Thank you. Probably not. Maybe comments, Mr. Ulloa. I did attend the six-hour firing range in the East Coast. And they did a demonstration for us with and without suppressors. And I think that it's actually something that was a true experience, because a suppressor is not a silencer. The decibels were still high. We still had to wear hearing protection along with the suppressor on the firearm. So I think the notion of suppressors are silencers is all theatrical and all in the movies. And throughout, have you, you know, your years of experience in training, and perhaps maybe Mr. Lai here, you guys will be able to tell me, have you actually fired a firearm with a suppressor on and had that experience as well?

Mr. Mike Ulloa: Not locally. Off island yes, but not locally.

Vice-Speaker Tony Ada: Yeah, that's what I'm saying. It's not legal here.

Mr. Mike Ulloa: So it's definitely not silent, you know, and especially with a lot of the, you know, the decibel reductions, you're still going to get the, you'll still get the, you know, the crack, you know, the crack of the projectile as it's leaving the barrel, you'll still get the reparative of the gunpowder in the casing and all that. But yes, it's definitely not silent. I mean, you could probably reduce the initial sound, but then we're talking about a sound that can be heard three villages away, four villages away. I'm on my local neighborhood watch. You know, especially New Year's, you know, neighborhood watch chats flooded with gunshots, gunshots, gunshots, but you know, those gunshots are coming from Mongmong, you know? And yeah, and I'm all the way in Sinajana. So you know, that's how many villages away. And you know, that's the kind of sound levels that they're looking to reduce.

Vice-Speaker Tony Ada: So I know there's a lot of, under federal law, and this is what it is, right? It's under federal law, purchasers of suppressors must go through the same procedures as those required for the purchase of an ordinary firearm and several more. Therefore, those with felony criminal records, history of mental illness, or history of alcohol and substance abuse will be unable to secure the clearance for the purchase of these devices. And then it goes on to say suppressors are regulated under the NFA Act of 1934, which falls under the purview of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and Explosives to legally purchase or possess a suppressor, you must be 21 years of age to purchase from a dealer. You must be 18 years of age to purchase a suppressor from an individual on a Form 4 to Form 4, correct? And you must be 18 years of age to possess a suppressor as a beneficiary or a trust or as a member of a corporation. You must be a United States citizen. You must be legally eligible to purchase a firearm. You must pass the ATF's background check, which takes a typical process of 8 to 10 months. You must pay the one-time transfer tax, and you must reside in one of the 42 states that currently allow the ownership of suppressors so do you recommend since there is a one-time transfer tax that maybe the local local GPD, should these things be registered or even taxed locally as well?

Mr. Mike Ulloa: Maybe not taxed, but we definitely have to register it. You know I know every suppressor must have a serial number just like every firearm, and that gets registered with GPD and I know keeps a record of chain of ownership. So even on your firearms ID card, it I believe it has the previous owner's name on the ownership card.

Vice-Speaker Tony Ada: So then the other question is, a suppressor that fits a 9 mil, can it fit any other firearm as well? Are they specific to a particular firearm?

Mr. Mike Ulloa: Somewhat. Like it's, a 9mm regulated suppressor is probably not going to fit on a maybe like a .357, you know.

Mr. Frank Lai: Senators it depends on the doctors, or what type of thread you put on the suppressors. So for a 9mm suppressor, yes, because the caliber is much bigger, so the pore is much bigger, so you can put it on a smaller caliber. However, it is not as effective as is. The

suppressor's ability is to contain those energy and slowly release them. So in that case, if the pore is much bigger, the energy will release much faster, hence reduce the effectiveness of the suppressor.

Vice-Speaker Tony Ada: Okay. And Mr. Amaguin?

Mr. Stephen Amaguin: Yes, in regards to that, I think Guam also needs to register the suppressor if you guys decide to pass it. Same thing with like how we apply for firearms ID, right, the concealed firearms ID. It asks you exactly what firearms you're going to be using in regards to the concealed firearms. So I think for the sake of Guam Police Department, we also need to have some form of tracking, because for the firearms, every time that we handle a case, we submit an ATF tracing form to ATF to track this firearms, just in case it's been used someplace else, like off-island. So to make it easier for GPD, if you all decide to pass it with a \$1 million payment to the family members to get killed by the suppressors. I think something has to be placed in the law that has to be registered with GPD, a certain amount, right? Because they're going to have to create some kind of a form, some kind of a data or something. And it will also help the police services fund for GPD, thus help the Guam Police Department with their shortfalls with their, with their budget, purchase vehicles, trainings, and all that.

Vice-Speaker Tony Ada: Thank you, Mr. Amaguin. I appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't have any other questions.

Mr. Joseph Arriola: On interchangeability with other firearms, if it's designed for a Glock 9mm, yes, you can use it in other Glock 9mm. But you can't use it for a 22 or a 30-30 or a 5-5-6. They're not interchangeable. And most of these suppressors are specifically designed for the type of rounds, okay, and the firearm.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: All right, thank you sir.

Mr. Joseph Arriola: And not all firearms have threaded barrels. They do not. So, if you own ten firearms and you got one with a threaded barrel, so you only can buy one suppressor.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Ok thank you.

Mr. Joseph Arriola: But I do agree with this gentleman here that it should be treated like a regular firearm that we have to register the firearms with the GPD over at the Hakubotan building. That will have accountability. Should it get lost, stolen, or whatever, then it can be traced back to what happened and everything. Yes, we do have one of the strictest gun laws, but I was talking to Senator Parkinson about it, and we kind of disagreed. I like the fact that you have to have a firearms permit, okay? That weeds out all your riffraffs and all these criminal-minded people. Good guys get to own a gun, and so should suppressors. The good guys should be able to own a suppressor. And we did have that argument.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Okay, thank you so much. Senator Duenas, do you have any questions for the panel? I think you have questions for those that are online.

Senator Chris Duenas: Yes, si yu'os ma'ase', Mr. Chair. And you know, if those you know, who are here for their live testimony as well, want to answer this question. But I'd like to ask also of Mr. Williams and Mr. Mehlenbacher, in the U.S. jurisdictions, the states and those that are, are,

you know, of course, have the legal capability of having the suppressor, isn't it common that if an individual has criminal intent or is the criminal and is going to commit an act where they're trying to suppress, you know, the noise of a firearm, wouldn't they typically, since they're a criminal, want to use a crude device of some sort? Meaning that if somebody really wants to commit a crime and they're trying to suppress sound, they'll figure out a way to do it. I've heard of bottles and different kind of attachments that are put on firearms to do this. Could you share your experience in that?

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: So Mr. Williams or Dr. Mehlenbacher, are you able to respond?

Mr. Knox Williams: To answer that question, it's a bit nuanced. So suppressors, first and foremost, you can call them suppressor, silencer, whatever you like, nothing silences the noise of a gunshot. It is possible to reduce the noise through rudimentary methods, but it's again going to be incredibly loud. They do, using the suppressors in the commission of a crime does carry stiff federal penalties that would still apply even if Guam were to legalize the use of suppressors on the island. So it's one of those things where criminals often don't use them because A, they're not as effective as they're portrayed to be in Hollywood, and B, it also adds length and weight to the host firearm. When criminals are using guns, they're oftentimes trying to be do something that's the most concealable, and this really just hinders your ability to conceal it.

I think one thing that's important to reference as well, the former number two in charge of ATF, gentleman by the name of Ronald Turk, the associate deputy director and chief operating officer the Associate Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer for ATF at one time, put out a white paper and in that white paper he said, and I quote, "Silencers are very rarely used in criminal shootings."

Given the lack of criminality associated with silencers, "it is reasonable to conclude that they should not be viewed "as a threat to public safety." Bear in mind, that was issued in 2017 when there were around one to one and a half million suppressors in circulation. This year, as of January of 2025, there are 4.4 million suppressors in lawfully obtained civilian hands within the United States. And we know that directly from the ATF. We had a sit-down meeting with them in January and they gave us that exact figure. So, I know that it is accurate. Again, criminals just don't use suppressors with any sort of frequency that outweighs the public health benefit of allowing law-abiding citizens to protect their hearing with these tools.

Senator Chris Duenas: And Doc, can you comment on that?

Dr. Adam Mehlenbacher: I probably can't comment more on the criminal statistics. You know, my expertise is on the hearing part of suppressors. But I can just echo what Knox has said is, I believe the crime statistics are very low, almost non-existent as far as the use of suppressors. And the one thing that one of the other people that was making a comment said is, you know, suppressors are on the end of the firearm, they reduce the blast from the muzzle, but you still have the projectile breaking the sound barrier, which makes a noise and you also have the sound coming out of the receiver or the other parts of the firearm, so you're not completely silencing it.

Senator Chris Duenas: Thank you. And any other panel members?

Mr. Mike Ulloa: Oh yes, I'll address your comments about crude devices being used in lieu of a legal suppressor. So, I'll speak on reality. Okay? There's a lot on island, possibly. Wish.com, Temo, eBay, various websites, you know, they sell pieces, you know, that any criminal can order over the mail, it's not a problem, you know, and those are not going to be tracked, it's not going to be registered, you know, and that's a reality. You know, then as far as like interchangeability, like some of the other guys testified earlier, like a 9mm can work on a .22, but it's not going to fit on like larger calibers. But it's interchangeability is you know, it's also that goes pretty much hand-in-hand with a lot of firearms you know.

Like any Glock AR-15 or whatnot, you can change the upper receiver off of the lower receiver, like change it to a different caliber and whatnot, only the lower receiver has to be registered. You can take a 9mm Glock, change it to a .22 and whatnot, and you know, but yeah, there is a level of interchangeability, but the bottom line, it must be registered.

And also to address some of Mr. Amaguin's concerns about law enforcement safety, you know, there's always going to be concern of what criminals want to do. But as far as law enforcement safety is concerned, you know there's I personally see a bigger threat to law enforcement officials as far as, you know, like they're making arrests and whatnot, you know, like hand-to-hand combat.

You know, right now, there are probably you know several thousand people training jujitsu, MMA, whatnot, across the island you know. That is a by far bigger threat to any law enforcement officer engaging in you know in an arrest or trying to apprehend somebody. You don't know what the other guy knows. A lot of these guys you know, I've seen them you know just learn stuff off of YouTube and whatnot you know. And yes, granted, there are a lot of law enforcement officers that they do train. I myself, I've always told all the law enforcement guys, you guys need any training whatsoever, I'll do it for free.

But you know just you know that aspect alone that's by far a bigger threat to law enforcement safety than you know a suppressor. What everybody's asking for is just something that's going to be legally registered with the Guam Police Department, with the serial number, with an ownership card that can be tracked you know. I'll keep up with the news when I see something with like a firearm, you know, and you know I'm not too sure in the exact stats, but you know in almost all the cases I see firearms that are used, you know for illegal intent are Always either stolen or you know, zero numbers gone. So you know like I said earlier, you know if criminals really wanted to fabricate something crude out of a water bottle, whatever it's going to be. There are so many options online that they can access that's not going to be you know in any law enforcement system. It's just something they pick up at the post office and take home.

Senator Chris Duenas: *Si yu'os ma'ase.* Yeah, oh good.

Mr. Phillip Diaz: Okay, as far as the suppressors, right, most of the firearms sold on Guam, the barrels are not thread. Now, they're just recently posting as an option you can have barrels, or you can special order barrels. And every suppressor has a specific caliber. I watch outdoor channels on, I'm sorry, on Guam, it's always on Thursday. And I also subscribe to the American Rifleman, which the suppressors are made for a specific caliber. It's not interchangeable.

I'm not saying, here, you can use my suppressor. No, you better have the right caliber, the right barrel for that, the right, like I once mentioned, the right threading on it in order for it to work. So, and yes, he mentioned that the suppressors, there's a lot of gimmicks out there they can use. Another thing is oil filter. There's plenty of oil filters on Guam. You can use oil filter to suppress the fire or suppress the sound. It won't make it silent, but there's a lot of ways. The water bottle gimmick, like it was online way back then. They used to sell the adapter. And these are non-firearm companies that are selling these things, not, not the NRA. NRA goes by the laws of the ATF, which is, there is people who make suppressors for a specific caliber, and you cannot interchange it. And yes, they're all serialized. And just like Guam, Guam is very good. It's well documented to GPD.

Mr. John Gary Hickenbottom: I'm a life member of the NRA. I'm a concealed weapons holder. I have been ever since law was enacted here, and I was in Washington State for 20 years where I had an FFL license back in the 80s and 90s. Interchangeability, you know, people think you just have a gun, you can throw a suppressor on it. No. Barrels have to be specifically threaded.

You have to buy a weapon with a threaded barrel. Then you have to buy the specific suppressor that fits that threaded barrel. Okay, now we have to talk about suppression of our Second Amendment rights. Okay, one, we are the most regulated here in Guam. And in Washington State, you could buy a weapon across, go to a gun store and walk right out with it. A pistol, you had a three-day waiting list.

Used weapon, no traceability at all. OK? Here we do. If I, now, as a concealed weapons weapon, want to have my suppressor, I have to again go through another whole ATF investigation. That's one layer after another layer after another layer after another layer. My life has been regulated, and I can say it has been fairly treated under the Second Amendment. I have rights, right, as a man. I've proven my responsibility. We all have proven our responsibility with weapons. Law-abiding citizens do not commit crimes. We're being told here that you want to pass a law to jeopardize law abiding citizens. You're not doing anything to hurt a criminal.

A criminal is going to go and steal his weapon, right? You should be supporting the citizens, the law-abiding citizens of this island, and giving them the right to have something as a safety issue for them, a health issue for them. And it could be in some way, maybe an income for Guam, on top of the 200 percent tax. That's a one-time tax for each suppressor. Now, if I'm allowed, I'll buy a few suppressors. And I have the proper weapons and proper licenses, and everything's been regulated.

I know the people at the armory personally. They've been – I've known them for years. Everything I have is legal. If I have a legal weapon with a legal suppressor-capable barrel, I'll buy a legal suppressor and I'll use it legally. So please, please pass this law. It's only for the good of the people, not the good of the criminal. Everything that's been done against gun owners is pro-criminal. It just makes it easier for them alright? We are taxed. It cost me \$85 for every weapon I own. And I'm a collector, ok and that's on top of my licenses and my concealed weapons license. It just piles on and on and on. And I'm getting tired. All of us long-fighting citizens want you to support us. Thank you.

Mr. Joseph Arriola: I'm sorry. I'm at an age right now that I have one foot on the platform and one foot in the grave. I spent a considerable time in the U.S. Army, in Army aviation, and I've shot a lot of weapons, from .38s, .45s, 9mms, M16A1, A2, the Law, SAW, and everything. As I mentioned, I'm close to my sunset. My sunrise is gone. However, my son was also an avid Second Amendment supporter. He's young. He went to all the classes. He is an RSO. He also will be taking classes as an NRA instructor. So he's very much into... I'm sorry, certified. And he's got a lot of years ahead of him. This suppressor will help him and all those younger than us that will want to one day own a firearm for hunting or recreational use. This will benefit them. It will benefit me for a little while, and I'd appreciate it, but I could use it. Never used one. I'd like to okay so passing this would benefit gun enthusiasts and hunters. Thank you.

Senator Chris Duenas: So, I was a co-sponsor and voted for Senator Tony Ada's bill. So, that's my history. And I know that I'm looking at a bunch of good fellas here. And I know in my closing that, in my opinion, the only one, the only individuals who use firearms, whatever, whether they have a suppressor or not, to commit a crime are bad guys, bad people, and criminals. So I want to help the good guys. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Thank you, Senator Duenas. Senator Therese Terlaje, any questions for the panel?

Senator Therese Terlaje: Yes. *Si yu'os ma'ase'*, thank you to the panel for your testimony today. So the author calls this bill the Hearing Protection Act of 2025, the bill would remove from our current statutes the prohibition of, quote, mufflers, silencers, or devices for deadening the sound of discharged firearms. That would be stricken from our current laws.

This bill was a very similar bill, was discussed back in 2021, and the hearing was held in April. And in November, 2021, the headlines on the newspaper were, a Hagat Elementary School faces lockdown for the third time in the month. And the articles talked about how Marshall A. Sablan Elementary School was locked down as a precautionary measure after employees said they heard the sound of gunshots in the area. That was November 2021 after the hearing in April. And then the bill was deliberated by the legislature in December 2021 and it passed by a vote of seven, because there were several people absent that day.

But the Governor vetoed it. And in the Governor's vetoed message, she said, "I have considered the factors and supporting information proffered in the bill to determine whether the benefit to removing restrictions on suppressor ownership outweigh the associated risks, and I find that it does not. The very reason proponents of the bill advocate for lifting of the restrictions is the reason the restriction must remain in place.

While they do not eliminate it, suppressors and silencers by design substantially suppress the sound of gunfire, which is one of the most easily recognizable warnings that a gun has been fired in a person's vicinity, lawfully or unlawfully, and enables that person to get to safety. The non-lethal auditory safety concerns for hobbyists and hunters may be mitigated by the proper use of protective items such as earplugs and earmuffs, but the safety concerns for the wider population associated with the broad availability of suppressors include potentially lethal consequences and simply cannot be mitigated.

The existence of federal regulations affecting the purchase does not alleviate this concern. She also says in the end that on the balance we must continue to prioritize the community's safety from potentially life-threatening harm over the auditory safety of the few. For this reason I veto the bill and urge our hobbyists and hunting communities to exercise appropriate safety measures to protect their hearing while shooting including the use of safety devices intended for this purpose". Senseramente, Lourdes Leon Guerrero *Maga' Haga' Guahan*.

That was on the previous bill. And in today's hearing, I think it's not been pointed out that we have received testimony from the Guam Police Department. And contrary to what the author has said, that the bill would be regulated, the Guam Police Department reading the same bill has offered about six pages of an eight-page testimony.

Six of those pages were recommendations of how we should extend protections to Guam if we are considering a bill like this, that there are many more regulations laws that we should put into place here on Guam. And so I am concerned because of the GPD's testimony, consistent with the last time that they testified as well, that, and you know, as Mr. Amaguin says, if we are in any way increasing the threat to fellow officers, putting them at additional risk, he is pointing out that this bill, it does not limit itself to just those people who are in training.

It doesn't limit itself just to police officers. It doesn't limit, allow suppressors only for those in the military or at firing ranges or to legal hunters. And it allows it for everybody and without the protections that many of the other states have also incorporated. So, some of these other states that you have cited also have different regulations as well to when they bring them into the states. But so I don't know. I'm just, there are articles, of course, that talk about, of course, you want to protect hearing, and I support protection of hearing, but I also support protection of the children in the schools, immediate response by our public safety officers, immediate response by medics because they've heard the shots or people hear the shots and they can call 911 and that, yeah, I just, so I am going to very much consider your testimony and my time is up so, *si yu'os ma'ase'*.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Thank you Senator. Senator Barnett, do you have any questions for the panel?

Si yu'os ma'ase', Mr. Chair. Yeah, just to kind of, the Chief of Police, I'm surprised you didn't come out here to testify. So I thank you, Mr. Amaguin, for, I'm not saying you're representing GPD, but I think a bill like this, you would kind of expect the chief of police, especially since he submitted very significant testimony that actually has eight pages of recommendations to the bill.

And you know, most of what he's recommending in here, you guys have also recommended relative to like stringent regulation, and I believe you had called for a \$500 registration fee for the suppressors. So yeah, I mean, for me, it's just difficult to start the hearing with, you know, lobbyists who aren't even registered lobbyists and to really strip away all of the all the sides of the issue to kind of just get to the facts. And I support Chief Ignacio's testimony, even though he wasn't here to deliver it in person.

And, I think I'm just worried because I've seen, you know, government officials provide testimony about strengthening measures before the legislature, but then I've also seen sometimes

an eagerness for my colleagues to just ram through bills with little to no safeguards. I mean, we saw it a lot in the 37th Guam legislature, so I just pray that the committee incorporates these very reasonable suggestions by the chief of police. And then I also just wanted to, and this is, you know, not coming down on one side or the other, but just factually to state that silencers have been, or suppressors, have been used in crimes very, you know, heinous and significant crimes.

Mass shooting at Virginia Beach Municipal Center, white supremacist plots to attack black churches and synagogues, workplace shootings in Ohio, serial killer using silencer to target victims, as well as Christopher Dorner attacks on Southern California law enforcement. All these crimes utilized the silencers as oppressors. And I think where the public, because I have heard from a lot of law enforcement who opposed the measure for very similar reasons as Mr. Amaguin, but I think that you know we're plagued, obviously you guys know, by rampant crime, rampant drug unchecked crystal amphetamine epidemic.

So, I think for a lot of people, weighing the risk of these criminals, who you're right, are gonna get these devices probably illegally, maybe they might break into someone who's a legal owner of one's house and then take the device, but I think that's where it gets kind of heavy for a lot of people to weigh in either on one side or the other is because there's, the crime is absolutely crazy and gunshots, right?

I mean you talked about hearing gunshots from all the way from Mongmong, we've kind of been raised to listen up for that kind of thing and so yeah I'm kind of undecided on the bill but I have, I just did want to say on the record that I have been approached by a lot of law enforcement, both current and retired, who do have reservations about the measure. But yeah I can read the room. I think they have the votes. I think it will pass.

So, again, just ask that they incorporate a lot of these safeguards, which I think are really reasonable. In fact, the chief says it's not enough to fall back on the federal statutes related to suppressors that are on the books, that we also need to put in black and white on our books these very same laws, just to ensure you know that it is about the responsible gun owners and that we really minimize the opportunity for bad actors and criminals to obtain these devices, which I think would make it very much easier for them to commit crimes and then, you know, get away with it.

Like a lot of these stories we're reading about crimes have been committed with the suppressors. I mean, one thing they have in common is there was a delay in the reporting of the crime because people just didn't hear the gunshots. I'm not saying they're silent, but they just didn't hear the gunshots and weren't able to report the crime in a timely fashion. So I think these are reasonable concerns that I have and that people share with me. So I just want to lodge those on the record, Mr. Chair, and also pray that you incorporate again some of these amendments that Chief Ignacio suggested. *Si yu 'os ma 'ase '.*

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Thank you, Senator. At this time, I'll have the author provide his closing remarks for today. Thank you, Senator Parkinson, in advance.

Senator William Parkinson: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to thank everyone that came out and gave their testimony for Bill 27-38, the Hearing Protection Act of 2025, and I sincerely hope my colleagues will support this bill. At this time I'd like to speak to some of the people that are skeptical about this bill you know?

Why is this necessary? Is this a joke? Like, when this first conversation first came up years ago, me and my brother at home, we thought this was a joke. Him and I were both big fans of the TV show Archer. Now, for those of you who have never seen the show Archer, it's kind of a riff on James Bond, a hilarious riff on James Bond, and they shoot guns all the time. And one of the running jokes on that show is, everybody has tinnitus from shooting guns.

And, it was kind of just a funny joke throughout the show. But the show people, they actually really looked into the issue of tinnitus. And by like the 10th or 11th season, they became legitimate advocates for tinnitus. You know it was the sort of thing where something that started off as a joke actually became a real vehicle for advocacy and public safety. And in this situation, life imitated art. You know me and my brother, we heard about the first suppressor bill, and we're yelling, Tinnitus! What? Tinnitus! What?

But, as I heard the public testimony, I realized myself that this wasn't a joke. And I'm a thorough Second Amendment advocate. And I discounted the dangers of hearing loss. But once I heard that this was a real thing, and as I did my own research on it, I saw my own shared similar experiences with the Forest Service. Now in the Forest Service, I did not use firearms, but I worked with equipment that was regularly over 140 decibels all the time. I came in with people at 18 years of age, had perfect hearing, just the same as me. But for me, I was a, I was a safety enthusiast.

I used, I was, they called me a safety nerd, safety Nazi, depending on who you asked on my crew. And I used all my PPE. I rolled my sleeve down, I used my gloves. And people that I worked with for seven, eight, nine years, they lost their hearing at 26, 27 age, had to have hearing aids. While me just using little earplugs was able to save my hearing. You know, and really they didn't use their hearing protection just because of machismo, you know, they didn't want to look not tough.

But with firearms, one of the most important things you have to do is you have to train and practice with your firearm and your equipment. Training requires repetition. Repetition means repeated exposure to high decibel noises. Suppressors reduce that exposure. And why do people need to practice? They need to practice for their own personal self-defense. Among my own personal circle of friends, I know that many vulnerable people use this to protect themselves. You know, it's not just a Republican thing. I know plenty of Democrats who need personal protection.

One of the first people I knew who in college, I helped him get a gun, was a friend who was physically assaulted because of his sexual orientation. And that was absolutely wrong. And this person recognized that they needed the ability to protect themselves. But this person had never used a gun their whole life. And he needed to practice quickly, practice soon, to get up to speed. And that repeated exposure put him at risk. I know a wife and a single mother who, leaving a domestic abuse situation, took up firearms to protect themselves.

That, too, requires practice and repetition and that practice and repetition to ensure that you have effective training and exercising your Second Amendment rights shouldn't lead to you losing other senses. There should not be opportunity costs that you have to weigh out to defend yourself. So I have fully come on that this legislation is not a joke. It's important. It's important not just for our individuals. It's important for our community. We had a shooting range that was shut down because of noise complaints. These people were done very, very wrong because of the negative interactions between the community and legitimate places to have firearm practice.

This law, if it had passed years ago, could have prevented the shutdown of that firearm training area. And so it's not just about the individuals anymore, it's about being good neighbors in our community. So, I ask my colleagues and the community to please support the Hearing Protection Act of 2025. Let's make sure that people do not have to compromise their hearing, do not have to compromise their community relationship, just so that they can practice their God-given right to protect themselves. So, thank you very much, Mr. Chair. That's all I have. Thank you.

Chairman Shawn Gumataotao: Thank you, Senator Parkinson. And for the record, I'd like to acknowledge the committee received testimony from the Bureau of Budget Management Research relative to Bill 27-38 regarding the amendments to the act that are primarily administrative in nature and will not fiscally impact the appropriations for FY 2025.

The committee also received testimony from, if I can, the American Suppressor Association, who wrote that they are fully in support of the bill. I'd also like to acknowledge that the Academy of Doctors of Audiology, their president and their executive director, also submitted testimony to the committee relative to this bill, and as mentioned by Senator Terlaje that the Guam Police Department did provide written testimony today.

Their Chief gave regrets earlier this morning to my committee that he would not be able to attend but did provide the written testimony on Bill 27-38 and, again, we want to thank all of them and all of you to our two that are on the zoom call still thank you for being with us so late at night and all of the view that are here that testified for this bill. Again the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management and Guam National Guard appreciates the attendance and participation of all senators and all of you the community stakeholders in this public hearing on Bill 27-38.

The committee will review the information received during this hearing and will communicate with relevant government and non-government entities if necessary. The committee has tentatively scheduled a markup on Bill 27-38 COR on Wednesday, March 5th at 10 a.m. at my legislative office that's located at 120 Father Duenas Avenue, Capitol Plaza, Suite 103, Hagatña.

And also, committee members and the primary author of Bill 27-38, they're invited to participate in this markup. The committee will also continue to accept written testimonies on Bill 27-38 prior to that markup.

Testimonies may be submitted via email to office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov, that's S-H-A-W-N just in case you don't know, through the legislative mail room here at the Guam Congress Building, or they may have, or they may be delivered directly to my senatorial office in Hagatña.

With that, this public hearing by the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management and Guam National Guard on Bill 27-38 COR is hereby adjourned.

The time is now 12.12 p.m. Have a great day, everyone.

III. FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Subsequent to the February 26, 2025 public hearing on Bill No. 27-38 (COR), the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard held a markup on Bill 27-38 (COR) on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, 10:00 a.m. at Chairman Shawn Gumataotao's office in Hagåtña.

In attendance were Chairman Gumataotao, Vice-Speaker and Committee Vice-Chairman V. Anthony Ada, Legislative Secretary and Committee Member Sabrina Salas Matanane, and Senator William Parkinson, sponsor of Bill No. 27-38 (COR).

The Committee Markup agenda included a summary and status of bills referred to the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard, a summary of the public hearing testimonies for Bill No. 27-38 (COR), and discussion on draft amendments by the bill's sponsor and the Committee.

The Bill's sponsor did not have any amendments to the Bill, however, the Committee presented and discussed recommended changes to the measure. The amendments to Bill No. 27-38 (COR) align with the written recommendations submitted by the Guam Police Department (GPD) during the Bill's public hearing.

The Committee adopted the following amendments to Bill No. 27-38 (COR):

- 10 GCA § 60100, extending the firearms definition to include firearm silencers, defined as any device for silencing, muffling, or diminishing the report of a portable firearm, including any combination of parts, designed or redesigned, and intended for the use in assembling or fabricating a firearm silencer or firearm muffler, any part intended only for use in such assembly or fabrication.

The Committee adopted the definition of "firearm silencer" established by the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

- 10 GCA § 60103, providing that ownership of firearm silencers is permitted, provided that the specifications, purchase, ownership, possession, and use of a firearm silencer complies with applicable federal and local laws, rules, and regulations.
- 10 GCA § 60106, requiring that in addition to existing firearm ID mandates, the Guam Police Department shall include information on the Identification Card explicitly indicating the cardholder's authorized ownership, possession, and use of a firearm silencer pursuant to law.

- 10 GCA § 60108(b)(5), providing that a person shall be at least 21 years of age to purchase a firearm silencer from an authorized dealer, or at least 18 years of age to purchase a firearm silencer from an individual on a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Form 4 to Form 4 transfer, or at least 18 years of age to possess a firearm silencer as a beneficiary of a trust or as a member of a corporation.
- 10 GCA § 60111, requiring that under no circumstances shall a person who is authorized to carry a firearm silencer be allowed to transfer the device to another person who is not authorized by law to own, possess, use and carry such device.
- 10 GCA § 60114(b), requiring that a person who is authorized to own, possess, use and carry a firearm silencer shall not be allowed to transfer or otherwise lend the device to another person who is not authorized by law.
- 10 GCA 60118 and 60118(b), at the suggestion of the Vice-Speaker and following approval of the Committee, providing that under no circumstances shall a person who is authorized to own, possess, use and carry a firearm silencer be allowed to loan the device to another person who is not authorized by this Chapter to own, possess, use and carry such device; and, requiring that the record of ownership and transfer as approved by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives must be provided to the department for each firearm silencer sold or transferred pursuant to this Section. The Guam Police Department is prohibited from authorizing the sale or transfer of a firearm silencer to any person who is not authorized by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to own or otherwise possess such device in accordance with established federal and local laws.

The Committee continued discussion on Bill No. 27-38 (COR), as amended, during a separate markup meeting held on Monday, April 7, 2025, 3:30 p.m. at Chairman Shawn Gumataotao's office in *Hagatna*. Attendees included Chairman Gumataotao, Speaker and Committee Member Frank Blas, Jr., Legislative Secretary and Committee Member Sabrina Salas Matanane, Senator and Committee Member Tina R. Muna Barnes, and staff representatives from Vice-Speaker and Committee Vice-Chairman V. Anthony Ada's Office and Senator Muna Barnes's Office.

The Committee discussed comments offered by the Guam Police Department on the initial draft of Bill No. 27-38 (COR), as amended. On March 5, 2025 the Committee requested feedback and GPD responded with written comments on March 31, 2025.

Based on the recommendations of GPD, the Committee approved additional amendments to Bill No. 27-38 (COR), including a requirement prohibiting the department from issuing an identification card to any person who is not authorized by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to own or otherwise possess such device in

accordance with established federal and local laws and regulations. The amendment further requires GPD, as applicable, to require the record of ownership and transfer as approved by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for each firearm silencer sold or transferred pursuant to federal and local laws and regulations.

The Committee also adopted another amendment requiring GPD within 30 days of the Bill's enactment to begin the process of developing rules, regulations, and fees which may be necessary to implement the provisions herein and to ensure the recovery of administrative costs.

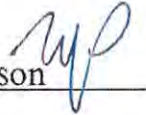
The Committee finds that the aforementioned amendments to Bill No. 27-38 (COR) is necessary to help create public policy consistent with the guidance of the very Government of Guam agency, the Guam Police Department, which will be responsible for the effective and efficient implementation of statutes and administrative processes related to the ownership and possession of a firearm silencer.

Accordingly, the Committee hereby reports out Bill No. 27-38 (COR), as amended by the Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard with the recommendation **TO REPORT OUT ONLY**.

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

Bill No. 27-38 (COR)

Introduced by

William A. Parkinson 

AN ACT TO AMEND §§ 60102 & 60103 OF CHAPTER 60 TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REMOVING THE RESTRICTIONS ON OWNERSHIP OF SUPPRESSORS AND SILENCERS; AND TO BE KNOWN AS THE “HEARING PROTECTION ACT OF 2025.”

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), noise levels above 85 decibels (dB) can lead to permanent hearing loss after repeated or prolonged exposure, and firearm discharges commonly exceed 140 dB. Published research indicates that the use of firearm suppressors can reduce the noise of a firearm discharge by an average of 20–35 dB, thereby significantly mitigating the risk of noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL). Repeated exposure to firearm noise, without adequate hearing protection, is a leading contributor to NIHL among recreational shooters and law enforcement personnel (Flamme, Wong, & Liebe, Journal of the American Academy of Audiology, 2012).

I Liheslaturan Guåhan further recognizes that safe and responsible firearm usage requires regular training and practice, and that the incorporation of suppressors during such practice can substantially reduce the harmful noise impact on users' hearing. Data show that many women who have experienced domestic violence may choose to possess a firearm for personal protection as a means to regain a sense of control and security; these women should be afforded the safest

1 possible environment in which to practice, without risking permanent hearing
2 damage (Campbell et al., Violence Against Women, 2003). Legalizing and
3 regulating suppressors would allow firearm owners, including survivors of
4 domestic violence, to benefit from advanced noise reduction technology, while
5 continuing to adhere to public safety regulations already in place for firearms
6 ownership, possession, and usage.

7 Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to authorize and regulate
8 the lawful use of suppressors with firearms, to protect the hearing of firearm users,
9 promote safe firearm training practices, and ensure that individuals, including
10 those who have experienced domestic violence, have the option to train
11 responsibly and without unnecessary risk of noise-induced hearing loss.

12 **Section 2. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the “*Hearing Protection*
13 *Act of 2025.*”

14 **Section 3.** §60102 of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby
15 *amended* to read as follows:

16 “**§60102. Ownership, etc., of Certain Firearms Prohibited.**

17 The manufacture, possession, sale, barter, trade, gift, transfer or
18 acquisition of any machine guns, sub-machine guns, automatic rifles or any
19 other firearm not a rifle having a barrel length of sixteen (16) inches or
20 greater or not a shotgun having a barrel length of eighteen (18) inches or
21 greater or a revolver or pistol having a barrel length of more than twelve
22 (12) inches is prohibited. ~~Mufflers, silencers or devices for deadening the~~
23 ~~sound of discharged firearms are also prohibited.~~ Any person violating this
24 Section shall be guilty of a felony which shall be punishable for a term of
25 imprisonment of not less than (3) years and a fine of not less than One
26 Thousand Dollars (\$1,000). Imposition of sentence shall not be suspended

1 and the offender shall not be eligible for parole nor work release until the
2 term of imprisonment prescribed herein has been completed nor may
3 probation be imposed in lieu of this portion of the offender's sentence.
4 Provided, however, that in the case of an offender not previously convicted
5 of a felony, the court may sentence the offender to not more than two (2)
6 years imprisonment and the provisions of this Section prohibiting probation,
7 suspension, parole or work release shall not be applicable to such offender."

8 **Section 4.** §60103 of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
9 hereby *amended* to read as follows:

10 **"§60103. Ownership, etc., Permitted.**

11 Any person who qualifies under this Chapter may lawfully own,
12 possess, use or carry any rifle, shotgun, pistol or revolver not prohibited by
13 §60102 subject to the conditions and penalties provided in this Chapter.
14 Mufflers, silencers, or devices for deadening the sound of discharged
15 firearms are permitted; provided, that the specifications, purchase,
16 ownership, and possession of the device complies with applicable federal
17 laws, rules, and regulations."

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

Bill No. 27-38 (COR)

As Amended by the Committee on Public Safety,
Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

Introduced by:

William A. Parkinson

**AN ACT TO *AMEND* §§ 60100, 60102, 60103, 60106,
60108(b)(5), 60111, 60114(b), AND 60118 OF CHAPTER 60,
TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO
OWNERSHIP, POSSESSION, AND USE OF FIREARM
SILENCERS.**

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 that according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH),
4 noise levels above eighty-five decibels (85 dB) can lead to permanent hearing loss
5 after repeated or prolonged exposure, and firearm discharges commonly exceed one
6 hundred forty decibels (140 dB). Published research indicates that the use of firearm
7 silencers can reduce the noise of a firearm discharge by an average of twenty to
8 thirty-five decibels (20–35 dB), thereby significantly mitigating the risk of noise-
9 induced hearing loss (NIHL). Repeated exposure to firearm noise, without adequate
10 hearing protection, is a leading contributor to NIHL among recreational shooters and
11 law enforcement personnel (Flamme, Wong, & Liebe, Journal of the American
12 Academy of Audiology, 2012).

13 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further recognizes that safe and responsible firearm
14 usage requires regular training and practice, and that the incorporation of firearm
15 silencers during such practice can substantially reduce the harmful noise impact on

1 users' hearing. Data show that many women who have experienced domestic
2 violence may choose to possess a firearm for personal protection as a means to regain
3 a sense of control and security; and these women should be afforded the safest
4 possible environment in which to practice, without risking permanent hearing
5 damage (Campbell et al., Violence Against Women, 2003). Legalizing and
6 regulating firearm silencers would allow firearm owners, including survivors of
7 domestic violence, to benefit from advanced noise reduction technology, while
8 continuing to adhere to public safety regulations already in place for firearms
9 ownership, possession, and usage.

10 Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to authorize and regulate
11 the lawful ownership, possession, and use of firearm silencers, to protect the hearing
12 of firearm users, to promote safe firearm training practices, and to ensure that
13 individuals, including those who have experienced domestic violence, have the
14 option to train responsibly without the unnecessary risk of noise-induced hearing
15 loss.

16 **Section 2.** § 60100 of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
17 *amended* to read:

18 **“§ 60100. Definitions.**

19 As used in this Chapter:

20 (a) Firearm means any weapon, the operating force of which is an
21 explosive. This definition includes pistols, revolvers, rifles, shotguns,
22 machine guns, automatic rifles, noxious gas projectors, mortars, bombs,
23 cannon and submachine guns. This definition shall apply to firearm silencers,
24 defined herein as any device for silencing, muffling, or diminishing the report
25 of a portable firearm, including any combination of parts, designed or
26 redesigned, and intended for the use in assembling or fabricating a firearm
27 silencer or firearm muffler, any part intended only for use in such assembly

1 or fabrication. The specific mention of certain weapons does not exclude from
2 the definition other weapons operated by explosives.”

3 **Section 3.** § 60102 of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
4 hereby *amended* to read as follows:

5 “§ 60102. **Ownership, etc., of Certain Firearms Prohibited.**

6 The manufacture, possession, sale, barter, trade, gift, transfer or acquisition of
7 any machine guns, sub-machine guns, automatic rifles or any other firearm
8 not a rifle having a barrel length of sixteen (16) inches or greater or not a
9 shotgun having a barrel length of eighteen (18) inches or greater or a revolver
10 or pistol having a barrel length of more than twelve (12) inches is prohibited.
11 ~~Mufflers, silencers or devices for deadening the sound of discharged firearms~~
12 ~~are also prohibited.~~ Any person violating this Section shall be guilty of a
13 felony which shall be punishable for a term of imprisonment of not less than
14 (3) years and a fine of not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000).
15 Imposition of sentence shall not be suspended and the offender shall not be
16 eligible for parole nor work release until the term of imprisonment prescribed
17 herein has been completed nor may probation be imposed in lieu of this
18 portion of the offender’s sentence. Provided, however, that in the case of an
19 offender not previously convicted of a felony, the court may sentence the
20 offender to not more than two (2) years imprisonment and the provisions of
21 this Section prohibiting probation, suspension, parole or work release shall
22 not be applicable to such offender.”

23 **Section 4.** § 60103 of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
24 hereby *amended* to read as follows:

25 “§ 60103. **Ownership, etc., Permitted.**

26 Any person who qualifies under this Chapter may lawfully own, possess, use
27 or carry any rifle, shotgun, pistol or revolver not prohibited by § 60102 subject

1 to the conditions and penalties provided in this Chapter. Firearm silencers are
2 permitted; provided, that the specifications, purchase, ownership, possession,
3 and use of a firearm silencer complies with applicable federal and local laws,
4 rules, and regulations.”

5 **Section 5.** § 60106 of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
6 hereby *amended* to read as follows:

7 **“§ 60106. Identification Card: Required.**

8 (a) No person shall own, possess, use, carry or acquire any firearm
9 which is lawful under § 60103 unless he shall have first obtained from the
10 Department an identification card evidencing his right to such ownership,
11 possession, use or carrying, concealed or otherwise, as stated upon the face of
12 the card; except that any person may use and possess a firearm at any shooting
13 gallery licensed pursuant to § 60105, et seq., without first obtaining a permit
14 as otherwise required by this Section. Said card shall be in the possession of
15 the holder and on his person whenever he is using or has in his possession a
16 firearm.

17 (b) In addition to § 60106(a), supra, the department shall include
18 information on the Identification Card explicitly indicating the cardholder’s
19 authorized ownership, possession, and use of a firearm silencer pursuant to
20 this Chapter. The department is prohibited from issuing an identification card
21 to any person who is not authorized by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
22 Firearms and Explosives to own or otherwise possess such device in
23 accordance with established federal and local laws and regulations. As
24 applicable, the department shall require the record of ownership and transfer
25 as approved by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for
26 each firearm silencer sold or transferred pursuant to federal and local laws and
27 regulations.”

1 **Section 6.** § 60108(b)(5) of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
2 hereby *amended* to read as follows:

3 “(b) No person shall be issued an identification card:

4 (1) Who has been convicted by any court of the United States, a
5 state, territory, possession, trust territory or political subdivision thereof
6 of any felony; or

7 (2) Who is an alien, except temporary permits may be issued to
8 aliens for use only at target ranges operated by persons possessing
9 permits therefore and who are citizens, or only for use at authorized
10 sporting events, and except for official representatives of foreign
11 governments in their official capacities, and except for aliens “lawfully
12 admitted for permanent residence,” which shall mean the status of
13 having been lawfully accorded the privilege of residing permanently in
14 the United States as an immigrant in accordance with the immigration
15 laws, such status not having changed, as defined by the Immigration
16 and Nationality Act § 101(a)(20), 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(20). Proof of
17 permanent residence shall be evidenced by presentation of an Alien
18 Registration Card (also known as alien registration certificate, Form I-
19 551 or Green Card); or

20 (3) Who is presently charged by information or indictment with
21 any crime stated in (b)(1) above; or

22 (4) Who has been adjudicated incompetent, has been committed
23 to any mental institution; or

24 (5) Who is under the age of eighteen (18) years, except that a
25 person shall be at least twenty one (21) years of age to purchase a
26 firearm silencer from an authorized dealer, or at least eighteen (18)
27 years of age to purchase a firearm silencer from an individual on a

1 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Form 4
2 to Form 4 transfer, or at least eighteen (18) years of age to possess a
3 firearm silencer as a beneficiary of a trust or as a member of a
4 corporation; or

5 (6) Who has been convicted of any violation of the Uniform
6 Controlled Dangerous Substances Act or any misdemeanor where
7 personal injury or use of firearms was an element or factor of the
8 offense unless the Chief of Police has determined that the offense was
9 committed more than ten (10) years previously and that the applicant
10 would not endanger the public safety by receiving an identification
11 card; or

12 (7) Who, in the determination of the Chief of Police appears to
13 suffer from a physical or mental disease or defect which would
14 adversely affect the safe use of the firearm applied for, unless the person
15 obtains a certificate from a licensed physician stating that the physical
16 or mental disease or defect would not adversely affect his safe operation
17 of the firearm or the public safety.”

18 **Section 7.** § 60111 of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
19 hereby *amended* to read as follows:

20 “§ 60111. **Transfer of Firearm: Private.** Upon the transfer of any
21 firearm from one person not a dealer, manufacturer, wholesaler or repairer to
22 another not a dealer, manufacturer, wholesaler or repairer, other than on loan,
23 a new must be obtained by the new owner or one permanently possessing the
24 firearm, indicating the prior owner or possessor, and his identification card
25 number, as well as all information pertinent to the new owner or possessor.
26 Under no circumstances shall a person who is authorized to own, possess, use
27 and carry a firearm silencer be allowed to transfer the device to another person

1 who is not authorized by this Chapter to own, possess, use and carry such
2 device.”

3 **Section 8.** § 60114(b) of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
4 hereby *amended* to read as follows:

5 “(b) No person shall transfer, loan, give, sell either as a part of a
6 business or individually, or permit the use of any firearm unless the person
7 receiving the firearm has an identification card evidencing his eligibility to
8 receive, possess, use and carry the type of firearm which he is to receive,
9 borrow, use, buy or possess or carry, provided that a person who is authorized
10 to own, possess, use and carry a firearm silencer shall not be allowed to
11 transfer or otherwise lend the device to another person who is not authorized
12 by this Chapter to own, possess, use and carry such device.”

13 **Section 9.** § 60118 of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
14 hereby *amended* to read as follows:

15 **“§ 60118. Private Sale or Transfer.**

16 (a) Any person engaging in a private sale, loan or other transfer of a
17 firearm shall be shown by the person receiving the firearm an identification
18 card evidencing the receiver's right to own, possess, use and carry such
19 firearm. It shall be unlawful for a person to transact a private sale, loan, gift
20 or transfer without having seen the valid identification card of the person
21 receiving the firearm. Under no circumstances shall a person who is
22 authorized to own, possess, use and carry a firearm silencer be allowed to loan
23 the device to another person who is not authorized by this Chapter to own,
24 possess, use and carry such device.

25 (b) In addition to § 60118(a), supra, the record of ownership and
26 transfer as approved by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and
27 Explosives must be provided to the department for each firearm silencer sold

1 or transferred pursuant to this Section. The department is prohibited from
2 authorizing the sale or transfer of a firearm silencer to any person who is not
3 authorized by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to
4 own or otherwise possess such device in accordance with established federal
5 and local laws and regulations.”

6 **Section 10. Administrative Rules, Regulations, and Fees Required.**

7 Consistent with the authority granted by 10 GCA § 77134 to the Chief of Police, the
8 Guam Police Department shall within thirty (30) calendar days following the
9 enactment of this Act begin the process of developing rules, regulations, and fees
10 which may be necessary to implement the provisions herein and to ensure the
11 recovery of administrative costs.

COMMITTEE MARKUP

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

Bill No. 27-38 (COR)

As Amended by the Committee on Public Safety,
Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

Introduced by:

William A. Parkinson

AN ACT TO AMEND §§ 60100, 60102, AND 60103, 60106, 60108(b)(5), 60111, 60114(b), AND 60118 OF CHAPTER 60, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REMOVING THE RESTRICTIONS ON OWNERSHIP, POSSESSION, AND USE OF SUPPRESSORS AND FIREARM SILENCERS.; AND TO BE KNOWN AS THE “HEARING PROTECTION ACT OF 2025.”

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 that according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH),
4 noise levels above eighty-five decibels (85 dB) can lead to permanent hearing loss
5 after repeated or prolonged exposure, and firearm discharges commonly exceed one
6 hundred forty decibels (140 dB). Published research indicates that the use of firearm
7 ~~suppressors~~silencers can reduce the noise of a firearm discharge by an average of
8 twenty to thirty-five decibels (20–35 dB), thereby significantly mitigating the risk
9 of noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL). Repeated exposure to firearm noise, without
10 adequate hearing protection, is a leading contributor to NIHL among recreational
11 shooters and law enforcement personnel (Flamme, Wong, & Liebe, Journal of the
12 American Academy of Audiology, 2012).

13 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further recognizes that safe and responsible firearm
14 usage requires regular training and practice, and that the incorporation of

1 ~~suppressors~~firearm silencers during such practice can substantially reduce the
2 harmful noise impact on users' hearing. Data show that many women who have
3 experienced domestic violence may choose to possess a firearm for personal
4 protection as a means to regain a sense of control and security; and these women
5 should be afforded the safest possible environment in which to practice, without
6 risking permanent hearing damage (Campbell et al., Violence Against Women,
7 2003). Legalizing and regulating ~~suppressors~~firearm silencers would allow firearm
8 owners, including survivors of domestic violence, to benefit from advanced noise
9 reduction technology, while continuing to adhere to public safety regulations already
10 in place for firearms ownership, possession, and usage.

11 Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to authorize and regulate
12 the lawful ~~use~~ownership, possession, and use of suppressors with firearms silencers,
13 to protect the hearing of firearm users, to promote safe firearm training practices,
14 and to ensure that individuals, including those who have experienced domestic
15 violence, have the option to train responsibly without the unnecessary risk of noise-
16 induced hearing loss.

17 **Section 2.** ~~Short Title.~~ This Act shall be known as the "~~Hearing Protection~~
18 ~~Act of 2025.~~"

19 ~~Section 3.~~ § 60100 of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
20 amended to read:

21 **"§ 60100. Definitions.**

22 As used in this Chapter:

23 (a) Firearm means any weapon, the operating force of which is an
24 explosive. This definition includes pistols, revolvers, rifles, shotguns,
25 machine guns, automatic rifles, noxious gas projectors, mortars, bombs,
26 cannon and submachine guns. This definition shall apply to firearm silencers,
27 defined herein as any device for silencing, muffling, or diminishing the report

1 of a portable firearm, including any combination of parts, designed or
2 redesigned, and intended for the use in assembling or fabricating a firearm
3 silencer or firearm muffler, any part intended only for use in such assembly
4 or fabrication. The specific mention of certain weapons does not exclude from
5 the definition other weapons operated by explosives.”

6 **Section 3.** § 60102 of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
7 hereby *amended* to read as follows:

8 **“§ 60102. Ownership, etc., of Certain Firearms Prohibited.**

9 The manufacture, possession, sale, barter, trade, gift, transfer or acquisition of
10 any machine guns, sub-machine guns, automatic rifles or any other firearm
11 not a rifle having a barrel length of sixteen (16) inches or greater or not a
12 shotgun having a barrel length of eighteen (18) inches or greater or a revolver
13 or pistol having a barrel length of more than twelve (12) inches is prohibited.
14 ~~Mufflers, silencers or devices for deadening the sound of discharged firearms~~
15 ~~are also prohibited.~~ Any person violating this Section shall be guilty of a
16 felony which shall be punishable for a term of imprisonment of not less than
17 (3) years and a fine of not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000).
18 Imposition of sentence shall not be suspended and the offender shall not be
19 eligible for parole nor work release until the term of imprisonment prescribed
20 herein has been completed nor may probation be imposed in lieu of this
21 portion of the offender’s sentence. Provided, however, that in the case of an
22 offender not previously convicted of a felony, the court may sentence the
23 offender to not more than two (2) years imprisonment and the provisions of
24 this Section prohibiting probation, suspension, parole or work release shall
25 not be applicable to such offender.”

26 **Section 4.** § 60103 of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
27 hereby *amended* to read as follows:

1 **“§ 60103. Ownership, etc., Permitted.**

2 Any person who qualifies under this Chapter may lawfully own, possess, use
3 or carry any rifle, shotgun, pistol or revolver not prohibited by § 60102 subject
4 to the conditions and penalties provided in this Chapter. ~~Mufflers, Firearm~~
5 ~~silencers, or devices for deadening the sound of discharged firearms~~ are
6 permitted; provided, that the specifications, purchase, ownership, ~~and~~
7 possession, and use of ~~the device~~ a firearm silencer complies with applicable
8 federal and local laws, rules, and regulations.”

9 **Section 5.** § 60106 of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
10 hereby amended to read as follows:

11 **“§ 60106. Identification Card: Required.**

12 (a) No person shall own, possess, use, carry or acquire any firearm
13 which is lawful under § 60103 unless he shall have first obtained from the
14 Department an identification card evidencing his right to such ownership,
15 possession, use or carrying, concealed or otherwise, as stated upon the face of
16 the card; except that any person may use and possess a firearm at any shooting
17 gallery licensed pursuant to § 60105, et seq., without first obtaining a permit
18 as otherwise required by this Section. Said card shall be in the possession of
19 the holder and on his person whenever he is using or has in his possession a
20 firearm.

21 (b) In addition to § 60106(a), supra, the department shall include
22 information on the Identification Card explicitly indicating the cardholder’s
23 authorized ownership, possession, and use of a firearm silencer pursuant to
24 this Chapter. The department is prohibited from issuing an identification card
25 to any person who is not authorized by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
26 Firearms and Explosives to own or otherwise possess such device in
27 accordance with established federal and local laws and regulations. As

1 applicable, the department shall require the record of ownership and transfer
2 as approved by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for
3 each firearm silencer sold or transferred pursuant to federal and local laws and
4 regulations.”

5 **Section 6.** § 60108(b)(5) of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
6 hereby amended to read as follows:

7 “(b) No person shall be issued an identification card:

8 (1) Who has been convicted by any court of the United States, a
9 state, territory, possession, trust territory or political subdivision thereof
10 of any felony; or

11 (2) Who is an alien, except temporary permits may be issued to
12 aliens for use only at target ranges operated by persons possessing
13 permits therefore and who are citizens, or only for use at authorized
14 sporting events, and except for official representatives of foreign
15 governments in their official capacities, and except for aliens “lawfully
16 admitted for permanent residence,” which shall mean the status of
17 having been lawfully accorded the privilege of residing permanently in
18 the United States as an immigrant in accordance with the immigration
19 laws, such status not having changed, as defined by the Immigration
20 and Nationality Act § 101(a)(20), 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(20). Proof of
21 permanent residence shall be evidenced by presentation of an Alien
22 Registration Card (also known as alien registration certificate, Form I-
23 551 or Green Card); or

24 (3) Who is presently charged by information or indictment with
25 any crime stated in (b)(1) above; or

26 (4) Who has been adjudicated incompetent, has been committed
27 to any mental institution; or

1 (5) Who is under the age of eighteen (18) years, except that a
2 person shall be at least twenty one (21) years of age to purchase a
3 firearm silencer from an authorized dealer, or at least eighteen (18)
4 years of age to purchase a firearm silencer from an individual on a
5 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Form 4
6 to Form 4 transfer, or at least eighteen (18) years of age to possess a
7 firearm silencer as a beneficiary of a trust or as a member of a
8 corporation; or

9 (6) Who has been convicted of any violation of the Uniform
10 Controlled Dangerous Substances Act or any misdemeanor where
11 personal injury or use of firearms was an element or factor of the
12 offense unless the Chief of Police has determined that the offense was
13 committed more than ten (10) years previously and that the applicant
14 would not endanger the public safety by receiving an identification
15 card; or

16 (7) Who, in the determination of the Chief of Police appears to
17 suffer from a physical or mental disease or defect which would
18 adversely affect the safe use of the firearm applied for, unless the person
19 obtains a certificate from a licensed physician stating that the physical
20 or mental disease or defect would not adversely affect his safe operation
21 of the firearm or the public safety.”

22 Section 7. § 60111 of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
23 hereby amended to read as follows:

24 “**§ 60111. Transfer of Firearm: Private.** Upon the transfer of any
25 firearm from one person not a dealer, manufacturer, wholesaler or repairer to
26 another not a dealer, manufacturer, wholesaler or repairer, other than on loan,
27 a new must be obtained by the new owner or one permanently possessing the

1 firearm, indicating the prior owner or possessor, and his identification card
2 number, as well as all information pertinent to the new owner or possessor.
3 Under no circumstances shall a person who is authorized to own, possess, use
4 and carry a firearm silencer be allowed to transfer the device to another person
5 who is not authorized by this Chapter to own, possess, use and carry such
6 device.”

7 **Section 8.** § 60114(b) of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
8 hereby amended to read as follows:

9 “(b) No person shall transfer, loan, give, sell either as a part of a
10 business or individually, or permit the use of any firearm unless the person
11 receiving the firearm has an identification card evidencing his eligibility to
12 receive, possess, use and carry the type of firearm which he is to receive,
13 borrow, use, buy or possess or carry, provided that a person who is authorized
14 to own, possess, use and carry a firearm silencer shall not be allowed to
15 transfer or otherwise lend the device to another person who is not authorized
16 by this Chapter to own, possess, use and carry such device.”

17 **Section 9.** § 60118 of Chapter 60, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
18 hereby amended to read as follows:

19 **“§ 60118. Private Sale or Transfer.**

20 (a) Any person engaging in a private sale, loan or other transfer of a
21 firearm shall be shown by the person receiving the firearm an identification
22 card evidencing the receiver's right to own, possess, use and carry such
23 firearm. It shall be unlawful for a person to transact a private sale, loan, gift
24 or transfer without having seen the valid identification card of the person
25 receiving the firearm. Under no circumstances shall a person who is
26 authorized to own, possess, use and carry a firearm silencer be allowed to loan

1 the device to another person who is not authorized by this Chapter to own,
2 possess, use and carry such device.

3 (b) In addition to § 60118(a), *supra*, the record of ownership and
4 transfer as approved by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and
5 Explosives must be provided to the department for each firearm silencer sold
6 or transferred pursuant to this Section. The department is prohibited from
7 authorizing the sale or transfer of a firearm silencer to any person who is not
8 authorized by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to
9 own or otherwise possess such device in accordance with established federal
10 and local laws and regulations.”

11 **Section 10. Administrative Rules, Regulations, and Fees Required.**

12 Consistent with the authority granted by 10 GCA § 77134 to the Chief of Police, the
13 Guam Police Department shall within thirty (30) calendar days following the
14 enactment of this Act begin the process of developing rules, regulations, and fees
15 which may be necessary to implement the provisions herein and to ensure the
16 recovery of administrative costs.



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FEB 10 2025

Vice Speaker, V. Anthony Ada
Chairperson, Committee on Rules
I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
38th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Hafa Adai! Vice Speaker Ada:

The Bureau requests that Bill No. 27-38 (COR) be granted a waiver pursuant to Public Law 12-229 as amended for the following reason(s):

Legislative Bill No. 27-38 (COR) intends to amend §§ 60102 and 60103 of Chapter 60, Title 10 of the Guam Code Annotated, which would permit ownership of suppressors and silencers by enactment the "*Hearing Protection Act of 2025*."

The proposed amendments are administrative in nature and would not fiscally impact the appropriations for FY 2025.

Senseramente,

LESTER L. CARLSON, JR.

Hello,

My name is Julia Faye Munoz and I speak in my capacity as a community member. I provide this testimony in opposition to Bill No. 27-38 (COR). Removing the restrictions on ownership of suppressors and silencers for the protection of domestic violence victims would only enhance the potential of gun-related crimes, including domestic violence, to not only be successful but also more difficult to identify. According to the Giffords Law Center, more than 750 women in the U.S. are shot to death by intimate partners. Additionally, firearms are used to commit more than three in five of all intimate partner homicides in the U.S., wherein most victims are women.

Per the Violence Policy Center, suppressors/silencers reduce percussion, noise, and recoil so that the shooter can better focus on shooting fundamentals and consistent shot placement while protecting their hearing. Altogether, silencers can create the impression of gunfire coming from an opposite direction and can render a gunshot sound unrecognizable, as the ballistic crack overshadows the suppressed sound of firing. This can disorient observers and victims in accurately identifying the shooter's location, to the point that the observer or victim may inadvertently run towards the sound of a suppressed shot. Furthermore, many manufacturers market subsonic ammunition to increase the efficacy of silencers; thus, the discretion provided by silencers can be further enhanced. It cannot be understated that silencers do not solely serve to reduce noise, but also enhance target accuracy.

For a victim of domestic violence or anyone on the receiving end of the suppressed shot, the collective impacts of silencers enhance the risk of death or severe trauma in an already high-risk situation. It is imperative to note that silencers do not only impact civilians, but also have major implications for law enforcement and first responders responding to the situation.

Bill 27-38 will only exacerbate the island's already high rate of domestic violence. Given the statistics and information provided, eliminating restrictions on silencers would only enhance gun violence exposure. I urge our Legislators to vote in opposition against Bill 27-38, and pursue meaningful solutions to domestic violence for our community.

Sources:

<https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/who-can-have-a-gun/domestic-violence-firearms/>

<https://www.vpc.org/studies/silencers.pdf>

Dater, Philip; Dockery, Kevin (July 2007). "[Chapter 28](#)". *Stalkers and Shooters: A history of snipers*. Berkley Publishing Group. pp. 228–235. [ISBN 978-0-425-21542-5](#).

Ariana Millard

Testimony in Opposition to Bill 27-38 (COR)

Håfa Adai Senators,

I am submitting this testimony in my capacity as a community member. I have several concerns regarding Bill 27-38 (COR) that I hope you take into consideration before moving forward with a vote. I am in opposition to the Bill for the following reasons.

- With the unsettling climate of gun violence across the nation, it is incredibly important that we explore avenues to address and reduce the use of firearms in criminal behavior through increased regulations and safeguards. Although law-abiding citizens have the right to bear arms, this right can be provided and protected in a more responsible manner. We should not be moved by firearms lobbyists' attempts to undermine the severity and magnitude of gun violence in America, which ranks extremely high in gun-related deaths in the world- whereas, other nations have successfully decreased gun violence by enacting stricter regulations for firearms. Guam has not seen the severity of gun violence similar to the States, but we should do everything we can to keep it that way.
- According to the Commonwealth Fund, a private American foundation dedicated to improving access to high quality healthcare, “firearms are the leading cause of death for children in the U.S. and are the weapons used most often in domestic violence against women... Globally, the U.S. ranks at the 93rd percentile for overall firearm mortality, 92nd percentile for children and teens, and 96th percentile for women” (The Commonwealth Fund, 2024). It is disturbing and ironic to co-opt the issue of domestic violence against women to promote a Bill that would authorize the use of a potentially dangerous firearm accessory.

- Although proponents of the Bill highlight that firearm suppressors and silencers do not completely ‘silence’ a gunshot, several public safety concerns required the enactment of strict federal regulation in the 1930s which have been maintained since. The Center for American Progress notes that:
 - Shots fired using a silencer can make it difficult to pinpoint a shooter’s exact location, creating a significant challenge for law enforcement officers and the general public during an active shooting.
 - The average citizen cannot discern a gunshot made with a silencer the same way they’d be able to recognize and react to typical gunfire.
 - Suppressors/silencers can also reduce recoil and muzzle flip allowing for more accurate and faster follow-up shots. This creates the potential for a more accurate and lethal shooting.
 - (Center for American Progress, 2017).
 - Silencers can also create the impression that gunfire is coming from the opposite direction which could create a significant hazard for law enforcement and other first responders (Violence Policy Center, 2019).
 - In my opinion, the use of firearm suppressors have the potential to embolden criminal behavior– especially if it is not common knowledge that suppressors are unable to completely silence gunfire.

- Proponents of legislation such as this also like to point out data which shows that firearm suppressors/silencers have not been heavily used in crime across the U.S. However, they ignore that this can be attributed to the highly strict federal regulation of these firearm accessories. Federal regulation requires all suppressors/silencers and parts to be registered, individuals must apply to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (AFT) in order to purchase silencers which would require fingerprints, passport photos, a \$200 tax, and a notification to local law enforcement (American Suppressor Association). According to the Violence Policy Center, “since 1934, the strict regulations

contained in the National Firearms Act (NFA) have worked to limit crimes committed with silencers. Recognizing this, silencers should remain regulated under the NFA. Making these weapons available to the general public with far fewer restrictions **will ensure that their use in crime will increase**” (Violence Policy Center, 2017).

- Although Bill 27-38 (COR) requires that the ownership or use of suppressors/silencers comply with applicable federal laws, there have been several attempts by gun lobbyists and U.S. legislators to weaken or dismantle federal regulations for firearm suppressors. If any of these Bills were to pass in the U.S. Congress, then this Section of 27-38 (COR) would be rendered completely useless, would not provide any safeguards for the public in the form of preventative regulations, and would remove Guam’s ability to implement taxes for the purchase of suppressors.
 - U.S. lawmakers introduced the “Silencers Help Us Save Hearing (SHUSH) Act” this past January. This Bill aims to deregulate suppressors and remove them from under the purview of the NFA, in order to:
 - Make ownership easier and cheaper (by removing the \$200 tax); and
 - Erase all federal, local, and state restrictions on suppressors, including record-keeping, marking, and registration laws.
 - **Similar Bills have been introduced in 2019, 2021, and July 2024** (Pew Pew Tactical, 2025).
- According to the Center for American Progress:
 - “There are currently a wide variety of hearing protection devices available to hunters and sport shooters, including sophisticated earpieces that simultaneously enhance and protect hearing, enabling users to listen carefully to their surroundings while maintaining a high level of protection from high impact sounds.

- These hearing protection devices are just as effective as silencers at reducing the noise of gunshots and do not pose any risk to public safety.
- Silencers offer noise reduction in the range of 20 decibels to 35 decibels, while many types of earplugs and earmuffs available to hunters and recreational shooters offer noise reduction in the range of 20 decibels to 37 decibels. When combining methods of hearing protection, such as earplugs and earmuffs, it is possible to have a sound reduction range even higher than that of a silencer” (Center for American Progress, 2017).
- Finally, Bill No. 73-36 (COR), otherwise known as the “Hearing Protection Act of 2021” was introduced in the 36th Guam Legislature. It was passed by the Legislature but was ultimately vetoed by the Governor due to concerns over public safety.

It is my hope that the 38th Guam Legislature takes my testimony into account and opposes Bill No. 27-38 (COR) as it is written. Considering moves in the U.S. to deregulate suppressors and silencers, it would be irresponsible to authorize the general use of them in Guåhan- especially for civilian use. If the body feels it is pertinent to pass this Bill, then I highly suggest that it be amended to only allow for the use of suppressors by law enforcement at gun ranges specifically and for licensed hunters. Otherwise, I stand in opposition to this Bill.

Si yu’os ma’åse,
Ariana Millard

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Gumas, E. et al. (2024). “Comparing Deaths from Gun Violence in the U.S. with Other Countries.” *The Commonwealth Fund*.

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