

***I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN***  
**Informational Briefing/Hearing/ Oversight Hearing / Roundtable Hearing**

STANDING COMMITTEE / SENATOR	HEARING	COMMITTEE REPORT	HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement.	Roundtable Hearing	Digital Committee Report on the Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act	1/8/26 9:00 a.m.	3/20/26	



OFFICE OF SENATOR  
*Telo T. Taitague*  
CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory  
Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Ste. 407 DNA Building  
2238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
(671) 989-8356  
senatortelot@gmail.com

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

March 12, 2026

**The Honorable Frank F. Blas Jr.**

**Speaker**

*I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

Guam Congress Building

163 Chalan Santo Papa

*Hagåtña*, Guam 96910

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

**RE: Committee Report on the Roundtable hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act**

*Buenas yan Håfa adai*, Speaker Blas,

Pursuant to Section 11.07 (a) on Roundtable Hearings, transmitted herewith is the Committee Report from the Thursday, January 8, 2026 Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act convened by the Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Sincerely,



**TELO T. TAITAGUE**  
Chairperson



COMMITTEE ON RULES

**RECEIVED:**

March 12, 2026 5:11 p.m.

*Marie Crisostomo*



OFFICE OF SENATOR

*Telo T. Taitague*

CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory  
Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

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

## COMMITTEE REPORT

### **Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act**

Thursday, January 8, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

- a. **Cannabis Control Board Responsibilities-** Statutory monthly meeting requirements; Enforcement and prosecution responsibilities under the Cannabis Industry Act; Adoption of regulations necessary for the development of a hemp program; Annual reporting obligations; Status of Cannabis Control Board member terms and cannabis summit efforts.
- b. **Status Update on Program Implementation-** Current licensing activity; Interagency coordination; Laboratory license application status; Seed-to-sale agreement with METRC; Banking considerations.
- c. **Barriers to Program Implementation-** Regulatory and licensing challenges; Enforcement coordination; Zoning, financing, and business feasibility; Hemp program development alignment.



OFFICE OF SENATOR  
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*I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guâhan • 38th Guam Legislature*

March 12, 2026

**MEMORANDUM:**

**TO:** **All Members**  
*Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory  
Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement*

**FROM:** **Senator Telo T. Taitague**  
Committee Chairperson

**SUBJECT:** Committee Report on January 8, 2026 Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act

Transmitted herewith for your consideration is the Committee Report on the January 8, 2026 Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act.

This report includes the following:

- Public Notices of Roundtable Hearing
- Copy of Roundtable Hearing Agenda
- Roundtable Hearing Sign-in Sheet
- Copies of Submitted Testimony and Related Documents
- Committee Report Digest

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.

*Si Yu'os ma'åse'!*

**Senator Telo T. Taitague**  
Chairperson



Senator Telo Taitague &lt;senatortelot@gmail.com&gt;

## FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing – Thursday, January 8, 2026 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

2 messages

Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>

30 December 2025 at 09:47

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov

Cc: Ed Pocaigue &lt;sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov&gt;

Bcc: Rowena Fejeran &lt;senatortelot.rowena@gmail.com&gt;, senatortelot.charissa@gmail.com, Alana Ungacta &lt;senatortelot.alana@gmail.com&gt;, Isah Peredo &lt;senatortelot.isah@gmail.com&gt;

December 30, 2025

### MEMORANDUM

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

**From:** Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson

**Subject:** FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing – Thursday, January 8, 2026 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

*Håfa Adai!*

Please be advised that the *Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement* will conduct a public hearing on Thursday, January 8, 2026 beginning at 8:30 a.m., in the Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room. The Committee will hear and accept testimonies on the following agenda items:

#### 8:30 a.m.:

**I. Bill No. 245-38 (COR)-** Introduced by Telo T. Taitague- “An Act to Amend Section 3 of Public Law 37-116, Relative to Extending the Sunset Provision for the Temporary Exemption of Cannabis Laboratory Testing Requirements from Two (2) Years to Five (5) Years After the Date of Enactment.”

#### 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.:

#### **II. Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act**

a. **Cannabis Control Board Responsibilities-** Statutory monthly meeting requirements; Enforcement and prosecution responsibilities under the Cannabis Industry Act; Adoption of regulations necessary for the development of a hemp program; Annual reporting obligations; Status of

- Cannabis Control Board member terms and cannabis summit efforts.
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If you are interested in participating in the Public Hearing to provide testimony, please contact the Office of Senator Telo T. Taitague at [senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com) or call (671) 989-8356. Testimony and other documents related to the agenda items can be viewed at: [Thursday, January 8, 2026, 830AM\\_Shared Public Hearing Drive File](#). The drive file is periodically updated as testimony is received.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals requiring assistance or accommodation, including virtual attendance via Zoom, should contact the Office of Senator Telo T. Taitague at (671) 989-8356 or email [senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com).

The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117, and stream online via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/@GuamLegislatureMedia/streams>.

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***Si Yu'os Ma'åse,***

***Create a Great Day!***

*Senator Telo T. Taitague*  
38th Guam Legislature

**Chairperson**


**Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement**


Suite 407 DNA Building  
238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
Tel: (671) 989-8356

Email: [senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com)

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**2 attachments**

 **FIRST NOTICE\_01.08.26 Public Hearing.pdf**  
343K

 **Bill No. 245-38 (COR)-2.pdf**  
722K

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**Ed Pocaigue** <[sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov)>  
To: Senator Telo Taitague <[senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com)>

30 December 2025 at 09:51

Hafa Adai,

Posted on calendar.

[Quoted text hidden]



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

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

 1-671-969-3514

 [sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov)

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OFFICE OF SENATOR  
*Telo T. Taitague*  
CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory  
Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

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

December 30, 2025

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** All Senators, Stakeholders and Media  
**From:** Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson  
**Subject:** **FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing – Thursday, January 8, 2026 beginning at 8:30 a.m.**

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**9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.:**

- II. **Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act**
  - a. **Cannabis Control Board Responsibilities-** Statutory monthly meeting requirements; Enforcement and prosecution responsibilities under the Cannabis Industry Act; Adoption of regulations necessary for the development of a hemp program; Annual reporting obligations; Status of Cannabis Control Board member terms and cannabis summit efforts.
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# FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing – Thursday, January 8, 2026 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

## FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing – Thursday, January 8, 2026 beginning at 8:30 a.m.



### PUBLIC HEARING

**Posted on:** 12/30/2025 09:31 AM

**Posted by:** Charissa Manibusan, Committee Director

**Public Hearing Date:** 01/08/2026 08:30 AM

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

**Division(s):**  
OFFICE OF SENATOR TELO TAITAGUE (/notices?division\_id=282)

**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**

December 30, 2025

### MEMORANDUM

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

**From:** Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson

**Subject:** FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing – Thursday, January 8, 2026 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

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**([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th\\_Guam\\_Legislature/Bills\\_Introduced\\_38th/Bill%20No.%20245-38%20\(COR\).pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20245-38%20(COR).pdf))** Introduced by Telo T. Taitague- "An Act to Amend Section 3 of Public Law 37-116, Relative to Extending the Sunset Provision for the Temporary Exemption of Cannabis Laboratory Testing Requirements from Two (2) Years to Five (5) Years After the Date of Enactment."

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**(mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com)** or call (671) 989-8356.

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be viewed at: [Thursday, January 8, 2026, 8:30AM - Shared Public Hearing Drive File](#)

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1n\\_gyMNMsvPvcvv4EsVPYAk3dUmt58MMq?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1n_gyMNMsvPvcvv4EsVPYAk3dUmt58MMq?usp=sharing)). The drive file is periodically updated as testimony is received.

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Senator Telo Taitague &lt;senatortelot@gmail.com&gt;

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**SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing – Thursday, January 8, 2026 beginning at 8:30 a.m.**

1 message

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**Senator Telo Taitague** <senatortelot@gmail.com>

6 January 2026 at 06:57

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov

Cc: Ed Pocaigue &lt;sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov&gt;

Bcc: senatortelot.charissa@gmail.com, Rowena Fejeran &lt;senatortelot.rowena@gmail.com&gt;, Alana Ungacta &lt;senatortelot.alana@gmail.com&gt;, Isah Peredo &lt;senatortelot.isah@gmail.com&gt;

January 6, 2026

**MEMORANDUM****To:** All Senators, Stakeholders and Media**From:** Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson**Subject:** **SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing – Thursday, January 8, 2026 beginning at 8:30 a.m.***Håfa Adai!*

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***Si Yu'os Ma'åse,***

***Create a Great Day!***

*Senator Telo T. Taitague*  
38th Guam Legislature


**Chairperson**


**Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement**

Suite 407 DNA Building  
238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
Tel: (671) 989-8356  
Email: [senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com)

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**3 attachments**

 **Bill No. 245-38 (COR).pdf**  
722K

 **SECOND NOTICE\_01.08.26 Public Hearing.pdf**  
343K

 **12.23.25\_FN\_WAIVER\_B245-38 (COR).pdf**  
1058K



OFFICE OF SENATOR  
*Telo T. Taitague*  
CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory  
Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

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senortelot@gmail.com

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

January 6, 2026

**MEMORANDUM**

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

**From:** Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson

**Subject:** **SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing – Thursday, January 8, 2026 beginning at 8:30 a.m.**

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## SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing – Thursday, January 8, 2026 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

## SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing – Thursday, January 8, 2026 beginning at 8:30 a.m.



### PUBLIC HEARING

- Posted on:** 01/06/2026 06:49 AM
- Posted by:** Charissa Manibusan, Committee Director
- Public Hearing Date:** 01/08/2026 08:30 AM
- Department(s):** GUAM LEGISLATURE (/notices?department\_id=92)
- Division(s):** OFFICE OF SENATOR TELO TAITAGUE (/notices?division\_id=282)
- 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**

January 6, 2026

### MEMORANDUM

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

**From:** Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson

**Subject:** SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing – Thursday, January 8, 2026 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

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I.

#### Bill No. 245-38

(COR)-

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th\\_Guam\\_Legislature/Bills\\_Introduced\\_38th/Bill%20No.%20245-38%20\(COR\).pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20245-38%20(COR).pdf))  
 Introduced by Telo T. Taitague- “An Act to Amend Section 3 of Public Law 37-116, Relative to Extending the Sunset Provision for the Temporary Exemption of Cannabis Laboratory Testing Requirements from Two (2) Years to Five (5) Years After the Date of Enactment.”

#### 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.:

II.

\_\_\_\_\_

Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

a.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cannabis Control Board Responsibilities- Statutory monthly meeting requirements; Enforcement and prosecution responsibilities under the Cannabis Industry Act; Adoption of regulations necessary for the development of a hemp program; Annual reporting obligations; Status of Cannabis Control Board member terms and cannabis summit efforts.**

\_\_\_\_\_

b.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Status Update on Program Implementation- Current licensing activity; Interagency coordination; Laboratory license application status; Seed-to-sale agreement with METRC; Banking considerations.**

\_\_\_\_\_

c.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Barriers to Program Implementation- Regulatory and licensing challenges; Enforcement coordination; Zoning, financing, and business feasibility; Hemp program development alignment.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you are interested in participating in the Public Hearing to provide testimony, please contact the Office of Senator Telo T. Taitague at [senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com) (<mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com>) or call (671) 989-8356. Testimony and other documents related to the agenda items can be viewed at: **Thursday, January 8, 2026, 830AM Shared Public Hearing Drive File** ([https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1n\\_gyMNMsvPvcv4EsVPYAk3dUmt58MMq?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1n_gyMNMsvPvcv4EsVPYAk3dUmt58MMq?usp=sharing)). The drive file is periodically updated as testimony is received.

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The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117, and stream online via *Liheslaturan Guåhan*'s live feed on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/@GuamLegislatureMedia/streams> (<https://www.youtube.com/@GuamLegislatureMedia/streams>).

A recording of the hearing will be available online via the Guam Legislature Media YouTube Channel after the hearing. Notices for this public hearing are published on KUAM TV, and the Government of Guam Public Notice Portal:



PO BOX 368, HAGATNA, GUAM 96932  
 T. +1 671.637.KUAM  
 F. +1 671.637.9865

<b>New Order</b>	<b>Revised/Add-On</b>	<b>Info. Update</b>
Office of Senator Telo Taitague - 38th Guam		
<b>Advertiser Name</b>	Legislature	
<b>Address</b>	Suite 407 DNA Bldg; 238 Archbishop Flores St. Hagatna, Guam 96910	
<b>Point of Contact</b>	Charissa Manibusan	

Order Number	_____
Order Entry Date	_____
Customer PO #	<b>2638PO003</b>
Product Code	_____
<b>RECEIVABLES ACCOUNT</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cash	<input type="checkbox"/> Trade <input type="checkbox"/> Other
<b>ORDER DESCRIPTION</b>	
_____	
<b>PRODUCTION INFORMATION</b>	
Cart #	Title: _____ Length: _____
_____	_____
_____	_____

<b>FOR INTERNAL PURPOSES ONLY</b>		<b>Media Consultant</b>	_____ <i>Christie SA</i>
<b>Notary Required</b>	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		
<b>Billing</b>	Per Spot <input type="checkbox"/> Package <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Trade</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Station	Inc Acct	Rate	Start Date	End Date	AbsTime/Prog. Event	Length	Spot Type	Cart #	M	T	W	TH	F	SA	SU	Per Wk	Total #	Total \$
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<b>KUAM TV</b>																		
1x :15 Second Commercial on TV8 or TV11 from 7am - 5:59pm - First Notice <b>(Air date:12/30/25)</b>																		
1x :15 Second Commercial on TV8 or TV11 from 7am - 5:59pm - First Notice (KUAM Match)																		
1x :15 Second Commercial on TV8 or TV11 from 7am - 5:59pm - Second Notice <b>(Air date: 01/06/26)</b>																		
1x :15 Second Commercial on TV8 or TV11 from 7am - 5:59pm - Second Notice (KUAM Match)																		
1x :15 Second TV Production (text and music bed only)																		
<b>Shelf# &amp; Title: 189U – Public Hearing 010826</b>																		
<b>Contract for Public Hearing on January 08, 202; 1st and 2nd Notice</b>																		

<b>MONTHLY TOTALS</b>										<b>SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS</b>					<b>ORDER TOTALS</b>					
Jan	_____	Feb	_____	Mar	_____	Apr	_____	May	_____	June	_____						Total Spots	_____	PKG	_____
July	_____	Aug	_____	Sep	_____	Oct	_____	Nov	_____	Dec	<b>500</b>						Total Dollars	<b>\$</b>	<b>500.00</b>	

**TV COMMERCIAL FORMAT:** We ask that all commercials be formatted to originate in HD 1920x1080 and conform to a 4x3 pillar for Title Safe dimensions for graphics. These will be downconverted on our SD channels. Should a commercial spot be produced in SD, it should be formatted in 720x486 DI format resolution and will be upconverted on HD Channels (DOCOMO 608 and 611).

**RESTRICTIONS:** 48-hour deadline is KUAM's quality control to ensure that your advertisement airing meets the highest standards. If there is a rush, KUAM is not responsible for quality and standard concerns on behalf of the client.

**PAYMENT IS DUE UPON RECEIPT OF NOTICE.** In the event of cancellation of this contract prior to its scheduled expiration date and/or failure to remit payment of invoice[s] within 60 days of invoice date, all spots that have run prior to the cancellation date and/or schedules adhered to will be billed at the Rate Card. Client understands and agrees that a finance charge of 10% per month shall accrue on all accounts remaining unpaid one (1) month after invoice date. Client agrees to pay a USD\$25.00 service fee per returned check. There will be a 5% surcharge for all credit card transactions. If payment is not made as required, KUAM may, its option, without notice or demand payment, declare Client's credit account in default, in which case Client's entire balance[s] that are due and payable will be forwarded for collection. Client agrees to accept all consequences and to pay all costs, including attorney's fees, court fees, court costs and other expenses incurred as deemed necessary by KUAM to settle the account.

**NON DISCRIMINATION CLAUSE:** KUAM/Pacific Telestations, LLC does not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity in the placement, scheduling and completion of purchase of advertising. Any order for advertising that includes any such restriction will not be accepted.

*CD Manibusan*

ACCEPTED BY CLIENT

*Christie San Agustin*

ACCEPTED BY STATION

OFFICE OF SENATOR



*Telo T. Taitague*

**CHAIRWOMAN**

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations,  
Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Ste. 407 DNA Building  
238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
(671) 989-8356  
senatortelot@gmail.com

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

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**Guam Legislature, Public Hearing Room**

**Thursday, January 8, 2026 beginning at 8:30 a.m.**

**AGENDA**

The Committee will hear and accept testimony on the following:

**8:30 a.m.**

**I. Bill No. 245-38 (COR)-** Introduced by Telo T. Taitague- "An Act to Amend Section 3 of Public Law 37-116, Relative to Extending the Sunset Provision for the Temporary Exemption of Cannabis Laboratory Testing Requirements from Two (2) Years to Five (5) Years After the Date of Enactment."



OFFICE OF SENATOR

*Telo T. Taitague*

CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations,  
Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Ste. 407 DNA Building  
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Hagatna, Guam 96910  
(671) 989-8356  
senatortelot@gmail.com

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

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
Guam Legislature, Public Hearing Room  
Thursday, January 8, 2026 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

## AGENDA

The Committee will hear and accept testimony on the following:

### **II. Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act**

**A. Cannabis Control Board Responsibilities- Statutory monthly meeting requirements; Enforcement and prosecution responsibilities under the Cannabis Industry Act; Adoption of regulations necessary for the development of a hemp program; Annual reporting obligations; Status of Cannabis Control Board member terms and cannabis summit efforts.**



OFFICE OF SENATOR

*Telo J. Taitague*

CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations,  
Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Ste. 407 DNA Building  
238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
(671) 989-8356  
senatortelot@gmail.com

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

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
Guam Legislature, Public Hearing Room  
Thursday, January 8, 2026 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

## AGENDA

The Committee will hear and accept testimony on the following:

**B. Status Update on Program Implementation- Current licensing activity; Interagency coordination; Laboratory license application status; Seed-to-sale agreement with METRC; Banking considerations.**

**C. Barriers to Program Implementation- Regulatory and licensing challenges; Enforcement coordination; Zoning, financing, and business feasibility; Hemp program development alignment.**



OFFICE OF SENATOR

*Telo T. Taitague*

CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations,  
Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

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Hagatna, Guam 96910  
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senatortelot@gmail.com

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

If you are interested in participating in the Public Hearing to provide testimony, please contact the Office of Senator Telo T. Taitague via electronic mail at [senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com) or call (671) 989-8356.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals requiring assistance of accommodation should contact the Office of Senator Telo T. Taitague at (671) 989-8356 or email [senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com).

The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117, and stream online via I Liheslaturan Guahan's live feed on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@GuamLegislatureMedia/streams>. A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing.

*This ad is paid for by legislature funds.*



Senator Telo Taitague &lt;senatortelot@gmail.com&gt;

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## Invitation to Public Hearing, Thursday, January 8, 2026: Bill No. 245-38 and Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable Hearing

4 messages

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**Senator Telo Taitague** <senatortelot@gmail.com>

22 December 2025 at 10:04

To: "Marie P. Lizama" &lt;marie.lizama@revtax.guam.gov&gt;, "Michael S. San Agustin" &lt;Michael.SanAgustin@revtax.guam.gov&gt;

Cc: senatortelot.charissa@gmail.com, Andrea Pellacani &lt;senatortelot.andrea@gmail.com&gt;, Alana Ungacta &lt;senatortelot.alana@gmail.com&gt;, Isah Peredo &lt;senatortelot.isah@gmail.com&gt;

Hafa adai Director Lizama,

Please see the attached invitation from Senator Taitague to a public hearing on **Thursday, January 8, 2026 on Bill No. 245-38 and a Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act.** Please kindly confirm receipt of this email, and DRT attendance, at your earliest convenience.

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse,*

**Create a Great Day!**

*Senator Telo T. Taitague*

38th Guam Legislature

**Chairperson**

**Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement**

Suite 407 DNA Building  
238 Archbishop Flores St.

Hagatna, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 989-8356

Email: [senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com)

---

### 2 attachments



**Bill No. 245-38 (COR).pdf**

722K



**DRT Invitation- Bil 245-38 and Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable.pdf**

249K

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**Senator Telo Taitague** <senatortelot@gmail.com>

5 January 2026 at 13:21

To: "Marie P. Lizama" &lt;marie.lizama@revtax.guam.gov&gt;, "Michael S. San Agustin" &lt;Michael.SanAgustin@revtax.guam.gov&gt;

Cc: senatortelot.charissa@gmail.com, Andrea Pellacani &lt;senatortelot.andrea@gmail.com&gt;, Alana Ungacta



OFFICE OF SENATOR

*Telo T. Taitague*

CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations,  
Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Ste. 407 DNA Building  
238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
(671) 989-8356  
senatortelot@gmail.com

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

December 22, 2025

**Transmitted via Electronic Mail**

Marie P. Lizama, Director  
Department of Revenue and Taxation  
[Marie.lizama@revtax.guam.gov](mailto:Marie.lizama@revtax.guam.gov)

**Subject: Invitation to provide testimony at the Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable**

*Hafa Adai* Director Lizama,

This letter is to notify you that the Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections and Retirement has set a public hearing on **Thursday, January 8, 2026 in the Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing room** for the following agenda item:

**8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.**

- I. **Bill No. 237-38 (COR)**- Introduced by Telo T. Taitague, Therese M. Terlaje, Chris Barnett, Shelly V. Calvo, Sabina Flores Perez - "An Act to Add a New Chapter 8, Division 1, Title 17, Guam Administrative Rules and Regulations, Relative to the Department of Labor Promulgation of Rules and Regulations for the Implementation and Enforcement of the Guam Registered Apprenticeship Program Pursuant to Public Law 35-39."
- II. **Bill No. 245-38 (COR)**- Introduced by Telo T. Taitague- "An Act to Amend Section 3 of Public Law 37-116, Relative to Extending the Sunset Provision for the Temporary Exemption of Cannabis Laboratory Testing Requirements from Two (2) Years to Five (5) Years After the Date of Enactment."

**9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.:**

- III. **Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act**
  - a. Cannabis Control Board Responsibilities- Statutory monthly meeting requirements; Enforcement and prosecution responsibilities under the Cannabis Industry Act; Adoption of regulations necessary for the development of a hemp

- program; Annual reporting obligations; Status of Cannabis Control Board member terms and cannabis summit efforts.
- b. Status Update on Program Implementation- Current licensing activity; Interagency coordination; Laboratory license application status; Seed-to-sale agreement with METRC; Banking considerations.
  - c. Barriers to Program Implementation- Regulatory and licensing challenges; Enforcement coordination; Zoning, financing, and business feasibility; Hemp program development alignment.

In preparation for this roundtable, the Committee respectfully requests the following information be provided no later than Tuesday, December 30, 2025:

**Cannabis Control Board Membership and Terms**

- A current roster of all Cannabis Control Board members, including appointed members and agency designees, with contact information for the purpose of extending invitations to the roundtable;
- Term start and end dates for all appointed members; and
- Identification of any vacant, expired, or holdover positions.

**Certified Responsible Officials**

- A list of all individuals currently certified or approved as Responsible Officials under the Cannabis Industry Act, including their associated applicant entities and contact information, for the purpose of extending invitations to participate in the roundtable.

The Committee appreciates your feedback on Bill No. 245-38 (COR), and looks forward to your participation in the roundtable discussion.

Should your office have materials, data, or written testimony relevant to the agenda topics, we encourage you to submit them in advance for inclusion in the official hearing record.

*Si Yu'os Ma'ãse'* for your continued collaboration and service to our community.

Respectfully



***Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson***



Senator Telo Taitague &lt;senatortelot@gmail.com&gt;

---

**Guam EPA Invitation to Public Hearing, Thursday, January 8, 2026: Bill No. 245-38 and Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable Hearing**

4 messages

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**Senator Telo Taitague** <senatortelot@gmail.com>  
To: michelle.lastimoza@epa.guam.gov

22 December 2025 at 11:09

Hafa adai Administrator Lastimoza,

Please see the attached invitation from Senator Taitague to a public hearing on **Thursday, January 8, 2026 on Bill No. 245-38 and a Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act.** Please kindly confirm receipt of this email, and DRT attendance, at your earliest convenience.

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse,*

***Create a Great Day!***

*Senator Telo T. Taitague*  
38th Guam Legislature

**Chairperson**

**Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement**

Suite 407 DNA Building  
238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
Tel: (671) 989-8356  
Email: [senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com)

---

**2 attachments**



**Guam EPA Invitation- Bil 245-38 and Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable.pdf**  
739K



**Bill No. 245-38 (COR).pdf**  
722K

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**Michelle Lastimoza** <michelle.lastimoza@epa.guam.gov>

22 December 2025 at 11:15

To: Senator Telo Taitague &lt;senatortelot@gmail.com&gt;

Cc: Glenn San Nicolas &lt;glenn.sannicolas@epa.guam.gov&gt;, Arlene Acfalle &lt;arlene.acfalle@epa.guam.gov&gt;

Good morning, Senator.



OFFICE OF SENATOR

*Telo T. Taitague*

CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations,  
Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Ste. 407 DNA Building  
238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
(671) 989-8356  
senatortelot@gmail.com

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

December 22, 2025

**Transmitted via Electronic Mail**

Michelle Lastimoza, Administrator,  
Guam Environmental Protection Agency  
[michelle.lastimoza@epa.guam.gov](mailto:michelle.lastimoza@epa.guam.gov)

**Subject: Invitation to provide testimony at the Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable**

*Hafa Adai* Administrator Lastimoza,

This letter is to notify you that the Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections and Retirement has set a public hearing on **Thursday, January 8, 2026 in the Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing room** for the following agenda item:

~~8:00~~ **8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.**

- I. ~~Bill No. 237-38 (COR)- Introduced by Telo T. Taitague, Therese M. Terlaje, Chris Barnett, Shelly V. Calvo, Sabina Flores Perez— “An Act to Add a New Chapter 8, Division 1, Title 17, Guam Administrative Rules and Regulations, Relative to the Department of Labor Promulgation of Rules and Regulations for the Implementation and Enforcement of the Guam Registered Apprenticeship Program Pursuant to Public Law 35-39.”~~ **POSTPONED**
- II. **Bill No. 245-38 (COR)-** Introduced by Telo T. Taitague- “An Act to Amend Section 3 of Public Law 37-116, Relative to Extending the Sunset Provision for the Temporary Exemption of Cannabis Laboratory Testing Requirements from Two (2) Years to Five (5) Years After the Date of Enactment.”

**9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.:**

- III. **Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act**
  - a. Cannabis Control Board Responsibilities- Statutory monthly meeting requirements; Enforcement and prosecution responsibilities under the Cannabis Industry Act; Adoption of regulations necessary for the development of a hemp program; Annual reporting obligations; Status of Cannabis Control Board member terms and cannabis summit efforts.

- b. Status Update on Program Implementation- Current licensing activity; Interagency coordination; Laboratory license application status; Seed-to-sale agreement with METRC; Banking considerations.
- c. Barriers to Program Implementation- Regulatory and licensing challenges; Enforcement coordination; Zoning, financing, and business feasibility; Hemp program development alignment.

In preparation for this roundtable, the Committee respectfully requests the following information be provided no later than Tuesday, December 30, 2025:

**Cannabis Control Board Membership and Terms**

- A current roster of all Cannabis Control Board members, including appointed members and agency designees, with contact information for the purpose of extending invitations to the roundtable;
- Term start and end dates for all appointed members; and
- Identification of any vacant, expired, or holdover positions.

**Certified Responsible Officials**

- A list of all individuals currently certified or approved as Responsible Officials under the Cannabis Industry Act, including their associated applicant entities and contact information, for the purpose of extending invitations to participate in the roundtable.

The Committee appreciates your feedback on Bill No. 245-38 (COR), and looks forward to your participation in the roundtable discussion.

Should your office have materials, data, or written testimony relevant to the agenda topics, we encourage you to submit them in advance for inclusion in the official hearing record.

*Si Yu'os Ma'ãse'* for your continued collaboration and service to our community.

Respectfully,



***Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson***



Senator Telo Taitague &lt;senatortelot@gmail.com&gt;

---

## DPHSS Invitation to Public Hearing, Thursday, January 8, 2026: Bill No. 245-38 and Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable Hearing

5 messages

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**Senator Telo Taitague** <senatortelot@gmail.com>

22 December 2025 at 11:04

To: "Theresa C. Arriola" &lt;Theresa.c.arriola@dphss.guam.gov&gt;

Cc: Joaquin Blaz &lt;Joaquin.Blaz@dphss.guam.gov&gt;, "Peter John D. Camacho" &lt;peterjohn.camacho@dphss.guam.gov&gt;, "Amanda L. Shelton" &lt;Amanda.Shelton@dphss.guam.gov&gt;, Heidi Quinata &lt;Heidi.Quinata@dphss.guam.gov&gt;

Hafa adai Director Arriola,

Please see the attached invitation from Senator Taitague to a public hearing on **Thursday, January 8, 2026 on Bill No. 245-38 and a Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act.** Please kindly confirm receipt of this email, and DPHSS's attendance, at your earliest convenience.

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse,*

**Create a Great Day!**

*Senator Telo T. Taitague*

38th Guam Legislature

**Chairperson**

**Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement**

Suite 407 DNA Building  
238 Archbishop Flores St.

Hagatna, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 989-8356

Email: [senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com)

---

### 2 attachments



**Bill No. 245-38 (COR).pdf**

722K



**DPHSS Invitation - Bil 245-38 and Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable.pdf**

361K

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**Senator Telo Taitague** <senatortelot@gmail.com>

22 December 2025 at 13:54

To: "Theresa C. Arriola" &lt;Theresa.c.arriola@dphss.guam.gov&gt;

Cc: Joaquin Blaz &lt;Joaquin.Blaz@dphss.guam.gov&gt;, "Peter John D. Camacho" &lt;peterjohn.camacho@dphss.guam.gov&gt;, "Amanda L. Shelton" &lt;Amanda.Shelton@dphss.guam.gov&gt;, Heidi Quinata &lt;Heidi.Quinata@dphss.guam.gov&gt;



OFFICE OF SENATOR

*Telo T. Taitague*

CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations,  
Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Ste. 407 DNA Building  
238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
(671) 989-8356  
senatortelot@gmail.com

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

December 22, 2025

**Transmitted via Electronic Mail**

Theresa Arriola, Director,  
Department of Public Health and Social Services  
[Theresa.c.arriola@dphss.guam.gov](mailto:Theresa.c.arriola@dphss.guam.gov)

**Subject: Invitation to provide testimony at the Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable**

*Hafa Adai* Director Arriola,

This letter is to notify you that the Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections and Retirement has set a public hearing on **Thursday, January 8, 2026 in the Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing room** for the following agenda item:

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**9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.:**

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Should your office have materials, data, or written testimony relevant to the agenda topics, we encourage you to submit them in advance for inclusion in the official hearing record.

*Si Yu'os Ma'ãse'* for your continued collaboration and service to our community.

Respectfully,



***Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson***



Senator Telo Taitague &lt;senatortelot@gmail.com&gt;

---

**DLM Invitation to Public Hearing, Thursday, January 8, 2026: Bill No. 245-38 and Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable Hearing**

4 messages

---

**Senator Telo Taitague** <senatortelot@gmail.com>  
To: dlmdir@land.guam.gov

22 December 2025 at 11:09

Hafa adai Director Borja,

Please see the attached invitation from Senator Taitague to a public hearing on **Thursday, January 8, 2026 on Bill No. 245-38 and a Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act.** Please kindly confirm receipt of this email, and DRT attendance, at your earliest convenience.

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse,*

***Create a Great Day!***

*Senator Telo T. Taitague*  
38th Guam Legislature

**Chairperson**


**Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement**

Suite 407 DNA Building  
238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
Tel: (671) 989-8356  
Email: [senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com)

---

**2 attachments**

 **DLM Invitation- Bil 245-38 and Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable.pdf**  
739K

 **Bill No. 245-38 (COR).pdf**  
722K

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**Senator Telo Taitague** <senatortelot@gmail.com>  
To: dlmdir@land.guam.gov

22 December 2025 at 14:03

Hafa Adai Director Borja,



OFFICE OF SENATOR

*Telo T. Taitague*

CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations,  
Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Ste. 407 DNA Building  
238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
(671) 989-8356  
senatortelot@gmail.com

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

December 22, 2025

**Transmitted via Electronic Mail**

Joseph M. Borja, Director,  
Department of Land Management  
[dlmdir@land.guam.gov](mailto:dlmdir@land.guam.gov)

**Subject: Invitation to provide testimony at the Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable**

*Hafa Adai* Director Borja,

This letter is to notify you that the Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections and Retirement has set a public hearing on **Thursday, January 8, 2026 in the Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing room** for the following agenda item:

~~8:00~~ **8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.**

- I. ~~Bill No. 237-38 (COR)- Introduced by Telo T. Taitague, Therese M. Terlaje, Chris Barnett, Shelly V. Calvo, Sabina Flores Perez— “An Act to Add a New Chapter 8, Division 1, Title 17, Guam Administrative Rules and Regulations, Relative to the Department of Labor Promulgation of Rules and Regulations for the Implementation and Enforcement of the Guam Registered Apprenticeship Program Pursuant to Public Law 35-39.”~~ **POSTPONED**
- II. **Bill No. 245-38 (COR)-** Introduced by Telo T. Taitague- “An Act to Amend Section 3 of Public Law 37-116, Relative to Extending the Sunset Provision for the Temporary Exemption of Cannabis Laboratory Testing Requirements from Two (2) Years to Five (5) Years After the Date of Enactment.”

**9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.:**

- III. **Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act**
  - a. Cannabis Control Board Responsibilities- Statutory monthly meeting requirements; Enforcement and prosecution responsibilities under the Cannabis Industry Act; Adoption of regulations necessary for the development of a hemp program; Annual reporting obligations; Status of Cannabis Control Board member terms and cannabis summit efforts.

- b. Status Update on Program Implementation- Current licensing activity; Interagency coordination; Laboratory license application status; Seed-to-sale agreement with METRC; Banking considerations.
- c. Barriers to Program Implementation- Regulatory and licensing challenges; Enforcement coordination; Zoning, financing, and business feasibility; Hemp program development alignment.

In preparation for this roundtable, the Committee respectfully requests the following information be provided no later than Tuesday, December 30, 2025:

**Cannabis Control Board Membership and Terms**

- A current roster of all Cannabis Control Board members, including appointed members and agency designees, with contact information for the purpose of extending invitations to the roundtable;
- Term start and end dates for all appointed members; and
- Identification of any vacant, expired, or holdover positions.

**Certified Responsible Officials**

- A list of all individuals currently certified or approved as Responsible Officials under the Cannabis Industry Act, including their associated applicant entities and contact information, for the purpose of extending invitations to participate in the roundtable.

The Committee appreciates your feedback on Bill No. 245-38 (COR), and looks forward to your participation in the roundtable discussion.

Should your office have materials, data, or written testimony relevant to the agenda topics, we encourage you to submit them in advance for inclusion in the official hearing record.

*Si Yu'os Ma'ãse'* for your continued collaboration and service to our community.

Respectfully,



***Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson***



Senator Telo Taitague &lt;senatortelot@gmail.com&gt;

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**DoAg Invitation to Public Hearing, Thursday, January 8, 2026: Bill No. 245-38 and Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable Hearing**

6 messages

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**Senator Telo Taitague** <senatortelot@gmail.com>  
To: Chelsa Muna <chelsa.muna@doag.guam.gov>

22 December 2025 at 11:04

Hafa adai Director Muña,

Please see the attached invitation from Senator Taitague to a public hearing on **Thursday, January 8, 2026 on Bill No. 245-38 and a Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act.** Please kindly confirm receipt of this email, and DoAg's attendance, at your earliest convenience.

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse,****Create a Great Day!****Senator Telo T. Taitague*

38th Guam Legislature

**Chairperson****Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement**Suite 407 DNA Building  
238 Archbishop Flores St.

Hagatna, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 989-8356

Email: [senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com)

---

**2 attachments****Bill No. 245-38 (COR).pdf**

722K

**DoAg Invitation - Bil 245-38 and Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable.pdf**

375K

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**Senator Telo Taitague** <senatortelot@gmail.com>  
To: Chelsa Muna <chelsa.muna@doag.guam.gov>

22 December 2025 at 13:53

Hafa Adai Director Muña,



OFFICE OF SENATOR

*Telo T. Taitague*

CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations,  
Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Ste. 407 DNA Building  
238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
(671) 989-8356  
senatortelot@gmail.com

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

December 22, 2025

**Transmitted via Electronic Mail**

Chelsa Muña, Director, Department of Agriculture

[chelsa.muna@doag.guam.gov](mailto:chelsa.muna@doag.guam.gov)

**Subject: Invitation to provide testimony at the Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable**

*Hafa Adai* Director Muña,

This letter is to notify you that the Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections and Retirement has set a public hearing on **Thursday, January 8, 2026 in the Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing room** for the following agenda item:

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- a. Cannabis Control Board Responsibilities- Statutory monthly meeting requirements; Enforcement and prosecution responsibilities under the Cannabis Industry Act; Adoption of regulations necessary for the development of a hemp program; Annual reporting obligations; Status of Cannabis Control Board member

- terms and cannabis summit efforts.
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The Committee appreciates your feedback on Bill No. 245-38 (COR), and looks forward to your participation in the roundtable discussion.

Should your office have materials, data, or written testimony relevant to the agenda topics, we encourage you to submit them in advance for inclusion in the official hearing record.

*Si Yu'os Ma'âse'* for your continued collaboration and service to our community.

Respectfully,



***Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson***



Senator Telo Taitague &lt;senatortelot@gmail.com&gt;

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**GBHWC Invitation to Public Hearing, Thursday, January 8, 2026: Bill No. 245-38 and Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable Hearing**

5 messages

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Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>

22 December 2025 at 11:05

To: Carissa Pangelinan &lt;Carissa.Pangelinan@gbhwc.guam.gov&gt;

Hafa adai Director Pangelinan,

Please see the attached invitation from Senator Taitague to a public hearing on **Thursday, January 8, 2026 on Bill No. 245-38 and a Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act**. Please kindly confirm receipt of this email, and GBHWC's attendance, at your earliest convenience.

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse,***Create a Great Day!***Senator Telo T. Taitague*

38th Guam Legislature

**Chairperson****Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement**

Suite 407 DNA Building



238 Archbishop Flores St.

Hagatna, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 989-8356

Email: [senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com)

---

**2 attachments** **Bill No. 245-38 (COR).pdf**  
722K **GBHWC Invitation - Bil 245-38 and Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable.pdf**  
363K

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Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>

22 December 2025 at 13:55

To: Carissa Pangelinan &lt;Carissa.Pangelinan@gbhwc.guam.gov&gt;

Hafa Adai Director Pangelinan,

Please see the attached updated invitation. I kindly ask that you confirm receipt.

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse,***Create a Great Day!***Senator Telo T. Taitague*

38th Guam Legislature

**Chairperson**



OFFICE OF SENATOR

*Telo T. Taitague*

CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations,  
Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Ste. 407 DNA Building  
238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
(671) 989-8356  
senatortelot@gmail.com

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

December 22, 2025

**Transmitted via Electronic Mail**

Carissa Pangelinan, Director  
Guam Behavioral Health & Wellness Center  
[Carissa.Pangelinan@gbhwc.guam.gov](mailto:Carissa.Pangelinan@gbhwc.guam.gov)

**Subject: Invitation to provide testimony at the Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable**

*Hafa Adai* Director Pangelinan,

This letter is to notify you that the Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections and Retirement has set a public hearing on **Thursday, January 8, 2026 in the Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing room** for the following agenda item:

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**Certified Responsible Officials**

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The Committee appreciates your feedback on Bill No. 245-38 (COR), and looks forward to your participation in the roundtable discussion.

Should your office have materials, data, or written testimony relevant to the agenda topics, we encourage you to submit them in advance for inclusion in the official hearing record.

*Si Yu'os Ma'ãse'* for your continued collaboration and service to our community.

Respectfully,



***Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson***



Senator Telo Taitague &lt;senatortelot@gmail.com&gt;

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## GFD Invitation to Public Hearing, Thursday, January 8, 2026: Bill No. 245-38 and Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable Hearing

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Senator Telo Taitague &lt;senatortelot@gmail.com&gt;

22 December 2025 at 14:01

To: darren.burrier@gfd.guam.gov

Hafa Adai Chief Burrier,

Please see the attached updated invitation. I kindly ask that you confirm receipt.

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse,****Create a Great Day!****Senator Telo T. Taitague*

38th Guam Legislature

**Chairperson****Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement**Suite 407 DNA Building  
238 Archbishop Flores St.

Hagatna, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 989-8356

Email: [senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com)

[Quoted text hidden]

**GFD Invitation- Bil 245-38 and Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable.pdf**

740K



OFFICE OF SENATOR

*Telo T. Taitague*

CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations,  
Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Ste. 407 DNA Building  
238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
(671) 989-8356  
senatortelot@gmail.com

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

December 22, 2025

**Transmitted via Electronic Mail**

Darren D. Burrier, Fire Chief  
Guam Fire Department (GFD)  
[Darren.burrier@gfd.guam.gov](mailto:Darren.burrier@gfd.guam.gov)

**Subject: Invitation to provide testimony at the Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable**

*Hafa Adai* Chief Burrier,

This letter is to notify you that the Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections and Retirement has set a public hearing on **Thursday, January 8, 2026 in the Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing room** for the following agenda item:

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*Si Yu'os Ma'ãse'* for your continued collaboration and service to our community.

Respectfully,



***Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson***



Senator Telo Taitague &lt;senatortelot@gmail.com&gt;

---

**GPA Invitation to Public Hearing, Thursday, January 8, 2026: Bill No. 245-38 and Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable Hearing**

6 messages

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**Senator Telo Taitague** <senatortelot@gmail.com>  
To: John M Benavente <jbenavente@gpagwa.com>

22 December 2025 at 11:18

Hafa adai General Manager Benavente,

Please see the attached invitation from Senator Taitague to a public hearing on **Thursday, January 8, 2026 on Bill No. 245-38 and a Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act.** Please kindly confirm receipt of this email, and DRT attendance, at your earliest convenience.

***Si Yu'os Ma'åse,******Create a Great Day!****Senator Telo T. Taitague*  
38th Guam Legislature**Chairperson****Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement**Suite 407 DNA Building  
238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
Tel: (671) 989-8356  
Email: [senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com)

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**2 attachments****GPA Invitation- Bil 245-38 and Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable.pdf**

739K

**Bill No. 245-38 (COR).pdf**

722K

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**Senator Telo Taitague** <senatortelot@gmail.com>  
To: John M Benavente <jbenavente@gpagwa.com>

22 December 2025 at 13:58

Hafa Adai General Manager Benavente,



OFFICE OF SENATOR

*Telo T. Taitague*

CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations,  
Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Ste. 407 DNA Building  
238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
(671) 989-8356  
senatortelot@gmail.com

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

December 22, 2025

**Transmitted via Electronic Mail**

John Benavente, General Manager,  
Guam Power Authority  
[jbenavente@gpagwa.com](mailto:jbenavente@gpagwa.com)

**Subject: Invitation to provide testimony at the Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable**

*Hafa Adai* General Manager Benavente,

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**POSTPONED**

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*Si Yu'os Ma'äse'* for your continued collaboration and service to our community.

Respectfully,



***Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson***



Senator Telo Taitague &lt;senatortelot@gmail.com&gt;

---

**GPD Invitation to Public Hearing, Thursday, January 8, 2026: Bill No. 245-38 and Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable Hearing**

4 messages

---

**Senator Telo Taitague** <senatortelot@gmail.com>  
To: GPD Chief <chief@gpd.guam.gov>  
Cc: "Susan C. Reyes" <susan.reyes@gpd.guam.gov>

22 December 2025 at 11:09

Hafa adai Chief Ignacio,

Please see the attached invitation from Senator Taitague to a public hearing on **Thursday, January 8, 2026 on Bill No. 245-38 and a Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act.** Please kindly confirm receipt of this email, and DRT attendance, at your earliest convenience.

***Si Yu'os Ma'åse,***

***Create a Great Day!***

*Senator Telo T. Taitague*  
38th Guam Legislature

**Chairperson**

**Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement**

Suite 407 DNA Building  
238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
Tel: (671) 989-8356  
Email: [senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com)

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739K

**Bill No. 245-38 (COR).pdf**

722K

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**Senator Telo Taitague** <senatortelot@gmail.com>  
To: GPD Chief <chief@gpd.guam.gov>

22 December 2025 at 13:46

Hafa Adai Chief Ignacio,



OFFICE OF SENATOR

*Telo T. Taitague*

CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations,  
Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Ste. 407 DNA Building  
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Hagatna, Guam 96910  
(671) 989-8356  
senortelot@gmail.com

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

December 22, 2025

**Transmitted via Electronic Mail**

Stephen Ignacio, Chief of Police

Guam Police Department

[chief@gpd.guam.gov](mailto:chief@gpd.guam.gov)

**Subject: Invitation to provide testimony at the Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable**

*Hafa Adai* Chief Ignacio,

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*Si Yu'os Ma'ãse'* for your continued collaboration and service to our community.

Respectfully,



***Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson***



Senator Telo Taitague &lt;senatortelot@gmail.com&gt;

---

## GVB Invitation to Public Hearing, Thursday, January 8, 2026: Bill No. 245-38 and Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable Hearing

5 messages

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**Senator Telo Taitague** <senatortelot@gmail.com>

22 December 2025 at 11:05

To: info@visitguam.com

Cc: kiana.yabut@visitguam.org, Valerie Sablan &lt;valerie.sablan@visitguam.org&gt;

Hafa adai President/CEO Biscoe Lee,

Please see the attached invitation from Senator Taitague to a public hearing on **Thursday, January 8, 2026 on Bill No. 245-38 and a Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act.** Please kindly confirm receipt of this email, and GVB's attendance, at your earliest convenience.

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse,*

***Create a Great Day!***

*Senator Telo T. Taitague*

38th Guam Legislature

**Chairperson**

**Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement**

Suite 407 DNA Building  
238 Archbishop Flores St.

Hagatna, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 989-8356

Email: [senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com)

---

### 2 attachments



**Bill No. 245-38 (COR).pdf**

722K



**GVB Invitation - Bil 245-38 and Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable.pdf**

370K

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**Senator Telo Taitague** <senatortelot@gmail.com>

22 December 2025 at 13:56

To: info@visitguam.com

Cc: kiana.yabut@visitguam.org, Valerie Sablan &lt;valerie.sablan@visitguam.org&gt;

Hafa Adai President/CEO Biscoe Lee,



OFFICE OF SENATOR

*Telo T. Taitague*

CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations,  
Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

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238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
(671) 989-8356  
senatortelot@gmail.com

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

December 22, 2025

**Transmitted via Electronic Mail**

Régine Biscoe Lee, President/CEO  
Guam Visitors Bureau  
[info@visitguam.com](mailto:info@visitguam.com)

**Subject: Invitation to provide testimony at the Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable**

*Hafa Adai* President/CEO Biscoe Lee,

This letter is to notify you that the Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections and Retirement has set a public hearing on **Thursday, January 8, 2026 in the Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing room** for the following agenda item:

**8:00am 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.**

~~I. **Bill No. 237-38 (COR)** Introduced by Telo T. Taitague, Therese M. Terlaje, Chris Barnett, Shelly V. Calvo, Sabina Flores Perez – “An Act to Add a New Chapter 8, Division 1, Title 17, Guam Administrative Rules and Regulations, Relative to the Department of Labor Promulgation of Rules and Regulations for the Implementation and Enforcement of the Guam Registered Apprenticeship Program Pursuant to Public Law 35-39.” **POSTPONED**~~

II. **Bill No. 245-38 (COR)**- Introduced by Telo T. Taitague - “An Act to Amend Section 3 of Public Law 37-116, Relative to Extending the Sunset Provision for the Temporary Exemption of Cannabis Laboratory Testing Requirements from Two (2) Years to Five (5) Years After the Date of Enactment.”

**9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.:**

III. **Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act**

- a. Cannabis Control Board Responsibilities- Statutory monthly meeting requirements; Enforcement and prosecution responsibilities under the Cannabis Industry Act; Adoption of regulations necessary for the development of a hemp

- program; Annual reporting obligations; Status of Cannabis Control Board member terms and cannabis summit efforts.
- b. Status Update on Program Implementation- Current licensing activity; Interagency coordination; Laboratory license application status; Seed-to-sale agreement with METRC; Banking considerations.
  - c. Barriers to Program Implementation- Regulatory and licensing challenges; Enforcement coordination; Zoning, financing, and business feasibility; Hemp program development alignment.

In preparation for this roundtable, the Committee respectfully requests the following information be provided no later than Tuesday, December 30, 2025:

**Cannabis Control Board Membership and Terms**

- A current roster of all Cannabis Control Board members, including appointed members and agency designees, with contact information for the purpose of extending invitations to the roundtable;
- Term start and end dates for all appointed members; and
- Identification of any vacant, expired, or holdover positions.

**Certified Responsible Officials**

- A list of all individuals currently certified or approved as Responsible Officials under the Cannabis Industry Act, including their associated applicant entities and contact information, for the purpose of extending invitations to participate in the roundtable.

The Committee appreciates your feedback on Bill No. 245-38 (COR), and looks forward to your participation in the roundtable discussion.

Should your office have materials, data, or written testimony relevant to the agenda topics, we encourage you to submit them in advance for inclusion in the official hearing record.

*Si Yu'os Ma'ãse'* for your continued collaboration and service to our community.

Respectfully,



***Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson***



Senator Telo Taitague &lt;senatortelot@gmail.com&gt;

---

**GWA Invitation to Public Hearing, Thursday, January 8, 2026: Bill No. 245-38 and Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable Hearing**

4 messages

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**Senator Telo Taitague** <senatortelot@gmail.com>  
To: "Miguel C. Bordallo" <mcbordallo@guamwaterworks.org>

22 December 2025 at 11:11

Hafa adai General Manager Bordallo,

Please see the attached invitation from Senator Taitague to a public hearing on **Thursday, January 8, 2026 on Bill No. 245-38 and a Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act.** Please kindly confirm receipt of this email, and DRT attendance, at your earliest convenience.

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse,*

***Create a Great Day!***

*Senator Telo T. Taitague*  
38th Guam Legislature

**Chairperson**


**Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement**

Suite 407 DNA Building  
238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
Tel: (671) 989-8356  
Email: [senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com)

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**2 attachments**

 **GWA Invitation- Bil 245-38 and Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable.pdf**  
739K

 **Bill No. 245-38 (COR).pdf**  
722K

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**Senator Telo Taitague** <senatortelot@gmail.com>  
To: "Miguel C. Bordallo" <mcbordallo@guamwaterworks.org>

22 December 2025 at 13:54

Hafa Adai General Manager Bordallo,



OFFICE OF SENATOR

*Telo T. Taitague*

CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations,  
Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

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(671) 989-8356  
senatortelot@gmail.com

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

December 22, 2025

**Transmitted via Electronic Mail**

Miguel Bordallo, General Manager,  
Guam Waterworks Authority  
[mcbordallo@guamwaterworks.org](mailto:mcbordallo@guamwaterworks.org)

**Subject: Invitation to provide testimony at the Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable**

*Hafa Adai* General Manager Bordallo,

This letter is to notify you that the Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections and Retirement has set a public hearing on **Thursday, January 8, 2026 in the Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing room** for the following agenda item:

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II. **Bill No. 245-38 (COR)**- Introduced by Telo T. Taitague- "An Act to Amend Section 3 of Public Law 37-116, Relative to Extending the Sunset Provision for the Temporary Exemption of Cannabis Laboratory Testing Requirements from Two (2) Years to Five (5) Years After the Date of Enactment."

**9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.:**

III. **Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act**

- a. Cannabis Control Board Responsibilities- Statutory monthly meeting requirements; Enforcement and prosecution responsibilities under the Cannabis Industry Act; Adoption of regulations necessary for the development of a hemp program; Annual reporting obligations; Status of Cannabis Control Board member terms and cannabis summit efforts.

- b. Status Update on Program Implementation- Current licensing activity; Interagency coordination; Laboratory license application status; Seed-to-sale agreement with METRC; Banking considerations.
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In preparation for this roundtable, the Committee respectfully requests the following information be provided no later than Tuesday, December 30, 2025:

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The Committee appreciates your feedback on Bill No. 245-38 (COR), and looks forward to your participation in the roundtable discussion.

Should your office have materials, data, or written testimony relevant to the agenda topics, we encourage you to submit them in advance for inclusion in the official hearing record.

*Si Yu'os Ma'ãse'* for your continued collaboration and service to our community.

Respectfully,



***Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson***



Senator Telo Taitague &lt;senatortelot@gmail.com&gt;

---

**V. Williams Invitation to Public Hearing, Thursday, January 8, 2026: Bill No. 245-38 and Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable Hearing**

6 messages

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**Senator Telo Taitague** <senatortelot@gmail.com>  
To: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

22 December 2025 at 11:09

Hafa adai Ms. Williams,

Please see the attached invitation from Senator Taitague to a public hearing on **Thursday, January 8, 2026 on Bill No. 245-38 and a Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act.** Please kindly confirm receipt of this email, and DRT attendance, at your earliest convenience.

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse,*

**Create a Great Day!**

*Senator Telo T. Taitague*  
38th Guam Legislature

**Chairperson**

**Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement**

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238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
Tel: (671) 989-8356  
Email: [senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com)

---

**2 attachments**

**V. Williams Invitation- Bil 245-38 and Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable.pdf**  
739K



**Bill No. 245-38 (COR).pdf**  
722K

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**Senator Telo Taitague** <senatortelot@gmail.com>  
To: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

22 December 2025 at 14:05

Hafa Adai Ms. Williams,



OFFICE OF SENATOR

*Telo T. Taitague*

CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations,  
Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

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(671) 989-8356  
senatortelot@gmail.com

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

December 22, 2025

**Transmitted via Electronic Mail**

Vanessa Williams

██████████@gmail.com

**Subject: Invitation to provide testimony at the Cannabis Industry Act Roundtable**

*Hafa Adai* Ms. Williams,

This letter is to notify you that the Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections and Retirement has set a public hearing on **Thursday, January 8, 2026 in the Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing room** for the following agenda item:

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  - a. Cannabis Control Board Responsibilities- Statutory monthly meeting requirements; Enforcement and prosecution responsibilities under the Cannabis Industry Act; Adoption of regulations necessary for the development of a hemp program; Annual reporting obligations; Status of Cannabis Control Board member terms and cannabis summit efforts.
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**Certified Responsible Officials**

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The Committee appreciates your feedback on Bill No. 245-38 (COR), and looks forward to your participation in the roundtable discussion.

Should your office have materials, data, or written testimony relevant to the agenda topics, we encourage you to submit them in advance for inclusion in the official hearing record.

*Si Yu'os Ma'âse'* for your continued collaboration and service to our community.

Respectfully,



**Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson**



OFFICE OF SENATOR  
*Telo T. Taitague*  
CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory  
Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Ste. 407 DNA Building  
2238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
(671) 989-8356  
senatortelot@gmail.com

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

## PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

Thursday, January 8, 2026 beginning at 8:30 a.m.  
Guam Legislature, Public Hearing Room

The Committee will hear and accept testimony on the following:

**8:30 a.m.:**

- I. **Bill No. 245-38 (COR)**- Introduced by Telo T. Taitague- "An Act to Amend Section 3 of Public Law 37-116, Relative to Extending the Sunset Provision for the Temporary Exemption of Cannabis Laboratory Testing Requirements from Two (2) Years to Five (5) Years After the Date of Enactment."

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- b. **Status Update on Program Implementation**- Current licensing activity; Interagency coordination; Laboratory license application status; Seed-to-sale agreement with METRC; Banking considerations.
- c. **Barriers to Program Implementation**- Regulatory and licensing challenges; Enforcement coordination; Zoning, financing, and business feasibility; Hemp program development alignment.

If you are interested in participating in the Public Hearing to provide testimony, please contact the Office of Senator Telo T. Taitague via electronic mail at [senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com) or call (671) 989-8356.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals requiring assistance of accommodation should contact the Office of Senator Telo T. Taitague at (671) 989-8356 or email [senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com) .

The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117, and stream online via *I Liheslaturan Guahan's* live feed on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/@GuamLegislatureMedia/streams>. A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing.



OFFICE OF SENATOR

*Telo T. Taitague*

CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

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2238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
(671) 989-8356  
senatortelot@gmail.com

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

PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-IN SHEET

Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 9:00 AM

Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building

Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act

NAME:	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	POSITION	TESTIMONY	CONTACT INFORMATION
1. MARIE LIZAMA	DRT	SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(671) [REDACTED]
2. Stephen Pokofo	Guam's Real Deal	SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	
3. ANDREA PELLACANI	GRABERDIA LUMAM	SUPPORT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	671- [REDACTED]
4. Jonathan Jones	Self	SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Ed Santos	GAMA	SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Chelba Muna	DDAG	SUPPORT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Jerry Yingsing	N/A	SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	671- [REDACTED]
8. Amanda Gueltra	DPITSS	SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	671- [REDACTED]
9. Athena Duenes	GBHWC	SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	671- [REDACTED]
10. Alice Cruz	DRT	SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	671- [REDACTED]



OFFICE OF SENATOR

*Telo T. Taitague*

CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Ste. 407 DNA Building  
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Hagatna, Guam 96910  
(671) 989-8356  
senatortelot@gmail.com

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

PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-IN SHEET

Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 9:00 AM

Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building

*Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act*

NAME:	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	POSITION	TESTIMONY	CONTACT INFORMATION
1. Tammy Asuncion	DRT	SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	671 [REDACTED]
2. Meiko Cepeda	DRT	SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	671 [REDACTED]
3. VALERIE PEKEDA	DRT	SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	671 - [REDACTED]
4. ROLAND QUITUGUA	UOG LGF	SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	671 [REDACTED]
5. RICARDO MENDOZA	UOG LGF	SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	671 [REDACTED]
6.		SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	
7.		SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	
8.		SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	
9.		SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	
10.		SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	



# Department of Agriculture Dipåtamenton Agrikottura

163 Dairy Road, Mangilao, Guam 96913



**Chelsa Muña**  
Director

**Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero**  
Governor  
**Joshua F. Tenorio**  
Lt. Governor

January 08, 2025

Senator Telo Taitague  
DNA Building, Suite 407  
238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910  
Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology,  
Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

RE: Cannabis Legislative Oversight Hearing Departmental Responses

Hafa Adai Senator Taitague,

These responses are based on a review of the current experiences of the Guam Department of Agriculture, review of the Guam Cannabis Industry Act and the Final Approved Cannabis Control Board (CCB) Rules and Regulations (February 28, 2022). While statute primarily assigns regulatory authority to the Cannabis Control Board and Department of Revenue and Taxation (DRT), the final rules establish defined roles for the Guam Department of Agriculture (DOAG), particularly for cannabis cultivation and limited permitting clearances.

## 1. DOAG Responsibilities Under Final Approved Rules

- DOAG is designated as a regulatory agency for cannabis cultivation activities.
- Cannabis cultivators must register with DOAG and obtain a Bona Fide Farmer Certificate.
- DOAG reviews cultivation site information, including GPS location, maps, plant counts, and storage locations.
- DOAG approval is required for any changes to registered cultivation operations.
- DOAG may conduct site inspections at any time, with or without notice.
- DOAG may issue notices of violation and initiate internal review processes for noncompliance.
- DOAG clearance is required during the Permit to Operate process when real property improvements may trigger endangered species mitigation concerns.
- DOAG is included among agencies authorized to inspect cannabis establishments for compliance.

## 2. What Is Required for DOAG Clearance in the Licensing Process

- Cannabis cultivators must register with DOAG and receive a Bona Fide Farmer Certificate.
- Required documentation includes site location with GPS coordinates, plantation maps, plant counts, storage locations, and proof of a valid DRT producer license.

- For Permit to Operate applications involving property improvements, DOAG determines whether endangered species mitigation is required. This is through the already-established Clearing and Grading permit process.
- These requirements are contained in the Final Approved CCB Rules and Regulations and should be cross-posted through the DRT/CCB licensing portal and DOAG guidance pages.

**3. What can be done to make it easier for applicants to comply with your requirements for clearance?**

Our Bona Fide Farmer application is available online with a checklist of requirements. We offer pre-application assistance and farm inspections. All of this is at no cost to applicants.

**4. What do you believe your role is in enforcement of cannabis businesses?**

- DOAG enforces cannabis cultivation compliance through its registration and certification program.
- DOAG may inspect cannabis establishments as authorized under CCB rules.
- DOAG may suspend or revoke cultivation certifications for noncompliance.
- DOAG enforcement complements CCB and DRT regulatory authority.

**5. Without rules for indoor cultivators, how does your agency intent to protect workers as well as enforce quality and safety controls on cannabis products grown indoors?**

In the CCB Approved Rules, there are cultivation rules/standards and a DOAG regulatory role for cultivation generally, but the worker-safety and indoor-environment controls are more explicit in manufacturing/extraction than in cultivation text excerpts.

- DOAG supports cultivation safety through inspections and approved cultivation practices.
- Product quality controls are enforced through testing and contamination standards overseen by CCB and DPHSS.

**6. What amendments would you make to the existing law or rules to make the process more efficient and beneficial for cannabis businesses, patients and other customers?**

We believe it prudent to allow recommendations for amendments to be derived from the experiences of customers. DOAG has currently not had any encounters with customers as there are no licensed cultivators.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase',

Chelsa D. Muña  
DIRECTOR



**LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO**  
Governor  
**JOSHUA F. TENORIO**  
Lieutenant Governor

**GUAM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
AND WELLNESS CENTER**  
*Sagan Salut Tataotao yan Hinemlo' Guahan*

790 Gov. Carlos G. Camacho Rd.  
Tamuning, Guam 96913  
TEL: (671) 647-1901  
FAX: (671) 649-6948



**CARISSA E. PANGELINAN, EdD**  
Director  
**JAMES P. COOPER-NURSE, PhD**  
Deputy Director

January 6, 2026

Honorable Telo T. Taitague  
Chairperson, Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology,  
Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement  
Suite 407 DNA Building  
238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatna, Guam 96910

**Subject: Testimony for Bill 245-38 and Cannabis Industry Act Round Table Hearing**

*Buenas yan Hafa Adai Senator Taitague,*

While Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC) does not take a position on cannabis legislation specifically Bill 245-38, we are thankful for the opportunity to approach the conversation from a behavioral health and public health perspective, focusing on prevention, treatment, and harm reduction.

GBHWC would like to address the following key questions as outlined in your request:

**1. What is required for clearance by your agency as part of the adult use cannabis licensing process? Are these posted anywhere, like on your website or on DRT's website?**

Currently, applicants do not require anything from GBHWC as a part of the adult use cannabis licensing process.

**2. What can be done to make it easier for applicants to comply with your requirements for clearance?** This question does not apply to GBHWC.

**3. What do you believe your role is in enforcement of cannabis businesses?**

As the island's single state agency for behavioral health and substance use, GBHWC plays a role in regulation and oversight of the cannabis industry, particularly as it relates to public health, prevention, and treatment.

GBHWC may provide subject-matter expertise on substance use, addiction, and mental health to inform cannabis policy, rulemaking, and enforcement standards. This includes advising regulatory bodies on product labeling and safeguards intended to reduce youth access and high-risk use. GBHWC can also contribute to compliance and enforcement coordination by sharing treatment data, identifying



**LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO**  
Governor  
**JOSHUA F. TENORIO**  
Lieutenant Governor

**GUAM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
AND WELLNESS CENTER**  
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**CARISSA E. PANGELINAN, EdD**  
Director  
**JAMES P. COOPER-NURSE, PhD**  
Deputy Director

emerging public health risks, and collaborating with compliance and enforcement agencies such as Department of Revenue and Taxation and Department of Public Health and Social Services.

Additionally, GBHWC will support prevention and education efforts by participating in educational campaigns, monitoring trends in cannabis use, and funding community prevention programs. GBHWC will continue to oversee and strengthen the treatment and recovery system by ensuring the individuals who develop cannabis use disorders have access to appropriate services.

**4. Without rules for indoor cultivators, how does your agency intend to protect workers as well as enforce quality and safety controls on cannabis products grown indoors?**

Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center will continue to provide treatment services and ensure accessibility to all on the island, including workers and vendors of the cannabis industry.

**5. What amendments would you make to the existing law or rules to make the process more efficient and beneficial for cannabis businesses, patients and other customers?**

We respectfully recommend a review of existing Tobacco statutes such as the Tobacco Control Act of 1998 and the Youth Protection Act of 2017 to determine whether select provisions could be amended to include cannabis products. This may promote regulatory consistency and allow agencies to capitalize on systems already established for the Tobacco industry.

Additionally, as marijuana has been legalized, increased public acceptance has altered perceptions around its use. This evolving landscape has contributed to uncertainty within the workplace, particularly for government employers seeking to balance employee rights, operational needs, and public safety. Legislative review and guidance may help reduce this ambiguity.

We would like to sincerely thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and contribute to this important discussion. We look forward to continued collaboration in ensuring that all individuals have equitable access to the services they need.

*Un Dangkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'ase*

Carissa E. Pangelinan, EdD  
Director

**Guam's Real Deal LLC**  
162 Charles Street, Tamuning, Guam 96913

Senator Telo T. Taitague  
Chairperson,  
Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory Affairs,  
Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement  
Guam Congress Building  
163 Chalan Santo Papa  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Re: Written Testimony in Support of Bill No. 245-38 (COR) and Comments on  
the Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act.

Håfa Adai Chairperson Taitague and Members of the Committee:

My name is Stephen Roberto I am writing on behalf of Guam's Real Deal LLC, a Guam-based business stakeholder in the emerging but stalled cannabis industry. I write to provide written testimony in support of Bill No. 245-38 (COR), which seeks to amend Section 3 of Public Law 37-116 by extending the sunset provision for the temporary exemption of cannabis laboratory testing requirements from two (2) years to five (5) years after the date of enactment. We strongly favor this extension and appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the roundtable discussion on the Cannabis Industry Act, particularly regarding barriers to program implementation, regulatory challenges, and interagency coordination.

As a company actively navigating the licensing and operational landscape under the Cannabis Industry Act, Guam's Real Deal LLC has firsthand experience with the significant bureaucratic hurdles that have impeded the timely rollout of Guam's cannabis program. Since the Act's enactment, regulatory delays have been numerous and persistent, stemming from a combination of inexperienced agencies, complex interagency coordination requirements, and evolving federal considerations that complicate local implementation. For instance, the adoption of necessary regulations for licensing, enforcement, and even basic program elements like seed-to-sale tracking with METRC has progressed far slower than anticipated. These challenges have not only stalled laboratory license applications but have also created uncertainty around zoning, financing, and business feasibility—issues that directly impact stakeholders like us who are committed to compliant operations.

Guam's Real Deal is one of the early licensees that is perhaps the closest company to finish the regulatory process but is still working to satisfy the legion of regulatory hurdles. As an early licensee, we have made substantial investments to get our business up and running. While we oppose changes to the legal and regulatory landscape that would apply differently to different licensees, we support any change that is applied equally to all applicants.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> As an example, it would be unfair to require early licensees such as Guam's Real Deal to follow all licensing procedures but waive those procedures for businesses that come later (requiring early licensees to get clearance from

Generally, we support any effort to improve compliance and business survival, protect local jobs and tax revenue, reduce incentives for consumers to rely on unregulated sources, and strengthen enforcement. A functional, profitable legal market is the most effective tool against the black market, which thrives when lawful operators are constrained by delays and uncertainty. Guam's cannabis industry can succeed only if regulations reflect real-world operating conditions and protect those who complied early and in good faith.<sup>2</sup>

Extending the testing waiver is essential to provide the breathing room needed for these bureaucratic issues to be resolved without prematurely halting industry progress. Without this extension, businesses risk the loss of their substantial investments, which would undermine the economic investment goals of the Act and deter potential participants from contributing to Guam's economy. We urge the Committee to support Bill No. 245-38 as a practical measure to address these ongoing delays and foster a stable environment for responsible industry growth.

Guam's Real Deal LLC remains available to provide more information or participate in further discussions. Please contact me if needed. Thank you for your leadership on this important matter and for convening this roundtable to address these critical barriers.

Sincerely,

**Stephen Roberto**

*Member*

Guam's Real Deal LLC

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GWA and waiving that requirement for other, later in time, licensees). Waiving the testing requirement, however, applies equally to all businesses.

<sup>2</sup> Another way to combat the black market is to allow regulated cannabis companies the ability to use the entire cannabis plant. For example, extending the temporary extension of laboratory testing to solventless extraction and manufacturing would allow all regulated businesses to cut down on waste and be more efficient. Solventless methods use no chemical or flammable solvents, significantly reducing fire, environmental, and worker safety risks.

*I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
**BILL STATUS**

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	FISCAL NOTES	NOTES
<b>32-35 (COR)</b> As amended by the Committee on Economic Development, Agriculture, Maritime Transportation, Power and Energy Utilities, and Emergency Response; and further amended on the floor	Clynton E. Ridgell Tina Rose Muña Barnes Joe S. San Agustin Régine Biscoe Lee Telo T. Taitague Jose "Pedro" Terlaje	AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 8 TO TITLE 11, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REGULATING THE USE, PRODUCTION, SALE, AND TAXATION OF MARIJUANA, TO BE KNOWN AS THE "GUAM CANNABIS INDUSTRY ACT OF 2019"; TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 9 TO TITLE 11, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO CREATING THE CANNABIS CONTROL BOARD; TO REPEAL §§ (c)(23) AND (c)(31) OF APPENDIX A, CHAPTER 67, TITLE 9, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO DECLASSIFYING MARIJUANA AS A SCHEDULE I CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE; AND TO AMEND §§ 67.401.2(b), 67.401.4(f), (h), AND (j), 67.401.5, 67.401.6, 67.411(b) AND 67.412(a), AND REPEAL § 67.401.4(k), ALL OF ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER 67, TITLE 9, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REDEFINING REFERENCES TO IT IN THE GUAM UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT; AND ADDING A NEW § 70.44.4 TO TITLE 9, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO POSSESSION OF CANNABIS BY PERSONS UNDER TWENTY-ONE (21) YEARS OF AGE.	1/31/19 2:40 p.m.	2/4/19	Committee on Economic Development, Agriculture, Maritime Transportation, Power and Energy Utilities, and Emergency Response	3/7/19 9:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	3/19/19 1:46 p.m.  As amended by the Committee on Economic Development, Agriculture, Maritime Transportation, Power and Energy Utilities, and Emergency Response	Request: 2/4/19  Fiscal Note: 2/20/19	
	<b>SESSION DATE</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>DATE PASSED</b>	<b>TRANSMITTED</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>	<b>PUBLIC LAW NO.</b>	<b>DATE SIGNED</b>	<b>NOTES</b>	
3/21/19	AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 8 TO TITLE 11, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REGULATING THE USE, PRODUCTION, SALE, AND TAXATION OF MARIJUANA, TO BE KNOWN AS THE "GUAM CANNABIS INDUSTRY ACT OF 2019"; TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 9 TO TITLE 11, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO CREATING THE CANNABIS CONTROL BOARD; TO REPEAL §§ (c)(23) AND (c)(31) OF APPENDIX A, CHAPTER 67, TITLE 9, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO DECLASSIFYING MARIJUANA AS A SCHEDULE I CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE; AND TO AMEND §§ 67.401.2(b), 67.401.4(f), (h), AND (j), 67.401.5, 67.401.6, 67.411(b) AND 67.412(a), AND REPEAL § 67.401.4(k), ALL OF ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER 67, TITLE 9, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REDEFINING REFERENCES TO IT IN THE GUAM UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT; AND ADDING A NEW § 70.44.4 TO TITLE 9, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO POSSESSION OF CANNABIS BY PERSONS UNDER TWENTY-ONE (21) YEARS OF AGE.	3/21/19	3/28/19	4/9/19	35-5	4/4/19	Received: 4/4/19 Mess and Comm. Doc. No. 35GL-19-0322.		

UFISINAN I MAGA'HÅGA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO  
MAGA'HÅGA • GOVERNOR

JOSHUA F. TENORIO  
SIGUNDO MAGA'LÅHI • LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

April 4, 2019

35GL-19-0322  
Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes

Honorable Tina Rose Muña-Barnes  
Speaker  
*I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
Guam Congress Building  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

APR 04 2019  
Time 3:50 ( )AM ( )PM  
Received By:

2019 APR -4 PM 3:51

Re: An Act to *Add A New Chapter 8 To Title 11 Of Guam Code Annotated, Relative To Regulating the Use, Production, Sale, And Taxation of Marijuana, To Be Known As the 'Guam Cannabis Industry Act of 2019'*; To *Add A New Chapter 9 To Title 11 Of Guam Code Annotated, Relative To Creating The Cannabis Control Board*; To *Repeal §§ (c)(23) and (c)(31) Of Appendix A, Chapter 67, Title 9, Guam Code Annotated, Relative To Declassifying Marijuana As A Schedule I Controlled Substance*; To *Amend §§ 67.401.2(b), 67.402.4(f), (h), And (j), 67.401.5, 67.401.6, 67.411(b) And 67.412(a), And Repeal § 67.401.4(k), All Of Article 4, Chapter 67, Title 9, Guam Code Annotated, Relative To Redefining References To Marijuana In The Guam Uniform Controlled Substances Act*; And To *Add A New § 70.44.4 To Article 1 of Chapter 70, Title 9, Guam Code Annotated, Relative to Possession Of Cannabis By Persons Under Twenty-One (21) Years Of Age,*" (the "Act")

Dear Madam Speaker:

After careful consideration, I have signed Bill 32-35 as **Public Law 35-5**.

Over the past few days, I have had the privilege of listening to our community voice both concerns and support for this legislation. Late last week, I hosted groups who needed a venue to be heard. There, I was able to listen to the individual perspectives on how cannabis can and has impacted each person's life. The time spent truly influenced my consideration, more so than any article, journal, or statistical report that I have read in preparing for this decision.

There is no doubt that drug addiction is a real problem that plagues our island. Since the 1970s, we have participated in the "War on Drugs" in an effort to eradicate controlled substances from our community. Unfortunately, that method has done little other than to drive the black market further underground, all the while continuing to tighten its grip on our island. This law provides a more productive approach. It allows the government to regulate and insert controls so that adults

0322

can consume cannabis products safely. More importantly, the law strengthens and finances our efforts to provide preventative education and effective treatments.

Employers, including the Government of Guam, will still require employees to abide by Drug-Free Workplace policies. To avoid any confusion, I have also issued Executive Order #2019-11, solidifying that the Government of Guam Drug Free Workplace Policy continues to prohibit the use of cannabis. Government employees, while acting in their official capacities, may not possess, consume or otherwise be under the influence of any derivation of cannabis.

Our youth shall not and will not be allowed to access cannabis. Those who provide access to anyone under the age of 21 shall be penalized. Our courts will continue to restrict persons on conditions of release, probation, and parole supervision from possession and use of cannabis. Only law-abiding adults – who already must make responsible decisions on whether or not to consume alcohol or tobacco products – will be afforded another choice: whether or not to consume cannabis products.

P.L. 35-5 is far from the perfect piece of legislation. Understanding that, my Administration is dedicated to not only fulfilling all of the requirements to regulate the cannabis industry, but also to actively work with this Legislature to ensure that the body of law surrounding safe adult consumption of cannabis remains current and relevant for our island. *Si Yu'os Ma'ase!*

*Senseremente,*



**LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO**

*Maga'hågan Guåhan*

Governor of Guam

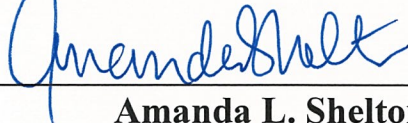
***I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2019 (FIRST) Regular Session**

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

This is to certify that **Bill No. 32-35 (COR)**, "AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW CHAPTER 8 TO TITLE 11, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REGULATING THE USE, PRODUCTION, SALE, AND TAXATION OF CANNABIS, TO BE KNOWN AS THE "*GUAM CANNABIS INDUSTRY ACT OF 2019*"; TO *ADD* A NEW CHAPTER 9 TO TITLE 11, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO CREATING THE CANNABIS CONTROL BOARD; TO *REPEAL* §§ (c)(23) AND (c)(31) OF APPENDIX A, CHAPTER 67, TITLE 9, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO DECLASSIFYING MARIJUANA AS A SCHEDULE I CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE; TO *AMEND* §§ 67.401.2(b), 67.401.4(f), (h), AND (j), 67.401.5, 67.401.6, 67.411(b) AND 67.412(a), AND *REPEAL* § 67.401.4(k), ALL OF ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER 67, TITLE 9, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REFERENCES TO MARIJUANA IN THE GUAM UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT; AND TO *ADD* A NEW § 70.44.4 TO ARTICLE 1 AND *AMEND* § 70.53 OF ARTICLE 3, BOTH OF CHAPTER 70, TITLE 9, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO PROHIBITING THE POSSESSION OF CANNABIS AND THE INTOXICATION OF PERSONS UNDER TWENTY-ONE (21) YEARS OF AGE," was on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 2019, duly and regularly passed.

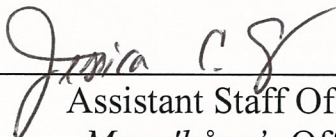
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Tina Rose Muña Barnes**  
Speaker

Attested:


  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Amanda L. Shelton**  
Legislative Secretary

-----  
This Act was received by *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March,  
2019, at 3:08 o'clock p.M.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Staff Officer  
*Maga'håga's Office*

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero  
*I Maga'hågan Guåhan*

Jessica Cruz

RCVD AT CENTRAL FILES  
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2019-1690

Date: 4/4/2019

Public Law No. 35-5

**I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN**  
**2019 (FIRST) Regular Session**

**Bill No. 32-35 (COR)**

As amended by the Committee on Economic Development,  
Agriculture, Maritime Transportation, Power  
and Energy Utilities, and Emergency Response;  
and further amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

Clynton E. Ridgell  
Tina Rose Muña Barnes  
Joe S. San Agustin  
Régine Biscoe Lee  
Telo T. Taitague  
Jose "Pedo" Terlaje  
William M. Castro  
Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD  
James C. Moylan  
Louise B. Muña  
Telena Cruz Nelson  
Amanda L. Shelton  
Therese M. Terlaje  
Mary Camacho Torres

**AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW CHAPTER 8 TO TITLE 11, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REGULATING THE USE, PRODUCTION, SALE, AND TAXATION OF CANNABIS, TO BE KNOWN AS THE "*GUAM CANNABIS INDUSTRY ACT OF 2019*"; TO *ADD* A NEW CHAPTER 9 TO TITLE 11, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO CREATING THE CANNABIS CONTROL BOARD; TO *REPEAL* §§ (c)(23) AND (c)(31) OF APPENDIX A, CHAPTER 67, TITLE 9, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO DECLASSIFYING MARIJUANA AS A SCHEDULE I CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE; TO *AMEND* §§ 67.401.2(b), 67.401.4(f), (h), AND (j), 67.401.5, 67.401.6, 67.411(b) AND 67.412(a), AND *REPEAL* § 67.401.4(k), ALL OF ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER 67, TITLE 9, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REFERENCES TO MARIJUANA IN THE GUAM UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT; AND TO *ADD* A NEW § 70.44.4 TO ARTICLE 1 AND *AMEND* § 70.53 OF ARTICLE 3, BOTH OF CHAPTER 70, TITLE 9, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO PROHIBITING THE POSSESSION OF CANNABIS AND THE INTOXIFICATION OF PERSONS UNDER TWENTY-ONE (21) YEARS OF AGE.**



1 **GUAM CANNABIS INDUSTRY ACT**

- 2 § 8101. Title.
- 3 § 8102. Definitions.
- 4 § 8103. Personal Use of Cannabis.
- 5 § 8104. Restrictions on Personal Cultivation, Penalty.
- 6 § 8105. Public Consumption Banned, Penalty.
- 7 § 8106. False Identification, Penalty.
- 8 § 8107. Cannabis Accessories Authorized.
- 9 § 8108. Lawful Operation of Cannabis-Related Facilities.
- 10 § 8109. Cannabis Control Board.
- 11 § 8110. Rulemaking.
- 12 § 8111. Cannabis Establishment Registrations.
- 13 § 8112. Employers, Driving, Minors, and Control of Property.
- 14 § 8113. Excise Tax on Cannabis.
- 15 § 8114. Monthly Statements and Payments.
- 16 § 8115. Federal Law, Applicability.
- 17 § 8116. Prior Duties, Penalties, and Proceedings.
- 18 § 8117. Contracts.
- 19 **§ 8101. Title.**

20 This Chapter *shall* be known and may be cited as the “*Guam Cannabis*  
21 *Industry Act of 2019.*”

22 **§ 8102. Definitions.**

23 As used in this Chapter:

24 (a) *Board* means the Cannabis Control Board referenced in § 8109  
25 of this Chapter.

26 (b) *Cannabis* means all parts of the plant of the genus *cannabis*,  
27 whether growing or not, the seeds thereof, the resin extracted from any part

1 of the plant, and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or  
2 preparation of the plant, its seeds, or its resin, including cannabis or marijuana  
3 concentrate. Cannabis *does not* include the mature stalks of the plant, fiber  
4 produced from the stalks, oil, or cake made from the seeds of the plant,  
5 sterilized seed of the plant which is incapable of germination, or the weight of  
6 any other ingredient combined with marijuana to prepare topical or oral  
7 administrations, food, drink, or other products.

8 (c) *Cannabis accessories* means any equipment, products, or  
9 materials of any kind that are used, intended for use, or designed for use in  
10 planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting, composting,  
11 manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing, preparing,  
12 testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, vaporizing, or containing  
13 marijuana, or for ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing marijuana into  
14 the human body.

15 (d) *Cannabis concentrate* means any cannabis product or subset of  
16 cannabis produced by extracting cannabinoids from cannabis.

17 (e) *Cannabis cultivation facility* means an entity licensed to  
18 cultivate, prepare, and package cannabis; and to sell cannabis to retail  
19 cannabis stores, cannabis product manufacturing facilities, and other licensed  
20 cannabis cultivation facilities, but not to consumers.

21 (f) *Cannabis establishment* means a cannabis cultivation facility,  
22 cannabis testing facility, a cannabis product manufacturing facility, or a retail  
23 cannabis store.

24 (g) *Cannabis flower* or *flower* means the inflorescence(s) of the  
25 mature pistillate (female) cannabis plant.

26 (h) *Cannabis-infused product* means any product that is comprised  
27 of cannabis concentrate or cannabis plant material and other ingredients, and

1 is intended for use or consumption other than by smoking or vaporizing,  
2 including ingestible cannabis-infused products, topical cannabis-infused  
3 products, transdermal cannabis-infused products, and transmucosal cannabis-  
4 infused products.

5 (i) *Cannabis product* means a finished product intended for human  
6 consumption or use that is comprised partially or completely of cannabis. This  
7 term is used generally to refer to one (1) or more of the following: cannabis  
8 flower, cannabis concentrates, and cannabis-infused products.

9 (j) *Cannabis product category* means a defined group of cannabis  
10 products that are in the same form. Cannabis flower, cannabis concentrates,  
11 and cannabis-infused products are all cannabis product categories, though the  
12 latter category may be further broken down into sub-categories such as  
13 ingestible cannabis-infused products and non-ingestible cannabis-infused  
14 products.

15 (k) *Cannabis product manufacturing facility* means an entity  
16 licensed to purchase cannabis from licensed cannabis cultivation facilities to  
17 manufacture, prepare, and package cannabis products; and to sell cannabis  
18 and cannabis products to other cannabis product manufacturing facilities and  
19 to retail cannabis stores, but *not* to consumers. Nothing herein shall be  
20 construed to prohibit a cannabis product manufacturing facility from  
21 purchasing cannabis or cannabis products from other cannabis product  
22 manufacturing facilities.

23 (l) *Cannabis testing facility* means an entity licensed to analyze and  
24 certify the safety and potency of cannabis. Only a licensed cannabis testing  
25 facility may collect and transport cannabis or cannabis samples to and from a  
26 cannabis testing facility.

1 (m) *Consumer* means a person twenty-one (21) years of age or older  
2 who purchases cannabis or marijuana products for personal use only, but *not*  
3 for resale to others.

4 (n) *Consumption* means the act of ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise  
5 introducing cannabis or marijuana into the human body, including through the  
6 use of topicals, ointments, or tinctures.

7 (o) *Department* means the Guam Department of Revenue and  
8 Taxation.

9 (p) *Ingestible cannabis-infused product* or *ingestible* means a  
10 product that contains cannabis and at least one (1) other ingredient, is intended  
11 for use or consumption other than by inhalation, is intended to be taken into  
12 the body, and is one (1) of the following:

13 (1) *edible cannabis-infused product* or *edible*, which is an  
14 ingestible cannabis-infused product that is intended to be taken by  
15 mouth, swallowed, and is primarily absorbed through the  
16 gastrointestinal tract. Edible cannabis-infused products may be  
17 psychoactive when used as intended. Without limitation, edible  
18 cannabis-infused products may be in the form of a food, beverage,  
19 capsule, or tablet; or

20 (2) *transmucosal cannabis-infused product* or *transmucosal*,  
21 which is an ingestible cannabis-infused product that is intended to be  
22 placed in a body cavity and absorbed through the mucosal lining of that  
23 cavity, and may be psychoactive when used as intended. Transmucosal  
24 cannabis-infused products include, but are not limited to, cannabis-  
25 infused tinctures, anal suppositories, lozenges, and nasal sprays.

1 (q) *Marijuana* means *cannabis* as defined in Subsection (b) of this  
2 Section. For purposes of this Chapter, the terms marijuana and cannabis *shall*  
3 carry the same meaning and *shall* be used interchangeably.

4 (r) *Non-ingestible cannabis-infused product* or *non-ingestible*  
5 means a product that contains cannabis and at least one (1) other ingredient,  
6 is intended for use or consumption other than by inhalation, is intended for  
7 external use only, and is one (1) of the following:

8 (1) *topical cannabis-infused product* or *topical*, which is a  
9 non-ingestible cannabis-infused product that produces a non-  
10 psychoactive effect when used as intended. Topical cannabis-infused  
11 products include, but are not limited to, cannabis-infused creams,  
12 salves, bath soaks, and lotions; or

13 (2) *transdermal cannabis-infused product* or *transdermal*,  
14 which is a non-ingestible cannabis-infused product that contains at least  
15 one (1) skin-permeation-enhancing ingredient to facilitate absorption  
16 through the skin into the bloodstream, and may be psychoactive when  
17 used as intended. Transdermal cannabis-infused products include, but  
18 are not limited to, cannabis-infused adhesive patches that are applied to  
19 the skin surface.

20 (s) *Retail cannabis store* means an entity licensed to purchase  
21 cannabis and to sell cannabis and cannabis products to consumers. Nothing  
22 herein shall be construed to prohibit a licensed retail cannabis store to  
23 purchase, sell, or transfer cannabis and cannabis products to another licensed  
24 retail cannabis store.

25 (t) *Unreasonably impracticable* means that the measures necessary  
26 to comply with this Chapter require such a high investment of risk, money,  
27 time, or any other resource or asset that the operation of a cannabis

1 establishment is not worthy of being carried out in practice by a reasonably  
2 prudent businessperson.

3 **§ 8103. Personal Use of Cannabis.**

4 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, *except* as provided in this  
5 Chapter, the following acts by persons twenty-one (21) years of age or older are  
6 lawful and *shall not* be a criminal or civil offense under Guam law or be a basis for  
7 seizure or forfeiture of assets under Guam law:

8 (a) possessing, using, displaying, purchasing, or transporting  
9 cannabis accessories, one (1) ounce or less of cannabis, eight (8) grams or less  
10 of cannabis concentrate, or any cannabis-infused products containing eight  
11 hundred (800) mg or less of tetrahydrocannabinol;

12 (b) possessing, growing, processing, or transporting *no more than*  
13 six (6) cannabis plants, with three (3) or fewer being mature flowering plants,  
14 and possession of the cannabis produced by the plants on the premises where  
15 the plants were grown; provided, that the growing takes place in an enclosed,  
16 locked place, is not conducted openly or publicly, and is not made available  
17 for sale;

18 (c) transferring one (1) ounce or less of cannabis and immature  
19 cannabis plants; eight (8) grams or less of cannabis concentrate; or any  
20 cannabis-infused products containing eight hundred (800) mg or less of  
21 tetrahydrocannabinol to a person who is twenty-one (21) years of age or older  
22 without remuneration;

23 (d) consumption of cannabis, *except* that absent regulations  
24 otherwise promulgated by the Cannabis Control Board, nothing in this  
25 Chapter shall permit the consumption of marijuana in public; and

1 (e) assisting another person who is twenty-one (21) years of age or  
2 older in any of the acts described in Subsections (a) through (d) of this Section  
3 if such assistance is provided for a non-commercial purpose.

4 (f) The provisions of this § 8103 *do not* apply to cannabis  
5 establishments as defined in this Chapter.

6 **§ 8104. Restrictions on Personal Cultivation, Penalty.**

7 The personal cultivation of cannabis described in § 8103(b) of this Chapter is  
8 subject to the following terms:

9 (a) Cannabis cultivation for personal use may *only* occur inside a  
10 private residence, inside an accessory structure to a private residence located  
11 upon the grounds of a private residence, or within a fully enclosed, locked  
12 outdoor space on the grounds of a private residence; provided, that:

13 (1) cultivation takes place within a closet, room, greenhouse,  
14 or other fully enclosed area that is equipped with a lock or other security  
15 device that allows access only to persons authorized to access the area;  
16 and

17 (2) *no more than* six (6) plants are possessed, cultivated, or  
18 processed at a single residence or upon the grounds of that residence, at  
19 one (1) time;

20 (b) cannabis cultivation for personal use may *only* occur on property  
21 lawfully possessed by the cultivator or with the consent of the person in lawful  
22 possession of the property;

23 (c) cannabis plants *shall* be cultivated in a location where the plants  
24 are *not* visible from any public location;

25 (d) a person who cultivates cannabis *shall* take reasonable  
26 precautions to ensure the plants are secure from unauthorized access; and

1 (e) a person who violates this Section while otherwise acting in  
2 compliance with § 8103(b) of this Chapter is guilty of a violation punishable  
3 by a fine of up to Five Hundred Dollars (\$500).

4 **§ 8105. Public Consumption Banned, Penalty.**

5 It is unlawful to consume cannabis openly and in public, unless otherwise  
6 permitted by regulations duly promulgated and enacted by the Cannabis Control  
7 Board. A person who violates this Section is guilty of a violation punishable by a  
8 fine of up to One Hundred Dollars (\$100).

9 **§ 8106. False Identification, Penalty.**

10 (a) A person who is under twenty-one (21) years of age may not present or  
11 offer to a licensed cannabis establishment or the cannabis establishment's agent or  
12 employee any written or oral evidence of age that is false, fraudulent, or not actually  
13 the person's own, for the purpose of:

14 (1) purchasing, attempting to purchase, or otherwise procuring or  
15 attempting to procure cannabis or cannabis products; or

16 (2) gaining access or attempting to gain access to a cannabis  
17 establishment.

18 (3) A person who violates this Section is guilty of a violation  
19 punishable by a fine of up to Five Hundred Dollars (\$500).

20 (b) A licensee, or his or her agent or employee, *shall not* sell, give, nor  
21 permit to be sold, given, or served any cannabis or cannabis products to any person  
22 under twenty-one (21) years of age. For the purpose of preventing any violation of  
23 this Section, any licensee, or her or his agent or employee, may refuse to sell or serve  
24 cannabis or cannabis products to any person who is unable to produce adequate  
25 written evidence that she or he has reached the age of twenty-one (21) years. In any  
26 criminal prosecution or proceeding for the suspension or revocation of any license  
27 and based upon a violation of this Section, proof that the defendant licensee, or her

1 or his agent or employee, demanded and was shown, before furnishing any cannabis  
2 or cannabis product to a minor, an identification card or other bona fide documentary  
3 evidence of majority of such person *shall* be a defense to such prosecution or  
4 proceeding for the suspension or revocation of any license, unless it is demonstrated  
5 that a reasonable person would have determined that the identification exhibited was  
6 altered or did not accurately describe the person to whom the cannabis or cannabis  
7 product was sold or served. Every person who violates this Section *shall* be guilty  
8 of a petty misdemeanor.

9       **§ 8107. Cannabis Accessories Authorized.**

10       Notwithstanding any other provision of law, it is lawful and *shall not* be an  
11 offense under Guam law or be a basis for seizure or forfeiture of assets for persons  
12 twenty-one (21) years of age or older to manufacture, possess, or purchase cannabis  
13 accessories, or to distribute or sell cannabis accessories to a person who is twenty-  
14 one (21) years of age or older.

15       **§ 8108. Lawful Operation of Cannabis-Related Facilities.**

16       (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the following acts, when  
17 performed by a retail cannabis store with a current, valid registration or a person  
18 twenty-one (21) years of age or older who is acting in his or her capacity as an owner,  
19 employee, or agent of a retail cannabis store, are lawful and *shall not* be an offense  
20 under Guam law or be a basis for seizure or forfeiture of assets under Guam law:

21           (1) possessing, displaying, storing, or transporting cannabis,  
22 cannabis products, or cannabis accessories, *except* that such items may *not* be  
23 displayed in a manner that is visible to the general public from a public right-  
24 of-way;

25           (2) delivering or transferring cannabis or cannabis products to a  
26 cannabis testing facility;

1 (3) receiving cannabis or cannabis products from a cannabis  
2 cultivation facility or cannabis product manufacturing facility;

3 (4) purchasing cannabis from a cannabis cultivation facility;

4 (5) purchasing cannabis or cannabis products from a cannabis  
5 product manufacturing facility; and

6 (6) delivering, distributing, or selling cannabis, cannabis products,  
7 or cannabis accessories to consumers.

8 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the following acts, when  
9 performed by a cannabis cultivation facility with a current, valid registration or a  
10 person twenty-one (21) years of age or older who is acting in his or her capacity as  
11 an owner, employee, or agent of a cannabis cultivation facility, are lawful and *shall*  
12 *not* be an offense under Guam law or be a basis for seizure or forfeiture of assets  
13 under Guam law:

14 (1) cultivating, harvesting, processing, packaging, transporting,  
15 displaying, storing, or possessing cannabis;

16 (2) delivering or transferring cannabis to a cannabis testing facility;

17 (3) delivering, distributing, or selling cannabis to a cannabis  
18 cultivation facility, a cannabis product manufacturing facility, or a retail  
19 cannabis store;

20 (4) receiving or purchasing cannabis from a cannabis cultivation  
21 facility; and

22 (5) receiving cannabis seeds or immature cannabis plants from a  
23 person twenty-one (21) years of age or older.

24 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the following acts, when  
25 performed by cannabis product manufacturing facility with a current, valid  
26 registration or a person twenty-one (21) years of age or older who is acting in his or  
27 her capacity as an owner, employee, or agent of a cannabis product manufacturing

1 facility, are lawful and *shall not* be an offense under Guam law or be a basis for  
2 seizure or forfeiture of assets under Guam law:

3 (1) packaging, processing, transporting, manufacturing, displaying,  
4 or possessing cannabis or cannabis products;

5 (2) delivering or transferring cannabis or cannabis products to a  
6 cannabis testing facility; and

7 (3) delivering or selling cannabis or cannabis products to a person or  
8 establishment authorized to possess, use, display, purchase, or transport  
9 cannabis or cannabis products.

10 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, possessing, cultivating,  
11 processing, repackaging, storing, transporting, displaying, transferring, or delivering  
12 cannabis, when performed by a cannabis testing facility with a current, valid  
13 registration or a person twenty-one (21) years of age or older who is acting in his or  
14 her capacity as an owner, employee or agent of a cannabis testing facility, are lawful  
15 and *shall not* be an offense under Guam law or be a basis for seizure or forfeiture of  
16 assets under Guam law.

17 (e) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, it is lawful and *shall not*  
18 be an offense under Guam law or be a basis for seizure or forfeiture of assets under  
19 Guam law to lease or otherwise allow the use of property owned, occupied, or  
20 controlled by any person, corporation or other entity for any of the activities  
21 conducted lawfully in accordance with Subsections (a) through (d) of this Section.

22 (f) Nothing in this Section prevents the imposition of penalties upon  
23 cannabis establishments for violating this Chapter or rules adopted by the Cannabis  
24 Control Board referenced in § 8109 of this Chapter.

25 **§ 8109. Cannabis Control Board.**

1            *I Liheslaturan Guåhan shall create a Cannabis Control Board which shall*  
2 assume the power, duties, and authority to promulgate rules and regulations  
3 necessary to enforce this Chapter.

4            **§ 8110. Rulemaking.**

5            (a) *No later than one (1) year after the effective date of this Act, the*  
6 Cannabis Control Board *shall* prescribe forms and adopt such rules and regulations  
7 necessary for the implementation of this Chapter in accordance with Chapter 9 of  
8 Title 5, Guam Code Annotated. Such regulations *shall not* prohibit the operation of  
9 cannabis establishments either expressly or through regulations that make their  
10 operation unreasonably impracticable. Such regulations *shall* include:

11            (1) procedures and grounds for the issuance, renewal, suspension,  
12 denial, or revocation of a registration to operate a cannabis establishment;

13            (2) a schedule of application, registration, and renewal fees;  
14 provided, that application fees *shall not* exceed Five Thousand Dollars  
15 (\$5,000) with this upper limit adjusted annually for inflation, unless the  
16 Cannabis Control Board determines a greater fee is necessary to carry out its  
17 responsibilities under this Chapter;

18            (3) qualifications for registration that are directly and demonstrably  
19 related to the operation of a cannabis establishment or security requirements  
20 for cannabis establishments, including for the transportation and storage of  
21 cannabis by cannabis establishments;

22            (4) requirements to prevent the sale or diversion of cannabis and  
23 cannabis products to persons under the age of twenty-one (21);

24            (5) labeling and packaging requirements for cannabis and cannabis  
25 products sold or distributed by a cannabis establishment;

26            (6) health and safety regulations and standards for the manufacture  
27 of cannabis products and the cultivation of cannabis;

1 (7) reasonable restrictions on the advertising and display of cannabis  
2 and cannabis products;

3 (8) reasonable restrictions on the quantity of cannabis and cannabis  
4 products purchased at any one (1) time by a consumer so as to effectually  
5 prevent the resale of cannabis items;

6 (9) implementation of a “seed to sale” tracking system;

7 (10) civil penalties for the failure to comply with regulations made  
8 pursuant to this Chapter; and

9 (11) any other rules the Cannabis Control Board considers necessary  
10 for the administration of the Guam Cannabis Industry Act, and the  
11 implementation and enforcement of this Chapter.

12 (b) In order to ensure that individual privacy is protected, the Cannabis  
13 Control Board *shall not* require a consumer to provide a retail cannabis store with  
14 personal information other than government-issued identification to determine the  
15 consumer’s age, and a retail cannabis store *shall not* be required to acquire or record  
16 personal information about consumers.

17 **§ 8111. Cannabis Establishment Registrations.**

18 (a) Each application or renewal application for a registration to operate a  
19 cannabis establishment *shall* be submitted to the Cannabis Control Board. A renewal  
20 application may be submitted up to ninety (90) days prior to the expiration of the  
21 cannabis establishment’s registration.

22 (b) The Cannabis Control Board *shall* begin accepting and processing  
23 applications to operate cannabis establishments *no later than* ninety (90) days after  
24 the regulations prescribed in § 8110 of this Chapter become effective. Upon receipt  
25 of an application for licensure, the Cannabis Control Board *shall not* unreasonably  
26 delay the processing, approval, or rejection of the application, or if the application  
27 is approved, the issuance of the license.

1 (c) The Cannabis Control Board *shall* issue an annual registration to the  
2 applicant within sixty (60) days after receiving an application, or thirty (30) days  
3 after receiving a renewal application, *unless* the Cannabis Control Board finds that  
4 the applicant is not in compliance with the regulations established pursuant to § 8110  
5 of this Chapter.

6 (d) Upon denial of an application, the Board *shall* notify the applicant in  
7 writing of the specific reason for its denial and of the applicant's right to seek  
8 administrative and judicial review as provided for under the Guam Administrative  
9 Adjudication Law.

10 (e) Every cannabis establishment registration *shall* specify the location  
11 where the cannabis establishment will operate, and said location *shall* have defined  
12 boundaries. A separate registration is required for each location at which a cannabis  
13 establishment operates. The Cannabis Control Board may require reasonable  
14 restrictions for the operation of a licensed cannabis establishment.

15 (f) Cannabis establishments, and books and records maintained and  
16 created by cannabis establishments, are subject to inspection by the Cannabis  
17 Control Board with reasonable notice to the owner or agent of the business.

18 **§ 8112. Employers, Driving, Minors, and Control of Property.**

19 (a) Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed or interpreted to amend,  
20 repeal, affect, restrict, or preempt the rights and obligations of public and private  
21 employers to maintain a drug and alcohol free workplace; require an employer to  
22 permit or accommodate the use, consumption, possession, transfer, display,  
23 transportation, sale, or growth of cannabis in the workplace; or affect the ability of  
24 employers to have policies prohibiting the use of marijuana by employees and  
25 prospective employees in the workplace.

1 (b) Nothing in this Chapter is intended to affect the ability of employers to  
2 enact and enforce workplace policies restricting the use or consumption of cannabis  
3 by employees in the workplace.

4 (c) Nothing in this Chapter is intended to impair, restrict, or diminish the  
5 ability of a government agency to prohibit or restrict any of the actions or conduct  
6 otherwise permitted under this Chapter within a building owned, leased, or occupied  
7 by the government agency.

8 (d) Nothing in this Chapter is intended to allow driving under the influence  
9 of cannabis or to supersede laws related to driving under the influence of cannabis.

10 (e) Nothing in this Chapter is intended to permit the transfer of cannabis,  
11 with or without remuneration, to a person under the age of twenty-one (21) years.

12 (f) Nothing in this Chapter shall prohibit a person, employer, school,  
13 hospital, recreation, or youth center, correction facility, corporation, or any other  
14 entity who occupies, owns, or controls private property from prohibiting or  
15 otherwise regulating the possession, consumption, use, display, transfer,  
16 distribution, sale, transportation, or growing of cannabis on or in that property.

17 **§ 8113. Excise Tax on Cannabis.**

18 (a) A Guam excise tax is imposed on the sale or transfer of cannabis from  
19 a cannabis cultivation facility to a retail cannabis store or cannabis product  
20 manufacturing facility. Every cannabis cultivation facility *shall* pay a Guam excise  
21 tax at the rate of fifteen percent (15%) on the dollar value of cannabis that is sold or  
22 transferred from a cannabis cultivation facility to a retail cannabis store or cannabis  
23 product manufacturing facility. Provided further, that no such excise tax shall be  
24 levied upon cannabis intended for sale as medical cannabis.

25 (b) The Department of Revenue and Taxation *shall* establish procedures  
26 for the collection of all excise taxes levied.

1 (c) The Cannabis Control Board may exempt certain parts of the cannabis  
2 plant from the excise tax described in Subsection (a), or may establish an alternate  
3 rate or tax structure in accordance with the rules and regulations promulgated in  
4 accordance with this Chapter.

5 (d) There is hereby established a fund to be known as the *Cannabis Fund*  
6 which *shall* be maintained separate and apart from any other fund of the government  
7 of Guam and *shall* be administered by the Department of Administration. Fifty  
8 percent (50%) of the excise tax collected or received pursuant to § 8113(a) *shall* be  
9 deposited in the Cannabis Fund, and *shall* be annually allocated, and is hereby  
10 appropriated and *shall* be continued to be deemed appropriated as follows:

11 (1) twenty-five percent (25%) of the Fund to the Department of  
12 Public Health and Social Services; and

13 (2) twenty-five percent (25%) of the Fund for the following:

14 (A) fifteen percent (15%) to the Guam Police Department for  
15 the purposes of recruiting or maintaining police officers and purchasing  
16 equipment and detection devices;

17 (B) fifteen percent (15%) to the Guam Customs and  
18 Quarantine Agency for the purposes of recruiting or maintaining  
19 customs and quarantine officers and purchasing equipment and  
20 detection devices;

21 (C) twenty percent (20%) to the Department of Revenue and  
22 Taxation for operations consistent with the implementation of this Act;

23 (D) forty percent (40%) to the Guam Behavioral Health and  
24 Wellness Center substance abuse treatment, prevention, and education;  
25 and

26 (E) ten percent (10%) to the Department of Agriculture's  
27 Conversation Officer Law Enforcement Section for the purposes of

1 recruiting or maintaining conservation officers and purchasing  
2 equipment and detection devices.

3 **§ 8114. Monthly Statements and Payments.**

4 (a) Each cannabis cultivation facility *shall* send a statement by mail or  
5 electronically to the Department on or before the last day of each calendar month.  
6 The statement must contain an account of the amount of cannabis sold or transferred  
7 to retail cannabis stores and cannabis product manufacturing facilities in Guam  
8 during the preceding month, setting out:

9 (1) the total number of ounces, including fractional ounces sold or  
10 transferred;

11 (2) the names and addresses of each buyer and transferee; and

12 (3) the weight of cannabis sold or transferred to the respective buyers  
13 or transferees.

14 **§ 8115. Federal Law, Applicability.**

15 Nothing in this Chapter proposes or intends to require any individual or entity  
16 to engage in any conduct that violates federal law, exempt any individual or entity  
17 from any requirement of federal law, or pose any obstacle to federal enforcement of  
18 federal law.

19 **§ 8116. Prior Duties, Penalties, and Proceedings.**

20 This Act does not affect rights and duties that matured, penalties that were  
21 incurred, and proceedings that were begun before its effective date.

22 **§ 8117. Contracts.**

23 No contract shall be void or unenforceable on the basis that manufacturing,  
24 distributing, dispensing, possessing, or using cannabis or marijuana products is  
25 prohibited by federal law.

26 **§ 8118. Smoking of Cannabis Regulated.**

1 Smoking of cannabis products *shall* be regulated and enforced in accordance  
2 with the requirements of Chapter 90 of Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, known as  
3 the “Natasha Protection Act of 2005.”

4 **§ 8119. Unlawful Dissemination of Cannabis Odor.**

5 No person or business shall permit or cause the smoke or noxious odor from  
6 cannabis cultivation or consumption to emanate from its point of generation onto  
7 another real property that is not in its possession. Violations in this Section *shall* be  
8 deemed a nuisance in accordance with Part 3 of Chapter 10, Title 20, Guam Code  
9 Annotated and § 23101 of Chapter 23, Title 21, Guam Code Annotated. Violations  
10 of this Section and the resulting penalties herein are in addition to other violations  
11 and penalties of law.

12 **§ 8120. Baseline Data Study Prior to Enactment.**

13 Prior to enactment of the rules and regulations by the Cannabis Control Board,  
14 the Office of the Governor, in collaboration with the Bureau of Statistics and Plans,  
15 Department of Public Health and Social Services, Guam Behavioral Health and  
16 Wellness Center, Guam Police Department, the Judiciary of Guam, and other  
17 relevant government of Guam agencies, *shall* conduct a baseline study which  
18 consists of a collection of baseline data on cannabis use through population based  
19 surveys before enactment, and baseline data measuring various public safety and  
20 public health issues related to cannabis use in order to measure the impact of this  
21 Act. This study *shall* be reviewed annually by the Cannabis Control Board and used  
22 as a monitoring and comparison tool with public health and public safety data  
23 relative to cannabis use going forward.

24 **Section 3.** A new Chapter 9 is *added* to Title 11 of Guam Code Annotated,  
25 to read:

26 **“CHAPTER 9**  
27 **CANNABIS CONTROL BOARD**



- 1           § 9101.     Short Title.
- 2           § 9102.     Cannabis Control Board, Established.
- 3           § 9103.     Appointment of Members; Term.
- 4           § 9104.     Qualifications of Members.
- 5           § 9105.     Meetings of Board; Quorum; Chairperson, Vice Chairperson.
- 6           § 9106.     Staff Support.
- 7           § 9107.     Duties of Board.
- 8           § 9108.     Limitations on Board Jurisdiction.
- 9           § 9109.     Cannabis Control Fund, Created.

10       **§ 9101.     Short Title.**

11       This Chapter *shall* be known as the “*Cannabis Control Board Act of 2019.*”

12       **§ 9102.     Cannabis Control Board, Established.**

13       There is hereby established a “Cannabis Control Board” (Board) within the  
 14 Department of Revenue and Taxation.

15       **§ 9103.     Appointment of Members; Term.**

16       The Board *shall* have a membership of nine (9) members who are appointed  
 17 by and serve at the pleasure of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

18           (a)    One (1) member *shall* be the Director of the Department of  
 19 Revenue and Taxation, or his or her designee;

20           (b)    one (1) member *shall* be the Director of the Department of  
 21 Agriculture, or his or her designee;

22           (c)    one (1) member *shall* be the Director of the Department of Public  
 23 Health and Social Services or his or her designee;

24           (d)    one (1) member *shall* be the Director of the Guam Behavioral  
 25 Health and Wellness Center or his or her designee;

26           (e)    one (1) member *shall* be the General Manager of the Guam  
 27 Visitors Bureau or his or her designee;

1 (f) one (1) member *shall* be the Chief of the Guam Police  
2 Department or his or her designee;

3 (g) one (1) member *shall* represent the Guam business community;  
4 and

5 (h) two (2) members *shall* represent the general public, and *at least*  
6 one (1) member from the general public *shall* possess a medical cannabis card.  
7 Each member *shall* serve a term of four (4) years.

8 **§ 9104. Qualifications of Members.**

9 Each member *shall* be a citizen of the United States of America or a permanent  
10 resident of Guam for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the appointment;  
11 be at least twenty-one (21) years of age; not have been convicted of a crime, other  
12 than traffic offenses, that involves moral turpitude; and, must *not* be an applicant for,  
13 or hold a license to conduct any activities under the Board's supervision and  
14 regulation.

15 **§ 9105. Meetings of Board; Quorum; Chairperson, Vice**  
16 **Chairperson.**

17 The Board *shall* meet at least monthly and may meet more frequently as its  
18 duties require. A quorum *shall* consist of *at least* three (3) members being present  
19 for the conduct of all official business. At its initial meeting, a quorum being present,  
20 the members *shall* select their chairperson and vice chairperson.

21 **§ 9106. Staff Support.**

22 The Department of Revenue and Taxation *shall* provide staff support for the  
23 Board.

24 **§ 9107. Duties of Board.**

25 The Board *shall* have all of the powers and duties specified in this Chapter,  
26 and also the powers necessary or proper to enable it to carry out the purposes of this  
27 Chapter and the purposes of the "Guam Cannabis Industry Act of 2019." The

1 jurisdiction, supervision, powers and duties of the Board *shall* extend to any person  
2 who buys, sells, produces, possesses, transports, or delivers any cannabis items  
3 within Guam. The Board *shall* be responsible for:

4 (a) conducting hearings pertaining to any violation of this Chapter  
5 or regulations promulgated hereby, including hearings for the purpose of  
6 approving cannabis licenses and any other business allowed under this  
7 Chapter;

8 (b) promulgating such rules and regulations, as may be necessary to  
9 fulfill the intent, policies, and purposes of this Chapter, pursuant to the  
10 Administrative Adjudication Law in Chapter 9 of Title 5, Guam Code  
11 Annotated;

12 (c) levying fines and penalties for any violation of provisions of this  
13 Chapter and the regulations promulgated by the Board;

14 (d) requiring and demanding access to, for the purposes of  
15 inspecting, examining, photocopying, or auditing, all papers, books, and  
16 records of a licensed cannabis business on its premises or elsewhere as  
17 practical, including inspecting the gross income produced by a cannabis  
18 establishment and verification of their income, and all other matters affecting  
19 the enforcement of the Board's policy or as required pursuant to this Chapter;

20 (e) the types of licenses or permits to be covered by the cannabis  
21 license and its structure, including onsite ingestion, application of topicals,  
22 and smoking or vaping in a manner consistent with Chapter 90 of Title 10  
23 GCA;

24 (f) regulating the testing, purchase, sale, production, processing,  
25 transportation, and delivery of cannabis and cannabis products to be sold to  
26 consumers by a retail cannabis store in accordance with the provisions of this  
27 Chapter and the provisions of Chapter 8, Title 11 GCA;

1 (g) granting, refusing, suspending, or canceling licenses for the sale,  
2 processing, or production of cannabis items, or other licenses in regard to  
3 cannabis items, and to permit, in its discretion, the transfer of a license of any  
4 person;

5 (h) investigating and aiding in the prosecution of every violation of  
6 Guam law relating to cannabis items, and cooperating in the prosecution of  
7 offenders before the Superior Court of Guam;

8 (i) adopting such regulations as are necessary and feasible for  
9 carrying out the intent and provisions of this Chapter and to amending or  
10 repealing such regulations;

11 (j) exercising all powers incidental, convenient or necessary to  
12 enable it to administer or carry out the provisions of this Chapter, and the  
13 provisions of Chapter 8, Title 11 GCA;

14 (k) regulating and prohibiting any advertising by manufacturers,  
15 processors, wholesalers or retailers of cannabis items by newspapers, letters,  
16 billboards, radio, television, or otherwise;

17 (l) regulating the use of cannabis items for scientific,  
18 pharmaceutical, manufacturing, mechanical, industrial, and other purposes;

19 (m) adopting separate regulations as are necessary and feasible for  
20 the public display and use of cannabis items at exhibitions promoting cannabis  
21 as an alternative to pharmaceuticals;

22 (n) adopting separate regulations as are necessary and feasible for  
23 the development of a hemp program for strains of cannabis that exceed three  
24 tenths percent (0.3%) on a dry weight basis of any part of the cannabis plant,  
25 or per volume or weight of cannabis product, or the combined percent of delta-  
26 9-tetrahydrocannabinol and tetrahydrocannabinolic acid in any part of the  
27 cannabis plant regardless of moisture content;

1 (o) conducting an annual summit with the Department of Revenue  
2 and Taxation, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Public Health  
3 and Social Services, the Guam Police Department, the Department of Land  
4 Management, and other stakeholders in the government and private sectors to  
5 discuss the regulation of cannabis on Guam;

6 (p) developing an annual report which *shall* include, but not be  
7 limited to:

8 (1) incidents of impaired driving, hospitalization, and use of  
9 other health care services related to cannabis use on Guam;

10 (2) ownership and employment trends in Guam's cannabis  
11 industry examining participation by racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic  
12 subgroups, including identification of barriers to participation in the  
13 industry;

14 (3) a compilation of data on the number of incidents of  
15 discipline in schools, including suspensions or expulsions, resulting  
16 from cannabis use or possession of cannabis or cannabis products; and

17 (4) a compilation of data on the number of penalties, arrests,  
18 prosecutions, incarcerations, or sanctions imposed for violations under  
19 this Act.

20 The Board *shall* incorporate available data into its report and coordinate  
21 with the Department of Public Health and Social Services, the Guam  
22 Department of Education, the Guam Police Department, the Guam  
23 Department of Labor, and the Guam Economic Development Authority. The  
24 Board *shall* annually submit its report to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan*  
25 *Guåhan* and, when appropriate, make recommendations for further research  
26 or policy changes. The annual reports *shall* be posted online on *I Liheslaturan*  
27 *Guåhan's* website; and

1 (q) prescribing forms and adopting such rules and regulations as the  
2 Board deems necessary for the implementation and administration of this  
3 Chapter *no later than* one (1) calendar year after the effective date of this Act.

4 **§ 9108. Limitations on Board Jurisdiction.**

5 The Board *shall not* regulate the personal cultivation of cannabis as may be  
6 allowed by Guam law. The Board has no power to purchase, own, sell, or possess  
7 any cannabis items.

8 **§ 9109. Cannabis Control Fund, Created.**

9 There is hereby created, separate and apart from all other funds of the  
10 government of Guam, the Cannabis Control Fund (Fund). All fees, fines, penalties  
11 and other charges resulting from the licensing and enforcement of adult cannabis use  
12 on Guam *shall* be deposited in this Fund. Expenditures of the Fund *shall* be by  
13 appropriation from *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, except that sixty percent (60%) of all  
14 funds *shall* be appropriated to the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center for  
15 the following purposes:

16 (a) twenty percent (20%) *shall* be used for cannabis prevention and  
17 education programs for those under twenty-one (21) years of age; and

18 (b) forty percent (40%) *shall* be used for substance abuse, treatment,  
19 prevention and education programs.

20 **§ 9110. Licensing Prohibition for Establishments Near Schools.**

21 The Board *shall not* issue a license for a cannabis establishment located within  
22 a distance of one thousand (1,000) feet from any public or private school and other  
23 places or facilities where youth generally congregate, which include childcare  
24 centers, public playgrounds, and parks. The measurements *shall* be taken in a  
25 straight line from the center of the nearest entrance to the building of such school or  
26 place or facility stated herein to the center of the nearest entrance of the cannabis  
27 establishment for which a license is applied. The provisions of this Section *shall not*

1 prohibit the renewal of any valid license previously issued and in effect at the time  
2 of a subsequent construction or establishment of a school or place or facility stated  
3 herein within five hundred (500) feet of such licensed cannabis establishment, and  
4 provided that the premises of such licensed cannabis establishment *shall not*  
5 subsequently be added to or enlarged.”

6 **Section 4.** §§ (c)(23) and (c)(31) of Appendix A, Chapter 67, Title 9, Guam  
7 Code Annotated, are *repealed* and marijuana is hereby declassified as a Schedule 1  
8 Controlled Substance. Any reference by the Guam Uniform Controlled Substances  
9 Act to marijuana, such as “marihuana,” “tetrahydrocannabinol,” “cannabis,” and  
10 derivatives thereof, *shall* be deemed repealed, null, and void upon the passage of this  
11 Act.

12 **Section 5.** § 67.401.2(b) of Article 4, Chapter 67, Title 9, Guam Code  
13 Annotated, is *amended* to read:

14 “(b) Any person who violates Subsection (a) with respect to any  
15 controlled substance *shall* be guilty of a felony of the third degree.”

16 **Section 6.** § 67.401.4(f) of Article 4, Chapter 67, Title 9, Guam Code  
17 Annotated, is *amended* to read:

18 “(f) If he is guilty of an offense involving a controlled substance  
19 listed in Schedule I or II of this Act which is not a narcotic drug or a controlled  
20 substance in Schedule III of this Act and if he has been convicted of one (1)  
21 or more prior offenses punishable under the provisions of Subsection (e) of  
22 this Section, a felony under any provision of this Act, any law of the United  
23 States, a state or foreign jurisdiction relating to narcotic drugs or depressant  
24 or stimulant substances and one (1) or more of the convictions are final, he  
25 *shall* be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not more than ten (10) years  
26 and, in addition, may be fined not more than Thirty Thousand Dollars

1 (\$30,000.00). The sentence *shall* include a special parole term of at least two  
2 (2) years in addition to such term of imprisonment.”

3 **Section 7.** § 67.401.4(h) of Article 4, Chapter 67, Title 9, Guam Code  
4 Annotated, is *amended* to read:

5 “(h) If he is guilty of an offense involving a controlled substance  
6 listed in Schedule IV of this Act and if he has been convicted of a felony under  
7 a provision of this Act; or a law of the United States, a state or foreign  
8 jurisdiction relating to narcotic drugs or depressant or stimulant substances,  
9 and such convictions are final, then he *shall* be sentenced to a term of  
10 imprisonment of not more than six (6) years and, in addition, may be fined not  
11 more than Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00). The sentence *shall* include  
12 a special parole term of at least two (2) years in addition to such term of  
13 imprisonment. Imposition or execution of such sentence *shall not* be  
14 suspended and probation *shall not* be granted.”

15 **Section 8.** § 67.401.4(j) of Article 4, Chapter 67, Title 9, Guam Code  
16 Annotated, is *amended* to read:

17 “(j) If he is guilty of an offense involving a controlled substance  
18 listed in Schedule V of this Act and if he has been convicted of a felony under  
19 a provision of this Act, or a law of the United States, a state or foreign  
20 jurisdiction relating to narcotic drugs or depressant or stimulant substances,  
21 and such convictions are final, then he *shall* be sentenced to a term of  
22 imprisonment of not more than two (2) years or a fine of not more than Ten  
23 Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00), or both. Imposition or execution of such  
24 sentence *shall not* be suspended and probation *shall not* be granted.”

25 **Section 9.** § 67.401.4(k) of Article 4, Chapter 67, Title 9, Guam Code  
26 Annotated, is hereby *repealed*.

1           **Section 10.** § 67.401.5 of Article 4, Chapter 67, Title 9, Guam Code  
2 Annotated, is *amended* to read:

3           **“§ 67.401.5. Fines for Drug Offenses.**

4           Any person who is guilty of an offense pursuant to § 67.402(a) of this  
5 Act may, in addition to imprisonment for felony of the third degree, be fined  
6 not more than Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), except that if any  
7 person commits such offense after previously being convicted of one (1) or  
8 more prior offenses involving § 67.402(a) of this Act, or for a felony under  
9 any other provision of this Act or other law of the United States, state or  
10 foreign jurisdiction relating to narcotic drugs or depressant or stimulant  
11 substances, and one (1) or more of the convictions have become final, such  
12 person may, in addition to imprisonment for felony of the third degree, be  
13 fined not more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00).”

14           **Section 11.** § 67.401.6 of Article 4, Chapter 67, Title 9, Guam Code  
15 Annotated, is *amended* to read:

16           **“§ 67.401.6. Additional Fines for Drug Offenses.**

17           Any person who is guilty of an offense pursuant to § 67.403(a) of this  
18 Act may, in addition to imprisonment for felony of the third degree, be fined  
19 not more than Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00); except, that if any  
20 person commits such offense after previously being convicted of one (1) or  
21 more offenses pursuant to § 67.403(a) of this Act or for any felony under any  
22 other provision of this Act or other law of the United States, state or foreign  
23 jurisdiction relating to narcotic drugs or depressant or stimulant substances,  
24 and one (1) or more of the convictions have become final, such person *shall*  
25 be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not more than eight (8) years and,  
26 in addition, may be fined not more than Sixty Thousand Dollars  
27 (\$60,000.00).”

1           **Section 12.** § 67.411(b) of Article 4, Chapter 67, Title 9, Guam Code  
2 Annotated, is *amended* to read:

3           “(b) For purposes of this Section, a person *shall* be considered  
4 convicted of a second or subsequent offense if, prior to the commission of  
5 such offense, he was convicted of one (1) or more felonies under any provision  
6 of this Act or law of the United States, a state or foreign jurisdiction relating  
7 to narcotic drugs or depressant or stimulant drugs.”

8           **Section 13.** § 67.412(a) of Article 4, Chapter 67, Title 9, Guam Code  
9 Annotated, is *amended* to read:

10           “(a) Whenever any person who has not previously been convicted of  
11 an offense under this Act or under any statute of the United States or of any  
12 state relating to narcotic drugs or stimulant, depressant or hallucinogenic  
13 drugs, pleads guilty to or is found guilty of possession of a controlled  
14 substance under § 67.401.2(a), the Court, without entering a judgment of guilt  
15 and with the consent of the accused, may defer further proceedings and place  
16 him on probation upon terms and conditions. Upon violation of a term or  
17 condition, the Court may enter an adjudication of guilty and proceed as  
18 otherwise provided. Upon fulfillment of the terms and conditions, the Court  
19 *shall* discharge such person and dismiss the proceedings against him.  
20 Discharge and dismissal under this Section *shall* be without Court  
21 adjudication of guilt and *shall not* be deemed a conviction for purposes of  
22 disqualifications or disabilities imposed by law upon conviction of a crime.  
23 Discharge and dismissal under this Section may occur only once with respect  
24 to any person.”

25           **Section 14.** A new § 70.44.4 is *added* to Article 1, Chapter 70, Title 9, Guam  
26 Code Annotated, to read:

1           **“§ 70.44.4. Possession of Cannabis by Persons Under Twenty-**  
2 **one (21) Years of Age.**

3           Any person under twenty-one (21) years of age possessing cannabis  
4 *shall* be guilty of a petty misdemeanor and subject to a One Hundred Dollar  
5 (\$100.00) fine and suspension of their driver’s license for twelve (12) months  
6 for the first offense and a Two Hundred-Fifty Dollar (\$250.00) fine and  
7 suspension of their driver’s license for an additional twelve (12) months for  
8 each subsequent possession. Suspension of one’s driver’s license *may* be  
9 waived by the court and replaced with one hundred (100) hours of community  
10 service for each possession if the guilty individual can demonstrate financial  
11 or personal hardship resulting from the loss of his or her driving privileges.  
12 The violation of this Section and the resulting penalties prescribed herein are  
13 in addition to other violations of public law related to cannabis possession.”

14       **Section 15.** § 70.53 of Article 3, Chapter 70, Title 9, Guam Code Annotated,  
15 *is amended* to read:

16           **“§ 70.53. Intoxication of Persons Under the Age of Twenty-One.**

17           (a) No person twenty-one (21) years or older *shall* knowingly give  
18 or otherwise make available any alcoholic beverage or cannabis to a person  
19 under the age of twenty-one (21) years. A person violates this Section who  
20 gives or otherwise makes available an alcoholic beverage or cannabis to a  
21 person under the age of twenty-one (21) with the knowledge that the person  
22 to whom the alcoholic beverage or cannabis is made available will violate this  
23 § 70.53.

24           (b) A person violates this Section who owns, occupies, or controls  
25 premises on which alcoholic beverages or cannabis are consumed by any  
26 person under twenty-one (21) years of age, and who knows of alcohol or  
27 cannabis consumption by persons under twenty-one (21) years of age on such

1 premises, and who reasonably could have prohibited or prevented such  
2 alcohol or cannabis consumption.

3 (c) Any person who violates this Section:

4 (1) *shall* be punished by a fine of not more than Two  
5 Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) or by imprisonment for not more than one  
6 (1) year or both; and

7 (2) in addition to the sentence referenced in Subsection (c)(1)  
8 the court *may* require the violator to make restitution for any damages  
9 to property or a person caused by a violation of this § 70.53, and *may*  
10 require participation in volunteer service to a community service  
11 agency.

12 (d) The prohibitions of this Section apply only to a person who is  
13 present and in control of the location at the time the consumption occurs. The  
14 prohibitions of this Section do not apply to the owner of rental property, or  
15 the agent of an owner of rental property, unless the consumption occurs in the  
16 individual unit in which the owner or agent resides.

17 (e) This Section *shall not* apply to any religious practice,  
18 observance, or ceremony.

19 (f) The violations of this Section and the resulting penalties  
20 prescribed herein, *supra*, are in addition to other violations of public law  
21 related to alcoholic beverages or cannabis.”

22 **Section 16.** Nothing in this Act shall be construed or interpreted to amend,  
23 repeal, affect, restrict, or preempt laws pertaining to Guam Public Laws 32-237, 34-  
24 125, 34-165, or any other existing statute or public law relative to medical cannabis.

25 **Section 17. Independent Economic Impact Study.**

26 (a) No less than ninety (90) days from the effective date of this Act,  
27 the Guam Visitors Bureau (GVB) *shall* issue a Request for Proposal for the

1 purpose of conducting an Independent Economic Impact Study (IEIS) relative  
2 to the legalization of cannabis for adult use in Guam. GVB is authorized to  
3 expend funds from the Tourist Attraction Fund to fund the IEIS. GVB, in  
4 collaboration with the Guam Economic Development Authority and the  
5 University of Guam, *shall* determine the study's parameters.

6 (b) The Independent Economic Impact Study *shall* be completed by  
7 an identified group that includes an economist who holds a Doctor of  
8 Philosophy or Master's Degree in Economics from an institution of higher  
9 learning accredited by an accreditation agency recognized by the U.S.  
10 Secretary of Education or an accrediting body that is recognized  
11 internationally. This IEIS *shall* be transmitted to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan*  
12 *Guåhan* no later than one (1) year from the effective date of this Act.

13 **Section 18. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any  
14 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity *shall*  
15 *not* affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without  
16 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are  
17 severable.

18 **Section 19. Effective Date.** This Act *shall* be effective upon enactment.

1 purpose of conducting an Independent Economic Impact Study (IEIS) relative  
2 to the legalization of cannabis for adult use in Guam. GVB is authorized to  
3 expend funds from the Tourist Attraction Fund to fund the IEIS. GVB, in  
4 collaboration with the Guam Economic Development Authority and the  
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7 an identified group that includes an economist who holds a Doctor of  
8 Philosophy or Master's Degree in Economics from an institution of higher  
9 learning accredited by an accreditation agency recognized by the U.S.  
10 Secretary of Education or an accrediting body that is recognized  
11 internationally. This IEIS *shall* be transmitted to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan*  
12 *Guåhan* no later than one (1) year from the effective date of this Act.

13 **Section 18. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any  
14 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity *shall*  
15 *not* affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without  
16 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are  
17 severable.

18 **Section 19. Effective Date.** This Act *shall* be effective upon enactment.

*The* WHITE HOUSE

## PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

### INCREASING MEDICAL MARIJUANA AND CANNABIDIOL RESEARCH

Executive Orders

December 18, 2025

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Purpose and Policy. Americans deserve access to the best medical treatments and research infrastructure in the world. In 2023, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) completed a review of the landscape of medical use of marijuana and found scientific support for its use to treat anorexia related to a medical condition, nausea and vomiting, and pain. Chronic pain affects nearly 1 in 4 United States adults and more than 1 in 3 United States seniors, and 6 in 10 people who use medical marijuana report doing so to manage pain. Forty States plus the District of Columbia have State- or locally-sanctioned, regulated medical marijuana programs. Yet decades of Federal drug control policy have neglected marijuana's medical uses. That oversight has limited the ability of scientists and manufacturers to complete the necessary research on safety and efficacy to inform doctors and patients. Marijuana is currently controlled under Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA). In 2023, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recommended to the Drug Enforcement Agency that marijuana be controlled under Schedule III of

the CSA. Schedule I drugs are defined as drugs with no currently accepted medical use, a high potential for abuse, and a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug under medical supervision. Schedule III drugs are classified as having a potential for abuse less than the drugs or other substances in Schedules I and II, a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, and a potential for moderate or low physical dependence or high psychological dependence in the event of drug abuse. The recommendation from HHS included a determination that medical marijuana has a currently accepted medical use. That determination was based in part on a finding by the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health that more than 30,000 licensed healthcare practitioners across 43 United States jurisdictions are authorized to recommend the medical use of marijuana for more than 6 million registered patients to treat at least 15 medical conditions. It was also based on a finding by the FDA of credible scientific support to substantiate the use of marijuana in the treatment of pain, anorexia related to certain medical conditions, and nausea and vomiting induced by chemotherapy. The National Institute on Drug Abuse concurred with the FDA's recommendation that marijuana be rescheduled from Schedule I to Schedule III of the CSA. In May 2024, the Department of Justice issued a proposed rule to reschedule marijuana to Schedule III. The proposed rule received nearly 43,000 public comments and is currently awaiting an administrative law hearing. The Federal Government's long delay in recognizing the medical use of marijuana does not serve the Americans who report health benefits from the medical use of marijuana to ease chronic pain and other various medically recognized ailments. Americans who often seek alternative relief from chronic pain symptoms are particularly impacted. For example, in one research survey, 20 percent of participating United States veterans reported using fewer opioids as a result of their medical marijuana use. One in 10 seniors used marijuana in the last year and some evidence shows improvements in seniors' health-related quality of life and pain with medical marijuana use. However, the current Schedule I position of marijuana has impeded research. The lack of appropriate research on medical marijuana and consequent lack of FDA approval leaves American patients and doctors without

adequate guidance on appropriate prescribing and utilization. One patient survey showed that just 56 percent of older Americans using marijuana have discussed the usage with their healthcare provider. This places patients, especially seniors who may be on multiple medications, at increased risk of drug interactions or other adverse events. The Federal Government must improve the research infrastructure for medical marijuana to better serve Americans.

In addition to medical marijuana, which is primarily made up of two cannabinoids — cannabidiol (CBD) and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) — hemp-derived cannabinoid products, defined by section 297A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639o), have shown potential to improve patient symptoms for common ailments and are frequently used by Americans. One in 5 United States adults and nearly 15 percent of seniors reported using CBD in the past year, and chronic pain patients have reported improvements with CBD use in clinical studies. Furthermore, evidence suggests that the amount of THC in hemp-derived cannabinoid products can affect both pain treatment efficacy and adverse events. Hemp-derived cannabinoids, as defined in 7 U.S.C. 1639o, are not controlled substances under the CSA but are subject to the same authorities and requirements as FDA-regulated products containing any other substance. Adding complexity is the fact that some full-spectrum CBD products will once again be controlled as marijuana under the CSA when section 781 of Public Law 119-37 goes into effect because they contain THC levels above the per-container threshold set by that law. Further, a recent study found that some commercially available CBD products evaluated were inaccurately labeled regarding CBD isolate, broad-spectrum, or full-spectrum composition, posing safety risks for consumers. In short, the current legal landscape leaves American patients and doctors without adequate guidance or product safeguards for CBD.

It is the policy of my Administration to increase medical marijuana and CBD research to better inform patients and doctors. It is critical to close the gap between current medical marijuana and CBD use and medical knowledge of risks and benefits, including for specific populations and conditions. Research methods and models should include real-world evidence and should facilitate affordable access in order to

rapidly assess the health outcomes of medical marijuana and legal CBD products while focusing on long-term health effects in vulnerable populations like adolescents and young adults.

**Sec. 2. Rescheduling Medical Marijuana and Improving Access to Cannabidiol Products.**

(a) The Attorney General shall take all necessary steps to complete the rulemaking process related to rescheduling marijuana to Schedule III of the CSA in the most expeditious manner in accordance with Federal law, including 21 U.S.C. 811.

(b) The Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff for Legislative, Political, and Public Affairs shall work with the Congress to update the statutory definition of final hemp-derived cannabinoid products to allow Americans to benefit from access to appropriate full-spectrum CBD products while preserving the Congress's intent to restrict the sale of products that pose serious health risks. This will include consultation with appropriate executive departments and agencies and authorities to develop a regulatory framework for hemp-derived cannabinoid products, including development of guidance on an upper limit on milligrams of THC per serving with considerations on per container limits and CBD to THC ratio requirements. The Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the Director of the National Institutes of Health shall develop research methods and models utilizing real-world evidence to improve access to hemp-derived cannabinoid products in accordance with Federal law and to inform standards of care.

**Sec. 3. General Provisions.** (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

- (i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or
- (ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive

or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

(d) The costs for publication of this order shall be borne by the Department of Health and Human Services.

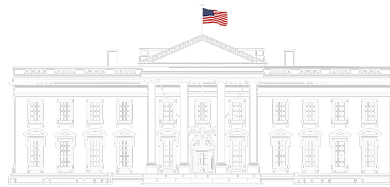
DONALD J. TRUMP

THE WHITE HOUSE,  
December 18, 2025.



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*Telo T. Taitague*  
CHAIRWOMAN

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## COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

### I. OVERVIEW

The Committee on *Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement*, convened a Roundtable Hearing on Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room, on the following agenda items:

- **Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Industry Act**
  - a. **Cannabis Control Board Responsibilities-** Statutory monthly meeting requirements; Enforcement and prosecution responsibilities under the Cannabis Industry Act; Adoption of regulations necessary for the development of a hemp program; Annual reporting obligations; Status of Cannabis Control Board member terms and cannabis summit efforts.
  - b. **Status Update on Program Implementation-** Current licensing activity; Interagency coordination; Laboratory license application status; Seed-to-sale agreement with METRC; Banking considerations.
  - c. **Barriers to Program Implementation-** Regulatory and licensing challenges; Enforcement coordination; Zoning, financing, and business feasibility; Hemp program development alignment.

#### **Public Notice Requirement:**

In compliance with Open Government Law, a five (5) day public notice of this hearing was published on Tuesday, December 30, 2025, and a forty-eight (48) hour notice was published on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, on KUAM-TV and on the Guam Public Notice Website. Notices were also sent to all senators, and all main media broadcasting outlets via email on the same dates.

#### **Senators Present:**

Senator Telo Taitague, Chairperson  
Senator Shelly V. Calvo, Member  
Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao  
Senator Sabrina Salas Mantanane

**Appearing Before the Senate Panel:**

Maria Lizama, Director, Department of Revenue & Taxation (DRT), CCB Board Member

Valerie Pereda, Compliance Branch, DRT

Meiko Cepeda, Compliance Branch, DRT

Chelsa Muña, Director, Department of Agriculture (DoAG), CCB Board Member

Amanda Shelton, Deputy Director, Department of Public Health and Social Services (DHPSS), CCB Member

Athena Dueñas, Guam Behavioral Health & Wellness Center (GBHWC)

Jonathan Savares

Gerry Yingling

Andrea Pellacani, Grassroots Guam

Robert Delos Reyes, Greenland Farms

Stephen Roberto, Guam's Real Deal LLC

Edward Santos, Cannabis Educator, GAMA

**Written Testimony Submitted:**

Chelsa Muña, Director, Department of Agriculture (DoAG)

Carissa E. Pangelinan, EdD, Director, Guam Behavioral Health & Wellness

Stephen Roberto, Guam's Real Deal LLC

**II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION**

The Roundtable Hearing on the Cannabis Control Act was Called-to-Order at 9:00 a.m.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Håfa adai again. Welcome to the public hearing room. It is now called to order for this round table on cannabis. The time now is 9:07 a.m. on January 8, 2026. This roundtable is conducted by myself, Senadot Telo Taitague, Chairman of the Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Reliability Affairs, Justice, Election, and Retirement. And to comply with the open government law on this roundtable, as stated earlier, it was published on KUAM, on the Guam Notice Portal, on Tuesday, December 30, 2025, and the second notice on Tuesday, January 6th, 2025. Notice of this hearing was also disseminated to all the senators, the media via email, and is made available on the Guam Legislature's website.



OFFICE OF SENATOR  
*Telo T. Taitague*  
CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory  
Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

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I'd also like to welcome everyone that's here today. Welcome my colleagues, Senator Shelly Calvo and Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane, and I believe Senator Gumataotao will be joining us shortly. And colleagues, the copies of the testimonies and statements received ahead of the roundtable can be accessed through the Google Drive link, which is published on the Guam Public Hearing Notice for the hearing, and also emailed to you in advance.

Invitations to this public hearing roundtable was sent to the following agencies, DRT, CCB, which is the Cannabis Commission Board, Department of Agriculture, Guam Water Works, GPA, Guam Behavioral, Guam Public Health, GPD, GFD, GVB, and Department of Land Management.

I'd also like to recognize those who are watching us at home today, and we would like to ask those who are participating on the roundtable, when it's time to introduce you, state your name for the record and what agency you're with, or if you're here and on your personal capacity, or what business you represent.

So, at this time, I'm just going to get started with just some opening remarks.

The purpose of this roundtable is to assess the current status of Guam's adult-use cannabis program, examine the barriers preventing the launch of a regulated industry, and determine what actions, administrative or legislative, may be necessary to move the program forward. Although the Cannabis Industry Act has been in effect since 2019 and its rules and regulations lapsed on May 30, 2022, no commercial licenses have been approved to date. This lack of progress has raised significant concerns regarding regulatory readiness, interagency coordination, and the Cannabis Control Board's ability to fulfill its statutory mandates.

As of the most recent information available, the Cannabis Control Board (CCB) has not held a meeting since February 21, 2025, despite a statutory requirement to meet monthly. The Office of Public Accountability website confirms the February meeting as the last on record, and the most recent meeting minutes posted on the Department of Revenue & Taxation (DRT) website date back to April 1, 2024. This extended lapse in activity has contributed to uncertainty over the status of Board decisions, license reviews, and the overall direction of the program.

At the time of the February 2025 meeting, the CCB reported approving 16 responsible officials, yet no establishment licenses had been issued. Proposed applications included five cultivation facilities, one testing laboratory, and seven retail establishments, none of which had cleared all regulatory prerequisites. The most significant holdup appears to center on the sole testing laboratory applicant, Blue Wave, Inc., whose application was tabled due to unresolved issues with GWA clearances.

In addition to licensing delays, several statutory responsibilities assigned to the CCB remain unfulfilled, including the annual report on public health impacts, enforcement trends, and industry participation, as well as the adoption of separate regulations for the hemp program. Compounding these issues is the ambiguity surrounding the current status of appointed Board members. While the statute identifies nine total members, including six agency heads or designees and three gubernatorial appointees, public records do not clearly identify who presently occupies the three appointed seats, nor whether their terms have expired.

This roundtable also takes place amid potential federal policy shifts that could directly affect Guam's cannabis and hemp landscape. President Trump issues an executive order with the intent to reclassify marijuana as a less dangerous drug, which would primarily impact federal tax treatment under Internal Revenue Code Section 280E but would still require a regulatory framework governing production and distribution. As a schedule III drug, marijuana would fall under the jurisdiction of the federal government agencies in the same manner that pharmaceuticals are. Rescheduling marijuana does not decriminalize it for adult use, such as alcohol and tobacco. There are many opinions on what the new landscape may mean, but most of it is speculative until a new regulatory framework is established.

At the same time, proposed federal changes redefining hemp -particularly tighter limits on Total THC and restrictions on hemp-derived cannabinoid products - raise important questions about Guam's current retail market, enforcement challenges, and whether the proliferation of imported hemp products may be delaying investment in a fully regulated cannabis industry. The Trump EO also directs his administration to work with Congress to update the statutory definition of final hemp-derived cannabinoid products to allow Americans to benefit from access to appropriate full-spectrum CBD products while preserving Congress's intent to restrict the sale of products that pose serious health risks.

So at this time, I'd like to offer the table to everyone here to identify themselves, who they represent, and we are going to start on my right-hand side. We'll go around the table, and everybody will write your pens so that you know who their names are, and you can ask them



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*Telo T. Taitague*

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any questions that you have. So that's my little trick to the trade, so it makes it sound like I remember everyone's name. But we'll go ahead and start with my right. Please recognize who you represent. Just press the button right here on the side. Yeah, and you guys, please feel relaxed, okay. There is no pressure here, okay?

**ATHENA DUENAS, DRUG & ALCOHOL TREATMENT PROGRAM, GBHWC:** Håfa Adai and good morning, everyone. My name is Athena Duenas. I work for the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center. So, I'm the supervisor for the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program, representing my Director.

**VALERIE PEREDA, COMPLIANCE BRANCH, DRT:** Valerie Perretta, Department of Revenue Tax, Compliance Branch.

**MEIKO CEPEDA, COMPLIANCE BRANCH, DRT:** Meiko Cepeda from Department of Revenue and Taxation.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** First name again? Meiko. Meiko, can you spell that?

**MEIKO CEPEDA, COMPLIANCE BRANCH, DRT:** M-E-I-K-O Cepeda from Department of Revenue and Taxation, Compliance Branch.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay, thank you.

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** Hi, good morning. Marie Lizama, Director of the Department of Revenue and Taxation, CCB Board Member.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay. Good morning.

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** Amanda Shelton, Deputy Director of the Department of Public Health and Social Services, representing Director Therese Arriola, who is a member of the CCB.

**JERRY YING LING:** Good morning. My name is Jerry Yingling, and I'm not here to represent anyone, actually. I just had some extensive experience with one of my tenants who is a laboratory, and actually a Fortune 100 company.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay, so you're on your personal capacity then. Okay, thank you, Gerry.

**CHELSEA MUNA, DIRECTOR, DOAG:** Hafa adai, Chelsea Muña, Director of Guam Department of Agriculture.

**ROBERT DE LOS REYES, GREENLAND FARMS:** Good morning, Senators. Robert De Los Reyes, Greenland Farms.

**STEPHEN ROBERTO, GUAM'S REAL DEAL:** Stephen Roberto, Guam's Real Deal.

**JONATHAN SAVARES:** Jonathan Savares, I'm a medical cannabis patient and medical cannabis advocate.

**EDWARD SANTOS, CANNABIS EDUCATOR, GAMA:** Hi, my name is Edward Santos. I am a patient-focused cannabis educator.

**ANDREA PELLACANI, GRASSROOTS GUAM:** Andrea Pellacani, formerly of Grassroots Guam, here in my personal capacity.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** And just for the record, Andrea Pellacani also works for my office. You did say that, right?

**ANDREA PELLACANI, GRASSROOTS GUAM:** No. I work for Senator Telo part-time, but I'm here in my personal capacity as the only company that I'm aware of that has cleared the regulatory process to get a cannabis license.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** So, I gave her time off today so she could be here, and at the same time have her work too. Okay, and of course, I want to recognize Senator Gumataotao. Thank you for joining us. I did recognize you earlier that you were here. Okay, now what I'd like to start to do, and of course, you know, please write down your questions that you have, and feel free to just raise your hand so I can recognize you, if the questions were asking are to a certain regulatory agency or an individual that you can have a question, you know, that you might want to bring to them.

But we did provide questions in advance for the agencies so that they have the answers for us and not tell us that they'll get back to us later, you know, hopefully.

So, right now we're going to start with some of the questions that I have for DRT since they oversee. So, we did send it to you. So, whoever wants to answer the questions. Marie, you



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have your team here to help you out here. So, what is the status of the CCB board members and their terms? And why hasn't the Cannabis Control Board met since February 2025?

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** Okay. Hello? Can you hear me?

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay, we might have some... Dylan, can you ask... We have some microphones that are not working, so if we can ask those guys in the back. But in the meantime, yes, please.

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** Okay, and I do apologize. I think in my submitted written testimony, I failed to address one thing, but I'll just go ahead and start with regard to the CCB board members. Of course, in addition to the Chairwoman, who is Vanessa Williams-Cruz, the rest of the members would be the Directors and/or their designees of the Department of Revenue and Taxation, Department of Agriculture, Department of Public Health and Social Services, Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, the General Manager of the Guam Visitors Bureau and her or his designee, the Chief of the Guam Police Department and/ or his designee, and a member of the Guam business community, and two members of the general public, one of whom should possess a medical cannabis card.

It is true, or what you mentioned with regard to the last three member slots. Those unfortunately have remained vacant despite our efforts to try to get those slots filled. We have had a difficult time. And with that said, with the last meeting the quorum required was only three. So, we typically do have quorum in order to conduct the meetings. With regard to, let's see here, I'm sorry... As far as why we haven't had any meetings since February of 2025. The answer is simply we have not had any progress or any new items to add to the agenda and to discuss.

Now, I am aware that there should be monthly meetings, and going forward, we will go ahead and just have to conduct meetings, even if there are no new items to discuss or any progress to report.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** So, do you plan on having those meetings monthly regardless?

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** We will go ahead and do that. You know, right or wrong, we figured that to have the meetings of course there is an associated cost each time. And so, we collectively did not call for a meeting given that there was no progress, no additional agenda items to discuss. And Madam Chair, with regard to your statement, with regard to the last information on our website, we will also make steps to correct and update that with the latest- make steps to correct and update that with the latest meeting information.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay. So, we have three member slots that have remained vacant despite ongoing efforts to fulfill them. And what push have you made for those?

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** We have been in contact with the person at the Governor's office who handles nominees for appointments.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** And again, it's all from the governor, right?

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** Yes.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** All governor's appointments?

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** Correct.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** All three?

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** Correct, yes.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay.

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** And unfortunately, I believe when- and I was not part of the board at its inception- but I do believe that we had one member for the general public and unfortunately, he is in a position where he can't serve as a member of the board.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Is Attorney Williams still a member of the CCP?

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** She is, and I believe her term does not expire until 2027.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** And how is she appointed onto the board? Through the Governor?



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**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** I am sorry, I don't know. Yes, I believe so.

**JONATHAN SAVARES:** If I'm not mistaken, according to the enabling law which is Public Law 35-5, that Attorney Vanessa Williams is an appointed member of the board via the Governor, also the member from the community who was the medical cannabis representative is now a sitting senator, so we've actually lost the medical cannabis member to his seat in the legislature.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay, so we really need these seats filled regardless if there is a quorum available, it's important to have all the stakeholders. There was a reason why to have that there. Does anybody have any questions regarding the board? Okay, please.

**SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MANTANANE:** Yes, Marie, if you could provide clarification; the February 2024 meeting, it didn't happen, correct? Was that supposed to be a meeting or was that when the notice went out for the meeting?

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** It was February 2025 and the meeting did occur.

**SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MANTANANE:** The meeting did occur?

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** Yes.

**SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MANTANANE:** Yeah. Okay. Thank you.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Steve, go ahead. Steve.

**STEPHEN ROBERTO, GUAM'S REAL DEAL:** I'm kind of confused. I've been a part of every Cannabis Control Board meeting, and I believe that the last Cannabis Control board meeting was in October of 2024. And I believe, if I'm not mistaken, that the next topic of business was to prepare for the summit that was to occur. to prepare for the summit that was to occur, but because the burr months were upon us at the time, that was the last of the discussion. I could be wrong.

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** Well, we do have minutes for the February 2025 meeting, but as the Senator pointed out, or the Chair pointed out, we just did not update our website to reflect that particular meeting,

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Which you will do this week.

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** Yes.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay, this week, as we're moving forward.

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** And I apologize, Mr. Roberto, you know, I will get back to you as to, you as to why you weren't aware or apprised of that. But I can't speak for that particular detail.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Steve, do you sit on the board?

**STEPHEN ROBERTO, GUAM'S REAL DEAL:** No, ma'am, I do not sit on the board.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** You just participate by watching?

**STEPHEN ROBERTO, GUAM'S REAL DEAL:** Yes, ma'am.

**STEPHEN ROBERTO, GUAM'S REAL DEAL:** So, you said October 2024 was the last time?

**STEPHEN ROBERTO, GUAM'S REAL DEAL:** So, the last of my recollection October... I have some notes. So, we had a June 10th meeting. The next meeting was October 28, 2024. The topics that were going to be discussed in the following meeting after that was how we were going to move forward with the summit. I don't know anything about a February 25th meeting. And again, the minutes have not been updated on the website.

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** Yes, and we acknowledge that and we'll get those up and going.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** And we'll get those up and going. Okay, Senator Gumataotao.

**SENATOR EULOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO:** Okay, just so I can kind of close the loop on this board thing. So, Marie, who's your designee on this board?



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**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** Well typically if I can't make it then I would basically appoint the Deputy Director.

**SENATOR EULOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO:** Why I'm asking is you're busy. So, yeah, you may want to consider having a designee, because having regular meetings, I think it's going to be key.

But I was also going to ask, because I don't know if these other departments, are the designees here at this table, or are they in this room? The reason why I'm asking is, if we can get to the ground on who these designees are, Madam Chair, then at least in terms of having a regular meeting it shouldn't be an issue. Going back to the general member or the general public member; it sounds like the medical cannabis card holder and the general, just another member. I'm sure there's people in this room that will serve right now. I don't know if they have medical canvas cards. But I mean, this is, I mean, I understand where you're coming from Marie, and it's a challenge not just for this board, but for a lot of boards and commissions. I mean, there's so many people that want to serve, and I'm hoping that... I know the Office of the Governor's office is watching but they got to prioritize these things.

A lot of work is being stuck because they don't have folks. There's plenty of people. I think Jerry wants to do it, maybe. But others might want to support. And I know that there's one, two, three cabinet members in this room. Could you please at some point can you guys talk to them and say, 'Hey, we just need one public member. We're looking for a cannabis card member.' These guys have a lot of access to cannabis card holders and the line is not, can't be that long. Okay, yeah maybe he wants to serve. But I mean the idea is they need help and it would be great if they can get this done. Madam Chair, I'm not, because I get where Steve's coming from, and whatever the case might be with the meetings, by just having it. We're seeing this all over the place and I'm just hoping that this could be a priority. That in the next quarter we can get this done. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** John.

**JONATHAN SAVARES:** So, if I may add, I'm sorry but I know that there was an appointment last year of Jenei Aguon, as a member-at-large of the community. Also, because, and I know

the Department of Public Health has a lot of other priorities, but this legislature in the previous, probably I think, I believe the last three or four years, the medical cannabis program has been budgeted and we actually have staffing at the Department of Public Health, at Hessler. And the reason why we don't hear anything about it is because the only thing that the government cares about is standing up this recreational program.

At one point in time, we had 120 or 130 registered medical cannabis card members, but because the major difference is (1) is the potency limits; and then (2), the taxation, nobody wants to come up because there's no way for them to purchase cannabis and develop the tax relief. So now we're down to what the last number I heard from the Department is sixteen, right? Six or sixteen, less than 20 people have continued and it's the fault of the...

I get it. Public Health has so many other things that they have to handle but when we have people who are paid out of the medical cannabis program from the budget that this legislature provides to them, then we should be promoting patients to go work with their doctors. We should be promoting this program. And the reality is, and I would like to pose this question to this panel and the CCB, is: You guys advertised that seed-to-sell mechanism. Where did that money come from? Because last time I checked the medical cannabis program, that bulk of that money was designated from the medical cannabis program for the purchase of seed-to-sell, but not once has I heard anybody talk about how this is going to benefit the program that this money came out of.

**SENATOR EULOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO:** Hey John, let me interrupt So Jenei Aguon, you are saying was an appointee?

**JONATHAN SAVARES:** Yeah.

**SENATOR EULOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO:** So, Madam Chair, if it's possible, can we have your staff look at whether or not that was transmitted, and if not, maybe we just make a phone call back to Adelup to find out if that was the case.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Marie, can you answer that question about Jenei Aguon

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** No, I'm sorry I can't

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay no worries.



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**SENATOR EULOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO:** Okay thank you Madam Chair and thank you, John, for that clarification.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Chelsea, I know you're on the board, right? Do you have a designee, or do you actually actively go to the meetings yourself?

**CHELSEA MUNA, DIRECTOR, DOAG:** I attend the meetings.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Yourself, okay, so you have no designee.

**CHELSEA MUNA, DIRECTOR, DOAG:** I believe at one point, either I or my deputy would, but it's more often than not that I attend.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay.

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** Madam Chair, may I just add for Senator Gumataotao. So typically, my designee would be up until recently, it has been the former supervisor for Compliance, Craig Camacho. So, he is no longer, or I'm sorry, he is on leave at this time. And with that said, I typically try to attend and if I don't attend then it's either the Deputy Director or Craig.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay.

**CHELSEA MUNA, DIRECTOR, DOAG:** And if I may add though that her designee Craig was doing an outstanding job running the Commission, or the Board meetings. He was very proactive and led a lot of initiatives.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Yeah, I just hope he left that institutional knowledge- because he was very well versed- to your next designee Marie. Amanda, you have a question?

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** I was going to mention our designee to the Board, if the Director has not been available is our Special Projects Coordinator, who is Mr. Lawrence Alcairo and he also is working on the Medicinal Cannabis Program. And

so, just a little bit of an update there as well. I know Steve mentioned that we, in previous meetings, were talking about planning the summit. So, the Department of Public Health and Social Services has taken the lead to plan that, and we are sending out notices this week that the summit will take place. This is required by the enabling legislation that we, the CCB, must conduct an Annual Summit.

So, it will take place on January 29th at the Sinajaña Community Arts Theater from 8.30 a.m. in the morning to I believe 4 p.m. But we will send out the notice to everyone, our stakeholders and our CCP partners, and to all of you senators as well.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** How about the public? How are you going to disseminate this information to the public?

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** We'll be sending out a press release.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay, good. Okay, so hopefully it'll get people to see it in the paper. Okay, if there's no more questions regarding the board, I'm pretty sure there might be some later on, so feel free to just ask.

The next question we had proffered was, the CCB has no authority over personal use of cannabis. However, what is the CCB's role in the enforcement of illegal cannabis sales?

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** Okay, I'll go ahead and take that. We have no authority over the enforcement of illegal cannabis sales. However, I will say that what will happen is Compliance will issue a fine for anyone caught not having a business license and conducting such sales. Additionally, an investigation may ensue with regard to any non-reported sales, of course because of related taxes, non-payment of taxes. So that is the extent of what we will be able to do.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay, any questions anyone? Comments? Okay. The next question- Are there businesses on Guam importing hemp products and selling it in various forms, including Delta H8 THC? How would the proposed federal redefinition of Hemp, particularly the total THC standards and restrictions on hemp-derived cannabinoid products impact Guam's current retail market. And in your view, would these changes help stabilize or further complicate the implementation of the regulated cannabis industry on the island? It's for DRT.



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**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** Sorry, ma'am. If it's okay, I will defer that response or the question to the Department of Ag because I think there was some confusion over the definition or I believe, you know, with regard to hemp. Chelsea?

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Chelsea, do you want me to read that question?

**CHELSEA MUNA, DIRECTOR, DOAG:** No, but I think that it's different hemp that we're talking about. So, the Department of Agriculture would oversee the cultivation of hemp, not manufactured hemp products. Right now, the manufactured hemp products that we're talking about, like with the Delta 8 and that is federally managed or regulated and downregulated now, but then also at the state level. So, products that are imported are already processed and manufactured products that then would defer to Customs and Quarantine for importation.

But they're basically, at that level, products that are approved federally and by the state or made manufactured under state regulations and then imported to Guam. There's nobody manufacturing that here. But the Department of Agriculture has authority over hemp that's cultivated, like the hemp plant. And we have an approved state plan for hemp growth or hemp cultivation. We recently, I think in October, held a community meeting to publicly hear the hemp regulations, and we're now in the process of the next step before we transmit it to the legislature for review and approval.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** So, I'm hearing that through the Farmers Act, right, the ability to send hemp products to Guam has been happening on Guam, right? And that in October of this year, they're going to be making changes to allow any of that product coming in. So, my question is, if that's the case, then we are going to solely rely on local grown hemp in order to get it to Guam, because from what I gather, there's going to be some kind of concern.

I'm going to turn it over to Andrea with regards to this particular situation that may happen in October of this year. So, Andrea.

**ANDREA PELLACANI, GRASSROOTS GUAM:** To clarify, well I guess then I did have a question. If the Department of Agriculture views their authority as only locally grown hemp,

then under whose authority is the hemp business being regulated at the moment? It's in ABC stores. It's in- there are six gateway stores. I don't know what they're selling. Who's regulating that? Whose authority is that under? That's just a question that I have. If we're not sure at this table, that's a little concerning, I think, to me. With regard to the restrictions for hemp and how it's been redefined; either October or November, the definition of hemp is changing, which we all understand is a percentage of THC- a Delta-9, right? That's how hemp is defined. And so, with the change it's going to recognize that there are other compounds which are currently flooding the market everywhere. And that's going to be restricted by total serving, a total package size, I believe. And so, when you extract so much Delta-8 or whatever, from something that's defined as Hemp- it's kind of complicated- something that's defined as Hemp, which is as a plant, it only contains a certain percentage of THC, and then you extract that and make it a concentrate. That's kind of how they're loopholing in. And so, when you cap the potency per package, that's I guess how they're planning to clamp down on it- if that clarifies anything for anybody. That's to my best understanding.

**CHELSEA MUNA, DIRECTOR, DOAG:** Customs and Quarantine regulates the importation of hemp products right now.

**ANDREA PELLACANI, GRASSROOTS GUAM:** But who regulates the market? Who's checking the stores? You know, like, what are they selling? If the product is in, who are they selling it to? Is it going to minors? Like, I mean, all that regulatory framework is confusing to me.

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** You're right, Andrea. There is currently no regulation, local regulation, with regard to hemp. As Director Muña indicated, if the things that are coming in right now, they're federally legal. And so, you know, it likely would be Custom's area to either allow that or to obtain documentation to ensure that they are in compliance with the federal regulations. With regard to the sales, it goes back again to us for compliance. We indicate, if I'm not mistaken, certain products, because they're smoked. Of course, those types of products, they would need a tobacco license at our end. On the other side, though, I mean, they're reported as retail sales. And so, our job basically would be to ensure that the sellers would have the valid business license and so forth. And I think that that's pretty much it. But you're right. There is no local regulation in place at this time.

**STEPHEN ROBERTO, GUAM'S REAL DEAL:** I think the initial question is, who has oversight or jurisdiction on hemp products. And then it created a whole slew of different responses. So, I just want to give clarification on the initial question which was... I can only



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speak for Gateway, and when I talk about Gateway, my wife is an actual partner in the business. I'm a consultant for Gateway. Gateway sells federally compliant hemp products. Federally compliant hemp products are not on the Controlled Substances Act. So, they are non-regulated agricultural products. The product has to be lab tested by an approved laboratory. Right now, the DEA has a hold on all DEA approved laboratories simply because there's not enough laboratories to uphold the standard of the DEA. So, you are allowed a Third-party Tested Laboratory- COA. It's called a Certificate of Analysis. If your product has a Certificate of Analysis and a proper chain-of-custody, it is allowed to be shipped by federal law and to be sold.

There was a question about whether or not these products are being sold to minors. So, I hope that answers what the products are. Those products aren't being sold to minors because there's a robust age gating system at Gateway stores. I can't speak to mom-and-pop stores that sell this stuff. I can't speak to gas stations or other operators. But a store like Gateway, we want to be the poster boys of compliance. We don't want to screw this up for the people that come to us for these products that are in need because of the lack of the other mechanisms. There is no medical program. There is no recreational program. There is only federally compliant hemp that keeps people, gives the help that they need, and keeps people out of jail. I think we can all agree on that at this table. So those are the two questions that I think people need to understand. There's a difference. Hemp is very different from cannabis in a sense, the regulatory state. But it does fill the gap, fill the need in lieu of the absence of these programs.

**JERRY YING LING, DIRECTOR, CCB:** Thank you, Senator. Let me give a little bit of background here first because I'm not involved in the industry per se. And I don't imbibe myself, and I don't put anybody down who does. My son's quite an avid user in California. But anyway, the point is that shortly after COVID I had a, I still have, a tenant that does laboratory testing. It's outside of the cannabis industry for what they do on Guam, but they do have a subsidiary that does cannabis testing for Canada, for the government of Canada. And so, what I did was I approached them to see, number one; if I could get them to develop a new business stream for their company here, and maybe expand their employee base, and also to maybe generate some income for Guam, because this thing's just been languishing and nothing's been happening without a certifiable study of what the cannabis contains.

And, I'm not a scientist. I didn't get into this, but they are. They're out of Europe. They're very familiar with cannabis. Several other countries in Europe also do the testing. And so, they looked into it here and they couldn't get some really basic information like, who's going to be doing the approvals and certification for a grower, and what was the development of the chain-of-custody from the grower to the testing lab, and then back out to either a manufacturer or a distributor.

And we went through all of those questions and actually I think we finally gave up right around maybe mid-2024, because we couldn't find the answers. We even wanted to try to find out what size the market would be and we got absolutely no information on that. And while they have equipment that could cover a lot of the testing, the final part, they would have to invest another \$1.4 Million on one more piece of equipment in order to complete the testing as required under Guam law. And since they can't tell how many users or how to go about making an internal rate of return for that piece of equipment, they finally bowed out. And it's a shame. I mean, they really made a big effort but a lot of the questions remain not centralized. We had many meetings with the Department of Revenue & Taxation, and they gave us as much information that they could give us. But unfortunately, there's gaps and holes that don't seem to fall under the purview of Rev & Tax. And the company's quite conservative. They got, I think in this region alone, 400,000 employees. So, they're not going to risk doing anything that is going to be looked at as askew by their Board of Directors. But anyway, that's just a really quick background on that.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay, thank you. So, we're going to move on. If there's any other questions regarding hemp, go ahead.

**JONATHAN SAVARES:** So going back to the 2018 Farm Bill, initially it was left in the hands of the state and territories. The enabling law that legalized recreational cannabis on Guam; adult-use cannabis on Guam, there was a statute in that law that gave the directive to the Cannabis Control Board to create rules and regulations for hemp specifically. And this was referring back to the 2018 Farm Bill because those regulatory requirements were left in the hands of the states and territories. This was another oversight and, you know, I'm not trying to hamper the CCB, but the reality is it was there. We could have created regulations to keep it out of mom-and-pop stores. There are responsible places like Gateway and other entities, who are standalone entities, who are dealing with hemp because it helps to keep those controls. But now we're seeing it in mom-and-pop stores and that's concerning. But those regulations should have come out of the CCB and it could be pushed out of the CCB because it is in their enabling statute.



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**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Maria, do you want to comment on that- that it is in there? Based on Mr. Savares's comments regarding it gives you the authority to oversee this?

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** And we will take that back. I will take that back to the Board as a whole because up until this time, we've really just concentrated on the rules and regulations that were passed into law.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay, thank you. Anyone else? Yes, Steve.

**STEPHEN ROBERTO, GUAM'S REAL DEAL:** I will add to this that when Gateway first opened... And by the way, inspector Craig- Deputy Director Craig and his team of inspectors are just tip-top, the best, the easiest to work with, so helpful. We brought them... They had a slew of questions about hemp, and so we invited your team to the facility to take a look and understand what the differences were. And he agreed that we were in full compliance of what was going on. Stores like Gateway pay their taxes. They provide safe access to a different bunch of communities that require these products.

I'm a local. My wife's a local. We're not going anywhere. If you have a complaint, we have to be there to address it. We put our names on it, and we stand on our business and our SOP. And with the help of the compliance branch, we've worked together to kind of differentiate that. And I think there's just a lot of misinformation because there's a lot of confusion as to what hemp and cannabis is; and then the ever-changing landscape with the laws federally and locally.

So, if anything, Gateway provides a lot of education and re-education. And it's kind of like training wheels as to what the potential of what we might be doing if we get this thing off and going. I just wanted to make that statement so that there's no confusion as to what a store like Gateway or some of the other operators are. I do agree with... The business practice of some of the gas stations and mom and pops, I can't speak to that but we've heard things. So, there is a distinct difference. And if there's questions about regulation, we do enough work with the U.S. Postal Service, Guam Customs and Quarantine, Department of Revenue and Taxation, Department of Public Health. We had to apply for a special license to sell hemp gummies. I

think we're the only hemp gummy business license for the Department of Public Health and Social Services. So, we are in full compliance.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you, Steve. And I do understand how Public Health, I mean, Rev & Tax can be overwhelmed, especially with the regulatory side, the inspection side. And, in fact, it was brought up, too, regarding vaping, having it all out of gas stations and mom and pop stores because there are more restrictions in a store that just sells these products. And, you know, with cameras and all the things that are required, it makes it easier too for Rev & Tax, because they just go to these individual stores that have it. So that might be something the CCB may look at or request because this roundtable can generate maybe some legislation that would make it safer, and not easier, but being able to monitor these products efficiently on Guam. So, that might be a consideration- to take them out of those certain areas- gas stations, stores like that and keep them into the other stores. Actually, I made a recommendation on the vape side. So, we probably might be able to do it on the product side.

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** So, noted Madam Chair. And if I may, I just would like to comment. You know, the team, when we have these discussions and when they go off to the...whether it's a CANRA conference or the Cannabis Regulators Conferences and so forth, one thing stands out is that in other jurisdictions there is a standalone department, if you will, specifically for cannabis, tobacco, alcohol, and so forth. And while we eventually would love to be able to have something similar at the Department of Revenue and Taxation, the fact of the matter is we're still just kind of trying to catch up and manage the day-to-day responsibilities that we have. But we certainly believe that if you had a dedicated standalone division, if you will, you know, or department, I think that would be of tremendous help.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you. My next question is on the implementation of the program. How many applicants are there and what is the status of those applicants?

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** Okay. So, since the launch of the Cannabis Industry, there have been 15 applicants. And you know, mind you, there are six steps, right, to becoming fully licensed, if you will. But with that said, there are currently four in the cannabis establishment licensing phase, and only two are actively working on their clearances, both of which are cultivators. So, it's been slow. There's no one near to completion.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Andrea.



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**ANDREA PELLACANI, GRASSROOTS GUAM:** I'd like to note for the record that the Excise Tax on cannabis- 20% of that goes to DRT. And I think the intent was to assist the Department with standing up a division to regulate this industry. I think everybody acknowledges that. And that tax was there. So, twenty (20%) percent of zero (0) is zero (0). And so, without any businesses, there's no funding. That's where the money was supposed to come from. I just wanted to put that on the record.

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** You're right, because fifteen (15%) percent on the dollar value of the cannabis sold or transferred from a cultivation facility to a retail cannabis store or cannabis product facility is when that excise application will take effect.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** So, my other question is: Have any of the applicants' reported barriers to you- in the process? And if so, what has been done to remove those barriers, especially at the partner agencies like Department of Land Management on zoning, GWA, EPA, and so forth?

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** If it's okay with you, I'll have one of the inspectors go ahead and respond to that, because they have been the ones who have fielded concerns or maybe perhaps comments with regard to barriers.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay, please. Or maybe use this one. There we go.

**MEIKO CEPEDA, COMPLIANCE BRANCH, DRT:** So, with the current applicants that are applying for the Cal Application Candidate's establishment license, they do stress their frustration with, of course, the clearances of the different agencies, how they don't have their rules and regs up to date and stuff like that. We do have one cultivator that is currently actively getting his clearance, if he wants to speak on behalf of his frustration so it can be a little bit easier for you guys to understand his frustration, coming from the person himself. Would you like to, Mr. C. Roberto?

**STEPHEN ROBERTO, GUAM'S REAL DEAL:** I just want to make it clear with you, Inspector. Are we the furthest along in the process or is there another applicant that is further along than Guam's Real Deal? I'd like to make that very clear here.

**MEIKO CEPEDA, COMPLIANCE BRANCH, DRT:** Yes, you're the furthest- you and another person.

**STEPHEN ROBERTO, GUAM'S REAL DEAL:** So, this is what we've been going through senators- is the fact that it has taken so long. If I take any of the CEL, if I take the CEL packet up to One-Stop, you're going to have a look of confusion amongst the line workers because it's been so long since their training for that Act, to handle that particular piece of paper.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Can you go back to the CEL packet?

**STEPHEN ROBERTO, GUAM'S REAL DEAL:** The CEL is the Cannabis Establishment License. It's one of the necessary functions to continue this business. I think after the CEL ...

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** What is the CEL pack?

**STEPHEN ROBERTO, GUAM'S REAL DEAL:** So, the CEL requires me to get clearances from all Line Agencies under the Act, to make sure that I'm in full compliance of anything that they oversee. So, we've gone through the Department of Public Health, Land Management, Guam Fire Department, Guam EPA, Guam Power Authority, and yep, Guam Water Works. And I think the frustrations for myself are just like I said. When you go to engage, the amount of time that is passed the training for the employees, they don't know how to handle that particular piece of paper. So, you'll get the response of, 'What is this? Oh, this is cannabis.' This is the marijuana. Man, I forgot what to do about this. Pari, what do we do with this?'

And they're trying. They really want to help. They really, really do. So, we've gone through the process. The last clearance I need is from Guam Power Authority. We had to, upon their request, kind of restructure some of our load requirements for power because it is very power intensive in terms of power consumption. So, we've actually finished that and are waiting for GPA engineering to inspect the work, and then that will be my final clearance to pass, hopefully. It's been difficult, but not impossible. I think the difficulties lie in the fact that there's been a lot of slow walking for whatever reason.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** How long, Steve, did it take you to do all these clearances? Like you said, you have one more to go, GPA. How long did it take you?

**STEPHEN ROBERTO, GUAM'S REAL DEAL:** Madam Chair, I have renewed my Responsible Official credentials and my Cannabis Administration License three times. That's how long it's taken.



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**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Three times?

**STEPHEN ROBERTO, GUAM'S REAL DEAL:** Yes ma'am. Is it four or three?

**MEIKO CEPEDA, COMPLIANCE BRANCH, DRT:** I believe it's three, sir.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Three. So, when you're saying three, it's three years since the time. So, every year you've submitted.

**STEPHEN ROBERTO, GUAM'S REAL DEAL:** Yes, ma'am.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** For three years?

**STEPHEN ROBERTO, GUAM'S REAL DEAL:** I renew my license. I renew my Responsible Official Credentials. This costs money. I like to pay by cash because the card, they want to take a little percentage.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Andrea?

**ANDREA PELLACANI, GRASSROOTS GUAM:** I want to add a little context to this, and I will try to make this as concise as possible. Our company was Grassroots Guam. We had the first medical cannabis license on Guam. We urged the CCB to take a different approach in envisioning the licensing process. He's talking about the cost of his license, but the cost of three years of not making any revenue, you will lose the shirt off your back. And if that's what we are asking our local businesses to do, it goes against everything I heard from the CCB champion, which was to help local businesses. We urged four times, five times, that we re-envision the licensing process. So, the biggest difficulty, again, we're talking... I know the Senator talked about the tax. That is the biggest regulatory hurdle. Anybody talking about the license fees or whatever, we're off the mark there. You need to have enough funding to make it pass losing pennies off the dollar every single day you're operating, because of this tax burden. That is the main challenge in cannabis.

Will it be removed with Schedule 3? We hope so, but we don't know how long that's going to take. So, we asked the CCB to re-envision the licensing process to allow local businesses to bootstrap. That process came to fruition under the medical program. In other words, all you

have to present are your plans. You present your safety plan. You present your water plan, your sewage plan, your security plan, your inventory controls plan, your recalls plan. Everything's on paper. You put everything on paper. You allow local companies to learn their business. They go apply for a license. You get a license. You take that license, because you can't go to a bank and get funding- you take that license out to any cannabis finance company. You are a lower risk investment, meaning you don't have to give away your company to get two, three, four million dollars to build your business. Why isn't Grassroots Guam open? I'll give you the honest answer. We had a land deal. We had funding in escrow. The Department of Public Health and Social Services could not approve our license within the time mandated by law. Because of that, everything rolled and spiraled downhill. We lost our land. We lost our funding, and we were never able to get that back. That is the burden that these businesses are being put through while we sit here and talk about why haven't the board met or whatever. I'm just bringing some real- these are the challenges that these companies are going through. I don't know them. I just know what I went through. And I lost a shirt off my back.

So, this government can either support these businesses, and remove these challenges and listen to the people who have been through it, who know where the challenges are, who knows the challenges from banking to getting financing, to operating, to preventing diversion, and all these things. There are a lot of experts out there. We just need to listen to them. It's not that hard. We've made a lot of...I was looking through the Cannabis Control Board rules packet, and I was going through each of the testimonies. Nothing. I was floored. And then those rules came to the legislature. No bill. No discussion. A public, mandated, obligatory public hearing where everybody was so excited to come and testify, and give their two cents, hoping the senators and the legislature would listen to their concerns to stand up this industry. No bill, no discussion. Rules lapsed into law. And then here we are, three years later going, 'Oh, why don't we have any cannabis businesses?' Everything was testified to you already. Everything's on record. The problems were told to the Board, to the Legislature. If we can just identify why we didn't listen and make those fixes, I'm pretty sure there will be cannabis open, hopefully. Good luck to Steve since he's the furthest along, but we lost everything. And I'm sure there are other companies out there who tried, lost everything. We just don't have enough to put \$1, \$2, \$3 million dollars and wait and hope that the government approves their map, one year later, or, you know, all these things. It's really challenging. So, I just wanted to put that on the record. I really feel the frustration on the table, and I just wanted to speak out and tell my story. So, I hope that gives some clarity to the burdens.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** John.



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**JONATHAN SAVARES:** So, and I can Grassroots Guam, when I got involved in this almost over almost ten years ago Dre. Remember that? We've been at this table with Andrea Pellacani, Steve Roberto was there, Melchor Manbusan, the late Kin Concepcion. So many people, so many people. And you know, the sad part is, Andrea was the first. Andrea, right from the inception, and I watched it collapse. I was calling, and at the time it was Director Gillan and she tried, she tried to work, hitting the extension deadlines, hitting the extension deadlines. And all Public Health could do was just push it to the side because it wasn't a priority. And it made it very clear to me that as a patient, we're not priorities.

And I watched it again happen a couple years later with Greenland Farms. Greenland Farms got through the whole regulatory process. I'll show the senators. I have the picture with Greenland Farms' owner and their Responsible Official holding their certificate to proceed. But guess what? They were tapped out. They were tapped out because it was so much money that they had to wait. It took them almost three years. Three years. But not a single person in the government of Guam cared. And we're here again almost ten (10) years later. Same table. Same table. No tax revenue. We've accepted fees from people like Steve Roberto, Andrea Pelicani, Greenland Farms, and all the Responsible Officials who've come in and paid their dues and yet we cannot move this industry forward. And I'll tell you why. We put a burdensome regulation in place.

The CCB- Andrea's right. We had so many people come in to testify at the CCB. I watched one of the stakeholders get told that, 'hey, we got to hurry this through.' And his testimony got, during a board meeting, he got pushed aside. Even though people were yielding because people wanted him to speak out for us. And they pushed the meeting up. They pushed it because somebody had a personal engagement. Tai mamåhlao. No shame. You have an industry, industry experts trying to help you guys. When we came in and there was a public hearing for the rules and regulations that were created, there were, what, 40, 50 people here come to testify. We had like 20 people testify, all saying the same things. We had Ernie Wusstig coming in saying, 'Hey, this agriculture regulations that you guys are putting in place are not consistent.'

These regulatory hurdles that are put in place are making it so difficult, and so costly that the businesses are going to struggle to survive. And I'm so glad that Mr. Roberto has something to help him to get through this. And they have- him and his wife- have a business and they're

contributing the taxes. But they want to contribute more. That's, you know, it's commendable because he's trying to just stay alive so he can get this industry up. When other people over the years...

The board is nice. It's nice for the government. It's nice for the people on the board because it's not your money. It's not your money that's being burned. It's their investors. It's their hard-earned money. It's their life savings. It's nice when it's not your money- that we're going to say it's okay to burn some other people's money because we want to sit on our hands, and we don't want to listen. I'm sorry to be upset. But I had to learn how to grow my own medicine. I had to learn how to extract because nobody stood up for the patients. When we were asking, when we were coming here trying to help the government stand up and understand how this plant is navigated, and to work with you guys, we were told, 'We don't hear you. We don't hear you.'

And it was clear as day when we came in and I saw somebody- a pioneer of this industry, I believe a pioneer of this industry- get told, 'Hey, we got other things to do. We got personal engagements.' And they cut his testimony off at a CCB hearing. And it wasn't any of the CCB members here. I'll make that very clear. But I watched that happen. And it was disheartening. And I'll tell you what it did to a lot of people in this cannabis industry who were trying to get into this, who are trying to get into this industry. It made them lose so much trust and confidence in the Board. It made them lose so much trust and confidence in the government. But I'll tell you right now, at this point in time, this legislature is bringing everybody together with stakeholders at the table. It's making it very clear that regardless of what's happening, we're going to move forward because we need this one- the economic turn needs to happen. We have no industry. Our tourism industry is in the dumps. We don't have the revenues. But yet we've been over-regulating the start of this industry. And I'm glad there are senators who are finally stepping up to do something about it.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you John. And yes, you know, that was probably one of the biggest mistakes that were made- was allowing those rules and regs to go through without placing it on the session floor. For many of us, we were waiting for it to be placed on the session floor so that we could debate it and add any amendments. And unfortunately, it was never reported out by the Oversight Chair at the time. So, we're here today, and we're trying to find solutions. We're trying to fix areas that bring hurdles, stop the bleeding of people who want to open a business to contribute to our economy, and provide jobs for those who need it. And, you know, that's why we're here today. So, let's find some solutions now. We know that the problem is there. So, it's time for solutions.



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I don't know, Chelsa, if you wanted to chime in on any of the experiences that you had, the heartaches or anything like that that you know of, I'd like to hear them.

**CHELSA MUNA, DIRECTOR, DOAG:** It's really illuminating to hear everyone else's experience because at our agency, we haven't, what I'm understanding now, though, is that everyone or these companies have been trying to clear the regulatory hurdles that they're passing, so they haven't even gotten to us yet. We're the last step, and our process is pretty simple for the bona fide certificate.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay, so I'm just going to move on if there's not any more questions regarding that, because I want to get into the question of, are the enforcement rules for DRT, and the CCB, and partner agencies clearly defined under the Cannabis Control Act of 2019 and the subsequent rules and regulations? I did have your answer here, yes.

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** I believe they are.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay, so I'm going to just move on to the next one. How is BPT applied across the distribution channel? How is the excess tax being levied and enforced at the wholesale level?

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** So, we aren't, no one is at that part of the process where the taxation would occur. What we've done on our side is we're preparing for that time. In other words, we've redone, or we've implemented or drafted a new form for filing online with regard to cannabis and so forth, to include codes within that. We also ensure that, you know, any time payment is taken, it is clearly designated as cannabis-related, and so forth. But we're just not at that stage where we'd be collecting taxes.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** And you explained that BPT will be applied at the retail level, the excess tax of fifteen (15%) percent on the dollar value of cannabis sold or transferred for cannabis cultivation facilities to a retail cannabis store and cannabis product facility.

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** Correct.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay, the other question I had regarding Metric. So, with the status of your agreement with Metric, the company selected for the seed-to-sell program, can you elaborate on that? And I know that Public Health might be involved with that contract.

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** Yes, and so we are part of that program. And to my understanding, the renewal is actually set for September of this year. And so, it's us, it's Public Health, and I believe it's DOAG. And so, the way it's set up is that we share in the cost of the program. But that's about as much as I can speak on that. We do have regular meetings with Metric, at least our staff does. And other than that, I will defer to Public Health.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** You can use this one. Does it reach? Thank you.

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** Sure, yes. Regarding Metric, so as Marie said, we share in the cost of the contract for Metric. And we recently met with them as well, to go through the seed-to-sell system, which I think several of the DRT employees have done, too. And they will be a part of our Summit on January 29th to give an overview and answer any questions for stakeholders.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Can you explain what Metric is? How did you get the contract? From the very beginning of its inception- of Metric. Why was it put in place?

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** So simply put, it's considered a seed-to-sell program. So, in other words, it would be from the time, you know, and pardon me for those who have...

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** What funding? Yeah, so my question is who funded this company to come in to assist you?

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** I believe the initial funding was from Public Health.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay, Public Health.

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** Yeah, sorry.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay.

**JONATHAN SAVARES, MEDICAL CONSUMER:** I think I can answer this.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Sure, sure.



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**JONATHAN SAVARES, MEDICAL CONSUMER:** So, going back on the history of Metric, right. The seed-to-sell mechanism is supposed to track from the inception of the plant to the sell. So, this was procured initially under the Medical Cannabis Program because there was a \$350,000 appropriation to the medical program. And that \$350,000 was to employ people so we can work for the Medical Cannabis patients and get more patients involved. And work with the doctors and everything, as well as the seed-to-sell mechanism.

But the only person that's ever advertised that we got the seed-to-sell was the CCB. Nothing in there mentioned the Medical Cannabis Program, which a bulk of that money came from. So that's where the funding mechanism came from. I've met with, before the procurement of any of it, I believe... Andrea, were you in that meeting? When we had Metric come in and they presented it to the MCB, or the Medical Cannabis Commission?

**ANDREA PELLACANI, GRASSROOTS GUAM:** [inaudible]

**JONATHAN SAVARES, MEDICAL CONSUMER:** So, we had Metric come in and present to the Medical Cannabis Commission about how the program works. Every plant's supposed to be tagged, and that tagging system is going to follow that plant from seed to sell. This is how we control the taxation and ensure that the government has regulatory oversight, because the access points will all be allowed from different entities, whether it be Agricultural monitoring the plant, whether it be Rev & Tax monitoring the taxation, whether it be Department of Public Health monitoring if it's a patient or whatsoever, whether it be a recreational consumer or medical cannabis medical patient. So those implementations are all included within the Metric system. That procurement has already been done. We've been paying for it for three years now, if I'm not mistaken. Three or four years.

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** We've been paying for it for several years, and the way it came about is that there are two big national providers of this system, seed-to-sell system. So, Metric is one of those big providers that we were able to establish a contract with for this seed-to-sell system. As John said, that it follows the plant from a certain size to its sell all the way, the same tags that are able to be scanned. And in case there is a need of a recall, if something is tested or something goes bad, unfortunately, or if there's maybe a tax question attached to that certain batch, then we as Public Health can recall that

batch or Rev & Tax can go out and maybe find the company for that certain batch. So, this is a company that does this worldwide. And they will be our provider if we decide to renew the contract later in the year.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** What is the cost for the contract yearly?

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** I don't have that on me, but I will get that information for you, ma'am.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay. Do you still have a balance left over from the \$300,000 that was appropriated?

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** I will have to get that for you as well. I don't have the numbers in front of me.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay, yeah. We'd like to see how far that is along. I mean, that's important, especially on the agriculture side, right? You know, just to be able to monitor the growth of what's going on in Metric.

**SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MANTANANE:** Just for clarification, so we've had this metric system for how many years?

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** I believe two years.

**JONATHAN SAVARES, MEDICAL CONSUMER:** Three years.

**SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MANTANANE:** Three years? And are we using it?

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** So, not currently because there is no business producing. And so, you know, Metric is ready to go. They're standing by. They've been answering our questions, working with us on a weekly basis. We talk to them on a weekly basis through, you know, the team, and they're ready to go. They know that our industry is ready to go, and they're ready to start when we are.

**JONATHAN SAVARES, MEDICAL CONSUMER:** So, Metric, there is something that Metric does, and it's in conjunction with the medical cannabis staff. In the back of my medical cannabis patient card, as well as my primary caregiver card, I have a barcode and this barcode is attached to Metric.



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So when we talked about standing up adult use as well as medical use together, it was to help us with the taxation separation. And this is why this conversation began with taxation. This is why we've constantly talked about moving the taxation away from the cultivator to the end consumer, because it's easier to separate the taxation.

And then Andrea was talking about IRS 280E. And if you know anything about IRS 280E, you cannot write off your cost of goods for the production of any Schedule 1 Controlled Substance. And that's why the tax implications have been such an issue. And this is something that's been brought up to DRT. It's been brought up to the Board. It was brought up to the Legislature. And we've been asking that this tax burden be removed from the cultivator because the highest cost that they're going to have is to their power and they cannot even write off their power. But back to the... Yes, there is something that Metric is doing, that we're using Metric for, and it's just to put a little nice barcode on the back of our cards so whenever we get a dispensary open we can hopefully avail of a tax relief.

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** Yes, and then they also provide information to us about what companies are available to Guam and whoever will become a producer that works with their software - to be able to use the system easily. So, they provide that kind of database to us already, in addition to the barcodes.

And Senator Sabrina, with regards to why we haven't, you know, used Metric to the fullest yet, is because we at Public Health have not received any application for medicinal licensure since 2023. So, we're in 2026, and I know that a big part of it, I mean, of course, it's the bureaucracy and the difficulty. But also, since the passage of the Recreational Adult Use Cannabis Act, we have no applicants on our side. And so, we are assuming that those folks are going out into the bigger industry for recreation or not coming our way.

**ANDREA PELLACANI, GRASSROOTS GUAM:** If I had the funding, I would still apply for medical. It's federally protected. Adult Use Cannabis is not federally protected. Medical cannabis will always be protected. So, for every potential cannabis cultivator out there, if you're looking at protection for your business, for your liability, for your family, for the unknown of what tomorrow may bring, who knows what Schedule 3 will bring. Does anybody at this table know if Schedule 3 doesn't mean the FDA comes in shutting down every cannabis business on

Guam? I don't know that. I don't know. I don't know if it brings it into a stricter regulatory framework or if it opens it up. I don't know. And I don't know that anybody does know.

**SENATOR EULOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO:** Madam Chair, can I, I don't mean to interrupt, but can I go back to Amanda? So, we paid for the...

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Yeah, but let her finish, please.

**SENATOR EULOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO:** Oh, no, I was just going to ask a question on the...

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** After Andrea. Go ahead, Andrea, finish, please.

**ANDREA PELLACANI, GRASSROOTS GUAM:** I just wanted to finish, so with Metric. Metric was a company that we were interested in working with also, so I'm happy to see that they're a good, reputable company. How Metric makes their money is they make it easier for governments to adopt. It's kind of like the Microsoft model, if you will. They make it easier for governments to adopt their platform. And the cost burden falls on the cannabis business. So, you pay for all the RFID tags, and that's how they make their money. So the cost to contract the system is the smallest cost.

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** So, we're basically paying for a software, and then the businesses also pay for access to that when they buy the tags for all their products.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Senator Gumataotao.

**SENATOR EULOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO:** Yes, and that was going to be my next question. So, if we're already paid for it and we haven't used it, who's been paying for either the upgrades to the system to maintain it? Is that the Public Health?

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** It's part of the contract right now.

**SENATOR EULOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO:** Okay, so at some point that it's going to run out of money, isn't it?

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** Yes, later in the year the contract needs to be renewed.



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**SENATOR EULOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO:** Yeah, because that's my thing is if we're not implementing and it's just sitting there...

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** So, I will get back to you on what is left in the account- if we're able to fully pay for a renewal of the contract or what is possible on our end with our financials. I don't know off the top of my head, but I will get back to you.

**SENATOR EULOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO:** I mean, yeah, because I think that it's an asset that's been purchased by this government to implement a program. And I mean, we can go on and on all day about what's taken us so damn long. But the idea is we paid for it and then we can't even, I mean, the utilization is super tiny.

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** Yes, and I just want to add that until such time that it is fully used, in the meantime, you know, as Andrea mentioned, Metric is great. They have reached out to the staff to ensure that they go through demonstrations, tutorials, you know, and so forth, so that they are well versed with the way the system works and so that when we are ready to receive that, you know, we're good. I mean, you know, so it's not ideal, but it's not that there's nothing happening on their side and our side.

**SENATOR EULOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO:** No, I'm just saying that we pay a lot of money for a system, and there's only three people using it. No offense to the whole industry, but it's like we're spending a lot of money for what? So maybe we can get it going and then it can just... We need value for our own money, isn't it? I hope these people on this table would agree.

**CHELSEA MUNA, DIRECTOR, DOAG:** I do know it's not a crazy amount of money. I mean, I don't want us sitting here thinking...

**SENATOR EULOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO:** No, but Chelsea, it's every dollar that's spent.

**CHELSEA MUNA, DIRECTOR, DOAG:** Absolutely, but all the staff are still getting trained and ...

**SENATOR EULOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO:** They're still getting paid to-by the way.

**CHELSEA MUNA, DIRECTOR, DOAG:** ... there was a lead-in time where they're also working on integrating it into the new government of Guam system to ensure that it works across DRT, Public Health, and Department of Agriculture. So, stuff was happening. I mean, it's not like they just came and said here's our software, we trained you, and bye. Let's keep paying us. It's been incremental, and there's an entire process through it.

**SENATOR EULOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO:** And so, because my question was, because these programs, there's updates, there's other things as they're modernizing. If the program started three years ago, there must have been updates over the last three years. That's what I was asking. It's just from experience knowing that once we buy a system that if we're updating it and cost wise it's going to still cost us.

**CHELSEA MUNA, DIRECTOR, DOAG:** It wasn't to integrate it right into GovGuam because we knew that the change was coming with the GFM is system so the first steps were to brief the staff on how to use it or just the operations of the software how it worked and then start training everybody. And then I think for the last two years, they've been working on integrating it into the government of Guam system.

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** I have the contract cost, Senator. So, the contract cost is \$75,000 a year.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay. And one of the biggest problems that we heard from Steve, too, is just being able to train these employees, especially when they're going through the process of, you know, the hurdles that he had. You're coming against employees who don't know the process, you know, to move his documents through. So, yeah, I think it's important, you know, I think it's worth it to move forward. Since we're on contracts right now, okay? Now we know that's like \$75,000 a year okay, and there was like Three Hundred and Twenty Thousand (\$320,000) million. I mean, Three Hundred and Twenty Thousand dollars (\$320,000) that was appropriated.

**JONATHAN SAVARES, MEDICAL CONSUMER:** So, it's been a reoccurring appropriation for the last I believe four years if I'm not mistaken. I could be, I know it's at least three years. But it was \$350,000, \$350,000, \$300,000, and then this passed legislation, I believe it was another \$300,000. And that's to keep the medical program operating. And that's including, I believe you guys had two or three staffers.



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**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** We did have staff up until a couple of months ago. Everyone who's been staffing that program has left. So, the only person left right now is our Special Projects Coordinator, Lauren Salcairo, who has been helping us with the CCBs as the Director's representative, who is now also helping with the medical cannabis.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Is the funding that's been appropriated, the \$300k and something every couple of years now. Is that covering the summit? The funding covering the summit? Or how are you using the funding to cover the summit?

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** We actually have not budgeted any money for the summit since the use of the facility is free, and we have all of our agency partners who are going to be a part of it and Metric who is already our contractor.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay, so since we're on contracts right now, on May 12, 2022 at the Adult Use Cannabis Rules and Regs hearing that I attended, which Public Health attended, I asked what was the status on the contract the Department of Public Health was supposed to secure for professional services from consultants, Cannabis Public Policy Consulting, LLC, I believe is the name. So, can you tell me what the status is on this?

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** I believe that contract has been completed. And Senator, that was before my time, so I don't know all the details. But I know that, and, for Director Marie, we don't quite know the details for that, but we can get them for you. And we have not used them since then.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Have you hired them at all since? I mean, if you haven't used them, so what was the status? So, I'll need an update in status.

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** Yes, we'll have to get back to you. But to my understanding, we do not currently have anyone on a consulting basis.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** And never had- on a consulting basis.

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** We did have a consultant who gave us some recommendations for the rules and regs, but I am not familiar with who they are. I don't know the details.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** I'd like to know who that company is and what the cost was to that and what they're able to contribute.

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** Sure.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay, on that one. Any questions on that? Anyone here on this side? Okay, you doing okay over there, Frank? I mean, Ed? Ed, you're all good? Okay. Bert? You're good? Andrea, please.

**ANDREA PELLACANI, GRASSROOTS GUAM:** I do have a question. I know this is maybe before your time, relative to your current position. But at the time, the Department of Public Health came in to the legislative hearing and provided a full testimony of changes that they were requesting, which was odd to everyone because, and I think it was just a matter of timing, because they were on the Board. They were on the Board and in the position to make these changes to the rules, but neglected to do so. I think it was just probably a matter of time when the consultant finally delivered a report. One of those recommendations, which I also urged the Department of Public Health to do, I spoke to Dr. Kaneshiro myself, was that there were no potency caps on in the rules. I emailed it, I requested for Public Health, I spoke to Senator Parkinson. I spoke to Vanessa Williams urging that there were no potency caps per serving and no max serving sizes in the rules. I testified on that at the legislature, and that was like the number one thing that Public Health came in with.

So, I guess my question is, for such an important thing like protecting consumer safety, protecting accidental ingestion by children, that's mainly what these potency caps do. Why has nobody moved on that? Like, that was, it seems to me, like a really big deal for a consultant to suggest that it needed to be done. Granted, if you didn't want to listen to me, that's fine. Who am I? I'm nobody here. But when a consultant that you're paying is making the same recommendation, where did it go from there? Where does it go after this testimony? Like, does it just go in the dustbin of testimonies? Or like, that seems like a really big thing to want to protect children from accidental ingestion. Even if you don't have children or pets, we know that there have been some issues with pets accidentally ingesting cannabis. And so, if you have, you know, a cookie with 300 milligrams of THC, that just seems a little ridiculous to me. But that is what... This is not new. This has been happening in the industry for two plus three decades already. We already know these problems. And so, I guess I'm just curious, where does the testimony go? Where does the recommendation go once the recommendation is made? If anybody can enlighten me on that.



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**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** Well, just to talk about the timing, yes, I believe you're correct, Andrea, regarding the time that we had the consultant and then the rules being introduced and those recommendations coming up. And so Public Health introduced it, introduced those recommendations as testimony and not as, you know, work done within the Board on the rules and regs.

But I think as Director Marie answered to several other questions, that that's something we can bring back to the Board. And that's not something we've discussed since we've been representatives on the Board, but something that we can certainly bring back to discuss again.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay, John, do you want to add something?

**JONATHAN SAVARES, MEDICAL CONSUMER:** Yes, I believe that when you look at your potency limits, and I know that Andrea and I have spoken about this. You gotta make sure that there's a differentiation between medical patients, because there are requirements. And I know Ed just stepped out to check something but I know he can speak on this, differentiate with the medical patients because there's a higher need sometimes. There's a higher need for higher potency limits for medical patients. And this is why the medical program is still very much relevant because when we look at medical patients, especially going through terminal illnesses, they're going to need higher potencies. Instead of eating a whole 10-pack of gummies at 10 milligrams apiece, they're going to need 100 milligrams for a one-time shot. And this is where we get into things like Rick Simpson oil. I'm not going to get into the minutia of all the different products that we can get into, but that's something that I believe was neglected when we looked at putting all this together.

**ANDREA PELLACANI, GRASSROOTS GUAM:** Correct. There should be no caps on medical cannabis.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay, at this time I'd like to ask any of the industry. Well, I think we covered most of the questions that I asked first, and I have them all here. Their answers and responses, I appreciate. I'm still waiting on some of the other regulatory agencies like Water Works. I'd really like to hear from them, Guam Power Authority,

But, at this time, we'll continue on with what we need to do as a legislature. And of course, with Rev & Tax and the Council, the Commission that oversees this. Really, we've got a lot to go through here. So, everything from the website update to the monthly meetings happening and the appointees especially. You know, to bring in the appointees in. The designees- you know if you have one, especially if you're not able to make it. It's so important for consistency too. So you're not schooling that individual again the second time so sometimes it's good if you're going to show up, that your designee is also there too, the both of you are there so you understand what's going on in case somebody is not there. The Summit, again, Deputy Director, can you please again bring that out?

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** Yes, the Summit will be held on January 29th at the Sinajaña Community Arts Facility. I don't know if that's the correct name, but where the mayor's office is.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** And that's at 8.30?

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** 8.30 a.m.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** 8.30 a.m., okay. And then, of course, we're going to be reaching out to Customs, you know, just to find out what they do from their perspective. Rev & Tax acknowledged the oversight of hemp products, the importance of it, and the regulatory side, not only that, but the inspection side is very important. We talked about, you know, looking at the Mom & Pop stores and gas stations that really, you know, everywhere selling it and we want to see if we can find a way that we can monitor it with more efficiency, you know, by maybe even placing it in just, like... Go ahead.

**CHELSA MUNA, DIRECTOR, DOAG:** I don't know but I think everyone would kind of welcome this, but what I think this should evolve into that I welcome and would look forward to is, if we could have a working session with the same individuals here who have the insight to offer. Because I know that at the time that we were trying to come up with the rules and regulations from our different agencies, I mean, we each had our own responsible section or responsible component, but we were learning while we had to promulgate these rules and regs. I mean, there was no time frame to adjust to the concept because we came into office and then there was this bill. It garnered a huge amount of support and then we wanted to see rules and regs.

So, we were all learning through that while we were in the process of developing it. And absolutely, obviously there are components of it that need to be updated and revised. And I



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think a working session would be helpful with that where we could all sit together because we were also promulgating our own sections and our own little agency silos, you know. So now seeing how everything is panning out, it would be really helpful if we just work together as a group to revise the rules and regs in a working session.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Exactly. Thank you so much for that, Chelsea. That's on the other side of my list to go down. No, no, no, you're there. You're right there. And it's going to be very helpful because when it comes to rules and regulations on the legislative side, we're not the ones that do that. It's the agencies. We've had a bill that was vetoed by the Governor because one of us, you know, decided to change the rules and regs in GAR, and that is an administrative function. What happens is the process allows it then to come to the legislature. After you've gone through the AAA process, come to the legislature. And that's when we hear it. And that's when we have the opportunity as legislatures to make amendments through a public hearing, hearing other people talk on it. So, it's going to have an extensive review, and I'd like to see it done sooner than later. I mean, because, you know, it takes almost three months to do rules and regs, you know, and then bring it to us, you know, we have 70 days to go through it. And what I don't want to do is have a bill come in front of us on rules and regs, and it just lapses into law without any changes that are made. So, yep, that was on the agenda. Thank you so much, and I'm taking that recommendation. And let me just finish down my list, and then I will allow everyone to say their piece and what they would like to see happen moving forward and how you can contribute. And one of the main things you think that should happen, this is recorded, you know, for a purpose. So, you can revert to this hearing, this roundtable. So, I'll allow you to do that.

So, we have the Summit, as mentioned, the customs meeting, of course, Rev & Tax on the hemp was the last word in. The Matrix funding- we had at \$75K. We just want to see the balance of how much money that's been appropriated. That money, who's it been appropriated every year to? Is it the CCB or is it Public Health that we've been appropriating to? So, we'll get a spreadsheet on what's been going on with that funding. Also, Cannabis public policy consulting. Please follow up with that one on the consulting and of course the work session that Chelsea brought up was an excellent idea.

At this time, I'd like to start on my right again- to go down the list for everybody to put your two cents in. This is an opportunity for us to hear you and then we have your numbers and names. And if there's anyone else out in the public please if you want to be a part of this, let me know and give me your ideas. Send it to [senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com). We'll be glad to hear what you have to say. So, I'm going to go ahead and start with Senator Gumataotao- if there's any comments or suggestions.

**SENATOR EULOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO:** Yeah, my only suggestion, Madam Chair, is that when we think about the Board, we really gotta get to the ground on the vacancies and to get it to us as soon as possible. And then with that said, to prioritize, and I'll say it again to the three Directors here, you have to prioritize this. People have been waiting too darn long. And I think when there's been appropriations given, people have an expectation.

I get the learning curve that was happening at the very beginning, but we're now at the end of a second year of her term, and you guys have all had plenty of chances to learn and now it's time to implement. And I think those guys who like in Steve's case, who have been spending money, and people's confidence in the ability of our government to do this job. I think that's it's key that you have staff that are working on this every day. They come to work, they work 8-5, you pay them.

And these people on this end who have been relying on the government workers to do their part, they just need you to just take that extra step here. I mean, or if not, I guess we'll have to maybe change the mandate or we just get rid of it. If we're not going to do it, why are we going to keep going around in circles? I say that with a lot of respect because I respect the branch of what it's supposed to do. And we need to just do the job and let's get it, you know, get it going. If we're trying to cultivate an industry, well, this is not a great way to do it. I mean, if it's such a priority, let's make it work. I mean, you got my commitment to do it. I want to help where I can. It's my vote too. And I have a lot to say. And I think that that would be a help, right, to the community, to those advocates. They've been waiting long enough. And I know that, you know, you guys are all resourceful people. And your staff are really good at what they do. And they're here because they're here. But please, let's, after the summit's over, have the working session, get that, and I would love to know when it happens so that I can attend. And then, you know what, because at some point we have a budget coming up. Are we going to keep budgeting for this or not? If it's not a priority then let's do something else. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** You're welcome. Ms. Dueñas, please.



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**ATHENA DUENAS, SUPERVISOR, DRUG & ALCOHOL TREATMENT**

**PRORGRAM, GBHWC:** So, Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center is not necessarily part of the regulatory part. But we do want to also emphasize the I guess the altered perception that this whole legalization of marijuana is hitting our youth, and we want to make sure that we also put out some prevention information. And I mean, it's just one of our, in treatment, that's where we're seeing an increase, is the youth looking at marijuana as legal for them. And if, you know, there's an idea on the table in terms of looking at our Tobacco Act and maybe looking into that, and trying to make amendments there where we can add some THC cannabis products just to promote the regulatory consistency to allow agencies to capitalize on the system. But you know how we have the Tobacco Act, if we just add some, I guess the marijuana products into that that might be helpful. We just, this is where we're looking at it. And, you know, we're always looking at the prevention part of everything.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you so much, Mrs. Duenas. I appreciate you being here today. Valerie?

**VALERIE PEREDA, COMPLIANCE BRANCH, DRT:** I think a working session would be great, especially working with the other agencies regarding the clearances. As of now, the procedure, once Mr. Roberto finishes his clearances for the CAIL, he would have to get clearances again for the permit to operate. So, it would be good to work with the other agencies to see if maybe we can extend the clearances to a certain time or if there's an expiration date on it because he's going to flow right into the permit to operate and then finalize into the ending where he can get his license. So, I think the working session would be really important for us to have especially because we all have working parts in the industry and in the Act.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay thank you Valerie. Okay, Meiko?

**MEIKO CEPEDA, COMPLIANCE BRANCH, DRT:** So, I could agree with my colleague. The working session would actually really help so that we can understand the different agencies and the requirement, so it doesn't be repetitive, so we're not going to ask the same thing from the different agencies, you know. So, like, Mr. Roberto actually reached out to me a few times, stressing his concerns with the clearances and stuff. And I tried my best to guide him, but I'm

not able to guide him the right way if I don't know what the other agency is requiring. You know, I can't help him. So, understanding the requirements will help a lot.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay. Marie.

**MARIA LIZAMA, DIRECTOR, DRT:** Hi, I'm just going to kind of reiterate what Ms. Duenas and Mr. Roberto have said. I've always been a proponent of educational campaigns. And I think if, you know, we can go ahead and concentrate on that and just kind of put out there...I know that our agency, we are primarily responsible for the administrative part regarding board responsibilities. And I think that, or I will say this, that we can certainly commit to kind of reinforcing any educational information out there to the public. I do like Director Chelsea's idea about, working group, because as Meiko mentioned, sometimes we just need to get a better understanding of the other agencies that are involved.

And perhaps when we do have a working group, I think it'll be a little more, we'd probably be a little more sympathetic, if you will, to maybe any challenges or perhaps have a better understanding of challenges that may arise. As Deputy Director Amanda mentioned, some of us may not have been part of this since its inception. But with that said, we are the current members of the board, and we will commit to making some of the changes that have come up as part of this discussion.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you, Marie. Amanda?

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** Yes. So Public Health and Social Services and DRT, we are not the lone and sole regulators, right? Everyone here at the table with agriculture and the utilities who are a part of this and land management. So, everyone has these concerns, but it takes all of us, all the different departments and agencies to be able to come together. And so that idea of a working group, our upcoming Summit, all of these things will help us to better serve the public and better serve the industry stakeholders, so that we can really support them to be able to finally open. And so, we stand ready to do that, and we're here for any questions that you have and appreciate your time to put this together.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay. Thank you, Amanda. Jerry?

**JERRY YING LING:** As I said earlier, I'm not part of the industry. But having said that, I think from my understanding, one of the major impediments for cannabis to move forward is the amount of testing that is required and the depth of the testing to do locally here. And, you know, it's just an impediment for, you know, even a company that's professionally in that kind of research business and has equipment. So, I think it needs to be reviewed.



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**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Yes, I think so too. That's one of the major ones. Chelsa

**CHELSEA MUNA, DIRECTOR, DOAG:** I am thankful for the round table. It turned out way better than I thought. And I'm glad to have heard all of the input. I mean, when we interact with different individuals, it's only relative to what our issue or their concern is with us. So, like when I talk to Mr. Roberto, it's about growing stuff. It's not getting to hear everyone else's experiences and how even as horrific as they were and how we all need to intersect and interact a lot more, that was really illuminating or, you know, I feel enlightened by that. And I really look forward to a working session. And wanted to ask, since Andrea is one of our resident experts and she's working under your office, if we could ask her, and she knows everybody involved, to help coordinate the working session so that we're not just saying we want to have it and then no one ever schedules it.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Absolutely Chelsa, I'm sure she will even if I have to double her timeline for this. Burt, do you have anything? Or, say a few words, please?

**ROBERT DE LOS REYES, GREENLAND FARMS:** Yes, I believe the working session might work out a lot better in regards to all the agencies being on the same page. Back a few years ago, I did have a couple of agencies visit our facility. We no longer have it anymore due to nothing happening. So, the most common thing that was being said was, you've got to help us look for what we need to look for because all the agencies don't really know cannabis. We can't assume that everybody knows how to use cannabis or what cannabis benefits, you know? So, I think having the working sessions might really help out.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Very good. Steve?

**STEPHEN ROBERTO, GUAM'S REAL DEAL:** Just want to thank everyone for coming in today and getting this done because it creates traction on an industry that's had no traction. And I think I'm in very much agreeance to the work group and getting the message out as to what we need to get done, because right now it's just regulatory paralysis. And I think more than anything, this type of activity creates more regulatory certainty. And our people want it, they

deserve it. So, if we can continue to do this, my group is closer than ever. I'd like to see the finish line.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Absolutely. I like that “regulatory paralysis” comment that was made. Thank you, Steve. John.

**JONATHAN SAVARES, MEDICAL CONSUMER:** So, first and foremost, I want to thank you Senator Taitague, Senator Gumataotao, Senator Bri, Senator Calvo, for being here and sitting with us. I do appreciate the agencies for being here, the agency heads, Chelsea, former Senator Amanda. Thank you, guys, for all being here because at the end of the day, we need to get this industry started. My main thing is that one of the biggest agencies who have been an impediment for a lot of people along the way chose not to show up, and that was the Guam Environmental Protection Agency. They have their own rules and regulations when it comes to how we try to tell the farmers how to operate. And I know that Department of Agriculture, and we're going to hash this out in just a second, but Department of Agriculture pushed a full organic program. And those are going to be impediments in the industry. And the reality is, this industry is... I don't want to have to come here another day and then have to argue this point. The organic thing was brought up, the regulatory issues that EPA was there. And I'll say, if Andrea gives me a call, I'm there to help you guys. I've made this very clear for almost a decade. I appreciate the time and opportunity.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you so much, John, for your insight, too, as well. And Ed?

**EDWARD SANTOS, CANNABIS EDUCATOR, GAMA:** I'd like to thank everybody that's here. I'd like to thank the senators that are here and everybody at this table. I've been here since the conception of the KC Concepcion Act. I've been here since the beginning. I've helped Senator Tina Muña-Barnes from the beginning, and my priority is on the medical side. I'm patient focused. I felt that was a need and that was my calling and that's where I'm focused. Recreation is just a bi-part of necessity. One cannot function without the other. Recreation is needed because the amount of medical patients is so minute, minimal, but their importance is just as great. The things that are being spoken today are good, but it's just words that I've heard time and time again. I'd really like to see progress in this lifetime that would be effective for not just the medical patients, but for the island of Guam. Thank you.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Thanks, Ed. Senator Mantanane, you're recognized.



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**SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MANTANANE:** Thank you, Senator Taitague for holding this roundtable meeting. And in regards to working groups, I also want to thank the members of the working group that our team has actually been working with to find ways to finally move the cannabis industry forward. And so currently we have legislation that is being routed for co-sponsorship from my colleagues that we plan on introducing today, that I hope will remove some of the major roadblocks that have been preventing this industry from moving forward. And I really do hope that my colleagues that are watching that aren't here today will get on board and support it. So, thank you and when you hold these working groups, I hope to be included. Thank you.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Andrea, saved the best for last, since now you have to do the working group thing.

**ANDREA PELLACANI, GRASSROOTS GUAM:** Right, which I've always been willing to do. So, thank you Senator Telo. I did want to thank you for the opportunity to do this, because the ongoing joke as a former legislative employee, and now, again, a legislative employee in my head is, cannabis oversight. Anyways, you all get that, right? That's kind of a joke, but a roundtable is perfect, so I thank you for the opportunity, and thank you to the Directors and Deputy Director Shelton for being here. I do want to recognize Director Chelsa because she literally was the only one on the CCB board that really invited stakeholder participation to have some say into the rules that she was developing, particularly the lab. So, thank you Director Chelsa for inviting us to be a part of that.

I did want to just make a couple of comments and or questions for the record. There is a law on the books and I remember that it was Senator Esteves's law, that requires government agencies to post SOPs on their website. So, I'm wondering if the bureaucratic hurdles that we're witnessing by the applicants, would some of it be resolved if the \agencies that you must clear put their SOPs in some place where business applicants can access it and prepare it before they get there? So that's one of the questions that I had.

My second question was if the legislature has no authority over the GARR, as was mentioned earlier, who will hold the working session? And ultimately, I guess Senator Telo's office wanted to host the working session but ultimately whose hands would that report or whatever at

the end of the working session end up with? And whose action would it be at that point? That would be my next question.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Let's go ahead and answer that one,

**CHELSEA MUNA, DIRECTOR, DOAG:** Okay, so I was thinking that we would have the working session together to revise the rules and regs and then push it to the Commission to hold the public hearing for it and then pass it on to the legislature.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Yeah, that's exactly right.

**SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MANTANANE:** And I think that it would then go to my committee, as the person with oversight over cannabis.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** It would go over to the regulatory side, which is... No, it'd have to... So, the process would be, because it's GAR, and it would go to an agency or a commission and the commission is under Rev & Tax, and Rev & Tax is regulatory. So, then it would go under my committee next.

**SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MANTANANE:** Yeah, because it's under DRT, right.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Because it's under Rev & Tax.

**SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MANTANANE:** Right, DRT.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay, and what was the first question you had, though?

**ANDREA PELLACANI, GRASSROOTS GUAM:** The SOP law. So, like if I'm going to EPA, right, and we're talking about Steve's three-year and ongoing process, right? If that SOP was on the website regarding, what do I need to clear at Guam EPA, would that have helped you?

**STEPHEN ROBERTO, GUAM'S REAL DEAL:** 1,000%.

**ANDREA PELLACANI, GRASSROOTS GUAM:** So, if we can maybe comply with that law.

**STEPHEN ROBERTO, GUAM'S REAL DEAL:** 1,000%.

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** I think what we have done already as a Board and DRT has posted it on the website, is providing a checklist of everything that you



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need to do. Of course, the checklist is not as informative as it could be to tell you every SOP, but it gives you a little bit of a roadmap. So having those SOPs for each agency would definitely be helpful.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Okay. So, we'll start working on that right now, actually. We don't need the working group to get those agencies to start working on their SOPs. Okay. Yeah. Go ahead Steve.

**STEPHEN ROBERTO, GUAM'S REAL DEAL:** I'll wait for Andre to finish.

**ANDREA PELLACANI, GRASSROOTS GUAM:** Okay, I just had two more items that I wanted to point out. In the current rules, I was trying to locate it, but it was just on my phone and I'm blind at this point. I can't read on my phone anymore. But there was a provision, maybe you guys can recall, where the CCB tried to assert authority over the medical cannabis program. Do you remember that?

**JONATHAN SAVARES, MEDICAL CONSUMER:** Yes, they did but in the enabling law all the medical rules from Public Law 33-220, 320-125, 34-165 were all excluded- were all excluded in the enabling law for the Cannabis Control Board. So, the recreational and the Cannabis Control Board has no jurisdiction over the medical cannabis program. The sole jurisdiction of the medical cannabis program comes out of the Department of Public Health. That's why I'm upset that we used the Public Health money that was appropriated to stand up the recreational program. The enabling law that pushed the medical program forward- that money was allocated to move the medical program forward and nothing in the recreational program could have overseen that because in the 30... I believe in Clint's [Former Senator Clint Ridgell] original law that stood up, that legalized adult use cannabis, all the medical programs were exempted.

So, if we gave money to Public Health to stand up the medical program, then at least from a patient standpoint, why did we take that money and use it for rec?

**ANDREA PELLACANI, GRASSROOTS GUAM:** Right. But it was in GARR. It wasn't in statute. So, this is part of the rules that lapsed into law. I don't believe that the CCB has any authority. So, I just wanted to put that on the record as something to look out for. As we

develop rules, I don't think we could put in GARR under the CCB like, 'Oh, for medical lab' or 'Oh, for medical cannabis cultivation,' or whatever. I don't think we can do that. Practically, I think we all want to see just one program because it makes sense. It's simpler. I agree 100 percent. But legally it cannot happen at this moment. Like even the discussion of co-locating, like if a business wanted to do medical and adult use, only one is protected federally, right? So practically, yes, we all want to see that happen. We all want to see a place where we are, where this is just a regular regulated business like alcohol and tobacco, like Ray Gibson is always saying on the radio. But we're not there today. I want to get there maybe one day. I want to get it off the streets like, you know, behavioral health is saying. If you're seeing an increase in cannabis, it's not because cannabis is legal. It's because it's on the black market and that's where they're getting it. And so, I just wanted to put that on the record. So yes, questioning what authority the CCB has over medical and clarifying that.

The last one is there is a law firm that has done business with the government of Guam. They assisted Senator Tina Muña-Barnes. They assisted Senator Dennis Rodriguez, and they assisted Governor Eddie Calvo. They are a fantastic law firm. I have recommended to the CCB that before the rules come to the Legislature, just give it to them and have them do a red line. I don't know why that never happened. So, I'm going to put that on the record.

They used to be Vicente Cederberg. And if any of the agencies were willing to cough up, pony up the cash to do it, I really do recommend it. It's the easiest thing to do. We could sit here for hours. These people know cannabis law through and through. It just seems like the simplest thing to do that we should have done three years ago, four years ago, whenever it was. I can't remember anymore but just look them up. Sean Hauser was your lawyer. I believe she's a fantastic woman, very knowledgeable. She's going around now lecturing the country about what Schedule 3 means. That's how qualified these people are. And so please do reach out to them. They've assisted the government of Guam before. So that's the last thing I had for the record. Thank you, Senator, for the opportunity.

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** Chairwoman, if I may, the question on the CCB having any oversight of the Medicinal Cannabis Program. That's not the case. It is at the Department of Public Health. We are the sole regulators of the Medicinal Cannabis Program. And I know that John has a concern of that money that has been appropriated to our department being used to stand up the recreational component of the cannabis program. And as you said, there are two separate programs. It has not been used for the recreational cannabis program, but it has been used to pay for the Metric contract, which we are now sharing with the



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recreational program. And that program is going to be used by both of us, and we would be paying that contract regardless of the recreational cannabis program existing. So, we're paying for it for medicinal use, but we can use it for recreational use as well.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** And I look at the two of you, and I see that merging both together might be more cost-efficient, number one, and there's not running to one other place to figure out what you guys decided and what another group has decided. Coming together makes it so much more cohesive to work together. So, yeah, I think that's something that we can look at in the working group and talk about that.

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** Yes, and for the rest of the financials, what's been appropriated to us from medicinal cannabis, we'll provide that to the committee.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Spreadsheet.

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** Yes, so that, John, you can see that too, what the money has been used for.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Yep. That's going to be very helpful.

**JONATHAN SAVARES, MEDICAL CONSUMER:** Simply put, and the only reason why I say this is because the release wasn't out of Public Health. The release was out of the Cannabis Control Board and not once when the Cannabis Control Board talked about the procurement of Metric was the medical program discussed. That's what's upsetting to me- is when it was released, nobody cared to say about this being procured from Public Health. It was procured by the Cannabis Control Board. And to me, if the rules and regulations and the laws that are in place- and I do understand where you're coming from, Senator, it should be cross-utilized- but if we're not going to take care of the patients and at least help promote that program, then that's where I have an issue.

**AMANDA SHELTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DPHSS:** Yes, we certainly acknowledge that, and I apologize for what was done in the past that wasn't acknowledged from the public health side that that was medicinal cannabis money appropriated for that program.

**ANDREA PELLACANI, GRASSROOTS GUAM:** Right. I appreciate what John is saying—that this money was sitting there. There was a lot for Public Health to do, and I know Senator Shelton, it was before your time. But there was so much prioritization of getting this seed-to-sell program for the adult use program, but there was no effort to fix anything that was happening in the medical side. And I think that's John's frustration as a patient, and that's my frustration as a licensee. There was no push for us to get to the finish line, but there was so much push to get a seed-to-sell program for the adult use of cannabis. So, I totally get it. But just to clarify what my concern was, in the rules and regs, the CCB asserts one of the agencies or their own authority to regulate something in the medical cannabis program. That word, either medicinal or medical, I'll look it up and send it via email to Senator Tello's office for the record. But that's concerning. Like, the CCB has no authority to regulate any medical cannabis farmer, any medical cannabis manufacturer or laboratory or anything. They're all separate. And so, we could just look at that and any potential legislation that's coming out, you can't just for medical and, you know, adult use, they're two separate programs. So I just wanted to because of the statutory authority.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Yeah. Steve, go ahead.

**STEPHEN ROBERTO, GUAM'S REAL DEAL:** Just one last thing. As the conversation kind of turned towards changing of rules and regulations, I hope that the Legislature will consider that the early attempters to get this done be given consideration in terms of, please don't change the rules and regs to something that's of a lesser degree than what I've had to go through, because I've gone through a lot. And if you're going to... I'll give an example. If you must have a property developer, come in and want to build a 400-room hotel on Guam, and the rules and regulations call for 1 through 10, and they need 1 through 10, well, the next guy that comes in, he's got to do 1 through 10 too. Please don't change it so that it's not, like, I'm all for moving the industry forward and anything that helps safety, compliance, regulatory, oversight, all of that, but make it fair and in good faith. That's all I ask.

**SENATOR TELO T. TAITAGUE, CHAIRPERSON:** Yeah. And I think, Steve, to your comment, I don't think it has been fair, and that's why we want to change it, you know, to some of the regulations that should not have been there. It's just too constricting, especially for a small island like Guam, you know, and that's what we're hoping to do in this workout.

And if we do change that, it's because unfortunately those who had to go through it should not have had to go through what you did. But we're going to make sure you're part of this working group. Okay thank you everyone who is here today and this is not a roundtable or a hearing



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where we're just going to say our two cents and walk away and do nothing. If anybody knows me, I'm the person that calls you ten times, ask Maria, until you answer your phone, until you give me the answer, I will continue to work on this. I've always been known for that. So please excuse me if I constantly call you. You better answer the first time because you're going to get 10 more after that, you know, if you don't. Ask Marie. Ask anybody.

So, in closing, I again greatly appreciate everybody's comments today and this roundtable. We have identified key barriers and emphasized the importance of strong safety regulations. Moving forward, we may convene the follow-up, of course, in the form of a workshop together, a working group, and begin preparing legislation to address these concerns if we need to directly.

I'm hoping that rules and regulations come out, you know, to, as we move forward to the next meeting that we have planned, and share our goals. It is very clear today. I think we are all on the same boat here, you know, fair, transparent, sustainable opportunities for consumers, retailers, and business owners alike while building a framework that supports growth and responsibility across the industry.

Thank you all for participating. This roundtable is now concluded. It's 11:15 a.m. We did pretty good. Doesn't mean it ended, though. We got a lot more work ahead. Create a great evening. Thank you. Or afternoon.

Roundtable Hearing Adjourned at: **11:15 a.m.**

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

The Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement convened a Roundtable Hearing on January 8, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. to examine the implementation status of Guam's Cannabis Industry Act and to evaluate barriers affecting the development of Guam's regulated cannabis market. Based on testimony received from

government agencies, industry stakeholders, and public discussion during the hearing, the Committee makes the following findings.

The Committee finds that cannabis was legalized in Guam in 2019 through the enactment of the Cannabis Industry Act. Although rules and regulations governing the adult-use cannabis program lapsed into law on May 30, 2022, the regulated cannabis market has been slow to develop. At the time of the roundtable hearing, responsible officials had been approved for several applicants, but no cannabis establishment licenses had been issued. Testimony and public reporting indicate that delays in regulatory coordination, licensing approvals, and infrastructure readiness slowed the launch of the regulated cannabis industry.

Testimony during the roundtable indicated that applicants seeking licensure under the Cannabis Industry Act have invested financial resources in property acquisition, facility development, and regulatory compliance in preparation for participation in the regulated cannabis market. Testimony further indicated that delays in regulatory approvals and interagency coordination have affected the timeline for launching commercial operations.

The Committee further finds that during the roundtable hearing the Department of Public Health and Social Services stated that it would convene the Cannabis Industry Summit required under Guam law. The Cannabis Industry Summit was subsequently held on January 29, 2026. Following the summit and subsequent resumption of board meetings, two cannabis cultivation licenses were approved, representing the first establishment licenses issued under Guam's adult-use cannabis regulatory program. The Committee notes that these approvals occurred approximately seven years after legalization, reflecting the challenges encountered in establishing regulatory infrastructure, interagency coordination, and licensing procedures necessary to launch the industry.

Reference:

[https://www.guampdn.com/news/updated-guam-now-has-2-licensed-cannabis-growers-7-years-after-legalization-but-permits-still/article\\_9fc79c63-bc04-4aae-ad7f-3704ebbaeb61.html](https://www.guampdn.com/news/updated-guam-now-has-2-licensed-cannabis-growers-7-years-after-legalization-but-permits-still/article_9fc79c63-bc04-4aae-ad7f-3704ebbaeb61.html)

The Committee finds that the Cannabis Control Board is required by statute to meet at least monthly. Information reviewed by the Committee indicates that the most recent meeting publicly documented prior to the roundtable occurred on February 21, 2025. Publicly available records regarding Cannabis Control Board meetings remain incomplete, and the Cannabis Control Board webpage maintained by the Department of Revenue and Taxation, as well as the listing of board and commission meetings maintained by the Office of Public Accountability, did not reflect updated meeting information at the time of this report.



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The Committee finds that the Cannabis Control Board consists of nine (9) members appointed by the Governor as provided by statute, including the Director of the Department of Revenue and Taxation, the Director of the Department of Agriculture, the Director of the Department of Public Health and Social Services, the Director of the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, the Chief of Police of the Guam Police Department, and the General Manager of the Guam Visitors Bureau, or their respective designees. The law also provides for three (3) additional members appointed by the Governor.

Testimony from the Department of Revenue and Taxation indicated uncertainty regarding the Board's current composition, including vacancies and the status of appointed members. The Department committed to provide the Committee with an updated listing of Cannabis Control Board members; however, the Committee has not received this information as of the drafting of this report.

Testimony from participating agencies further described differing regulatory roles under the Cannabis Industry Act. The Department of Revenue and Taxation described its role in licensing and tax compliance, the Department of Agriculture described its role in regulating cultivation practices and agricultural standards, and other agencies identified responsibilities related to public health oversight and environmental compliance. Based on the testimony presented, the Committee finds that the delineation of enforcement authority among agencies remains unclear.

The Committee finds that the Cannabis Industry Act includes provisions related to hemp and references the Cannabis Control Board's role in adopting regulations necessary for the development of a hemp program. However, the statutory language does not clearly delineate regulatory and enforcement responsibilities among agencies with respect to hemp and hemp-derived cannabinoid products. Testimony during the roundtable indicated that regulations governing hemp agriculture have not yet been adopted.

The Committee further notes testimony that hemp-derived cannabinoid products are currently available in Guam's retail market, including products containing Delta-8 tetrahydrocannabinol (Delta-8 THC). Testimony from participating agencies indicated uncertainty regarding which agency has primary responsibility for enforcement related to

hemp-derived cannabinoid products. The Committee finds that clarification of regulatory authority and the development of hemp regulations may be necessary to ensure consumer safety and to maintain a consistent regulatory framework for Guam's cannabis and hemp markets.

The Committee finds that the Government of Guam has procured the Metrc seed-to-sale tracking system to support regulatory oversight of cannabis production and distribution. Testimony during the roundtable indicated that the system is intended to track cannabis plants and cannabis products throughout the regulated supply chain, from cultivation through retail distribution, and that regulatory agencies including the Department of Revenue and Taxation, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Public Health and Social Services utilize the system for compliance monitoring and regulatory oversight.

Testimony during the hearing indicated that the annual contract cost for the Metrc system is approximately \$75,000. During the hearing, questions were raised regarding the funding source for the Metrc contract, including whether the system was initially procured using funds associated with the Medical Cannabis Program. Testimony from the Department of Public Health and Social Services indicated that the department has funded the Metrc system for several years and that the agencies recently met with the vendor regarding system implementation. Senator Amanda Shelton stated during the hearing that she would provide the Committee with additional information regarding the contract cost and funding source; however, the Committee has not received this information as of the drafting of this report.

The Committee further notes that several follow-up items identified during the roundtable hearing remain outstanding as of the drafting of this report.

#### Department of Revenue and Taxation / Cannabis Control Board

- Provide an updated listing of Cannabis Control Board members, including the status of appointed member terms and any vacancies.
- Resume and maintain the statutory requirement for monthly Cannabis Control Board meetings and update meeting notices and minutes on the Department of Revenue and Taxation and Office of Public Accountability websites.
- Provide an updated status of cannabis license applicants, including establishment license applicants and the laboratory testing facility applicant.
- Clarify the Cannabis Control Board's statutory responsibility to adopt regulations for the development of a hemp program.

#### Department of Public Health and Social Services



OFFICE OF SENATOR

*Telo T. Taitague*

CHAIRWOMAN

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- Provide the funding source, total annual contract cost, and any remaining balance from the original appropriation used to procure the Metrc seed-to-sale tracking system.

The Committee finds that the development of Guam's regulated cannabis industry remains ongoing. While recent licensing approvals represent measurable progress, full implementation of the Cannabis Industry Act will require continued coordination among regulatory agencies and ongoing legislative oversight.