

Messages & Communications Doc. No. 38GL-26-2346.

From 38th Committee On Rules <committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov>
Date Thu 5/14/2026 9:37 AM
To Guam Legislature Clerks <clerks@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc Legislative Counsel <legislativecounsel@guamlegislature.gov>

1 attachment (3 MB)
51426COMM Doc. No. 38GL-26-2346.pdf;

Håfa Adai Clerks Office,

Please see attached, **Messages & Communications Doc. No. 38GL-26-2346** for processing:

✓	38GL-26-2346	Office of Senator Vincent A. V. Borja	Request for Emergency Session to Consider Bill No. 312-38 (COR)*
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Kindly reply to this email.



Si Yu'os ma'åse',

Marie Crisostomo

Committee on Rules Assistant

COMMITTEE ON RULES

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Chairperson

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

38th Guam Legislature

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Messages and Communications 38GL-26-2346*

2 messages

Speaker Frank Blas Jr. <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>
To: 38th Committee On Rules <committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov>, Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

Thu, May 14, 2026 at 8:30 AM

Håfa Adai,

Please see attached M&C Doc. No. 38GL-26-2346

38GL-26-2346	Office of Senator Vincent A.V. Borja	Request for Emergency Session to Consider Bill No. 312-38 (COR)*
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Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Bernice Rivera

Administrative Assistant



Office of Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr.

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan 38th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagatña

(671)969-6456

speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov

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

From: **Office of Senator Borja** <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>

Date: Wed, May 13, 2026 at 3:59 PM

Subject: Request for Emergency Session - Bill No. 312-38 (COR)

To: Frank Blas Jr. <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Office Senator Bri <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Muna Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Senator Darrel Christopher Barnett <malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov>, <phnotice@guamlegislature.gov>

May 13, 2026

The Honorable Frank F. Blas Jr.

Speaker, *I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

163 W. Chalan Santo Papa

Hagatña, Guam 96910

VIA EMAIL: speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov

Re: Request for Emergency Session - Bill No. 312-38 (COR)

Håfa Adai Speaker Blas,

In accordance with Section 1.02(b)(1)(ii) of the Standing Rules of *I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, I respectfully request the convening of an Emergency Session to consider Bill No. 312-38 (COR), which would provide the Guam Department of Education an exemption from the requirement of One Hundred Eighty (180) Instructional Days, or its equivalence, for School Year 2025–2026 due to the impacts of Typhoon Sinlaku.

On April 27, 2026, I received formal correspondence from the Acting Superintendent of the Guam Department of Education requesting legislative approval for a waiver of the One Hundred Eighty (180) instructional days requirement for School Year 2025–2026 due to the severe disruption caused by Typhoon Sinlaku. As stated by the Acting Superintendent, the typhoon resulted in the loss of six (6) instructional days across Guam's public school system. The closures were necessary to ensure the safety of our students, families, and staff.

The impacts of Typhoon Sinlaku extended far beyond the classroom, as several school campuses were utilized to support emergency shelter operations and recovery efforts throughout the island. These were circumstances outside the control of the Guam Department of Education, and it is important that our schools, educators, students, and families are not unfairly burdened as a result of responding to a natural disaster.

The Department further advised that recovering the lost instructional time within the remaining academic calendar would require extending instructional days by more than ninety minutes each day or extending the school year beyond the scheduled closing date. According to the Department's estimates, extending the school

year would cost the Government of Guam an estimated \$3 million in additional personnel and operational expenses.

In response to this request, my colleagues and I introduced Bill No. 312-38 (COR) to provide a limited exemption from the instructional day requirement for this school year only. The measure also requires the Guam Department of Education to report on learning loss, intervention efforts, and student outcomes to ensure that students continue to receive the academic support they need despite the disruptions caused by the typhoon.

Bill No. 312-38 (COR) has already undergone a public hearing, during which testimony from the Acting Superintendent of the Guam Department of Education and public input were received regarding the immediate need for legislative action. My office is currently finalizing the committee report, which will be submitted before the close of business on **May 14, 2026**.

Due to the urgency of this matter and the approaching conclusion of the academic year, the emergency necessitating this request arises from the loss of instructional days caused by Typhoon Sinlaku and the immediate need for legislative action prior to the end of the school year. The intended outcome of Bill No. 312-38 (COR) is to provide the Guam Department of Education with a limited exemption from the statutory instructional day requirement for School Year 2025–2026, thereby allowing the school year to conclude as scheduled while ensuring continued accountability through required reporting measures. The anticipated fiscal impact of failing to enact this legislation includes approximately \$3 million in additional personnel and operational expenses.

Given the time-sensitive nature of this issue and the approaching conclusion of the academic year, I respectfully request an Emergency Session at the earliest opportunity to consider Bill No. 312-38 (COR). This legislation must be enacted before **May 19, 2026** to avoid extending the school year and imposing additional operational and financial burdens on students, families, teachers, school staff, and the Government of Guam under these extraordinary circumstances.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your continued leadership and commitment to the people of Guam.

Respectfully,



Office of Senator Vincent A.V. Borja

Committee on Education, Libraries, & Public
Broadcasting

38th Guam Legislature

Suite 502, DNA Bldg, 238 Archbishop Flores St.

Hagåtña, Guam 96910


T +1 (671) 969-8423

E contact@senatorvinceborja.com

3 attachments

 **Request for Emergency Session - Bill No 312-38 (COR).pdf**
354K

 **04.27.2026 Letter to Senator Borja Ref Waiver.pdf**
88K

 **38GL-26-2346.pdf**
1713K

38th Committee On Rules <committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov>
To: "Speaker Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>

Thu, May 14, 2026 at 9:25 AM

Håfa Adai,

Received, and thank you



Si Yu'os ma'åse',

Marie Crisostomo

Committee on Rules Assistant

COMMITTEE ON RULES

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Chairperson

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

38th Guam Legislature

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Speaker Frank Blas Jr. <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>

Request for Emergency Session - Bill No. 312-38 (COR)

2 messages

Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>

Wed, May 13, 2026 at 3:58 PM

To: "Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Office Senator Bri <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Muna Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Senator Darrel Christopher Barnett <malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov>, phnotice@guamlegislature.gov

May 13, 2026

Doc Type: 38GL-26-2346

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

FRANK F. BLAS, JR.

May 13, 2026

Time: 3:58 PM

Received:

The Honorable Frank F. Blas Jr.

Speaker, *I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

163 W. Chalan Santo Papa

Hågatña, Guam 96910

VIA EMAIL: speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov

Re: Request for Emergency Session - Bill No. 312-38 (COR)

Håfa Adai Speaker Blas,

In accordance with Section 1.02(b)(1)(ii) of the Standing Rules of *I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, I respectfully request the convening of an Emergency Session to consider Bill No. 312-38 (COR), which would provide the Guam Department of Education an exemption from the requirement of One Hundred Eighty (180) Instructional Days, or its equivalence, for School Year 2025–2026 due to the impacts of Typhoon Sinlaku.

On April 27, 2026, I received formal correspondence from the Acting Superintendent of the Guam Department of Education requesting legislative approval for a waiver of the One Hundred Eighty (180) instructional days requirement for School Year 2025–2026 due to the severe disruption caused by Typhoon Sinlaku. As stated by the Acting Superintendent, the typhoon resulted in the loss of six (6) instructional days across Guam's public school system. The closures were necessary to ensure the safety of our students, families, and staff.

The impacts of Typhoon Sinlaku extended far beyond the classroom, as several school campuses were utilized to support emergency shelter operations and recovery efforts throughout the island. These were circumstances outside the control of the Guam Department of Education, and it is important that our schools, educators, students, and families are not unfairly burdened as a result of responding to a natural disaster.

The Department further advised that recovering the lost instructional time within the remaining academic calendar would require extending instructional days by more than ninety minutes each day or extending the school year beyond the scheduled closing date. According to the Department's estimates, extending the

school year would cost the Government of Guam an estimated \$3 million in additional personnel and operational expenses.

In response to this request, my colleagues and I introduced Bill No. 312-38 (COR) to provide a limited exemption from the instructional day requirement for this school year only. The measure also requires the Guam Department of Education to report on learning loss, intervention efforts, and student outcomes to ensure that students continue to receive the academic support they need despite the disruptions caused by the typhoon.

Bill No. 312-38 (COR) has already undergone a public hearing, during which testimony from the Acting Superintendent of the Guam Department of Education and public input were received regarding the immediate need for legislative action. My office is currently finalizing the committee report, which will be submitted before the close of business on **May 14, 2026**.

Due to the urgency of this matter and the approaching conclusion of the academic year, the emergency necessitating this request arises from the loss of instructional days caused by Typhoon Sinlaku and the immediate need for legislative action prior to the end of the school year. The intended outcome of Bill No. 312-38 (COR) is to provide the Guam Department of Education with a limited exemption from the statutory instructional day requirement for School Year 2025–2026, thereby allowing the school year to conclude as scheduled while ensuring continued accountability through required reporting measures. The anticipated fiscal impact of failing to enact this legislation includes approximately \$3 million in additional personnel and operational expenses.

Given the time-sensitive nature of this issue and the approaching conclusion of the academic year, I respectfully request an Emergency Session at the earliest opportunity to consider Bill No. 312-38 (COR). This legislation must be enacted before **May 19, 2026** to avoid extending the school year and imposing additional operational and financial burdens on students, families, teachers, school staff, and the Government of Guam under these extraordinary circumstances.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your continued leadership and commitment to the people of Guam.

Respectfully,



Office of Senator Vincent A.V. Borja

Committee on Education, Libraries, & Public
Broadcasting

38th Guam Legislature

Suite 502, DNA Bldg. [238 Archbishop Flores St.](#)

[Hagåtña, Guam 96910](#)

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E contact@senatorvinceborja.com

2 attachments

 **Request for Emergency Session - Bill No 312-38 (COR).pdf**
354K

 **04.27.2026 Letter to Senator Borja Ref Waiver.pdf**
88K

Speaker Frank Blas Jr. <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov> Thu, May 14, 2026 at 8:14 AM
To: Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>
Cc: "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Office Senator Bri <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Muna Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Senator Darrel Christopher Barnett <malafunkshun@guamlegislature.gov>, phnotice@guamlegislature.gov

Håfa Adai,

Acknowledging receipt of your request for an Emergency Session concerning Bill No. 312-38 (COR).

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Bernice Rivera

Administrative Assistant



Office of Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr.

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan 38th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagatña

(671)969-6456

speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov

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Office of Senator

Vincent A.V. Borja

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

DNA BUILDING
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CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, LIBRARIES
AND PUBLIC
BROADCASTING

May 13, 2026

The Honorable Frank F. Blas Jr.

Speaker, *I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

163 W. Chalan Santo Papa

Hågatña, Guam 96910

VIA EMAIL: speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov

Re: Request for Emergency Session - Bill No. 312-38 (COR)

Håfa Adai Speaker Blas,

In accordance with Section 1.02(b)(1)(ii) of the Standing Rules of *I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, I respectfully request the convening of an Emergency Session to consider Bill No. 312-38 (COR), which would provide the Guam Department of Education an exemption from the requirement of One Hundred Eighty (180) Instructional Days, or its equivalence, for School Year 2025–2026 due to the impacts of Typhoon Sinlaku.

On April 27, 2026, I received formal correspondence from the Acting Superintendent of the Guam Department of Education requesting legislative approval for a waiver of the One Hundred Eighty (180) instructional days requirement for School Year 2025–2026 due to the severe disruption caused by Typhoon Sinlaku. As stated by the Acting Superintendent, the typhoon resulted in the loss of six (6) instructional days across Guam's public school system. The closures were necessary to ensure the safety of our students, families, and staff.

The impacts of Typhoon Sinlaku extended far beyond the classroom, as several school campuses were utilized to support emergency shelter operations and recovery efforts throughout the island. These were circumstances outside the control of the Guam Department of Education, and it is important that our schools, educators, students, and families are not unfairly burdened as a result of responding to a natural disaster.

The Department further advised that recovering the lost instructional time within the remaining academic calendar would require extending instructional days by more than ninety minutes each day or extending the school year beyond the scheduled closing date. According to the Department's estimates, extending the school year would cost the Government of Guam an estimated \$3 million in additional personnel and operational expenses.

In response to this request, my colleagues and I introduced Bill No. 312-38 (COR) to provide a limited exemption from the instructional day requirement



Office of Senator

Vincent A.V. Borja

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

for this school year only. The measure also requires the Guam Department of Education to report on learning loss, intervention efforts, and student outcomes to ensure that students continue to receive the academic support they need despite the disruptions caused by the typhoon.

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Due to the urgency of this matter and the approaching conclusion of the academic year, the emergency necessitating this request arises from the loss of instructional days caused by Typhoon Sinlaku and the immediate need for legislative action prior to the end of the school year. The intended outcome of Bill No. 312-38 (COR) is to provide the Guam Department of Education with a limited exemption from the statutory instructional day requirement for School Year 2025–2026, thereby allowing the school year to conclude as scheduled while ensuring continued accountability through required reporting measures. The anticipated fiscal impact of failing to enact this legislation includes approximately \$3 million in additional personnel and operational expenses.

Given the time-sensitive nature of this issue and the approaching conclusion of the academic year, I respectfully request an Emergency Session at the earliest opportunity to consider Bill No. 312-38 (COR). This legislation must be enacted before **May 19, 2026** to avoid extending the school year and imposing additional operational and financial burdens on students, families, teachers, school staff, and the Government of Guam under these extraordinary circumstances.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your continued leadership and commitment to the people of Guam.

Sincerely,

Senator Vincent A.V. Borja

Committee on Education, Libraries, and Public Broadcasting

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Enclosure: Letter from Acting Superintendent of the Guam Department of Education

CC: *All Members, Committee on Education, Libraries and Public Broadcasting*
PH Notice



38GL-26-2346
Messages and Communications

RECEIVED
COMMITTEE ON RULES
May 14, 2026

8:30 a.m.
Marie Crisostomo



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

www.gdoe.net
501 Mariner Avenue
Barrigada, Guam 96913
Telephone: (671) 300-1547 | Fax: (671) 472-5001
Email: keswanson@gdoe.net



Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.
Acting Superintendent of Education

April 27, 2026

Honorable Vincent Borja
Guam Congress Building, 2nd Floor,
163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagatña, GU, 96913

Dear Senator Vincent Borja:

Pursuant to 1 Chapter 7 §715 (1)(13), which requires “at least one hundred eighty (180) instructional days, or its equivalence,” defined as nine hundred (900) instructional hours per school year for both elementary and secondary schools, I write to respectfully request legislative approval for a waiver of the 180 instructional day requirement for School Year 2025– 2026 due to the severe disruption caused by Super Typhoon Sinlaku.

As a result of this natural disaster, our public school system had to close operations which resulted in a loss of six (6) instructional days, equivalent to approximately 1,800 minutes of instructional time. The closures were necessary to ensure the safety of our students, families and staff.

Given the limited number of remaining instructional days in the current academic calendar, making up this lost time presents significant operational, contractual, and financial challenges.

At this stage in the academic calendar, recovering this lost time is not operationally feasible. To meet the statutory requirement, schools would need to extend the instructional day by more than 90 minutes over the remaining weeks. This would violate the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), which limits teacher duty hours, and would impose substantial hardship on students and families who are already navigating post-typhoon recovery. This adjustment would not only disrupt established schedules for students and families but would also violate the (CBA), specifically Section 2.A.2, which limits the duty day to seven hours for secondary teachers and six hours for elementary teachers. Additionally, such an extension would result in substantial overtime costs for teachers and staff.

Alternatively, extending the school year beyond May 21, 2026, would result in an estimated \$3 million in additional personnel costs for just five days, with even higher costs for schools that experienced extended closures. Such an extension may also conflict with existing contractual limits and would further strain already impacted communities.

In making this request, we have collaborated with the Guam Federation of Teachers and have considered the following key factors:

- PD #8 represents the final viable option to recover instructional time without extending the school year. • While system-wide closures accounted for four (4) days, some schools require additional make-up days due to localized closures and operational constraints.

- Making up instructional minutes within the remaining calendar is not feasible, as it would require an additional 90 minutes per day across approximately 20 remaining instructional days.
- Ongoing challenges such as double sessions and infrastructure limitations necessitate solutions that minimize further disruption to students and families.

In addition, I respectfully recommend that the Legislature consider amending current law to grant the Guam Education Board and Superintendent limited authority to waive instructional day requirements during declared emergencies. This would enable timely, locally responsive decisions in future crises. The intent of this request is not to diminish the importance of instructional time, but rather to ensure that decisions made in response to emergencies are both educationally sound and operationally feasible, while safeguarding the well-being of students, educators, and families.

We appreciate your continued support of Guam's students and educators, and we respectfully seek your assistance in addressing this urgent matter.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Senseramente,



Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.
Acting Superintendent of Education

cc: Senator Chris Duenas, Chairman