I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
BILL STATUS

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	FISCAL NOTES	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
330-38 (COR)	Telo T. Taitague V. Anthony Ada Shelly V. Calvo Sabina Flores Perez Frank F. Blas, Jr. Joe S. San Agustin Chris Barnett Jesse A. Lujan	AN ACT TO *AMEND* §§ 61504, 61505, 61506, 61507, 61508, 61510, 61511, 61512, AND 61513; *ADD* NEW §§ 61505.1 AND 61511.1 TO ARTICLE 5, CHAPTER 61, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S ESTRAY LIVESTOCK LAWS BY ESTABLISHING AN ESTRAY LIVESTOCK STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM, AUTHORIZING TEMPORARY MUNICIPAL CUSTODY OF ESTRAYS, CREATING THE ESTRAY LIVESTOCK STEWARDSHIP AND ENFORCEMENT FUND, TO STRENGTHEN ESTRAY LIVESTOCK ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY.	6/8/26 8:47 a.m. ^6/16/26 11:25 a.m.	6/16/26	Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture, Parks, and Infrastructure.	Request: 6/16/26 6/23/26	6/29/26 9:00 a.m.	9/14/26	

SESSION DATE	TITLE	DATE PASSED	TRANSMITTED	DUE DATE	PUBLIC LAW NO.	DATE SIGNED	NOTES
9/28/26	AN ACT TO *AMEND* §§ 61504, 61505, 61506, 61507, 61508, 61510, 61511, 61512, AND 61513; *ADD* NEW §§ 61505.1 AND 61511.1 TO ARTICLE 5, CHAPTER 61, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S ESTRAY LIVESTOCK LAWS BY ESTABLISHING AN ESTRAY LIVESTOCK STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM, AUTHORIZING TEMPORARY MUNICIPAL CUSTODY OF ESTRAYS, CREATING THE ESTRAY LIVESTOCK STEWARDSHIP AND ENFORCEMENT FUND, TO STRENGTHEN ESTRAY LIVESTOCK ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY.	10/2/26	10/5/26	10/16/26	38-143	10/13/26	Received: 10/14/26 Mess and Comm. Doc. No. 38GL-26-3029

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR

UFISINAN I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

38GL-26-3029
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
FRANK F. BLAS JR.
OCT 14 2026
Time: 11:54 AM
Received:

Transmitted via Email to: speakerblas@guamlegislature.org

October 13, 2026

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

Re: Bill No. 330-38 (COR), "AN ACT TO *AMEND* §§ 61504, 61505, 61506, 61507, 61508, 61510, 61511, 61512, AND 61513; *ADD* NEW §§ 61505.1 AND 61511.1 TO ARTICLE 5, CHAPTER 61, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S ESTRAY LIVESTOCK STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM, AUTHORIZING TEMPORARY MUNICIPAL CUSTODY OF ESTRAYS, CREATING THE ESTRAY LIVESTOCK STEWARDSHIP AND ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY."

Håfa Adai Mr. Speaker,

Estray livestock continues to present a serious problem in Guam's villages. Whether wandering freely or staked or tied in place, these animals can damage private property, obstruct public rights of way, and create serious hazards for motorists.

During the public hearing on Bill No. 330-38 (COR), testimony described how estray livestock damaged gardens, trampled lawns, and destroyed other private property. Testimony also highlighted the danger these animals pose when they unexpectedly enter streets and major roadways, forcing motorists to take sudden evasive action to avoid collisions. These incidents place drivers, passengers, and others at risk of serious injury.

Bill No. 330-38 (COR) addresses these concerns by granting the Guam Department of Agriculture (DoAG) and our village mayors additional authority to respond to estray livestock. The legislation authorizes the seizure, transportation, impoundment, and temporary placement of these animals. It also establishes procedures for notifying livestock owners and allowing them to reclaim their animals upon providing proof of ownership and paying the applicable costs and fees. Animals that remain unclaimed may be sold at public auction or otherwise lawfully disposed of.

While the legislation establishes a legal framework for addressing the problem, it does not appropriate the funds necessary to make that framework fully effective.

During the public hearing, DoAG testified that it lacks the equipment necessary to transport seized livestock and does not have adequate facilities to house these animals. Our village mayors described similar limitations. Even with the additional authority provided by this legislation, neither DoAG nor the mayors will be able to respond effectively without the necessary equipment, facilities, and personnel.

These are significant practical concerns. We cannot reasonably expect DoAG and our mayors to carry out these additional responsibilities without providing them with the resources necessary to do so.

If we are serious about addressing the problem of estray livestock in our villages, we must also be willing to fund the solutions.

Nevertheless, Bill No. 330-38 (COR) represents an important first step toward addressing a longstanding problem affecting our communities and the safety of our roadways. It establishes a clearer process for managing estray livestock and holding livestock owners accountable.

I hope the Legislature will build upon this effort by providing the funding necessary to make these new authorities effective.

For these reasons, I sign Bill No. 330-38 (COR) into law as ***Public Law No. 38-143.***

Senseramente,

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
I Maga'hågan Guåhan
Governor of Guam

Enclosure(s): Bill No. 330-38 (COR) nka P.L. 38-143
cc via email: *Honorable* Joshua F. Tenorio, *Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*, Lt. Governor of Guam
Compiler of Laws

38GL-26-3029
Messages and Communications
RECEIVED
COMMITTEE ON RULES
October 14, 2026
12:11 p.m.
Marie Crisostomo

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

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

This is to certify that **Bill No. 330-38 (COR), "AN ACT TO *AMEND* §§ 61504, 61505, 61506, 61507, 61508, 61510, 61511, 61512, AND 61513; *ADD* NEW §§ 61505.1 AND 61511.1 TO ARTICLE 5, CHAPTER 61, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S ESTRAY LIVESTOCK LAWS BY ESTABLISHING AN ESTRAY LIVESTOCK STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM, AUTHORIZING TEMPORARY MUNICIPAL CUSTODY OF ESTRAYS, CREATING THE ESTRAY LIVESTOCK STEWARDSHIP AND ENFORCEMENT FUND, TO STRENGTHEN ESTRAY LIVESTOCK ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY,"** was on the 2nd day of October 2026, duly and regularly passed.

Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Speaker

Attested:

Sabrina Salas Matanane
Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* this 5th day of October, 2026, at 1:54 o'clock P.M.

Assistant Staff Officer
Maga'håga's Office

APPROVED:

Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
I Maga'hågan Guåhan

Date: ~~10/12/2026~~ 10/13/2026

Public Law No. 38-143

2026-26584
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CENTRAL FILES OFFICE
Rec'd By: Elaine Tajalle
Date: 10/5/26 Time: 1:54pm

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

Bill No. 330-38 (COR)

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

AN ACT TO *AMEND* §§ 61504, 61505, 61506, 61507, 61508, 61510, 61511, 61512, AND 61513; *ADD* NEW §§ 61505.1 AND 61511.1 TO ARTICLE 5, CHAPTER 61, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S ESTRAY LIVESTOCK LAWS BY ESTABLISHING AN ESTRAY LIVESTOCK STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM, AUTHORIZING TEMPORARY MUNICIPAL CUSTODY OF ESTRAYS, CREATING THE ESTRAY LIVESTOCK STEWARDSHIP AND ENFORCEMENT FUND, TO STRENGTHEN ESTRAY LIVESTOCK ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that estray livestock, particularly free-roaming cattle, pose a significant threat to

public safety by creating hazards on Guam's roadways and public areas, increasing the risk of vehicle collisions, personal injury, and damage to public and private property. Estray livestock also present health, safety, and welfare concerns for the animals themselves, which may be exposed to injury, starvation, dehydration, disease, unsafe environmental conditions, or other preventable harm while roaming unattended.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan further finds that the Department of Agriculture, mayors, law enforcement personnel, and members of the public often encounter practical challenges in responding to estray livestock incidents due to limited holding facilities, transportation resources, trained personnel, operational funding, and clearly defined statutory authority. Existing penalties and cost recovery provisions have not kept pace with the actual expenses associated with the capture, transportation, care, veterinary treatment, and management of estray livestock.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan additionally finds that livestock owners, ranchers, farmers, and other qualified members of the agricultural community may serve an important role in assisting with the temporary care and management of estray livestock when government resources are limited. Establishing a structured stewardship program can improve animal welfare outcomes, reduce risks to the public, and support more efficient enforcement and resolution of estray incidents.

It is therefore the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to modernize Guam's estray livestock laws by: Strengthening public safety and reducing roadway hazards caused by estray livestock; Protecting the health, safety, and welfare of estray livestock through appropriate handling, transportation, temporary care, and veterinary oversight; authorizing temporary municipal custody and coordinated estray response efforts; establishing an Estray Livestock Stewardship Program to facilitate temporary care placement with qualified custodial caretakers; creating the Estray Livestock Stewardship and Enforcement Fund to support estray livestock

management, enforcement activities, and reimbursement of approved expenses; establishing safety protocols and promoting safe livestock handling practices; encouraging voluntary owner compliance, livestock identification, and timely reclamation of estrays; providing appropriate liability protections for persons acting in good faith under this Article; and ensuring that the costs associated with estray livestock management are borne by responsible livestock owners rather than taxpayers whenever practicable.

Section 2. § 61504 of Article 5, Chapter 61, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *amended* to read:

"**§ 61504. Impoundment and Temporary Municipal Custody of Estrays.**

(a) The Department of Agriculture shall seize and impound all estrays.

(b) The Mayors of Guam shall have the concurrent authority within their respective municipalities to collect, secure, transport, or coordinate the temporary care placement of estrays pending the retrieval, transfer, impoundment, custodial caretaker placement, or other lawful disposition by the Department of Agriculture.

(c) A Mayor may enter into a memorandum of understanding with the government agency having jurisdiction over public property within the municipality, to designate such property as a holding area for the municipality's temporary custody and care of an estray livestock.

(d) The Department of Agriculture may enter into a memorandum of understanding with mayors for the administration, coordination of estray response, temporary care placement, transportation, and livestock management activities.

(e) Temporary Municipal Custody pursuant to this Section shall not constitute ownership or permanent custody of the estray livestock by the municipality."

Section 3. § 61505 of Article 5, Chapter 61, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *amended* to read:

"**§ 61505. Estray Animal Control Unit and Estray Livestock Stewardship Program.**

(a) The Department of Agriculture shall maintain an estray animal control unit for the care, custody, transportation, impoundment, temporary care placement, and lawful disposition of estrays.

(b) The Department of Agriculture is authorized to establish and administer an Estray Livestock Stewardship Program for the temporary care placement of estray livestock with qualified custodial caretakers.

(c) The Department may approve livestock owners, ranchers, farmers, agricultural operators, or other qualified persons as custodial caretakers for estray livestock.

(d) Temporary care placement may continue pending:

(1) Identification of the owner;

(2) Reclamation by the owner;

(3) Transfer to Department custody;

(4) Public sale or disposition pursuant to law;

(5) Other lawful disposition authorized by the Department.

(e) Custodial caretakers may receive reimbursement from the Estray Livestock Stewardship and Enforcement Fund established pursuant to this Article for the reasonable expenses associated with feed, care, veterinary services, transportation, fencing, and livestock maintenance.

(f) A Custodial caretaker shall have the right of first refusal to acquire lawful ownership of an estray livestock in the caretaker's custody, if the caretaker elects to do so, following the expiration of all notice, reclamation and disposition requirements established by this Article. The Department of Agriculture may transfer ownership directly to the custodial caretaker or permit the caretaker to match the highest acceptable bid at any public sale conducted pursuant to § 61510."

Section 4. A new § 61505.1 is hereby *added* to Article 5 of Chapter 61, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, to read:

"**§ 61505.1. Estray Livestock Safety Protocols.**

(a) The Department of Agriculture shall develop and maintain safety protocols governing the capture, handling, transportation, detention, temporary custodial care, and disposition of estray livestock by the Department, mayors, law enforcement personnel, and authorized persons acting pursuant to this Chapter."

Section 5. § 61506 of Article 5, Chapter 61, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *amended* to read:

"**§ 61506. Seizure of Estrays by Private Persons: Lien; Reimbursement.**

(a) Notwithstanding § 61505, any person finding any estray upon premises in his possession, or upon highways and streets adjacent thereto, may seize such estray and shall have a lien thereon for all costs incurred in seizing, keeping and caring for such estray and also for any damages in, on, or to such person's premises or other property caused by such estray.

(b) Any person seizing and securing an estray pursuant to this Section, shall notify the Department of Agriculture or the Mayor of the municipality within twenty-four (24) hours; provided, however, that

weekends and government-recognized holidays shall not count toward the twenty-four (24) hour notification period. Notification transmitted by electronic mail on a weekend or government-recognized holiday shall constitute sufficient notice for purposes of this Subsection.

(c) The Department of Agriculture may reimburse municipalities, custodial caretakers, and private persons from the Estray Livestock Stewardship and Enforcement Fund for approved reasonable expenses incurred pursuant to this Article.

(d) Reimbursement under this Section shall not extinguish the government's right to pursue recovery of costs, fees, penalties, or damages from the owner of the estray."

Section 6. § 61507 of Article 5, Chapter 61, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *amended* to read:

"**§ 61507. Notice of Seizure.**

The Director of Agriculture shall, within five days, after notification of impoundment of an estray, cause public notice to be given that the estray, if not reclaimed, may be sold at public sale at the Department of Agriculture by the Director on a date specified which shall be not less than fifteen (15) days after the date of the notice, transferred to an approved custodial caretaker, or otherwise lawfully disposed of pursuant to this Article. The notice shall also state the number and description of the estrays impounded, the brands if any, the date and place of impounding, the name of the private person, if any, who made the seizure, and the amount claimed by such person as costs and damages, the amount per day charged for care and keep of estrays by the Department of Agriculture and that the estray may be claimed by the owner at any time prior to the sale, transfer or other lawful disposition in accordance with § 61509. Such notice shall be delivered to the owner, if the owner is

known. The notice shall be published in accordance with Chapter 8, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated prior to the date of sale, transfer or other lawful disposition of the estray."

Section 7. § 61508 of Article 5, Chapter 61, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *amended* to read:

"**§ 61508. Fees and Costs.**

(a) The Department of Agriculture may assess reasonable fees and costs associated with:

(1) Impoundment;

(2) Transportation;

(3) Temporary care placement;

(4) Veterinary services;

(5) Feeding and care;

(6) Municipal holding;

(7) Notice and publication; and

(8) Other necessary estray management expenses.

(b) Municipalities, custodial caretakers, and private persons who lawfully seize, detain, secure, transport, care for or report estrays pursuant to this Article may be reimbursed from the Estray Livestock Stewardship and Enforcement Fund for approved expenses incurred in connection with estray livestock management, provided that sufficient documentation of such expenses is submitted.

(c) Reimbursement under this Section may include expenses associated with feed, water, fencing, pasture use, labor, veterinary services, transportation, equipment damage, emergency containment materials, and other approved livestock management costs.

(d) Nothing in this Section shall prohibit the Department from seeking reimbursement or civil recovery from the owner of the estray."

Section 8. § 61510 of Article 5, Chapter 61, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *amended* to read:

"**§ 61510. Disposition of Unclaimed Estrays.**

(a) Any estray remaining unclaimed at the time fixed for the date of sale in the notice required by § 61507 shall be sold at public sale by the Director.

(b) The minimum acceptable bid at the sale on each estray shall not be less than the charged for care and keep, impounding, and costs of sale.

(c) The sale shall be to the highest bidder and the terms of sale shall be cash.

(d) If no acceptable bid is received, the Director shall declare the estray sold to the government of Guam in payment for the charges for care and keep, impounding, and costs of sale. Any estray sold to the Government of Guam shall be delivered to the Department of Agriculture.

(e) All sales shall be final and bar any right of recovery.

(f) The Director shall issue a proper bill of sale for the estray sold to the highest bidder after completion of the sale. All sales made under the provisions of this Article convey a good and valid title to the purchaser.

(g) Notwithstanding this Section, the Department may transfer ownership to an approved custodial caretaker pursuant to § 61505 (f) following satisfaction of all notice and reclamation requirements of this Article."

Section 9. § 61511 of Article 5, Chapter 61, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *amended* to read:

"**§ 61511. Estray Livestock Stewardship and Enforcement Fund.**

(a) There is hereby created, separate and apart from other funds of the government of Guam, the 'Estray Livestock Stewardship and Enforcement Fund.'

(b) The Fund shall be administered by the Department of Agriculture.

(c) The Fund shall consist of:

(1) Legislative appropriations;

(2) Fines and penalties collected pursuant to this Article;

(3) Impoundment and administrative fees;

(4) Proceeds from estray sales by the Department;

(5) grants, donations; and

(6) other revenues lawfully received for purposes of this Article.

(d) Monies in the Fund shall not lapse and may be used for:

(1) Reimbursement to private persons;

(2) Custodial caretaker reimbursement;

(3) Municipal reimbursement;

(4) Feed and livestock care;

(5) veterinary services;

(6) fencing and temporary holding facilities;

(7) Livestock transportation;

(8) enforcement activities; and

(9) Other estray livestock management purposes authorized by the Department.

(e) The Director of the Department of Agriculture may utilize unobligated and unexpended appropriations lawfully available to the Department for startup and implementation costs associated with this Article

pending capitalization of the Estray Livestock Stewardship and Enforcement Fund."

Section 10. A new § 61511.1 is hereby *added* to Article 5 of Chapter 61, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, to read:

"**§ 61511.1. Voluntary Reclamation Compliance Waiver.**

(a) An owner who voluntarily reclaims estray livestock within seven (7) calendar days of notice of impoundment or publication of notice may qualify for a waiver or reduction of penalties under this Article, provided the owner:

(1) establishes proof of ownership;

(2) cooperates with Department livestock registration and identification requirements within a period prescribed by the Department. The Department shall issue any livestock identification, such as livestock identification tags, required by law or regulation; and

(3) pays reasonable care, transportation, veterinary, administrative, and other actual costs associated with the estray as determined by the Department.

(b) The waiver authorized under this Section shall apply only to first-time violations occurring within a three (3) year period.

(c) The waiver shall not apply where:

(1) the estray incident resulted in bodily injury or death;

(2) substantial property damage occurred;

(3) the owner intentionally abandoned the livestock; or

(4) the owner is determined to be a repeat or habitual violator.

(d) Nothing in this Section shall prohibit the Department from issuing warnings, compliance orders, corrective action requirements, or seeking reimbursement of actual costs incurred."

Section 11. § 61512 of Article 5, Chapter 61, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated is hereby *amended* to read:

"**§ 61512. Liability Protections.**

(a) No liability shall be incurred by the government of Guam, including the Department of Agriculture, any mayor, municipal employee, and custodial caretaker, private person, contractor, volunteer, or any authorized agent acting in good faith in carrying out the provisions of this Article.

(b) Liability protections under this Section shall apply to activities including, but not limited to:

(1) seizure;

(2) transportation;

(3) temporary custodial care;

(4) veterinary treatment; and

(5) lawful disposition of estrays.

(c) The protections of this Section shall not apply in cases involving gross negligence, reckless misconduct, or intentional harm."

Section 12. § 61513 of Article 5, Chapter 61, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *amended* to read:

"**§ 61513. Penalties.**

(a) Any owner who violates any provision of this Article shall be subject to:

(1) a fine not exceeding Five Hundred Dollars ($500) for a first violation per animal;

(2) a fine not exceeding One Thousand Dollars ($1,000) for a second violation per animal; and

(3) a fine not exceeding Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($2,500) for a third or subsequent violation per animal.

(b) In addition to fines authorized by this Section, the owner shall be responsible for all reasonable costs for the temporary custodial care, transportation, veterinary treatment, administrative, municipal, and other actual costs incurred pursuant to this Article.

(c) Each estray animal and each separate incident may constitute a separate violation.

(d) The Department may pursue civil recovery of unpaid costs and fees associated with estray livestock management."

Section 13. Implementation. The Department of Agriculture shall promulgate all rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act no later than one-hundred eighty (180) days following enactment. Pending the promulgation of rules and regulations, the Department may establish interim policies and procedures consistent with this Act.

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

Section 15. Effective Date. This Act shall become effective upon enactment.