

I Mina'trentai Sais 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
214-36 (COR)	Amanda L. Shelton Joe S. San Agustin Tina Rose Muña Barnes Telena Cruz Nelson Mary Camacho Torres Jose "Pedo" Terlaje James C. Moylan Clynton E. Ridgell Sabina Flores Perez V. Anthony Ada	AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$25,000,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP), AS ESTABLISHED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-25; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP) ACT OF 2021."	10/15/21 11:12 a.m.	10/19/21	Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing	11/1/21 9:00 a.m.	11/18/21 9:48 a.m.	Request: 10/19/21 10/29/21	



SENATOR JOE S. SAN AGUSTIN

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, APPROPRIATIONS & HOUSING
I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN

November 16, 2021

The Honorable Therese M. Terlaje
Speaker
I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

VIA: The Honorable Amanda L. Shelton 
Acting Chairperson, Committee on Rules

RE: Committee Report on Bill No. 214-36 (COR) As Introduced

Dear Speaker Terlaje:

Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report on **BILL NO. 214-36 (COR)** - As Introduced by Amanda L. Shelton, Joe S. San Agustin, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Telen Cruz Nelson, Mary Camacho Torres, Jose "Pedro" Terlaje, James C. Moylan, Clynton E. Ridgell, Sabina Flores Perez, and V. Anthony Ada. **"AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$25,000,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP), AS ESTABLISHED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-25; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP) ACT OF 2021."**

Committee votes are as follows:

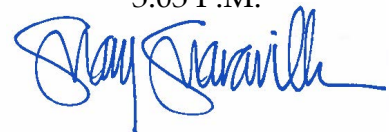
- TO DO PASS
- TO NOT PASS
- TO REPORT OUT ONLY
- TO ABSTAIN
- TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE

Respectfully,


Senator Joe S. San Agustin
Chairperson, Committee on Appropriations

COMMITTEE ON RULES
RECEIVED:

November 16, 2021
3:03 P.M.





SENATOR JOE S. SAN AGUSTIN

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, APPROPRIATIONS & HOUSING
I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN

COMMITTEE REPORT

BILL NO. 214-36 (COR)

As Introduced by Amanda L. Shelton, Joe S. San Agustin, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Telena Cruz Nelson, Mary Camacho Torres, Jose “Pedo” Terlaje, James C. Moylan, Clynton E. Ridgell, Sabina Flores Perez, and V. Anthony Ada.

“AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$25,000,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE LOCAL EMPLOYERS’ ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP), AS ESTABLISHED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-25; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE “LOCAL EMPLOYERS’ ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP) ACT OF 2021.”



SENATOR JOE S. SAN AGUSTIN

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, APPROPRIATIONS & HOUSING
I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN

November 16, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL MEMBERS

Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing

From: Senator Joe S. San Agustin 
Committee Chairperson

Subject: Committee Report on Bill No. 214-36 (COR) As Introduced

Håfa Adai Committee Members,

Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report on **BILL NO. 214-36 (COR)** - As Introduced by Amanda L. Shelton, Joe S. San Agustin, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Telen Cruz Nelson, Mary Camacho Torres, Jose "Pedro" Terlaje, James C. Moylan, Clynton E. Ridgell, Sabina Flores Perez, and V. Anthony Ada. **"AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$25,000,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP), AS ESTABLISHED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-25; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP) ACT OF 2021."**

This report includes the following:

- Copy of COR Referral of Bill No. 214-36 (COR)
- Notices of Public Hearing and Other Correspondence
- Copy of Public Hearing Agenda
- Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet
- Submitted Written Testimony and Supporting Documents
- Committee Report Digest
- Copy of Bill No. 214-36 (COR) As Introduced
- Copy of Fiscal Note from Bureau of Budget and Management Research
- Copy of Funding Availability Note from Office of Finance and Budget
- Committee Vote Sheet

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'.



Vice Speaker

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON RULES

I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

GUAM CONGRESS BUILDING
163 CHALAN SANTO PAPA
HAGÁTÑA, GUAM 96910
TEL 671-472-2461
COR@GUAMLEGISLATURE.ORG

November 4, 2021

MEMO

To: **Rennae Meno**
Clerk of the Legislature

Attorney Ana Won Pat-Borja
Legislative Legal Counsel

From: **Senator Amanda L. Shelton**
Acting Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Re: **Referral of Bill No. 220-36 (LS)**

Håfa Adai,

As per my authority as Acting Chairperson of the Committee on Rules and subject to §6.01(d)(1), Rule VI of our Standing Rules, I am forwarding the referral of Bill No. 220-36 (LS) – Amanda L. Shelton, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, James C. Moylan – “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 26217 TO ARTICLE 2 OF CHAPTER 26, TITLE 11; AND TO ADD A NEW SUBSECTION (g) TO § 13.101 OF ARTICLE 13.1, CHAPTER 1, TITLE 5, ALL OF GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO FUNDING THE COMPENSATION OF ADJUDICATED CLAIMS OF THE GREATEST GENERATION OF GUAM FOR THE ATROCITIES SUFFERED DURING THE WORLD WAR II OCCUPATION OF GUAM.”

Please ensure that the subject bill is referred to the **Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing, chaired by Senator Joe S. San Agustin.**

I also request that the same be forwarded to the prime sponsor of the subject bill.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mary Maravilla, Committee on Rules Director at 472-2461.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

Senator Amanda L. Shelton
Acting Chairperson, Committee on Rules





Michaela Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com>

First Notice of Virtual Public Hearing on Monday, November 1, 2021

2 messages

Rose Mesa <rose.senatorsa@gmail.com>

Wed, Oct 20, 2021 at 11:09 AM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org, Edward Birn <edward.birn@doa.guam.gov>, talofofomayor@gmail.com,

mcogadmin@teleguam.net

Cc: Management Information System <mis@guamlegislature.org>, Tom Unsiog <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>, ed pocaigue <siedpocaigue@gmail.com>, Joe San Agustin <protocol@guamlegislature.org>

October 20, 2021**To: All Honorable Senators, Stakeholders and Media****From: Senator Joe S. San Agustin, Chairman****Subject: First Notice of Virtual Public Hearing on Monday, November 1, 2021***Buenas yan Håfa Adai!*

In accordance with the Open Government Law, relative to notices for public meetings, please be advised that the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations and Housing will convene a virtual public hearing on **Monday, November 1, 2021 beginning at 9:00 a.m.** using the Legislature's virtual Zoom platform.

The Committee will hear and accept testimony on the following:

9:00 a.m.

Bill No. 214-36 (COR) - Amanda L. Shelton / Joe S. San Agustin / Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Telena Cruz Nelson / Mary Camacho Torres / Jose "Pedro" Terlaje / James C. Moylan / Clynton E. Ridgell / Sabina Flores Perez / V. Anthony Ada

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$25,000,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP), AS ESTABLISHED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-25; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP) ACT OF 2021."

1:30pm:

Confirmation Hearing of **Marilyn Borja** to serve as a **Member of the Guam Ethics Commission for Four (4) Years from May 17, 2021 to May 16, 2025.**

Confirmation Hearing of **Nathanael P. Sanchez** to serve as a **Member of the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority, Board of Commissioners for Five (5) Years from March 31, 2021 to March 30, 2026.**

Confirmation Hearing of **Mark Anthony Duarte** to serve as a **Member of the Guam Housing Corporation, Board of Directors for Six (6) Years from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2026.**

3:00 p.m.:

Bill No. 186-36 (COR) - Joe S. San Agustin / Telena Cruz Nelson

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE ONE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,500,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT TO THE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING A SOUTHERN EMERGENCY ACCESS BOAT RAMP IN TALO'FO'FO' TO PROVIDE SAFE MARINE ACCESS FOR EMERGENCY PERSONNEL.

Written testimonies should be addressed to Sen. Joe S. San Agustin, Chairman and sent via email to: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com or hand delivered to: Ran Care Bldg. Suite B3 761 S. Marine Corps Drive Tamuning, Guam 96931.

The hearing will be broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117/112.4 and streamed online via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed. A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring special accommodations or services should contact the Office of Senator Joe S. San Agustin at senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com.

We look forward to your participation!

Un Dàngkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'àse'

Very Respectfully,

RoseMarie T. Mesa
Office Manager
I Mina'trentai sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
(Thirty-Sixth Guam Legislature)
Senator Joe S. San Agustin
Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing
Office: 671-989-5445
Email: rose.senatorsa@gmail.com

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To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to phnotice+unsubscribe@guamlegislature.org.

Michaella Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com>

Thu, Oct 21, 2021 at 2:14 PM

To: Melanie Mendiola <mel.mendiola@investguam.com>, Tina Garcia <cgarcia@investguam.com>, Joann Camacho

<joann.camacho@investguam.com>

Cc: "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Joseph Mesngon <joe.senatorsa@gmail.com>, Rose Mesa <rose.senatorsa@gmail.com>

Hafa Adai Team GEDA,

Please note that you are invited to participate and provide testimony on Bills pertinent to your agency as indicated below.

Please contact our office to confirm your participation in the virtual hearings so we may provide you with the zoom link and access code.

Please contact our office should you have any questions.

Thank you!

Best,
Michaella Celorio
Research Policy Analyst



Catherine Leon Guerrero <cathy.senatorsa@gmail.com>

CHANGE 1: First Notice of Virtual Public Hearing on Monday, November 1, 2021

1 message

Rose Mesa <rose.senatorsa@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 25, 2021 at 12:37 PM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org, Edward Birn <edward.birn@doa.guam.gov>, talofofomayor@gmail.com, mcogadmin@teleguam.net

Cc: Management Information System <mis@guamlegislature.org>, Tom Unsiog <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>, Joe San Agustin <protocol@guamlegislature.org>, ed pocaigue <siedpocaigue@gmail.com>

Bcc: cathy.senatorsa@gmail.com

October 25, 2021

To: All Honorable Senators, Stakeholders and Media

From: Senator Joe S. San Agustin, Chairman

Subject: CHANGE 1: First Notice of Virtual Public Hearing on Monday, November 1, 2021

Buenas yan Háfa Adai!

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The Committee will hear and accept testimony on the following:

9:00 a.m.

Bill No. 214-36 (COR) - Amanda L. Shelton / Joe S. San Agustin / Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Telena Cruz Nelson / Mary Camacho Torres / Jose "Pedo" Terlaje / James C. Moylan / Clynton E. Ridgell / Sabina Flores Perez / V. Anthony Ada

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$25,000,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP), AS ESTABLISHED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-25; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP) ACT OF 2021."

~~**1:30pm: Cancelled due to 36th Legislative Session**~~

~~Confirmation Hearing of Marilyn Borja to serve as a Member of the Guam Ethics Commission for Four (4) Years from May 17, 2021 to May 16, 2025.~~

~~Confirmation Hearing of Nathanael P. Sanchez to serve as a Member of the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority, Board of Commissioners for Five (5) Years from March 31, 2021 to March 30, 2026.~~

~~Confirmation Hearing of Mark Anthony Duarte to serve as a Member of the Guam Housing Corporation, Board of Directors for Six (6) Years from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2026.~~

~~**3:00 p.m. Cancelled due to 36th Legislative Session**~~

~~**Bill No. 186-36 (COR)** Joe S. San Agustin / Telena Cruz Nelson~~

~~AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE ONE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,500,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING A SOUTHERN EMERGENCY ACCESS BOAT RAMP IN TALO'FO'FO' TO PROVIDE SAFE MARINE ACCESS FOR EMERGENCY PERSONNEL.~~

Written testimonies should be addressed to Sen. Joe S. San Agustin, Chairman and sent via email to: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com or hand delivered to: Ran Care Bldg. Suite B3 761 S. Marine Corps Drive Tamuning, Guam 96931.

The hearing will be broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117/112.4 and streamed online via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed. A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring special accommodations or services should contact the Office of Senator Joe S. San Agustin at senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com.

We look forward to your participation!

Un Dàngkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'àse'

Very Respectfully,

RoseMarie T. Mesa

Office Manager

I Mina'trentai sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

(Thirty-Sixth Guam Legislature)

Senator Joe S. San Agustin

Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing

Office: 671-989-5445

Email: rose.sensorsa@gmail.com



Catherine Leon Guerrero <cathy.senatorsa@gmail.com>

Second Notice of Virtual Public Hearing on Monday, November 1, 2021

2 messages

Michaella Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com>

Wed, Oct 27, 2021 at 8:36 PM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org

Cc: Tom Unsiog <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>, Management Information System <mis@guamlegislature.org>, Joe San Agustin <protocol@guamlegislature.org>, Rose Mesa <rose.senatorsa@gmail.com>, Joseph Mesngon <joe.senatorsa@gmail.com>, "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>

October 27, 2021**To: All Honorable Senators, Stakeholders and Media****From: Senator Joe S. San Agustin, Chairman****Subject: Second Notice of Virtual Public Hearing on Monday, November 1, 2021***Buenas yan Håfa Adai!*

In accordance with the Open Government Law, relative to notices for public meetings, please be advised that the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations and Housing will convene a virtual public hearing on **Monday, November 1, 2021 beginning at 9:00 a.m.** using the Legislature's virtual Zoom platform.

The Committee will hear and accept testimony on the following:

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Bill No. 214-36 (COR) - Amanda L. Shelton / Joe S. San Agustin / Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Telena Cruz Nelson / Mary Camacho Torres / Jose "Pedro" Terlaje / James C. Moylan / Clynton E. Ridgell / Sabina Flores Perez / V. Anthony Ada

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$25,000,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP), AS ESTABLISHED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-25; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP) ACT OF 2021."

If you wish to participate in the Virtual Public Hearing to provide testimony please contact the Office of Senator Joe S. San Agustin at senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com or call (671) 989-5445 **no later than 12 noon on Friday, October 29, 2021 for further guidance.**

Written testimonies should be addressed to Sen. Joe S. San Agustin, Chairman and sent via email to: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com or hand delivered to: Ran Care Bldg. Suite B3 761 S. Marine Corps Drive Tamuning, Guam 96931.

The hearing will be broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117/112.4 and streamed online via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed. A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring special accommodations or services should contact the Office of Senator Joe S. San Agustin at senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com.

We look forward to your participation!

Thank you!

Best,

Michaela Celorio

Research Policy Analyst

Office of Senator Joe S. San Agustin

I Mina'Trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guahan

36th Guam Legislature

Chairman, Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations & Housing

Office of Finance and Budget

Email: msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com

Tel: (671) 989-5445

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To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to phnotice+unsubscribe@guamlegislature.org.

Ceejay Pilarca <ceejay@spbgum.com>

Thu, Oct 28, 2021 at 9:35 AM

To: Michaela Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com>

Cc: phnotice@guamlegislature.org, Tom Unsiog <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>, Management Information System <mis@guamlegislature.org>, Joe San Agustin <protocol@guamlegislature.org>, Rose Mesa <rose.senatorsa@gmail.com>, Joseph Mesngon <joe.senatorsa@gmail.com>, "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>

Dear Senator San Agustin:

I'm Ceejay Pilarca with the Pacific News Center, and I was wondering if I could schedule an interview with you today to discuss Bill 213.

Yesterday, in an interview with PNC, Senator Clynt Ridgell voiced that he was "very concerned" with the bill, which, according to him, asks for an exemption to a bill that protects students and faculty from frequent exposure to high levels of air pollution.

Given that you will be holding a public hearing on the 1st of November, we wanted to conduct run the story today to help better inform the public before the hearing.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ceejay Pilarca

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]



Office of SENATOR Joe S. San Agustin

I Mina'trentai - Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan, Thirty-Sixth Guam Legislature

Virtual Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet

November 1, 2021 • 9:00 a.m. • Legislature's Virtual Zoom Platform

Bill No. 214-36 (COR) - Amanda L. Shelton / Joe S. San Agustin / Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Telena Cruz Nelson / Mary Camacho Torres / Jose "Pedro" Terlaje / James C. Moylan / Clynton E. Ridgell / Sabina Flores Perez / V. Anthony Ada **AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$25,000,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP), AS ESTABLISHED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-25; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP) ACT OF 2021."**

NAME	AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION (IF ANY)	SUPPORT? OPPOSE?	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	ORAL TESTIMONY	CONTACT NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
JOHN RAY AGUON	KARETAN KARABAO			X		
DAVID TYDINGCO	VALLEY OF THE LATTE LLC			X		
JAY MERRIL	MARKET RESEARCH + DEVELOPMENT			X		
BRAD KLOPPENBURG	KLOPPENBURG ENT. INC.			X		
JUVYNA LUJAN	DKSH GUAM INC.		X	X		
HIDEHARU BABA	BABA CORPORATION			X		
MONTE MESA	GPO + TUMON SANDS PLAZA			X		
THOMAS SON	HANA TOURS / KOREA TRAVEL ASSN.			X		
SATORU MURATA	HOLIDAY TOURS / JAPAN GUAM TRAVEL ASSN.			X		
MELANIE MENDIOLA	GEDA		X	X		
LESTER CARLSON	BBMR			X		
EDWARD BIRN	DOA			X		
JAMES RODINA				X		
ANDREW PARK	PACIFIC ENERGY CORP. / GKCC		X	X		

Page 1 of 2

Committee Chairman: General Government Operations, Appropriations, & Housing

Ran - Care Commercial Building, CBU #230, 761 South Marine Corps Dr., Tamuning, Guam 96913

*Tel: (671) 989-5445 * Fax: (671) 969-6737 * email: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com*



Office of
SENATOR Joe S. San Agustin
I Mina'trentai - Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan, Thirty-Sixth Guam Legislature

Virtual Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet

November 1, 2021 • 9:00 a.m. • Legislature's Virtual Zoom Platform

Bill No. 214-36 (COR) - Amanda L. Shelton / Joe S. San Agustin / Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Telena Cruz Nelson / Mary Camacho Torres / Jose "Pedro" Terlaje / James C. Moylan / Clynton E. Ridgell / Sabina Flores Perez / V. Anthony Ada **AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$25,000,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP), AS ESTABLISHED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-25; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP) ACT OF 2021."**

NAME	AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION (IF ANY)	SUPPORT? OPPOSE?	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	ORAL TESTIMONY	CONTACT NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
STEVEN KASPERBAUER	ALUPANG BEACH CLUB			X		
RICHARD HART	APPLE PACIFIC RESTAURANT ^{GROUP} GROUP			X		
AKIHIRO TANI	PACIFIC UNDERWATER OBSERVATORIES			X		
MARY RHODES	GHRA		X	X		
BILL NAVLT	NAVTECH INC.			X		
TERRY CHUNG	KOPEA GUAM TRAVEL ASSN. / TRIPLES			X		



GUAM WOMEN'S
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

October 31, 2021

President

Laura Nelson Cepeda

Senator Joe S. San Agustin

Chair, Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations and Housing

Ran Care Bldg., CBU 230

761 S. Marine Corps Drive

Tamuning, Guam 96931

Via e-mail: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com

Vice President

Bernie Valencia

Secretary

Helana Leon Guerrero

Treasurer

Amanda Gima

Hafa Adai Chairman San Agustin and members of the Committee,

Past President

Holly Rustick

The Guam Women's Chamber of Commerce hereby provides the following testimony *in favor* of Bill No. 214-36 (COR) - AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$25,000,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP), AS ESTABLISHED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-25; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP) ACT OF 2021."

Board Members

Angel Camacho-Paulino

Jayne Flores

Jennifer McFerran

Kathlyn Selleck

Livia Marati

Michelle Crisostomo

Tasi Peddicord

Jessica Leon Guerrero

The GWCC is in full support of this legislative funding initiative, as we believe it will benefit the private sector, tourism stakeholders and our community in general.

The Local Employers' Assistance Program, established by Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio, is a loan program designed to provide additional assistance to businesses, to enable them to maintain and increase local employment rates. The program is initially supported by \$25 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding and also provides flexibility to businesses for other business-related costs.

Ex-Officios

Lina Leon Guerrero

Geri Leon Guerrero

Rindraty Limtiaco

We understand that the Guam Economic Development Authority will administer this program, and that those businesses that have experienced interruption as a result of the pandemic will be prioritized. The GWCC recommends that this program prioritize businesses that can show evidence of a substantial interruption in business or employee layoffs/furloughs due to the pandemic. We also understand that if at least 60% of a LEAP loan is used to pay employee wages and benefits, the loan will be forgivable, as it is modeled after the U.S. Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program. This loan forgiveness aspect of the program will be a huge help to island businesses.

Executive Director

Rene Logie

The GWCC commends the Committee on Tourism, led by Senators Amanda Shelton, Joe S. San Agustin, and Vice Speaker Tina Muna Barnes, for introducing Bill No. 214-36, as it will increase the total amount of LEAP aid available for island businesses to \$50 million.

We all know that Guam's businesses, and through those businesses, nearly 30,000 of our employees, have taken a huge hit over the past 19 months that this pandemic has ravaged our island and its people. It is refreshing to see the Legislature work hand in hand with the Leon Guerrero Tenorio administration to expand the funding of this



GUAM WOMEN'S
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

program, and help businesses to not only get back on their feet, but also in some cases, to expand their employee base in order to recover economically.

Senators, si Yu'os ma'ase for the opportunity to testify in support of Bill 214-36, and for working with the administration to provide help to our island's businesses and employees. They are indeed the backbone of our economy, and we must do all we can to support their recovery.

Si Yu'os ma'ase for the opportunity to submit testimony on Bill 216-36. Please stay safe.

Sincerely,

Laura Nelson Cepeda

President

Guam Women's Chamber of Commerce



Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association

962 Pale San Vitores Rd., Acanta Mall, Ste. 202, Tamuning, GU 96913

P.O. Box 8565, Tamuning, GU 96931

Tel: (671) 649-1447 • Fax: (671) 649-8565 • E-Mail: info@ghra.org • Website: www.ghra.org

November 1, 2021

TRANSMITTED VIA E-MAIL:
officejoesanagustin@gmail.com

Senator Joe S. San Agustin
Chairman, Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations and Housing
36th Guam Legislature
I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagatna, Guam 96910

RE: Bill 214-36

Hafa Adai!

On behalf of the Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association (GHRA) Board of Directors and Membership, we are in full support of Bill 214-36 – an act to appropriate twenty-five million dollars from the general fund to the Department of Administration for the Local Employers' Assistance Program (LEAP), as established by Executive Order 2021-25. The tourism industry has been the hardest hit throughout the pandemic with business closures, limited operations, increased health and safety protocols, reductions in workforce, decreases in sales, soaring prices, delays in supply chain, and continued slowdown of the economic recovery. GHRA sincerely appreciates the leadership of the Executive and Legislative branches in providing critical assistance to businesses adversely impacted by the pandemic and finding solutions to help remediate the business disruptions and financial impacts to the industry.

Introduced by the Leong Guerrero-Tenorio administration, the Local Employers' Assistance Program will assist all business sectors including travel agents, hotels, restaurants, airlines, transportation, retail, laundry services, optional tours, entertainers, attractions, and others. The \$25 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding combined with the LEAP appropriation will serve as an important lifeline to the businesses that would afford them the opportunity to survive, continue to operate, employ people, and contribute to the economy. Bill 214-36 will increase the LEAP funding by an additional \$25 million for a total amount of \$50 million available to tourism industry stakeholders and businesses.

Although some companies have already received federal relief from various local and federal agencies and grants, however more needs to be done to support our largest industry that continues to face setbacks in order to stabilize the economy and bring back jobs that lay the groundwork for economic recovery. With the continued restrictions and extensions of the public health emergency declaration, the business community has remained in a stagnant state and the recent Covid-19 surge has only exacerbated the situation.

- more -



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Throughout the pandemic, businesses have had to make difficult decisions by closing their doors either temporarily or permanently. As a result, employers have had to right size their operations and reduce the workforce through furloughs, reduction in work hours and layoffs. Of all of the business sectors, the tourism industry has been the hardest hit. According to the 2020 Guam Economic Report, 56.2% or 15,174 became unemployed during the pandemic. Before businesses can rehire, they need to be in the position to hire.

Businesses are still wondering what recovery could look like and whether or not businesses will be able to survive long enough to reopen their doors to help drive the economy and stabilize the market. To make matters worse, jobs will be limited because of the dismal economic forecast, slow reopening of the tourism industry and weak tourism projections recently announced for 2022 by the Guam Visitors Bureau.

Guam is a destination that heavily relies on leisure and business travel. Around the region, we have seen domestic travel reignite with mainland travelers visit Hawaii and other US destinations while foreign travelers explore within their home country. The return to international travel will depend on vaccination rates within each key source market to make return flights more palatable. With Guam being at almost 90 percent fully vaccinated, we have continued to make strides towards the reopening of tourism with announcement of the WTTC Safe Travels and Guam Safe Certified program as well as the Air V&V program to bring expatriates and tourists to Guam as a strategic way to introduce travel back to Guam. But, even with the introduction of these programs, the tourism industry has been stymied and marred with travel advisories from the Centers of Disease Control, changes in travel restrictions and continued delays from airline carriers returning to Guam. Therefore, it will be a long recovery and we have to support tourism businesses to adapt and survive. More importantly, we need our tourism stakeholders to remain solvent in order to rebuild our economy and promote a more resilient and sustainable industry!

As many of these industry stakeholders continue to face harrowing challenges as expenses continue to climb, we need to look for solutions that could, in a more immediate way, sustain them through the next year. The direct and indirect benefits of supporting the tourism industry will have a multiplier effect throughout the island considering all of the professional services and ancillary services that rely on tourism. GHRA supports these efforts and hope we can work together to appropriate more funds, which will have a resounding and lasting effect for businesses who have helped developed our tourism market for more than half a century!

Senseramente,

Mary P. Rhodes

President

Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association



GUAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

November 1, 2021

THE HONORABLE JOE S. SAN AGUSTIN
Chairperson, Committee on General Operations,
Appropriations and Housing
I Mina' Trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

RE: Bill No. 214-36

Hafa Adai Senator San Agustin,

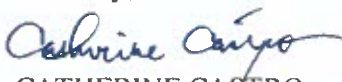
Thank you for the opportunity to present supporting testimony on Bill No. 214-36 which seeks to appropriate twenty-five million dollars from the Government of Guam's general fund to the Department of Administration for the Local Employers' Assistance Program.

As you and your colleagues are well aware, our tourism industry was the most impacted from the pandemic crisis. Many businesses that provide recreational attractions have closed and the ones that are open are hanging by a thread and operating at a loss. Most businesses, including hotels, restaurants and cultural attractions have reduced hours and have furloughed most of their employees. Even with Guam reaching the highest vaccination rates in the country, we are nowhere near rebounding our economy in contrast to the rest of the continental United States. According to GVB's August 2021 Industry Report there was an 85% decline from last year's arrivals. With our source markets still restricting travel, future forecasts are dim, which indicates that it will be a long road ahead for the recovery of our tourism sector.

There are currently over 10,000 residents that were employed prior to the pandemic that are still without jobs. Federal pandemic stimulus funding has been a saving grace for many in the private sector; however, this simply has not been enough to keep our private industry doors open. The recent appropriation of the Leon Guerrero-Tenorio Administration of \$25 million from the American Rescue Plan Act towards establishing the Local Employers' Assistance Program (LEAP) that Guam Economic Development Authority will be administering is coming at a time when it is needed the most. The additional funds as appropriated by the passing of this measure will provide additional support to help keep our residents employed as the economy struggles to stay afloat until tourists feel safe to travel again. Your efforts in passing Bill No. 214 would help save this sector of our economy and preserve the likelihood of its survival until tourism numbers start to rebound.

We thank you for your consideration and urge your action to save jobs for our residents. *Si Yu'os Ma'ase.*

Sincerely,


CATHERINE CASTRO
President



October 30, 2021

The following written testimony is provided by **Mr. Jeffrey E. Pleadwell**.

Mr. Pleadwell is the Owner, General Manager, Chief Executive Officer and President of Jeff's Pirates Cove. Jeff's Pirates Cove has been incorporated on Guam since 1979 and located at the former site of Camp Ethridge - a rest and relaxation facility for World War II aircrew personnel. Since Jeff's Pirates Cove opened its doors, the business has been an iconic tourism and food & beverage "fixture" in the village of Talofofo. The Cove offers visitors, customers, families and friends a unique dining experience set amongst an Imperial Japanese Army fortification (listed on the National Register of Historic Places), a seaside concert venue unlike any other on Guam, and an open expanse of property where clientele can enjoy the idyllic beauty of the Ipan-Talofofo coastline. Over the years, Jeff's Pirates Cove has earned a reputation as a Guam "Brand Ambassador" to tourists from Japan, Korean, Taiwan, China, stateside visitors, United States military personnel and members of regional allied militaries forward-deployed to the Indo-Pacific theater of operations.



“Distinguished Senators of the 36th Guam Legislature, ladies and gentlemen of the audience, virtual platform attendees, and fellow business colleagues – Buenas and Hafa Adai.

Thank you for the opportunity to allow me to speak in solidarity with other industry representatives, business owners, and operators in support of Bill Number 214-36 (COR). Additionally, a special round of thanks is owed to Mrs. Mary Rhodes, President of the Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association (GHRA), for “rallying the troops” and coordinating the effort before you today.

I have been in business on Guam since 1979. In those intervening years, we have experienced many trials and tribulations – some natural; some man-made. However, I can say with the utmost certainty that the last eighteen months have been the most fiscally austere period in our business’ history. I suspect other businesses – at least the establishments that were not forced to close down their operations – would echo that sentiment.

The mandates imposed upon the food and beverage industry have been draconian. Between January of 2020 and the full impact of the island-wide shutdown in April 2020, our business revenue dropped a staggering 88%. Since then, recovery has been excruciating slow – hampered by additional restrictions



and exacerbated by a tourism sector that, for all intents and purposes, has not realized its full capacity since the pandemic began. Last month, even with the influx of foreign military personnel from the HMS Queen Elizabeth Carrier Strike Group visiting the island for a second time, our revenues were still down nearly 70%. To add insult to injury, nearly all our vendor-provided ingredients, raw food items and other dry goods have seen exponential across-the-board prices increases in the last 6 months. These factors have all contributed to a “perfect storm” of daunting circumstances facing the island’s business community.

These impacts have driven my senior management team and I to make a number of incredibly painful decisions in the last eighteen months. Employees’ hours have been significantly reduced, the pay for the management team was cut severely, even our menu is currently in the process of being revised to streamline internal business processes to hopefully reduce operational and support costs. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and other such initiatives were helpful but did not last long. Other Federally funded pandemic relief programs, such as the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) were so restrictive in their applicant criteria, that by the time Jeff’s Pirates Cove could submit an application, there was no funding remaining. (Jeff’s Pirates Cove could not submit an RRF application until three weeks after initial opening of grant – first three weeks were for categorical



set-asides (women-owned, minority-owned, veteran-owned, economically disadvantage area, etc.)).

These fiscal impacts affects more than just employees' pay and business' bottom lines. There are other less obvious, but extremely unfortunate effects. Take for example our Togcha Channel Rescue Team. Early on in our business, we began to conduct rescues of individuals that found themselves in distress just offshore in the main channel. We started out years ago using kayaks and over the years have expanded our rescue "fleet" to include two personal watercraft (jet skis), all-terrain vehicles and a professionally trained crew with top-of-the-line rescue equipment. What makes this rescue team effective and advantageous is they can launch, recover a distressed swimmer, and return them to the shore within a matter of minutes. This all occurs before Guam Fire Department can arrive on scene with similar shallow-water resources; it also happens much faster than the Coast Guard can launch a boat from Apra Harbor and make the transit to Ipan-Talofof. Additionally, the nearest aviation asset for maritime search and rescue is located at Andersen Air Force Base – it takes roughly an hour to assemble the aircrew, conduct the mission brief, pre-flight checks, etc. This rescue capability is 100% funded by Jeff's Pirates Cove revenue – not one dime is collected, or requested, from the Government of Guam or the Federal government for us to provide this



critical search and rescue service on this remote stretch of the island's shoreline. However, because of the economic down-turn, we have suspended the following: (1) Acquisition of team members' rescue gear (life jackets, life rings, heaving line rescue bags, etc.); (2) planned preventative maintenance for the personal watercraft, launch trailer, and launch vehicle; (3) potential recapitalization (replacement) of oldest personal watercraft in the "fleet" and the tow vehicle; (4) training and equipping new team members; and (5) vessel registration. Restoration of these critical support elements for our rescue team cannot occur until our financial situation has return to even keel.

Currently, we have a renewed sense of optimism with the passage of Executive Order 2021-25, which establishes the Local Employers' Assistance Program (LEAP) and creates a fund of \$25M to be managed by the Guam Economic Development Authority. Furthermore, the additional \$25M set forth within Bill Number 214-36 (COR) will likewise be an immense help as the island's tourism and food & beverage industry slowly restores its capacity to pre-pandemic levels.

Should anyone have any questions or would like to witness our operations at Jeff's Pirates Cove to see the impact for yourselves first-hand, please do not



hesitate to reach out to myself or my management team. Si Yu'us Ma'ase.”

Sincerely,

Jeff Pleadwell

Owner, CEO, President & General Manager

Jeff's Pirates Cove

Ipan-Talofof, Guam



Guam Korean Chamber of Commerce
1000 Pale San Vitores Road
Tumon, GU 96913
contact@guamkoreanchamber.com
+1(671)486-5460

October 29, 2021

To: Guam's 36th Legislature

On behalf of the Guam Korean Chamber of Commerce (GKCC), we would like to show our written support for Bill 214-36 for approval of the budget for the Local Employers' Assistance Program (LEAP). Most business owners have been suffering to stay financially afloat during the pandemic and many have had to close their doors due to a lack of tourists visiting Guam. A large proportion of tourist-related businesses are owned by Koreans such as tour guides, restaurants and rent-a-cars. Moreover, the original predictions of when the tourist will return has still not come to a reality.

GKCC believes that Korean tourists will be returning to Guam in the last part of this year and in the Q1 2022. However, one of GKCC's concerns is that the tourist will return to Guam and that the tourism industry will not be ready for them since businesses are unable to open beforehand. This may leave a long-lasting effect on the image of Guam to Korean travelers. Therefore, the LEAP program will assist in getting our Korean businesses back up and running so that we can start to rehire the needed staff to welcome the expected influx of tourists back to our beautiful island.

We humbly ask for you to consider GKCC's written testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Park". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Andrew Park
President



Honorable Amanda L. Shelton
Committee on Air transportation, Parks, Tourism, Higher Education, and the Advancement of Women, Youth,
and Senior Citizens
I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guahan
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

RE: Testimony on Bill No. 214-36 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$25,000,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP), AS ESTABLISHED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-25; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP) ACT OF 2021."

Håfa Adai Senator Shelton and members of the 36th Guam Legislature,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Bill No. 214-36. With the COVID-19 pandemic's prolonged adverse impacts on our tourism industry, the businesses within the tourism value chain are in dire need for further financial liquidity and assistance. GVB has stated that a tourism recovery will take multiple years to achieve and our industry partners need programs, such as the Local Employers Assistance Program (LEAP), that can carry them through this gap.

Guam's ability to provide a quality visitor experience filled with activities, attractions, and memories is highly contingent upon our capacity to keep local businesses operating. While the tourism industry is the island's biggest economic driver, it is these local businesses that contribute to this higher quality experience that essentially motivates and inspires our markets to visit our island paradise.

We understand that resources are limited and strategic fiscal responsibility is crucial in this time of economic hardship. However, with the drastic reduction in visitor arrivals combined with lower operating revenues, our industry remains in a very difficult position. This bill can alleviate some of these uncertainties and provide our partners with greater confidence as they plan for the years ahead.

The passage of this legislation is fiscally responsible for the government of Guam as it will further support the 21,000+ jobs within our local workforce. These initiatives in keeping our businesses open and our people employed is vital to our mission in the recovery of our primary economic driver.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse' again for allowing GVB to testify in support of this bill and for your continued support in making Guam a better place to live, work and visit!

Senseramente,



CARL T.C. GUTIERREZ
President and CEO



Attn: Senator Joe S. San Agustin
Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations and Housing
senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com
Re: Bill No. 214-36
28 October 2021

Dear Senator San Agustin,

We fully support the appropriation of additional funding for the LEAP program. There can be no doubt that the businesses on island are in desperate need of a lifeline to stay afloat. Full service restaurants, in particular, have been especially hard hit from all sides. Of our eight restaurant locations, only five are in operation and the complete loss of the tourist market has obliterated our sales.

At the best of times, restaurants work on razor thin margins, averaging 6-7% in profits a year. Inflation & global supply chain issues have added mounting costs to our industry. Utility rates are rising and will continue to do so in the coming months. Further, our labor costs have increased significantly—from the recent minimum wage increase to the additional staffing and operational demands mandated for covered establishments. To summarize, these significant pressures and the lack of tourists have created a *perfect storm* for our restaurants.

We have only managed to stay afloat and to keep our 300 employees in their roles through local and federal funding, which will soon run dry. It is already startling to see Tumon as quiet as it is, but without outside funding such as this, many, many businesses will shut their doors for good. The ramifications of restaurants closing—one of the biggest employers on the island—would have a tremendous and terrible impact on the daily lives of so many on island and on the overall economy.

Pushing through with opening our second CPK location in Hagåtña during the pandemic has been fraught with challenges and plenty of additional costs—materials, construction personnel shortages, significant delays, and extra interest payments, amongst others. It has been a nerve-wracking journey to commit to the \$2,000,000 price tag, but we pushed through because we are passionate about what we do and want to invest in our island.

We ask that you stand with us as we face this mounting burden. Pass the funding for this program so that we can hold on to our businesses and keep our team members employed in hopes that one day in the near future, together, we can get past this terrible, prolonged challenge.

Sincerely,

Darren Talai

President, International Dining Concepts, LLC.



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P.O.Box 13027, Tamuning, GU 96931

October 29, 2021

Honorable Senator San Agustin,
Chairman, Legislative Committee on Finance & Budget

Dear Honorable Senator San Agustin,

I would like to participate in the 9 am, Monday Nov 1, 2021 Public hearing on Bill No. 214-36 (COR)—the Local Employers' Assistance Program (LEAP) Act, before the Legislative Committee on Finance & Budget.

I humbly ask that a public hearing invitation or confirmation to participate in this hearing, be emailed to me. If a public hearing online link is available, I would kindly appreciate such link or instructions on how to access the hearing beforehand. Should there be anything further required of me, please do not hesitate to let me know.

With my thanks and best regards,

Toshie Ito

Motiva Training & Consulting

PROTEHI I LINA'LATA

Honorable Amanda L. Shelton
Honorable Joe S. San Agustin
Honorable Clynton E. Ridgell
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Nov 3, 2021

Dear Senator Shelton, Chairman San Agustin and Acting Chairman Ridgell,

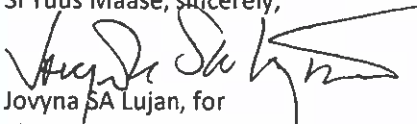
Thank you for the opportunity to participate in Monday's hearings on Bill 214-36. We recognized your collective effort to organize this public hearing and to give way to the open and frank exchange of dialogue which transpired on the bill, extending to 3.5 hours of your time and attention.

As we enter November and embrace another month in our operating cycle of payroll, rents, mortgages, utilities, and other expenses, we humbly ask for your continued support to move this measure forward expediently as we remain willing to assist in the process in any way needed.

That many small tourism businesses have advised, they will soon make important decisions on whether to temporarily or permanently close, underscores the urgency with which Bill 214-36 must move timely and progressively forward.

Thank you so much that our mutual sectors can work constructively alongside one another, to hold the line against furthering the economic injury documented in Section 1 of Bill 214-36.

Si Yuus Maase, sincerely,



Jovyna SA Lujan, for
The Protehi I Lina'Lata group

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO

Governor of Guam
I Maga'Haga Cuahan

JOSHUA F. TENORIO

Lt. Governor of Guam
I Segundo Na Maga'Lahen Cuahan



MELANIE MENDIOLA

Chief Executive Officer/Administrator
Atkãdi Eksekutibu Ofisiat/Atmenestradora

JOANN G. CAMACHO

Deputy Administrator
Sigundon Atmenestradora

Written Testimony of Melanie Mendiola, Chief Executive Officer / Administrator
Guam Economic Development Authority
November 1, 2021

Bill 214-36 (COR) - AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$25,000,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP), AS ESTABLISHED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-25; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP) ACT OF 2021."

Håfa Adai Senator San Agustin and Members of the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing, and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Bill 214-36. The Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA) wholeheartedly supports the bill.

GEDA, in conjunction with the Office of the Governor, has been at the forefront of the government of Guam's economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The various small business grant programs we have administered have provided millions of dollars in direct financial assistance to over 2,500 small businesses. However, we continue to hear from a cross section of local businesses of the harsh economic realities of the COVID-19 pandemic. What everyone first thought to be a short-term economic disruption has stretched into a prolonged and uncertain period of economic challenges. In order to ensure that our island's economy will emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic stronger than ever, the government of Guam must continue to develop and implement programs that assist businesses most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

To that end, Governor Lou Leon Guerrero established the Local Employers' Assistance Program (LEAP) via Executive Order 2021-25. The main objective of this program is to maintain current employment numbers while simultaneously promoting the creation of new jobs through loans to local businesses that have suffered the most impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The LEAP program will provide immediate stabilization to eligible businesses, many of which have told us that without this assistance they can see no other feasible option but to permanently cease business operations.

GEDA is currently drafting program guidelines and requirements for approval by both our Board of Directors and the Office of the Governor. We have held a series of stakeholder meetings over the last month consisting of business owners large and small as well as various business organizations. It is GEDA's goal to craft a program that provides as much assistance as possible to businesses that have experienced significant pandemic related business interruption. As



such, GEDA is exploring the feasibility of creating different eligibility categories while still ensuring that the overall program focuses on businesses with significant levels of business interruption.

GEDA has run preliminary figures using our current Guam Small Business Pandemic Assistance Grant 2021 applicants as a benchmark. Based on this, we have determined that the \$25 million appropriation contained in Bill 214 is crucial towards ensuring that there is adequate funding to provide assistance to businesses that will have a high impact towards retaining and creating jobs and covering other crucial operating expenses.

GEDA greatly appreciates the efforts undertaken by the sponsors of Bill 214 to identify these much-needed funds for the LEAP program. I am sure that many of the same businesses that we have spoken and interacted with over the past days and weeks have also shared their struggles with members of the Legislature. Executive Order 2021-25 and Bill 214 is a direct response to our business community and the people they employ of the entire government of Guam's commitment to our island economy. GEDA respectfully urges the passage of Bill 214-36 (COR).

Thank you for your time and attention on this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 647-4332.

Si Yu'us Ma'åse,



Melanie Mendiola
CEO/Administrator



SENATOR JOE S. SAN AGUSTIN

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, APPROPRIATIONS & HOUSING
I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

I. OVERVIEW

Bill No. 214-36 (COR) was introduced on **October 15, 2021** and **Introduced by Amanda L. Shelton, Joe S. San Agustin, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Telena Cruz Nelson, Mary Camacho Torres, Jose “Pedro” Terlaje, James C. Moylan, Clynton E. Ridgell, Sabina Flores Perez, and V. Anthony Ada.** The bill was subsequently referred by the **Committee on Rules** to the **Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing** on **October 18, 2021.**

The Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing convened a Virtual Public Hearing on **Bill No. 214-36 (COR)** on **Monday, November 01, 2021, beginning at 9:00 a.m.** via the **Guam Legislature Zoom Virtual Conference Platform.**

Public Notice Requirements

Public Hearing notices were disseminated via **e-mail** to all senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on (First Notice), **Wednesday, October 20, 2021** and (Second Notice) **Wednesday, October 27, 2021.** (48-Hour Notice).

Senators Present:

Senator Clynton E. Ridgell, Vice-Chairperson
Senator Amanda L. Shelton, Member
Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, Member
Senator Frank F. Blas Jr., Member
Senator Mary C. Torres, Member
Senator Sabina F. Perez
Senator Christopher M. Duenas
Senator Telo T. Taitague
Senator Joanne M. Brown
Senator James C. Moylan

Appearing before the Committee:

John Ray Aguon, Carabao Man, Valley of the *Latte*
David Tydingco, President, Valley of the *Latte*
Jay Merrill, Owner, Market Research and Development
Brad Kloppenburg, Vice President, Kloppenburg Enterprise
Jovyna Lujan, Merchandise Manager, *Protehi I Lina'Lata* Group
Hideharu Baba, Vice President, Baba Corporation
Monty Mesa, General Manager, Guam Premier Outlets & Tumon Sands Plaza
Steven Kasperbauer, President, Alupang Beach Club
Thomas Son, Director of Marketing, Hana Tours & Japan Guam Travel Assn. Tours Korea Guam Travel Association
Satoru Murata, President, Holiday Tours, Japan Guam Travel Assoc. Tours, Japan, Guam Travel Association
Richard Hart, President & CEO, Apple Pacific Restaurant Group

Akihiro Tani, Manager, Pacific Underwater Observatories
Mary P. Rhodes, President, Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association
Bill Nault, President & CEO, Nautech Inc
Terry Chung, Marketing Specialist, Triple J. Enterprise
James Rodina, Self-employed, Independent Tour Guide
Andrew Park, President Guam Korean Chamber of Commerce
Lester Carlson, Deputy Director, Bureau of Budget & Management Research
Edward Birn, Director, Department of Administration
Melanie Mendiola, Administrator & CEO, Guam Economic Development

Written Testimony Submitted:

Laura Nelson Cepeda, President, Guam Women's Chamber of Commerce
Mary P. Rhodes, President, Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association
Catherine Castro, President, Guam Chamber of Commerce
Jeffrey E. Pleadwell, Owner, CEO, President & General Manager Jeff's Pirates Cove
Andrew Park, President, Guam Korean Chamber of Commerce
Carl T.C. Gutierrez, President, & CEO, Guam Visitors Bureau
Darren Talai, President, International Dining Concepts, LLC
Toshie Ito, Motiva Training & Consulting, Motiva Training & Consulting
Jovyna SA Lujan, Merchandise Manager, *Protehi I Lina'Lata* Group
Melanie Mendiola, Administrator & CEO, Guam Economic Development Authority

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY AND DISCUSSION

The Virtual Public Hearing was Called-to-Order at 9:00 a.m.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: *Hafa Adai*, The Committee on General Government Operation, Appropriation and Housing is now called to order. Today is Monday, November 01, 2021, the time now is 9:00 a.m. Welcome to everyone connected by zoom and those tuning in via television or the YouTube channel. Thank you for your patience for accommodating the zoom platform while we maintain social distancing mandates.

Notices of these public hearings were disseminated via email to all Senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on **Wednesday, October 20, 2021** with a change one on **Thursday, September 9, 2021** and second notice on **Wednesday, October 27, 2021**. The agenda today on this morning now is on **Bill 214-36 (COR)** sponsored by Senator Amanda co-sponsored by Joe S. San Agustin, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Telena Cruz Nelson, Mary Camacho Torres, Jose "Pedo" Terlaje, James C. Moylan, Clynton E. Ridgell, Sabina Flores Perez, and V. Anthony Ada. **"AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$25,000,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP), AS ESTABLISHED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-25; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP) ACT OF 2021."**

And here are the general rules of conduct for this hearing would be: 1.) This zoom meetings hosted by my staff and will mute all zoom participants until called upon me. 2.) Members of the committee and/or non-committee members will be allowed to pose a question to an individual testifying, whoever is wishing to speak may indicate their desire to me through the in-app chat feature, but all my colleagues should be allowed to ask questions and the individuals that have testified. Individuals testifying shall first be recognized, I've recognized everyone already and called to speak, please ensure that you are unmuted committee members will be allowed to pose a question to an individual testifying. 4.) Questions and testimonies shall be confined to substance or nature of the agenda. Personal inference as to the character or the motive of any Senator, or any individual testifying, is Not permitted. Any violations of the general rule of conduct will results in removal from the public hearing. 5.) Please ensure that your video remains "On" throughout the hearing. 6.) Participants must be visible at all times and not engaged in any other activity during the hearing. If you need to take a drink or have a snack while we're going through the hearing that's not a problem there but, failure to maintain visibility may cause your removal from the meeting live stream.

I would now like to acknowledge my colleague's for attending this morning's hearing. Senators Telo Taitague, Senator Moylan, Senator Frank Blas, Jr. Senator Amanda Shelton, Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, I just now saw you there. I believe that is all of my colleagues.

I am sorry there is a lot of people log on to this zoom meeting so its kind of hard to capture everyone there. With that now we will go ahead and begin with the bill's sponsor and the other bill sponsored too, to provide an opening message and agenda on the bill. Senator Shelton.

Senator Amanda L. Shelton: *Si Yu'os ma'ase'* Mr. Chair, *hafa adai, Buenas* and good morning to everyone. Thank you for hearing **Bill 214** today and *Si Yu'os ma'ase' also to* Chairman San Agustin for allowing this hearing, and for your co-sponsored ship on this measure as well as for the support of vice-speaker Muña Barnes, Senators Nelson, Pedro Terlaje, and for Senator Cliff Ridgell, Mr. Chair and Senator Perez, Senator Torres, Senator Jim Moylan, and Senator Ada. **Bill No 214**, or the local employer's assistance program (LEAP) act commits local funds to help businesses impacted by the CoVID-19 pandemic, and ensure employees keep their jobs, the measure appropriates (\$25,000,000) from the general fund to the Department of Administration for the local employer's assistance program or leap as established by executive order 2021-25 and to cite this act as the local employer's assistance program act of 2021, for the local employers assistance program leap established by **Executive Order 2021-25** and will act as a local match for the governor's commitment of 25 million dollars in American rescue plan. Our act funding towards the leap totaling in a 50-million-dollar investment in Guam's businesses and employees.

This measure will allow more businesses to avail of loans from the Guam Economic Development Authority to mitigate financial hardship while supporting payroll and benefits costs and costs to retain employees and I emphasize the need to keep our people working. The leap helps to create an environment for Guam's businesses most affected by the pandemic that fosters employee retention and helps them on the path to recovery after meeting with

representatives from the tourism business sector. I along with members of the committee on tourism made a commitment to these businesses who have requested assistance from island leaders, business leaders from our tourism sector called on us to work together and the leap is the result of the collaboration of our island's leadership, that demonstrates our commitment to keep our people working and carry our businesses through this difficult time. I want to thank these tourism sector partners for their continued efforts despite the circumstances, it's up to us to continue the fight to keep our people working and this bill is about sustaining jobs and investing in the hardest hit businesses. Our businesses have come to us for help and we're here to answer this call now so, thank you very much Mr. Chair and thank you to all of the stakeholders who are here today to testify in support of the bill. *St Yu'os ma'ase'*

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you Senator Shelton and we'll begin now, I'm sorry let me also recognize, I saw Senator Sabina Perez, on here so I'd just also like to recognize Senator Perez as well, we'll now begin accepting testimony from those who have signed up to testify and we will begin with Mr. John Ray Aguon, good morning Mr. Aguon.

John Ray Aguon, Carabao Man, Valley of the Latte: *Hafa Adai todos hamyu na senadot, u nai dankolo na Si Yu'os ma'ase' para I gobietno ta ya hamyu ni mana li'e na senadot u na'i para u ma setbi I taotaotano, ya u sagan este para un setbi taotao tano. Dankolo naagradisamento mafato gining hami Si Yu'os ma'ase' hagas ha sumanao para by setbe espesiatmente este I tourist attraction agency. Unu na emplrao nigap, ilecko quantus horus ma pasesemu ilectna trese ha horas gi dos semana I mas tacpapa ni nuebe sitentai sinko ti yumelon pao setbe I familia, manu I taotao na pu ma espia I nilalaniya. Agin trese horas gi dos semana. Huga ta tungo' na yatsaga sangan na ma hatsa I preso sa put este e COVID, lao atan iyo I trese horas ti megagay eyu na salape' ni fanahan ti nahung I karata I power yan I hanum para I ninalaniha. Enague na minasapit, eyugue' na gaige I chenatsaga. Hasao yu ya paga gi enasunmigu, yan siente y chinatsaga siha. Este gi I kustumbre CHamorru munga mu gago' minasapit. Pega ge korasonmiyu, na guaha familiar niha, quha famaguonia, na dankolu na soppote I mafatu ginene I fedurot gien a kontinua man ma cho'cho, guya masa' dididi, enigi kustumbreta ni katuran i CHamorru. Muga kumako tinua machocho, ya ilectna so tatao hu, agin machocho hao, meyeng namu, pago anti machocho hao, ocho namu, by na kádada' este sa megai an ti u fan nalalu, an ti u fan pinite, pega enao gi hinasunmiyu na man chatsaga I taotaota, taotaotanu. Pega enao gi korasonmiyu, na gaha familiar neha, gaha famagu'on niha, ya dankulo na soppote mafato gening I federat, gui echu I quest card para I famaguon ni pao fan boka ya e out sia fegtus ni manesisita ya po fan lala mona, este e power ni manma hatsa yan I gasoline ni manma hatsa lao ti ma hahatsa I suetdon niha. Sa taya i business ayudonia pu ma soppoti I emplrohao, dankolo na si Yu'os ma'ase'.*

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you Senot Aguon for your testimony this morning, next is Mr. David Tydingco, Valley of the Latte.

David Tydingco, President, Valley of the Latte: *Buenas, yan Hafa Adai, todo hamyu, we would really like to thank the Chairman for hosting this meeting, this morning. We truly appreciate the swift action by a collaboration of both the administration and the legislature and a bipartisan support of the businesses and the people that we employ. We as a group are truly appreciative of the efforts that are being made and thank you for recognizing the challenges that we are facing as a community. We want to applaud*

the Guam Economic Development Authority and taking the leadership and holding stakeholders meeting to understand the plight of all our businesses and not just our businesses but really our people and we recognize that our purpose in meeting together is to protect to help save the livelihoods not just of our businesses but of our people, we truly appreciate Senator Ridgell and Senator Amanda Sanchez, I'm sorry, Senator Amanda Shelton, Senator Blas and the leadership of both houses, both sides of the house were coming together. We want to extend a true appreciation to Governor Lou for swiftly acting on behalf of our people and we stand ready to support the legislature as well as the administration and GEDA in their efforts to make this program realize for the benefit of our employees *Si Yu'os ma'ase'*.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you Mr. Tydingco, for your testimony this morning next is Mr. Jay Merrill, Market Research and Development, Mr. Merrill, you're recognized.

Jay Merrill, Owner, Market Research and Development: Thank you Mr. Chairman, thank you all you great Senators that are here today because what we see here is a true collaboration of all of the parts of our government and our community coming together to address a problem that was empirically identified and quantified by the university and that problem determined that the most harmed businesses in our community were those that were the smallest and those that were part of the industry that is going to be most important for our economy to recover.

These small businesses are the ones that provide the fundamental elements that go into making up the experience that visitors expect when they come from Guam, these small businesses are the ones that give the heart and soul and flavor and character of what Guam is like for visitors that come to Guam. These are also businesses that have less than in many cases five employees and in most instances are owned by local people so that the governor and the legislature and businesses have come together to try and address how that problem can best be solved and GEDA through its leadership and it's very qualified and extremely well positioned administrative manner is in a position now to help expedite the assistance. These small businesses desperately need, we can say with clear eyes and with full heart that this is a concept that was developed not only on the best of intentions but it targets as precisely the people in the community that are most at need so we thank you for your foresight, we thank you for your leadership and we thank you most of all for addressing this quickly because the problem itself is dire and these businesses are in need of help as soon as possible so thank you Mr. Chairman, *Si Yu'os ma'ase'*.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you, Mr. Merrill, next we have Mr. Brad Kloppenberg. Kloppenburg Enterprises, Mr. Kloppenberg, you're recognized.

Brad Kloppenburg, Vice President, Kloppenburg Enterprise: Yes, good morning, thank you, Mr. Chair and Senators, we certainly appreciate, you know your willingness to look at this issue and see you know what we see in the need with the businesses and employees of our number one industry you know it's nice to see the collaboration that's taken place and as some of the other speakers have said the swiftness in which you've put this topic at the forefront, you know tourism has always been you know for the last 50 years you know touted as our number one industry and you know all the jobs and the livelihoods that it's provided for and we're doing everything we can to you know to see it survive so that these businesses and are still around when tourists begin to come back and at this point we don't know when that's going to be. It's out of our hands and we've you know we've experienced disruptions before but I don't think any of us could have you know foresee the magnitude and the duration that the pandemics had

on the industry and you know all the assistance that's been given out you know prior to is has long been exhausted and some of these smaller businesses that are really integral and making up the entire industry make it. What it is you know we need them to survive we need these businesses to be around when tourists start coming back and so you know we're really thankful that you've taken the time to you know put this bill forth to you know give people some hope and for their survival and so I just want to thank everyone, thank you.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you Mr. Kloppenberg, I'd also like to recognize some more colleagues who are joining us this morning, Senator Chris Duenas, Senator Mary Torres, Senator "Pedo" Terlaje, forgive me it's i got to kind of scroll through the gallery, there's a lot of people logged online so I'm looking to see who else I haven't recognized yet Senator Tony Ada, Senator Joanne Brown and Senator Sabina Perez yes okay. All right next on the list to testify this morning is Ms. Jovyna Lujan

Jovyna Lujan, Merchandise Manager, Protehi I Lina'Lata Group: Thank you Acting Chairman in the packet that was delivered before the committee. We had presented written testimony in the interest of time if you prefer for me not to go through that as a matter of registered record, I just really want to say that the Pretehi I Lina'Lata Group, genuinely sincerely appreciate the cooperative effort that we have seen in such speed of time. These last couple of weeks we're genuinely appreciated appreciative to Governor Leon Guerrero and her cabinet Taguida and all the effort expanded to reach out to the stakeholders involved and to members of the legislature. senator Shelton, Senator San Agustin and members of his committee in your effort to really enhance your understanding of what really lies afoot.

My name is Jovyna Lujan, I'm Merchandise Manager at DKSH and speaking for my company for a moment there we have been engaged in travel retail on Ireland for the last 50 years. We have been through stars wars, the Iraq invasion the typhoons, the disasters and the like over these 50 years but we have never really seen anything of the likes of the pandemic downturn that Guam suffers from the zero of the potential group is to get the help to those who are most in need as the effort was launched by members of our team. We began to interact with other small companies particularly micro businesses and so forth both key players at the front end of the industry and support businesses at the back end who shared their sentiments with us that many of them really had not had the prior opportunity to take advantage of the multiple programs of assistance and so we were very gratified in our dialogue with GEDA from the standpoint of their sensitivity to the depth and magnitude of the need. We are very grateful to the legislature to keep players here and we're very humbled by the bipartisan support that we see and the entire Protehi Group.

The members outlined in my previously submitted testimony, we stand ready to assist at any time that the legislature should have need and we remain committed to this post-pandemic recovery and God willing you know will be there with the same Hafa Adai spirit that differentiates Guam from all other competitive markets, *Si Yu'os ma'ase'* thank you. sincerely the Protehi Group.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you very much Ms Lujan.

Jovyna Lujan, Merchandise Manager, Protehi I Lina'Lata Group: You're welcome.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Next, we have Hideharv Baba from Baba Corporation.

Hideharu Baba, Vice President, Baba Corporation: Good morning, Good morning, Chairman and Senators, I again thank you for giving us the time this morning to testify in favor of **Bill 214-36** as members of our team mentioned the businesses that rely heavily on tourism has been hit pretty hard this is you know Guam has gone through many challenges in terms of you know typhoons and that stuff that impacted tourism but you know this pandemic has just it's just gone way too long and it basically a lot of the small businesses and majority of the businesses that rely heavily on tourism is heavily impacted by this prolonged pandemic which has already gone 18 months since closure of basically the tourism here our company we've been around like Jovyna mentioned that Merrill's been around for 50 years and we've been around thank God for 50 some years but this to me is the most challenging time that our company has faced especially in the tourism area where we operate the Atlanta submarines and the beach resort which primarily our market is tourists so if you can imagine not having any income for the past 18 months you know it takes a toll on company and we really appreciate what the GEDA the governor and senators have done to you know assist our employees with the PUA and the pandemic assistance and the other programs but we need more help so I hope that this bill gets through and that more assistance will be provided for businesses that rely heavily on tourism, thank you.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you, Mr. Baba for your testimony, next is Mr. Monty Mesa Guam Premier & Tumon Sands Plaza.

Monty Mesa, General Manager, Guam Premier Outlets & Tumon Sands Plaza: Hi good morning, Buenos, my name is Monty Mesa and I represent both Guam Premier Outlets (GPO) and Tumon Sands Plaza, better known as (TSP), thank you again, Chairman Clynt and also all the Senators who are involved in this public hearing this morning again, we can't thank you enough and again showing the display of collaboration with all of you and also with Governor Lou's Administration with GEDA with GVB in putting together a program called leap to help our businesses but also help our employees who have been devastated by the reduction of their hours or also put on either get laid off or temporarily put unemployment at the moment, we hope though that with what you guys have put together and I again commend all of you for your collaboration in putting this program together, we really look forward to all your continued support on getting **Bill 214-36** passed and it really is to help our people. I think in hearing what John said earlier. I think it is about our people here and those that are employed throughout our island to all the different businesses that have been represented so far and will continue to be represented in the next few testimonies you know for the record I want you guys to know of course land commercial landlords are not qualified for this grant or loan program however though we support it greatly, it I represent you know over 100 tenants and the majority of them are local tenants who we've helped throughout the last 18 months but to continue on is there's going to be challenges and I think with the help that you guys have put together on **Bill 214-36** would greatly help our local tenants who employ local people who have local families here and we hope that even with you know this small amount from the legislature of 25 million and the 25 million coming from the Governor's Office, I think will go a long way and I hope that it can be expedited soon because as all the previous speakers have said you know the 18 months has been very challenging, it's none, it's not it has not been seen in ever the history of Guam and we still don't know when it will be resolved however, we only hope and pray that it will be soon.

We're thankful for your collaboration with the governor in really holding down the infection rate at the moment and I commend all of you for helping to get our island you know to over

now over 90 percent vaccinated. I think we're on the right track in hopefully getting our visitors back to the island. We know that our two source markets Korea and Japan are also increasing their vaccination rate and we only pray that they do get to the target by the end of November, and hopefully we wish it will start sooner than later but again in closing I again commend all of you for the collaboration that you put together with the governor's Office, with the administration's GEDA as well as GVB in answering the call that you know all the people presenting today and our group from the *I Lina'Lata Group*, we appreciate the efforts and the swiftness of your response is highly visible and it will not be gone without being noted and appreciated, thank you for the opportunity to make and present during this public hearing.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you, Mr. Mesa for your testimony this morning next is Mr. Thomas Son, Hana Tours & Japan Guam Travel Assn. Tours Korea Guam Travel Association.

Thomas Son, Director of Marketing, Hana Tours & Japan Guam Travel Assn. Tours Korea Guam Travel Association: Hi good morning, your honorable Senators my colleagues and you know members of the leap group really appreciate this opportunity to speak on behalf of the Korean Guam Tourism Association, we've seen many Korean businesses struggle because of this pandemic and because we've had so much language barriers and lack of information within the community. There were many businesses who were not able to receive assistance from the federal or the local level governments and you know there have been a lot of situations where some of these businesses have actually closed as well as individuals who have worked in the tourism industry for many years like our tour operators, our tour guides, who have actually left off island seeking other opportunities and when this happens and I'm sure it's happened before in the past where we've had an economic crisis and we've had many people move stateside and we then had a lack of people who we can rehire to work in the industry. We're seeing that slowly happen and we are doing our best on our end to try and keep them by employing them part-time on-call and we're doing everything that we can and we really think that this assistance given that we provide the important information needed for them to apply and receive the funds would greatly help them to alleviate them from eventually possibly having to close their buses and we really appreciate everything that the government and you know our fellow you know hoteliers you know business and other business owners who are fighting to keep Guam afloat until this pandemic you know well not leaves us but you know eventually you know with you know we would accept the pandemic and just continue on you know with what we've been doing, we've seen an increase in the Korean Market currently and we see the potential so, we just need that extra boost for us to just uh stay afloat until you know the tourists come back so that way you know Guam can be once again a great destination to the you know to the Asian communities and we thank you and we hope that eventually you know the government provides the assistance that we need, thank you.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you Mr. Son, next we have Satoru Mvrata, Holiday Tours, Japan Guam Travel Assoc. Tours, Japan, Guam Travel Association, excuse me.

Satoru Murata, President, Holiday Tours, Japan Guam Travel Assoc. Tours, Japan, Guam Travel Association: Thank you, Chairman and standard and my name is Satoru Murata representative of Japan Travel Association and elected representative of holiday Tours Migrant Japanese Tour Agent. Japanese Travel Agent cannot see no Japanese Tourists for one year first, they spend the milk during the pandemic. We have a very hard time and very trial time and it's never been done before this rape support is the must for the employment and the business continuity until back to tourists we will draw. I would like to thank Senator and GEDA and all

related organizations for their cooperation in our testimony thank you very much for giving given opportunity thank you.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you, Mr. Morata for your testimony this morning, next we have Melanie Mendiola from the Guam Economic Development Authority, good morning.

Melanie Mendiola, Administrator, & CEO, Guam Economic Development Authority: Mr. Chair, Senator San Augustine, Senator Ridgell, members of the committee on general government of operations appropriations and housing and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on **Bill 214-36** The Guam Economic Development Authority wholeheartedly supports the bill. My name is Melanie Mendiola and I am the administrator and CEO of GEDA in conjunct in conjunction with then office of the governor has been at the forefront of the Government of Guam's economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The various small business grant programs we have administered have provided millions of dollars in direct financial assistance to over 2 500 small businesses however we continue to hear from a cross section of local businesses of the harsh economic realities of the COVID-19 pandemic. What everyone first thought to be a short-term economic disruption has stretched into a prolonged and uncertain period of economic challenges and in order to ensure that our island' economy will emerge from the pandemic stronger than ever the government of Guam must continue to develop and implement programs that assist businesses most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to that end Governor Leon Guerrero established the local employer's assistance program leap via executive order 21 to 2021-25. The main objective of this program is to maintain current employment numbers while simultaneously promoting the creation of new jobs through loans to local businesses that have suffered the most impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and I again emphasize the most impact, the greatest impact. The leap program will provide immediate stabilization to eligible businesses many of whom have told us that without this operation, without this assistance they can know, they can see no other feasible option but to permanently cease business operations.

GEDA is currently drafting program guidelines and requirements for approval by our board of directors and the office of the governor. We have held a series of stakeholder meetings over the last month consisting of business owners large and small as well as various business organizations. It is GEDA's goal to craft a program that provides as much assistance as possible to businesses that have experienced significant pandemic related business interruption as such GEDA is exploring the feasibility of creating different eligibility categories while still ensuring that the overall program focuses on businesses with significant levels of business interruption GEDA has run preliminary figures using our current Guam small business pandemic assistance grant 2021 applicants as a benchmark and based on this we have determined that 25 million appropriation contained the 25 million appropriations contained in **Bill 214** is crucial towards ensuring that there is adequate funding to provide assistance to businesses that will have a high impact towards retaining and creating jobs and covering other crucial operating expenses.

GEDA greatly appreciates the efforts undertaken by the sponsors of **Bill 214** to identify these much-needed funds for the leap program. I am sure many of the same businesses that we have spoken and interacted with over the past days and weeks have also shared their struggles or are sharing their struggles today with members of the legislature **executive order 2021-25 and bill 214** is a direct message to our business community and to the people of Guam and the people they employ of our Government of Guam's commitment to the island economy. GEDA respectfully urges the passage of **Bill 214-36** and I wanted to go ahead and share on the chat.

The presentation that we use at we were working on at the stakeholders meeting in addition to some summary notes about the meeting and so I'll go ahead and sure share that on the chat and of course for your and as well as for the record and of course if you have any questions specific to the stakeholder meetings we're compiling all of those notes for you to use as resources as you continue your deliberation and dialogue about this bill and that's about it thank you very much and I'm here I'll be here to answer any questions you might have.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you Ms Mendiola for your testimony this morning, next is Mr. Lester Carlson from the Bureau of Budget Management and Research.

Lester Carlson, Deputy Director, Bureau of Budget & Management Research: Thank you Senator and good morning to everybody BBMR provided a fiscal note for **Bill 214**. We focused on FY21 revenues received over the adopted level given the critical need of the program and the immediacy from which funds could be accessed. I am glad to provide everybody with some level of comfort that the governor has indeed set aside the 25 million dollars that she is partnering with the legislature with so that money is allocated and will be available to support the program. We just need to be able to be cognizant of what it is as far as priorities are concerned. Our fiscal note as I mentioned earlier focuses on FY21 revenues over the adopted level noting the need to zero out expenditures for special funds that were in the red as well as the 20-million-dollar allocation for income tax refunds contained in the budget bill. There is no provision for this funding FY22 so I would ask that the legislature be extremely cognizant of the need to give the governor flexibility to be able to provide the share the matching 25 million dollars if you take into account war claims which I know will probably be discussed today, you add that to the fiscal note totals well you know you can easily see that we're undertaking more responsibilities than we have resources to support so I would ask the legislature to be very differential to the need to have it would also like to close by saying that the prior testimony really does drive home the need to support businesses a big part of the business's existence really is being able to provide essential workers for the continuation of their businesses so on page three of **executive order 2021-25**. I believe is the number there is a specific reference in supporting payroll and benefit costs and costs to retain employees on the bottom of the page directing GEDA to come up with rules and regulations that ensures that certain amounts of loan proceeds that are used for the employee wages and benefits are forgivable.

I would like to be able to remind everybody of the essential need to keep employees front and center at these businesses and that the focus similar focus be given to essential worker difference we do need these frontliners in the private sector. We need the private sector to continue to provide goods and services for our island but we would also like to be able to put forward the fact that the latitude to be able to assist in retaining employees and potentially even having a plan to give frontliners additional payroll support should be considered and I'm sure GEDA will do the same with respect to the prioritization of the different sectors as a CEO Mendiola pointed out earlier so I thank you very much for the time to provide some testimony on **Bill 214** 100 of the governor's commitment is allocated and we stand by to assist in any way possible thank you very much Mr. Chair.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you Mr. Carlson next is Mr. Edward Birn, Director of the Department of Administration.

Edward Birn, Director, Department of Administration: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,

senators thank you for the opportunity to address you on this matter. I would stand behind all that Mr. Carlson said and with all the caution that he expressed about how we allocate funds during the course of this year. DOA has experience of dealing with both local funds and the federal funds, the proposal here is that there will be a mixture of local federal funds and we are very aware and very keen to make sure that we achieve maximum compliance both with the local funds and with the federal funds from all the bodies that are looking at us and there are a lot of a lot of bodies that are looking at us, having said that I mean I'm pleased to say that we really haven't had a huge number of inquiries, we've had actually a minimal number of inquiries and I put that down to the care and caution and compliance that we've had from all departments that are involved in this process, as Mr. Carlson said we support the intent of this bill and of the executive order, we stand ready to perform whatever tasks are necessary to get funds out when once everything is passed and it grows with to get funds out as quickly as possible as we have done for the seven or eight programs that of the DOA has been dealing with during the course of this pandemic. We also stand ready to answer any questions but thank you for the opportunity to speak to you this morning.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you, Mr. Birn, next we have Mr. James Rodina.

James Rodina, Self-employed, Independent Tour Guide: Hi, good morning. Yes, good morning, my name is James Radona, I'm an independent tour guide for the Japanese market and I represent over 20 tour guides who have been working in the tourism industry for the past 40 years tour guides is a rare species of people because they speak a different language in order for us to perform our duties when we interact with our customers, whether they are from Japan or Korea or Taiwan, and that we have many individuals who have been working here in this island for the past 40 years and I am one of them and what I see is that due to this pandemic, they have lost their ability to earn income from this industry so now they are seeking other ways whether they're leaving the island or looking for other jobs or possibly retiring from that position so, when the tourism does come back to Guam, there will be a lack of tour guides here on Guam and we have to look for other ways in order to accommodate their needs so, we are also part of the grassroot people which is very invincible and death able in other words you know there are many others like me not only tour guides but taxi drivers and industry so I feel that we need to be to have a voice in whatever the government is providing for us. I hope that the government will continue to support our needs and we look forward to ways in interacting with the government and with the private sector so we hope that we can give, we can give your support to us and we look forward to doing our jobs in the future. I have to thank the people here on this zoom and also all the senators and everybody that's here to support us. Thank you very much.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you, Mr. Radona for your testimony this morning, next is Mr. Andrew Park.

Andrew Park, President, Guam Korean Chamber of Commerce: All right thank you Senator Ridgell, thank you to all the other senators in these 36 legislatures. I am Andrew Park with the Guam Korean Chamber of Commerce so during this pandemic I was able to visit Korea a few times and it is clear that there's a lot of people in Korea that are itching to come to Guam so, in terms of the demand to come to Guam, I think it's there and it's going to happen sometime sooner. I think sooner than later but what's going to happen is there's going to be one of two scenarios, the first scenario is that they're going to come here and they're going to realize there's nothing to do because we're not ready for the tourists' shops are going to be closed.

Retail stores will be closed uh tourism industry is going to not be ready and there's not going to be enough restaurants to eat at and the second scenario will be that they'll come here and they'll see a lively economy with the restaurant still open, the shop still open, the retail stores to open and tourism industry ready for them to come here. I think the difference between scenario 1 and scenario 2 is what Government of Guam and the legislature does to support these businesses to keep them alive until that point happens, and why I would like to thank you all for pushing towards scenarios which would which is what all of us want and to make sure that when they come here which I believe they will, we are ready for them and that we are showing that we are still as good as we were pandemic if not even better so thank you to the legislature a big thank you to GEDA, thank you also to the governor's office and thank you for everyone here to help support this bill.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you Mr. Park for your testimony this morning. Next is Mr. Steven Kasperbauer, Alupeng Beach Club,

Steven Kasperbauer, President, Alupang Beach Club: *Buenas* Senators and those who are helping us out especially those at GEDA and the governor's office. We really appreciate all that you have done in such a short time. I think a lot has been said already but I want to just mention this is that our appreciation goes beyond what you see as most of us talking about on the front-line tourism, obviously, all the frontline tourism companies depend on all the support companies behind us even down to the folks that give us our paper plates and forks and spoons for the meals or the cups or other supplies etc. like that so I really applaud the combined effort right now to help everybody on a need basis and I think that's just a very genius way of doing things because if you have the greatest losses you're probably affected mostly by tourism. I also want to say that you know when I think of the industry for myself.

I often times feel like I'm a tourist when I come all the way from again and drive all the way to Merizo and see those fruit stands where I can go pick up some stuff and feel the beauty of wall myself so, from one to the end of the island to the other I think that there'll be a tremendous appreciation. I also wanted to mention that if there was an investment to be made it would be made in tourism right now and those businesses that need to hang on and meet their obligations especially mortgages you know, it's a difficult situation for a lot of them and the reason is this is because all the hotels aren't going to go away and the restaurants aren't going to go away, the auction tours aren't going to go away. It's the best investment to make to have a return you know even if it was another year or so before we picked up to near full steam. You're never going to get an economy like this that will bounce back what I've listened to our Asian tour partners is that most of these countries are not ready to go travel halfway around the world to some exotic destination. They want to just puddle jump to the closest destination that they can feel safe and get back home with just one flight, no transfer and that's Guam and maybe our sister island site pen and so we stand ready for them when they are ready to come out and they're not going to go to these exotic places that don't have the same standards for hospital care or other areas of special safety concerns and so we stand ready to probably have a better recovery than most places that these Asian destinations were actually going to when they were going far abroad. I want to thank you for the opportunity to have us all join in today one team no seen Guam and we appreciate that from all youth. Thanks so much for cheering as well as Senator Joe and Acting Chairperson, thank you.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you very much Mr. Kasperbauer for your testimony this morning, next we have Mr. Richard Hart.

Richard Hart, President & CEO, Apple Pacific Restaurant Group: Sorry I'm having little internet connectivity issues again thank you all stakeholders who are involved with the Guam Legislature most importantly Mel at Guam Economic Development Authority, who has spent a great deal of time and effort focused on this and I reiterate what everyone else has said that after nearly 20 months into the pandemic, things are still very challenging in the local community and in the work force that's related to keeping our businesses alive. If you go drive through Tumon you know as soon as you get past happy landing road at night, time it's just dark you know they're all these wonderful that were once thriving you know 18 months ago, two years ago or now shuttered quiet at night you know all day and at night but it's most noticeable at night and it's created an extremely challenging our economy is so cyclical in nature and at the moment all we have to depend on is the income that people are making that are doing business with local customers and with the lack of customers especially in the restaurant industry it makes it very hard to keep people employed and restaurants tend to run labor costs that are a great deal higher than your average retail business just because there's a little bit more that goes into what we do and it's made it extremely difficult to keep people employed and we as of August 1st, we're starting to recover from the pandemic and my company was employing about 236 people total, that's down from 415 on February of 2020 but now today we are down to about 183 people just from the last two and a half months alone and I can make a commitment from my company once you know with the assistance of this bill with the assistance of the funding that will come from it we will commit to rehiring every individual who has been affected over the last 60 days so it'll bring people back to work immediately. It'll give support to the businesses that need it the most right now, the ones that are most affected and it'll keep money coming into our economy. It will keep people working until we can get over this next big hump and start to return some tourism.

I was down in Tumon over the weekend and I did see some people who are most certainly tourist's but you know it's actually need you know prior to March 15th of 2020. I think we were at about 156,000 tourists a month and right now virtually nothing so that's going to have a great effect on everybody who's on here and each individual has their own struggles that are you know similar, in nature to what everyone else is dealing with so I commend everyone for sticking with this program and hopefully taking it to the finish line over the next couple of days, I thank governor and her team for allocating the funding and the Guam legislature for jumping on it as quickly the program in place as quickly as possible. We will be stand ready in the business community to support and once again thank everyone for their time this morning

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you Mr. Hart just for the record you are speaking as President and CEO of Apple Pacific Restaurant Group, correct?

Richard Hart, President & CEO, Apple Pacific Restaurant Group: Yes

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: And could you say what restaurants?

Richard Hart, President & CEO, Apple Pacific Restaurant Group: That's correct.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Oh, that's fine.

Richard Hart, President & CEO, Apple Pacific Restaurant Group: We represent the Applebee's, Longhorn Steakhouse and once this program is funded, we will finally reopen our I hop location, next to GPO into mooning with the use of the funds here.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Okay thank you, Mr. Hart, we have Akihiro Tani Pacific Underwater Observatories.

Akihiro Tani, Manager, Pacific Underwater Observatories: Yes, *Hafa Adai*, good morning my name is Akihiro Tani, Manager at Fisherman Park, thank you for inviting me for today's opportunity. I joined to this volunteer flotation group because we are a lot of business associates, small businesses who used to provide experience and also activity for tourists. Those business now is on stage so they consumed all operation funds and then they some of the companies started disappearing normally when we operate a business it's been said that two to three months expenses amount to pay. We need it as operational fund but however corporate interruption is so long more than more than 18 months. Majority of business owner already consumed operational funds and then we have no funds to restart the business so this bill will help with a lot for those small businesses to restart.

A restart operation and then rehire our employee and then time is very important because PUA ends September 4 and then some of the employees still waiting for previous owner to rehire so time is very essence and then we really appreciate if this bill going to be passed seamlessly and then those business is going to be ready to for reopening. The timing of reopening to be frank with you, nobody knows but we do have a good sign in Japan. Yesterday a new infection is only 224 people so, if we think about a 100,000 population it's only 0.18 percent a day, it's very low in Korea also it's close to four people per hundred thousand.

People population, we already started seeing several Korean tourists coming in they drive Lentaka and they stop by fishing marine park and they go to south, they're visiting south area and they stop by a gas station in their souvenir shop like that so I personally think so within two to three months we already started seeing the coming back with tourists of course it's there are several different opinions, some people might say it doesn't happen until 2024 but I personally think so this is right there but so we need those small business to be there just waiting for a little more and then so we can open and we can restart, thank you very much uh for giving me this opportunity so I really hope that this video going to be passed smoothly thank you *Si Yu'os ma'ase'*

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you Mr. Akihiro Tani, next Ms Mary Rhodes from the Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association

Mary P. Rhodes, President, Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association: *Hafa Adai* and good morning, Senators, this is Mary Rhodes, President of Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association. And on behalf of our board of directors and members, we have been notifying all of our members to submit written testimony if they are not here providing oral testimony so I know Senator San Agustin has received several written testimonies but aren't here today so on behalf of our membership we are the trade organization for the tourism industry and we certainly appreciate the opportunity to spell to speak on **Bill 214-36** which will help appropriate 25 million dollars from the general fund to the Department of Administration for the local employers assistance program. We understand that as we all agree today, the tourism industry has been hardest hit through the pandemic and we've seen business closures. We've seen tons of businesses with limited operations increased health and safety protocols which have added more labor-intensive types of duties reductions in workforce decreases in sales especially in the last two to three months also we've also seen soaring prices due to delays in the supply chain increases in utilities and other types of expenses for our businesses but more importantly we've continued to see a slowdown of the economic recovery even though we've had different

surges. We started to see things pick up a little bit but with the continued delay of the tourism reopening even though we have some Korean tourists here coming into Guam at this point it is still a continued slowdown and so the timing as Tani say did say it is rather important especially with the end of PUA and I think that this is going to be a much-needed infusion into our economy. I did submit official testimony to Senator San Agustin and thank you Senator Ridgell for hosting this meeting. I'm just going to give excerpts of our testimony but we certainly appreciate and Senator Amanda did speak to this and she's our chairperson for tourism that we did ask initially for the cooperation of both the executive and legislative branches so we want to thank the executive branch most notably of course the governor, lieutenant governor but really as you can see here with the presence of GEDA, Department Administration, BBMR they are ready they've met with stakeholders, they're ready to stand up for this and I think this is the fastest one of the fastest programs put together by the executive branch but it really needs the assistance of the legislative branch because it's only partially funded by the executive branch and so with the legislative branch we want to thank the sponsors and co-sponsors of this bill because it will provide critical assistance to businesses adversely impacted by the pandemic and more importantly it's going to help us to find solutions to help remediate.

These business disruptions and help with the overall impact to the industry as you know with the combined 25 million dollars through the leap act together with the American rescue plan funding of 25 million dollars total will be given to the 50 million in total 50 million dollars to the industry stakeholders and businesses who qualify through the program as outlined by GEDA earlier which I'm sure is still subject to approval although some companies have already received federal relief from SBA, GEDA and other programs both federally and locally it's really important to know that even though they've received these local and federal funds more needs to be done to support our largest industry that continues to face setbacks in order to stabilize our most important economy and our number one economic driver which has been tourism for almost 60 years by doing that we help bring jobs back and that lays the groundwork for long-term economic recovery throughout the pandemic they've made difficult decisions and we've really seen a lot of interruptions into the workforce through furloughs reduction in hours and of course layoffs throughout the industry of all the business sectors.

Tourism was definitely the hardest hit according to the 2020 Guam Economic report 56 percent or 15,174 jobs became unemployed during the pandemic and that was mostly in the service industry so before businesses can rehire, they need to be in the position to hire. Businesses are still wondering what recovery looks like and I know that a lot of people have mentioned this today and given some indicators of what we could see in the next couple months but really, it's an unknown and businesses cannot make business decisions and they need to be able to survive this and have stability in order to stabilize the market and the dismal economic forecast that we've seen from GVB just in the next year through 2022 is only an indicator of what's to come or really our full future forward looking motion as far as one to two years for real economic recovery within the tourism industry.

Guam is a destination that really relies on leisure and business travel and as Mr. Kasperbauer has said it's going to take a lot of you know proximity and safety security kinds of messaging out to our key source markets to want them to come back to Guam but we've seen domestic travel take place within Korea and Japan especially and so people are traveling but they're traveling to places that they feel is safe and secure and since Guam is almost 90 fully vaccinated and we continue to make strides towards that reopening of tourism and with the announcement of WTTC safe travels and Guam safe certified here on Guam then we can really work on these programs and work with GVB to further promote Guam as a safe destination but before they

can come back as indicated earlier, the businesses need to remain solvent in order to rebuild our economy so that we can be resilient even if we were to deal with another surge or a longer pandemic for this recovery, as many of our stakeholders here today have shared with you we continue to face harrowing challenges and expenses that continue to climb and we definitely need to work together to find the solutions that will sustain them especially in the next year so, thank you so much because the direct and indirect benefits of this will have a multiplier effect throughout our community not just through people we directly employ but indirectly through all the ancillary services that rely on these key businesses and so thank you very much for your consideration GHRA is in full support of the passage of **Bill 214-37** and thank you again for your leadership and cooperation to get this timely bill passed in great with effectiveness within the legislature and in a bipartisan effort with our government so thank you very much.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you Ms. Rhodes for your testimony this morning, next is Mr. Bill Nault from Nautech Inc.

Bill Nault, President & CEO, Nautech Inc: Yes, hi *Hafa Adai* and good morning chairman, Mr. Chairman and the rest of the senators and rest of the members on this hearing. My name is Bill Nault and I have been on several hearings and been into the legislature in the past years. My experience comes mostly in tourism, I have been in tourism for the past over 35 years. My main focus in tourism is basically, I focus in the Japanese market, this is the first time that I have seen almost every sector of the industry, it's not just Japanese not just Koreans, Taiwanese not just hotels or restaurants or activities or attractions or retails and so forth. This is every sector every sector of the tourism industry has come together and, in some sort, have expressed their need for some sort of an assistance or support. I represent Notre Dame the President's CEO, I have been in travel industry and as I said and I have been working and well what our industry called travel agency for the past over 30 like I said 30, 33 decades and I have represented what we call in the industry land operator and what land operators are that we are the one that works with the airports, the transportation companies, the restaurants and the retails and hotels and attractions and almost every tour related business on the island and what we do is we try to bring in, we try to work with everybody so we can get the best ideas and focus on what are the best things to do for the island so that we can bring as much travelers to, it has been hard, many of us as some might feel that Guam has, I mean the travel agencies or travel industry are sometimes you know, we feel that sometimes they treat us like we are not part of the whole economy but you know from our point of view we are part of the economy and we are part of farm. There are many people that are thousands of people that work in the industry and that we feel that these people are really need and that we can only do it when one comes in as our you know comes together as one.

We need the government, we need every agency in the government, we need every part of the government. We need the legislature, we need the executive branch, I mean legislative branch, everybody is in need at the moment. The core sectors of our markets such as Japan, Korea have really improved in the past 18 months. They are getting ahead in their vaccinations. Japan had just finished its elections last night and that the Japanese Government is moving on forward in regards to their goals and also regards to travel domestic-wise and international-wise so we will be hearing, we should be hearing soon what they are planning to do in regards to going overseas and as many have already mentioned that Guam is in a good destination, a good destination from Japan where they are interested in traveling to short destinations to begin their international travel, and in order to do that we need to be ready as many have mentioned that we need to be ready for this and we need to keep our employees so that we will be able to provide the services that is needed we need to make sure as everyone has said open up our

business and be ready because once these people start to come and our industry is not ready, you know, they will move over to other destinations that will be ready and I have also stressed in the past different meetings is that our hearings is that one needs to recognize that there are other destinations that are moving to do the same things.

They are trying to grab the market our core markets as we are trying to grab our core markets and in order to do so we need to be resilient and strong and that we need to make sure that we are ready when things are open and in order to do so we need to make sure that our industry and our economy is open and ready and for this. I also put my support into the bill and hope that everyone feels the same so that that we can move quickly to make sure that we are ready to face the opening of the economy and tourism so thank you Mr. Chair.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you Mr. Nault, for your testimony this morning, next we have a Mr. Jeff Jones from Triple J Enterprises, I'm looking to see Mr. Jones, are you on, if not, I don't think I see Mr. Jones, if not we can go to the next Person, I'm sorry there's a lot of people logged on so I'm just kind of scrolling through to make sure I am not missing anyone, Mr. Terry Chung, Triple J Enterprises. I do see uh Mr. Terry Chung if you could turn your camera, there you go, Mr. Chung you may proceed yes

Terry Chung, Marketing Specialist, Triple J. Enterprise: Yes, *Hafa Adai*, my name is Terry Chung representing Korea Guam Travel Association of the 69 individual corporate members and individuals and corporate members in Guam Travel Industry. Our Director Thomas already testified about current heart situation of a Guam Travel Industry and tour players most of them are working for other industry or when off-island to seek for a new opportunity.

Korea, today Korea already reached out over 75 fully vaccinated and government already announced the herd immunity so the Korean government will leave many restrictions on the trouble and also a social distancing level effective November 1st so, we clearly see the tourists will start coming back from this month and especially in December we are expecting many other flights returning back to Guam so my forecast for December will reach over 5,000 arrival but currently there are many business already closed down and tourists have nowhere to go so, many some of the tourists are talk to me that they don't have a place to place to enjoy or visit since most of industry are closed down right now so, I will, I really appreciate if government can support our tribal industry and take into account consideration of a despair and that's it for my testimony thank you and this is mercy

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: thank you Mr. Chung for your testimony, if there's anyone else online that is here to testify this morning please raise your hand or let me know put a message in the chat. I'm looking through there's no one else I have signed onto the list but in case someone else is logged on that would like to testify please let me know at this time, if not we will go ahead and now begin hearing some questions or comments from my colleagues I will go and order as I see my colleagues on the screen that's the easiest way to do it to make sure I don't miss anyone so I'll begin first with Senator Chris Duenas.

Senator Christopher M. Duenas: *Si Yu'os ma'ase'* Mr. Chairman and I want to thank all the companies that have come forward today to represent their concerns and their support for this bill, certainly having served over half of my working life in the tourism Industry. I know every single one of these individuals personally so I know what they're going through and certainly the need that exists you know we have things to work out within the legislature and working

with the administration I don't want to bore anybody with those details certainly as the BBMR Director mentioned, the issues of the funding source using the general fund and this appropriation will work through that and deal with that in-house but we're going to continue to ask the governor also to use whatever immediate resources are available and as we pass this bill you know working towards making sure the funding source is secure and solid going forward but I just wanted to let my friends and partners know here this morning whatever it's going to take my support is there to make sure that this industry is maintained and that the optional tours can survive and thrive because as many of you mentioned it really is vital that we're ready to be able to have the services and the opportunities and the options for our guests returning to Guam so this program as we work through it we'll get through the details but the program itself has my full support there is another bill that will allow for additional flexibility but we'll discuss that down the line but I wanted to assure the partners today that my full support is there to make sure that we rescue this industry *to do Si Yu'os ma'ase'* Mr. Chairman.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you Senator Duenas, Senator Telo Taitague.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: *Si Yu'os ma'ase'* Mr. Chair, for the opportunity and thank you to everyone that's here to testify in favor of the bill. I'd like to thank the governor for giving the 25 million dollars to something that's mostly needed I mean truly needed in our economy since our economy is driven by 60 percent revenue from our tourism industry but most of importantly recognizing that this funding that we receive from ARPA or any other federal funds that we receive are to help our business community, are to help our economy so I'm just surprised that the full 50 million dollars is not provided in this program by the art funding of the 553 million dollars that was given to the governor that this amount should the total amount of 50 million should be given to them unfortunately the legislature doesn't have a pocket of federal funding you know to be given out it probably would have been a whole lot easier to address this legislation if we were in a budget time while addressing the budget, my question I have though to Lester Carlson with regards to the BBMR fiscal note that was provided and if anybody in this zoom would like to see a copy of that I'm pretty sure the chairman's office will provide the fiscal note for everybody to review and see that actually they're saying that only 19 million dollars is available unfortunately if you look at the budget bill I believe that the comments that were made on whatever excess revenue that there really is none because 70 of the 19 million that's left over 70 of that will be going to tax refunds while 30% goes to the rainy day fund which we all know if anything about what's happening through this pandemic is we're not sure when tourism is going to come back or even come to even a you know decent level of tourism we're not sure of that it's been stated several times but we are sure is that federal funding is going to run out. we're not going to get this much funding coming next year.

The infrastructure bill that's coming our way I'll be asking that question to GEDA but Lester, you mentioned the fiscal note and you mentioned the 19 million that's left over after covering the 20 million that goes to tax refund that's been in the budget bill as well as the offsetting the special fund revenue of about 20 million dollars the remaining amount of 19 doesn't that go to another, isn't that money obligated too according to the budget bill on page seven of the budget bill?

Lester Carlson, Deputy Director, Bureau of Budget & Management Research: The obligations and this bill here I think since one came after the other you know I think there just needs to be some very cognizant recognition of again as I mentioned earlier priorities you there certainly could be a notwithstanding added to **Bill 214** to be able to have some clarity so that there isn't any confusion as to what it is that we're doing. I think your correct senator, that there

are some cleanups that need to get done so that there is we don't have a mess as we try to assist so the fiscal note does just take into account the 21 revenues ma'am, I said that earlier trying not to differentiate what it is that is that isn't passed in the 22 because it's November 1st. We don't really know where we're going in 22 so it would just be a proper you know like maybe appropriate to just focus on the revenues collected above uh adopted levels in 21. that's the very simplistic approach we took to this.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Thank you Lester for that, I'm just curious too because the physical note you talk about excess revenue however the **Bill 214** does not talk about excess revenue it just talks about taking money from the general fund so why was that interpretation in your fiscal note based on excess revenue?

Lester Carlson, Deputy Director, Bureau of Budget & Management Research: Like I just said Senator, it is a general appropriation, it's not contained in the 22 budgets, it makes some sense that if somebody was going to look at appropriating it would be appropriating from something that we understand on paper, that there were revenues over adopted, there so again the focus is here is where we ended up fiscal 21 in draft Certainly, before the audit comes out if we want to make a good faith effort to assist these businesses, we should probably look at this funding because there isn't anything allocated in the 22 budgets so it' pretty simple man.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Thank you, Mr. Carlson for that as you know based on your calculations in the physical note that only leaves 5.7 million dollars for the rainy-day fund for this legislature to that would set aside 5.7 million for 2022 on a rainy day that's very low considering also tax refunds at 13.3 hundred thousand. Moving on GEDA, I appreciate very much for the elite stakeholder presentation Melanie that you provided us that provided a lot of information. One of the concerns I have is the by the way how much funding was set aside for executive order. I think it was 20, 20, 18 small businesses how much money was set aside for that because you had according to the executive order actually this latest one, it talks about that **executive order 20 2018** that's the haircut I believe that's the small business pandemic assistant grant program okay and I believe that amount might have been 20 million dollars that was set aside are you going to be following the same kind of program that you as you did for **executive order 20 2018** for small business pandemic assistance as well as **executive order 20 20 40** Guam small business pandemic assistance program as well as **2020-35** for Guam small business rental assistance are you going to be following all those programs and how much money has been set aside for each executive order.

Melanie Mendiola, Administrator, & CEO, Guam Economic Development Authority: Yes, I'd like to thank you Senator for asking for those that clarification I think what's important to note for date to our small businesses and that was through our 2020 small business pandemic assistance grant. We gave out 17 million so that program is complete that was out of cares act funding 17 million to a total of approximately let me see 2,352 businesses and then the small business pandemic grant 2021 under ARP. We have about 1,728 applicants for that and that one 20 million was set aside for that as well it's a similar 2020 and 2021 have a similar calculation insofar as long as you receive business interruption of at least 25% you're given the average of your given 30 of an average month's GRT okay. Now the rent assistance grant there was a total of I believe it was 3.8 million between two funding sources. The cares act and ARP and that was I don't have that number in front of me but I believe it helped something like 600 or so small businesses that was primarily to help brick and mortars brick and mortar type businesses who could not carry out their work in a remote type of environment so like nail salons, hair salons in addition to many of our tourism retailers that one that was calculated to be two

months' worth of rent so what the applicant would do is they they'd give us their lease agreement a statement from their landlords. We calculate two months commercial rent relief that was what was provided under that particular program so this particular program what we did was we well there's a couple there's a differentiating factor here the 2020 and 2021 when the governor was the first of the governors, you know across the territories to dole out direct aid she wanted to help all small businesses because all small businesses were interrupted primarily because of the closure due to the pandemic back in March of 20 2020 right and then a little bit later on in the year their businesses a lot of restaurants retailers etc. continue to have struggles paying their rent they were reporting that to her so the governor being the responsive person that she is, came out with the rent assistance grant but she pieced that funding together from other sources.

She did not have that in her original budget plan and then under ARP she wanted to help the businesses again she wanted to finish off the rent assistance grant which she did and we're very grateful to that she wanted us to help all the small businesses again and so we did that but then all of these businesses came together and mob all of these businesses mobilized and came to the governor so including the *Linatla* group led by Mr. Dave Tydingco restaurant group with GHRA, Mr. Jones, Mr. Hart here as well as a number of small tour operators came together and shared with the governor all businesses have suffered but there is a segment of our economy that has suffered more than others and those are businesses related to the related to tourism are somehow affected by the EO that affected covered establish, covered establishments and so, get that we tried to carve out a program that would that spoke directly to this group of business so there is a more aggressive uh business interruption requirement the business interruption requirement and under our former grants was 25% this one is 50 or 60 percent, okay that's the first thing the second thing is to provide more meaningful assistance it's modeled very much after federal PPP where grant a loan is given with a forgiveness up component that's attached to employment and so it's different, it does have interruption like the others of course you know it's going to have similar flavor.

The application's going to kind of look the same. The promotional materials and that's just because GEDA is not super, we're not the agency known for our creativity okay but the size of the award will be more significant and that is because we anticipate giving fewer awards to the most hurt segment of the economy so I think there's an example in the presentation, I'm sorry I keep interrupting there's an example presentation okay, I did have a question with regards to the 20, 2018 cares funding that was provided you, provided 20 million in that executive order but you only spent 17 million and then as well as the uh 2021-2020 you used our funding for this money. The 20 million and all those individuals that are here today, they have the opportunity as well to receive funding from there as well okay my question isn't the infrastructure bill that's anticipated to pass congress that's coming in there's about 70 million dollars in community block grant have you found out if you could use any of this money to assist these businesses that are here particularly today with any of that funding because of the nature of the congressional appropriations such as CARES and ARP there tends to be a certain length of time between the passage of the bill and the adoption of the rules and regulations which govern that bill and the federal guidance and we had businesses knocking on our door you know, about a month ago that said we need help now so in order to be responsive and agile to that request, we did not look into the infrastructure bill to help these businesses having said that that's a really great idea and we absolutely intend to look into it for any type of pass-throughs that could help these as all businesses, all small businesses thank you, Melanie for that and I do hope that you do look into that because you know I do support our tourism industry and those that are hurting desperately but I think that the funding coming from the federal

government is intended to help our businesses what little funding that we get through our general fund from taxes or fees which we're seeing are depleting immensely, it's not an area to pull from at this point. We don't even know what's going to happen next year but we do have for sure funding coming from the federal government to assist our business community and economy so I will do everything I can you know to try and help the industry but I think we should continue to push for the governor to provide additional funding other than the 25 million that's a very small amount considering the 553 that she received plus the additional 50,000 that's anticipated a total of 600, 3 million dollars coming our way or 605 but thank you for the opportunity and I appreciate it for everyone being here to testify today thank you.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you, Senator Taitague, Senator Mary Torres, you're recognized.

Senator Mary Camacho Torres: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate all the feedback and I just want to assure everybody that you know straight out of the gate I was very committed to this process and put my name to this bill as well as a co-sponsor I believe we have to do everything at this point to help the businesses I mean that is fundamental if we're going to truly recover and recover in a responsible way with our tourism industry the only question I had and or comment perhaps is to Lester you mentioned that we need to give the governor more latitude and to ensure that there's sufficient flexibility to for her to make sure this pulls off and I just wanted to ask you is part of the latitude or is most of the latitude with regard to the transfer authority or is there other things that you believe we have to work into this bill, to ensure that it is doable because at this point that's my biggest concern what can we do to ensure that this program going forward will be beneficial and impact you know businesses the way it needs to.

Lester Carlson, Deputy Director, Bureau of Budget & Management Research: Thank you, Senator Torres section two of the bill under appropriation it has a very general statement that 25 million from then general fund is hereby appropriated you know for this program I think there just needs to be some awareness of as stated earlier there might be some conflicting statement or commitments in the FY21 budget or maybe even in the FY22 budget so normally what the legislature does is they effectuate policy and prioritize what it is that in this case here I think is necessary because as I mentioned several times earlier it's too early in the fiscal year to give the governor increased general fund transfer authority. We don't know whether or not that's going to come around and bite us, okay? If the economy picks up and the revenues come in as adopted that would be great, we're still probably going to have a lagging special fund impact which needs to be everybody needs to be aware of that customs and quarantine great example two years in a row subsidized by general fund so I think there just needs to be the latitude and that if this is indeed a priority of the legislature that anything that might come around and be contrary or in conflict is addressed and with you know some clarity in maybe a revision to section two of the bill and that would give her both the latitude to be able to do this and also maybe even a statement of policy from the legislature that we can do whatever it is necessary from the general fund either in 21 revenues or 22 revenues to come up with the funding I'm leery about anything from 22 senators simply because we're only one month into the fiscal year, it wasn't part of the budget.

I again the fiscal note does focus on revenues received in excess of the adopted levels. I just think that that kind of makes a little sense because we know at least again on paper where we generally landed and I'm actually okay with that but if there are any provisions of the FY21 or 22 budget that conflict with this then I think the legislature needs to clean that up so that's really all I have to say with respect to latitude I don't want to come into a situation where somebody

says you know this was supposed to go to that I think the legislature needs to make it absolutely clear that you know not withstanding anything to the contrary, this is where we're going. I hope that answers your question.

Senator Mary Camacho Torres: It does and I think what it does is it challenges us, Mr. Chair as a committee to kind of vet all these things so that we don't you know put legislation forward that actually trips them up, trips DOA up or the governor because I think ultimately, I agree with everyone we have to focus on this segment of our enterprise to make sure that this is shored up, going forward and that's all the comments that I have, thank you.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you, Senator Torres, Senator Jim Moylan, you're recognized.

Senator James C. Moylan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, thank you to the panel I support the bill, I'll vote for the bill I'll push for the bill, I'm looking forward to the next bill that provides you with this similar support. I want to I really think that Lonnie Lata did some hard work to negotiate and push hard for this to happen. It's very similar to the S-VOC which was the federal program that many of the local businesses did not qualify for and you were able to bring this to the attention of us the senators and push hard to get it to the legislature but I can imagine your small meetings that you guys' folks had to get this going. I really appreciate your praise for us but I think we're way behind the power curve and getting this thing going from the start so nice of you to say what great compromise we're doing but in reality, you know if you told me what the heck took you so long, I would appreciate that too and I think a lot has to go with the lack of planning that we are having with the administration but you know you were able to work with us on that so, it's you know kudos to you, this pandemic has been going on for it's going to be around two years and you're politely asking us to please support you for not having income in the small businesses that are the backbones of our economy and in tourism. You know if we don't support you, I think that will be freaking insulting but you managed to put it in such kind words that you know we most definitely will support you guys are an independent group. You're not part of any some task force put together appointed but you got yourself together and you came to us for assistance or you're the ones that are supposed to be thanked for this coming up to fruition here. We're hearing from folks like Mr. Baba, who's representing over 50 years in businesses in the tourist industry why should we be listening to you so I thank you sir for making that strong point as well for not having income in the last two years and being able to put this together with the cooperation of both branches of government is good on you folks very diplomatic to do this but I know and I believe we need more assistance for your group. You know 50 million is nice that's only going to take you for a few months and if we want what like Mr. Park has been saying scenario two to happen then we need to pump in more funds for this or like Mr. James Radona was saying to keep these independent folks going and not leaving our island so from the bright right outlook that Mr. Tani has and the other markets are looking at too we'd better be darn ready to get things going so we need a long-term fix and there is American rescue plan money for that and I wish we had a plan but we don't but with your efforts with your group here you're making us see what plan is necessary so, I want to thank you for that I do want to say please continue the fight for these small businesses. We're going to get one moving and it's going to be through your help since there is no plan to do that Mr. Hart, I'm looking forward to seeing you at Applebee's and congratulations for opening up the I hop and applying for getting more people back to work and Mr. Tani, you make sure you let us know if Fisheye if those bathrooms aren't working, I think that should be also part of this administration's plan to make sure the island is ready to go Mr. Chairman thank you very much and thank you to the panel.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you Senator Moylan, Senator Frank Blas, Jr

Senator Frank Blas, Jr.: Thank you Mr. Chair, thank you Mr. Chair and thank you for all of you that are here today to testify you know, I'm glad that we're having this conversation now unfortunately I'm sad that we have to have this conversation this far in it that said is I appreciate that we're all looking at ways to be able to save you know what attributes to the major bulk of our economy and you know when you're looking at the numbers and everything granted and I appreciate Ms. Mendiola, Mel you know that you basically said this is crucial towards what is what should be adequate funding and we all recognize you know what the you know, what our limitations are in some respect but you know along those lines you know I had some question because I do recognize that whatever first came apart came and came about in the conversations you know many of the conversations were basically about needing more money. Needing the money necessary to be able to thrive and while this legislation proposes uh a total of about 50 million dollars can I ask for anybody from the group here that the in as far as the tourism or the businesses that are on is that enough Senator if I may first again thank you for the opportunity when we first approached the legislature on this matter you know we wanted to be able to we actually were asking for about 75 million dollars and the 50 million dollar number came about as a compromise one of the things we're concerned about is if it is not enough if the slowdown in our recovery continues we will have to come back again and take a look at what can be done and we're hoping that this was based on our conversation with the governor as well to give her the flexibility to allow to continue the program going forward. I have to rely on al GEDA's data that she has they've collected a lot of data on all the businesses and just again as we you've heard from all of us the challenge is we don't know what that magic number magical number is we thought 75 million was the target number that will take us. We were really looking for about five, six months operational costs but we again defer to the wisdom of the legislature and the government to determine based on the data they collected what would be enough uh obviously it's a small amount but a very large amount for all of us because it's really about acting quickly to salvage some of the business that probably only have a month or two left before we have to make a decision whether they shutter or not so thank you very much for the opportunity, we appreciate it anybody else wanted to contribute to that conversation?

Monte Mesa, Guam Premier Outlet & Tumon Sands Plaza: Yes, senator this is Monte Mesa and again when you look at the overall picture of our tourism economy our GPO that contributes to the coffer of the government you know the tourism industry represents a big chunk of that and when you look at the money, we're requesting of course it's really an investment that's going back to that same economic driver which is tourism to continue to fuel this island economy and yes I mean we could be asking for a lot more and as said stated earlier you know we still don't know how long this will last we're all praying that it'll come sooner than later and we hope you know we're asking for some bite size now that we can get through this in the next hopefully can be accomplished in the next six months, if it goes longer again there's going to be other requests. I hope that is not the case however again as mentioned earlier there are some positive signs from our Korea as well as Japan market in their vaccination rate that I think is a good indicator I'm hoping that you know we can restart our tourism industry back to this island sooner than later because already going now on 19 months. It has been very difficult; we really appreciate the business that we're getting now from our local people and we thank you for you know all the federal funds that have been provided some of the local funds that you have also provided and the last one with you know the rice program. all this are you know helping our local market business that's we're getting now I mean we appreciate all of that. It's but it's still not enough and to say you know what amount would be I mean as Dave

stated earlier you know we asked for about 75 million and we know that there are federal funds I understand Senator Telo, you know raising the issue on how much money is actually being noted that's in you know the government's coffers to fund this and we know that the federal funds are there but we also know that we're not the you know there's a lot of things that the government wants to do and wants to help everybody and yes this is an investment or reinvestment that we're asking for and if the legislature you know has the wisdom to increase it that would be greatly appreciated as well but you know we're appreciative of all the collaborations that all of you have done and I think you know yes thank you Senator Jim for saying that you know a lot of the kudos for the *Protehi I Lina' Lata Group* but I think the kudos is everybody here. Everybody is looking to come together collaborate to find solutions and I think we have a solution and we appreciate additional amount, if it is affordable because we're also business people and we understand you know we can't all get everything but we appreciate all the consideration and Senator Blas, I understand your point and we really appreciate your continued support. I know that you've been behind us you know from day one trying to help us out and we really appreciate your efforts. I know also that you've submitted a **Bill 216-36** and you know I know that's another conversation but I think you know you are displaying the effort to try to come to solutions to make this possible now and also in the future I thank you for that thank you Mary, Ms. Rose.

Mary P. Rhodes, President, Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association: Thank you Senator Blas, I think it's important to note of course we don't have an infinite amount of money and some of the concerns coming from you know DOA on what can they project with the current budget I think those are big concerns but yes there's obviously available federal dollars but we have to keep in mind that as Director Mel, I'm sorry CEO Mel said is that we've already had federal programs already go out in multiple you know awards and so it's really a combined effort right of these different programs and tourism unfortunately not all sectors were covered in every program on the larger level at the federal level so keep in mind that this program still recognizes anyone you know who might still possibly get awarded later on with the restaurant revitalization fund but even with that there are no guarantees in anything not even a guarantee in this that this is going to be enough so I think just the fact that one we got enough attention to have this conversation to help bridge that gap between now and next year and then not knowing what other federal programs might coming down might be coming down the pipeline.

I think we're all just really extremely grateful for one having to get over you know that first phase of getting the attention and then recognition from both executive, legislative branch and most notably GEDA in trying to work out the details of this so that it can be palatable for you guys, for you as a legislative body as well as for the executive branch to really understand it's not just its impact but that it's doable with the given funds today and I think that's the most important thing is these are with the current conditions as of today, now should additional federal funding come through next year or as Lester said you know maybe there's more labor related type of funding in the future. all of those things could be helpful but I think the most important thing to keep in mind is with the information we have today with the current situation and the current delays right with our executive order for this emergency declaration and with the current restrictions and very limited travel, these businesses need the assistance and not just small business but also large business locally owned but also anyone who is paying local GRT's and violets here on Guam whether or not they're a franchisee but they have local ownership. It really goes beyond the spectrum and I think that Bill Nault said it like this is the first time you've ever seen all the stakeholders really here all together from all ethnicities and all groups trade groups and the fact that the chambers are here from the Korean and chamber and the

agents together with the Japanese agents and asking for this, it really shows just kind of how everybody is working together with you to bring the attention so I don't know if it's ever going to be enough but it certainly is what is needed and it's going to help alleviate some things going forward so that businesses can continue to contribute you know rich has been extremely vocal in a lot of this. We have a lot of members who are very vocal in their own right but rich has been very active with especially even with on his own but even with GHURA the last several months because we saw an uptick and then things got really tough right after summer and we don't know what the holidays will bring us. We don't know what the first part of the year will bring us even with airlines right not coming here so it's very hard to project all of this out but these are businesses like Richard's restaurant groups and other businesses that have remained open throughout the pandemic. They've been restricted, the whole time, they weren't just shut down none no one was really shut down right only certain groups were shuttered because they could not operate at all but the pandemic, the restrictions, the guidelines allowed businesses to reopen and a lot of businesses have had to read just and change the way their business model works and how they've had labor their employees redefine kind of their job duties so if what this means for tourism is that it'll help keep us afloat really especially through the hardest months which is the holidays right and people are going to have to make decisions of what they're going to pay in the next couple of months and you know give it to GEDA.

They had rent relief and it didn't always go to what it was intended but they certainly tried that and they tried so many small business grants and yes everybody was eligible to apply now whether or not they qualified. I don't know but everybody they were eligible to apply and some people have received assistance and some people haven't I can tell you there are a number of groups who haven't because they haven't qualified because a lot of grants or federal programs did not consider them and that's why this one is so significant because it'll impact businesses who may be not who may not have qualified for other programs because of their size or status so I think that this is a great effort on behalf of this legislative body specifically to 214-36 and I really hope this measure moves forward. We can always talk about other things but I think this one as I said earlier, we should be expedient with this because I think that all of the efforts to date have really been very cooperative and collaborative and we sincerely and humbly appreciate everybody's role in this, including the stakeholders and I think that's our role is to make sure that everybody remains viable so thank you.

Senator Frank Blas, Jr: Thank you Steven Kasperbauer, has his hand raised Mr. Kasperbauer already have something to add

Steven Kasperbauer, Alupang Beach Club: Sir, you know what I really appreciate about this is definitely a one team, no seam approach, everybody here has is on team Guam and I just really want to say it's really heartwarming my thoughts for this is 50 million as a start if you can put a provision that would add more into the bill that would be great if you can't and you need a little more time we all know that there probably is going to have to be another subsidy but the way I look at it right now is that Guam for the most part locally is open schools are open shops are open, work is open if you have business for it dining out and etc. And so obviously we know what area is not open quite yet and it's just used to due to the restrictions of tour arrivals but I'm counting on the combined genius and our Guam you know, can get through it anything attitude to work together and find solutions so for example I really appreciate GEDA's approach to using the s-fog manner of highest and most need first so if whatever the appropriation that comes out is going to be used to determine those with the highest need first, while that is working its way down from those who have 70 percent losses or 50 percent losses going down the line that would probably give time to the government

agencies to dig deeper and do a little more verification to basically shore up the reasoning for the next additional infusion and so this time period that we're looking at right now though is most essential for those in the highest need if you've lost seventy percent. I'm going to tell you there's people that lost ninety percent or more they need that help a lot faster so I really appreciate that implementation is the plan because then while those who are just about to you know decide are they going to call it quits are they going to shrink down forever or what will they do will have hope and I think that this plan of all things gives us hope. It doesn't tell us what our whole future is because no one can do that but it gives us hope that we can all keep trying and so I appreciate the combined genius of the team there I think that GEDA has an enormous amount of statistics from the last programs that they've rolled out that they can help to identify them in a very astute profiling manner with the business information that they have already put there between the legislature if they have want to improve the amount with a spending authority for the future or currently that would be great but I'd have to say that so far we're all grateful for where we're at and we'll leave it up to the combined genius of the government agencies along with us to get to the next step beyond there thank you so much thank you okay.

One last question actually to Mr. Carlson Lester earlier in your testimony you provided that you know through this you would appreciate it the governor would appreciate a little flexibility in her management of the budgets to be able to provide this but then you kind of roll back a little bit on that and saying that it may be too I guess pretentious on our part if we had included a provision for additional transfer authority because we didn't know we didn't want to get ourselves into trouble so what's which one is it is it do they appreciate more flexibility or we got to be cautious about big providing flexibility thank you Senator right now she's got 30 million dollars of transfer authority because of the reduction in the FY22 so, even that I mean that's there, that's one thing but the general fund is fully allocated so where are you going to transfer from so again give her the flexibility to be able to use general fund revenues regardless of the color of the water that went into the pot will be okay so I mean then you would not appreciate an increase in the transfer authority to provide that flexibility if you want to give it to her sir that's fine I just think that you know if it's fully allocated you're at you're taking a 30 million dollar transfer authority increasing it to 60 but you fully allocated everything is a little too early to go down that road but look it's another tool and I think everybody here has said that you know maybe this is a forward-looking endeavor and I appreciate that statement from everybody and as Mary Rhodes said there might be a future you know assistance that comes out of this so maybe that maybe the combined tools in the toolbox would be forward thinking and I'm not saying no but I just think that flexibility you know I don't want to be pinned down as to what it is just give us all the tools I think we'll be better able to assist okay well with the provisions written as is you know basically 25 million dollars from the general fund where would you suggest where what is an idea as to how to be able to accomplish that recognizing that everything has been as you have said has been allocated against uh senator that's why the fiscal note focuses only on the 21 revenues collected over adopted it doesn't talk about 22 .okay and again I'm just looking at all different ways to be able to provide like you know whether it be 15 million whether it be 75 or you know at one time Mary and I Mary Rhodse and I had a conversation, she wanted a hundred million dollars okay so at the end of the day it's how do we save an industry that provides 60 of our revenues you know so you know I for one am going to advocate without well I recognize 50, 50 million dollars is a great start you know I hope the flexibility of being able to move upward on that is included not just in this legislation or maybe a future legislation hint okay, so there you go appreciate it thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you Senator Blas, Speaker Therese?

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje: Thank you Mr. Chair and thank you to all of those who took their time to testify today and very helpful in the information you've provided and I want to thank you for its plan so far, I'm looking forward to additional details of how you intend to allocate this money. I certainly understand the intent of the legislation and that certain businesses and specifically their employees have been negatively impacted by the pandemic and the mandates over the last year and a half during the public health emergency it's important that we use our resources wisely and make decisions that will benefit our most vulnerable populations over the last year and a half the federal government and local government have allocated close to 500 million dollars towards the direct aid businesses on Guam in PPP.

The fed the payroll protection program there was 300 million dollars allocated for Guam businesses 444, Guam businesses received grants over a hundred fifty thousand dollars on average. The four hundred and forty-four businesses received four hundred and forty-four thousand dollars in forgivable loans about three thousand one hundred sixty Guam businesses received grants or loans less than a hundred and fifty-thousands of these three hundred three thousand one hundred sixty grand businesses on average they received thirty-one thousand dollars overall that amounts to 192 million in forgivable loans in 2020 for Guam. Businesses and 106.5 million in forgivable loans in 2021 for businesses. The SBA has published the complete list of businesses who received PPP and I note that some who received over a million dollars for example in in 2020, PPP are also on this list to receive local funds as well under this program. The EDIL Program Economic injury disaster loan 78.4 million was allocated for Guam businesses one 1322 eligible businesses and organizations in Guam were approved for direct loans as well as forgivable advances for a total amount of 78.4 million the average amount per business was about 59 dollars GEDA's local grant program 36 million 36.7 million in cares and ARP funds were given GEDA used cares funding for the 2020 pandemic assistant grant program 16.7 granted to 2313 businesses in 2021 GEDA is using 20 million dollars in ARP funding as of October 20, 2021. 121 businesses were approved for grants which amounts to 12.36 million so far about 1700 businesses have applied as of 10/21/21 as the director stated additionally GEDA expects to receive up to 56 million in additional federal funding for state small business credit initiative programs on Guam which will provide venture capital to small businesses and now through this executive order 25 million for GEDA sleep program from ARP funds possibly another 25 million from local funds according to this bill and if we add all of these federal and local grant programs for businesses not including the 25 million from bill 214 Guam businesses will have received 494 million 600,000 in grants and forgivable loans during the last year and a half the legislature also passed two laws over the last 18 months that exempts certain small businesses from paying the full business privilege tax, **Public Law 35-90** was signed into law June 26, 2020 allows businesses with gross annual incomes between 50 and 500,000 to pay GRT at three percent for the first 250,000 in revenue **Public Law 36-27** made the tax exemption permanent for small business and made it retroactive starting January 1, 2020. The exemption can be utilized by approximately 90 of businesses on Guam. I have you know we received the fiscal note during this public hearing so I'm very grateful to have that in front of us and it just brings to light that you know the fiscal note from BBMR does not talk about a funding source that this is the bill says the money will come out of the general fund but the fiscal note you know highlights that it does not or is not intended to come out of FY22 general fund revenues those according to this fiscal note it doesn't discuss though so I'm thinking we can conclude those are not available or based on based on what we've allocated in the FY22 budget there is no leeway there to allocate 20 million or any amounts out of the 2022 revenues that are being protected so we're looking at FY21 revenues and so according to their fiscal note FY201 revenues they are suggesting that only 19.8 million is left

or may be available if they take care of deficit one point some million if they take care of the 20 million for FY21 refund sat we the budget law to do and if they take care of the deficits in the small, I mean the special funds with general fund revenues so 19.8 million that they talked about it did not, that's without allocating anything for war claims as you know the estimates that we had received earlier for war claims is about 10 million and that would leave only about 9.8 million in FY21 revenues possibly available not including the rainy day fund or any other potential allocation and I don't necessarily agree with that notwithstanding language in this bill because we have agencies right now that are funded in FY22 significantly below their needs and I just think all of those things should be accounted for but I have and so that brings me to my next point and concern is that I fully support funding this program through ARP funds. I think that's a excellent example of you know direct assistance to businesses I'm glad GEDA is looking at need and I think that is where the governor has the most flexibility as opposed to flexibility in general fund revenues when we have agencies operating in the millions of dollars below their needs level and when we have only about nine million dollars left in FY21 revenues to potentially allocate if those figures are correct.

We have you know as you know we've yet to see a full ARP plan and so while I very much recognize the advocacy of your businesses that are here today those who submitted written testimony. Those who've you know signed in support of this bill there's a list of that we received in our offices about let me just see 159 businesses companies that are listed in under the, *Protehi I Lina'Lata* list. I'm expecting, I'm hoping other companies as well, will be given the opportunity but there's really you know so GEDA's currently working on the criteria as to who might receive and I don't know I'm guessing that some of these 159 companies that are listed here are not going to be eligible for that fund for those for this leap program not sure but that's what it's looking like if you look at the number of employees and things like that but or at least for the bulk of it that this list also includes companies like Japan airlines and like they said earlier some franchises which you know may be in need of assistance as well I'd like to see how this program you know overlays with the GVB money is also expected to go to businesses directly in the tourism industry and so I just don't want to see duplication of those types of efforts or you know when we have micro businesses very small businesses that I would also like to support you know we're going to support businesses. I really hope that we can support some of our very small businesses that we're not able to get any of these federal funds today.

I'm also the executive order as Mr. Carlson pointed out the executive the executive order was very clear that it was going to prioritize this leap. These leap funds for hiring right or payroll and also with a forgivable program and so we hear GEDA talking about also a forgivable loan program for hiring but also basing it on percentage of loss and I just I would like to ensure I hope that we can see the final program mandates before we pass any additional funds towards the leap program so that we can ensure that it is really going to go towards hiring above anything else or keeping payroll keeping those employees employed and that's because of my last concern and that is you know we are if we put general fund revenues towards this and not use ARP funds then we are taking money away from the only funding source that we may have available to us left to for direct assistance to individuals right and so we you know assist businesses which we need to do but I'm suggesting we use ARP funds for that and that you know we see where the gaps are for individuals because this is the only this general fund revenues these are the only funds that we have left to address needs for individuals so I support the governor.

I would hope that the businesses here today those who signed this list as a supporting of the sleep program that you will also advocate that the governor allocate additional ARP funds, we

have not seen the list of where all the ARP funds will go so our calculations you know tell us that there is still ARP funds available it looks like out of 553 million that was given to the Government of Guam. There's about 133 million dollars left. There's not been dedicated or we have not seen plans for that remaining amount and we continue to have these critical agencies that have been promised ARP funds we know that so I'd just like to see that you know what can be cleared with these ARP funds and if this program can be cleared with ARP funds. I'd like to see that and then you know Mr. Carlson mentioned that there's also a portion of ARP funds that is available for those frontline employees that was one of the criteria that when the funds were made available to us and that's not been discussed in at any in length at all and so I'm just saying, we have other needs that we have to balance. I think they should all be on the table at the same time so that we can balance this assistance to businesses that is necessary through and use either ARP funds that you know allows the governor maximum flexibility so that we can use general funds for those areas where ARP funds are not allowed to be used, I still think we might have those types of needs right now.

Finally I just want to note that while GEDA has given us an idea of how they're going to run the program, I'd like to see additional you know details, normally the legislature you know approves a program that he is going to run when we're going to use local funds and in this case we're just saying you run the program and all the details will be left to you and I just think that we should know and the businesses who've signed up here they should all know exactly how that's going to run so that they can feel you know that they all have a fair shot or that at least they agree with the criteria that's going to be used and so again you know we suggested in our ARP plan that we submitted to the governor that a lot of this money or some money be allocated towards workforce enhancement programs so that we can retrain employees and put them into where we continue to have critical needs critical gaps in for example nursing and so I still think those are also legitimate interests of the legislature legitimate needs of Guam and so we need to balance all of these things and so I would just like to see a full accounting of ARP funds and general fund excesses if there are such things and so that we could be confident that when we fund you know one program we are not taking away from the other so that's I'm just sharing with you my concerns again I very much support that businesses in these industries most impacted you know need our help I hope that this type of help really will take you over for the one to two years that is estimated for tourism to be you know open fully but you know if not at least that it takes you long it will carry you over long enough to make a significant impact because it is taking money away from for example growing the pool of nurses that we have here on one and so I just think if I had my way, I would put all of them on the table at the same time, show the allocation of all of the ARP funds and show why we cannot put more money from ARP towards the sleep program right now and it would be done in a day and not have to wait an additional time thank you. thank you, Mr., Chair thank you again to all of your businesses testifying here today and the agencies

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you, Speaker, Senator Perez

Senator Sabina Flores Perez: Thank you, Mr. Chair and good morning to everyone here and thank you for being here to provide testimony so I do, I did, I am a co-sponsor of this bill and something that I would really like to look to maybe GEDA is to you know think about. You know I know the intent of the executive order was to help keep businesses afloat but I'm also thinking too that you know maybe we can leverage this money to help build a more resilient industry in tourism so yeah so, you know I'm hearing some testimony being provided here today that many of these companies are losing staff. They're moving to the states and you know is there a possibility to use this funding to for training purposes to ensure that the capacity is

there so one thing that I'm thinking about when i hear a lot of the testimony here today is you know I kind of have an analogy with the farming industry, we were very close to losing farming here in Guam, when you know a big part of you know their clients were in tourism and so the farmers almost stopped growing right and you know luckily there were some people that stepped in you know that to help ensure that farming continued uh despite a huge decline in purchases from the hotel and those in tourism and so you know I'm thinking about the industry as a whole.

Bill Nault, President & CEO, Nautech Inc: Well, you know definitely we don't want to see that happen with our tourism industry especially you know we don't know necessarily when tourism is going to bounce back right? You know I myself am very reluctant to go you know vacationing you know because of the pandemic and I'm sure many people worldwide are experiencing that same thing and so a lot of the tourism has focused inward towards these the country so like Japan and Korea you know we saw articles in the paper recently that a lot of them are turning towards internal tourism right stay cautions and such and so you know it's very important to me you know to see how we can recover our economy you know tourism has been the mainstay of our economy for so long but you know I'm also very interested in how we can retool this industry and make it more resilient and you know I think it's great that all of you are here today, coming as one and you know I'm really appreciative of the conversation that we've been having thus far and so like you know Mr. Mesa said this is an investment right you know this is an investment into the industry and maybe perhaps if I can get some ideas you know yes we want you know this is a critical time Christmas is consider the time where most businesses receive a big part of their revenues and income and so I could see this as being very timely but maybe if I could have some thoughts about you know what is it what do we need to keep the you know the infrastructure in place, as well as you know maybe we can leverage this money to help you know make it more resilient so this question can go to anybody in the panel and maybe GEDA maybe if I can ask Administrator Melanie if she has an thoughts and I understand the program is already designed to address those that have the greatest impact but I also see this as an opportunity right an opportunity to help retool the industry in addition to keeping the infrastructure in place

Melanie Mendiola, Administrator, & CEO, Guam Economic Development Authority: *Hafa Adai* Senator and thank you for that question and very keen observations one thing I do want to point out is that the construction of the program was informed by the participation of the stakeholders. GEDA is provided with a budget we kind of throw some ideas out there. We received approximately 39 people in attendance to our over three stakeholder meetings giving us feedback about various aspects of the program and so based on that, they shared with us what their need was and we responded. I think to look forward to workforce developing workforce resiliency is admirable generally addressed over a longer period of time, whereas the sense of urgency that the groups came not just the *linalata* Group but also the small tour operators small tour guides as well as the restaurant industry who were affected by the vaccination mandates they were talking to us about paying their bills but more than that you know I think that one thing that has been recurring throughout this hearing has been this idea of helping business versus helping people and helping business versus helping the people of Guam helping business helping these businesses is helping the people of Guam it's called the local employers assistance program because it's about these businesses passing through 60 of this money at least 60 percent to their employees.

The very first testimony we heard from today from Mr. John Ray Aguon, discussed 30 hours a week over two every two weeks working only 30 hours, 15 hours a week how is anyone

supposed to pay their mortgage, how is anyone supposed to pay their power and how there's been combinations of aid coming out via quest cards, via rise act and all those sorts of individual but to be able to provide people their livelihood through their jobs, is really important so I don't think we should differentiate that we're providing aid to businesses. The mechanism, the instrument to getting help out to the people is businesses in the same way that the instrument of getting help out to the people of Guam sometimes his DOA through like the rise act but the instrument of getting help out to people is the businesses and that's the cost of this legislation and so I do think that there has been quite a bit of work that we have been doing with regard to trying to shore up like let's say boot camps as well as expanding the apprentice able positions under the Guam registered apprenticeship program.

I don't know how much of the tourism sectors; tourism industry has apprentice vitalize the Guam registered apprenticeship program so I think expanding partnerships all of that concurrent with what we're doing but I do think that this to some extent is very much emergency assistance and so I would definitely incorporate it into the lens of long-term planning but specific to this. We were responding GEDA was responding to the stakeholders and what they were sharing with us, what they'd like to see and we worked within a budget provided to us by the governor and the stakeholders then also had you know also had visited with the senators and this companion legislation and so we're welcome or open to it if you know if that be the wish of body to incorporate workforce development or building more factors to build more resilient industry. Tourism industry, the tourism industry is resilient, we've been in a pandemic environment for longer than our mainland brothers and sisters. They have the shores of Maine or who are and places like that have tourists because domestic travel is wide open here in Guam by no fault of theirs by no fault of our tourism industry, we are a function of what's going on in Korea, Japan and Taiwan and so we've these businesses have had to be resilient for the last 20 months. They've had to be resilient and so I think that the spirit of the legislation as I saw from when the companion legislation was introduced with the EO was that it takes a team it takes all of us together and you know it takes a village right and so I think that's really what we were I think that's what when I say we think that's what GEDA and all the stakeholders were hoping for today was everyone working together to help the people through the businesses but to ultimately help people.

Senator Sabina Flores Perez: Thank you for the response so I have a question for Mr. Nault, maybe from your perspective I know you have your very hands. You're on the ground there in regards to the you know operations of tourism and you know what do. You think is needed to help kind of sustain the I guess the infrastructure the tourism infrastructure. I know you were mentioning that you deal with a lot directly with the source markets and what do you think are some really the key things that we need to maintain or even build up here and if that makes any sense to you.

Bill Nault, President & CEO, Nautech Inc: Well, you know first of all as Ms. Mendiola had mentioned is that in the other places not just in the mainland but in other countries the newer trends of travel basically are shifting from international to domestic and so you know I do commend her for her mentioning that and unfortunately you know for Guam with our population is that you know with the 160,000 people that live on the island including the military, we probably would not be able to shift from international to domestic and you know with the good numbers in 2019. I believe we had like 1.66 million travelers to go on from our core markets and other markets of course and so what we would want, what we would need to do basically is to make sure that our not just our tourism infrastructures but other infrastructures as well right and it is a good opportunity as you said that we can look for other alternatives to

do it improve travel or the industry you know prior to people coming back in or when people are already beginning to come back but I believe that that is another story in regards to infrastructure and that there's an infrastructure bill going out in the mainland in the congress and so forth and so I hope that passes and that Guam is ready to accept those funds also to work vigorously to try to fix or improve our much-needed infrastructure improvements on the island but as in tourism.

I believe that there is an opportunity as you have mentioned in regards to agriculture and so forth but you know taking away employees from this industry to move over to another industry is an idea but I would think that agriculture, We would need to actually build more agriculture in regards to making that a viable part of travel industry and not just in supplying supplies or agriculture to the many industry players or the stakeholders but I would say that the reason why we actually came together is because when other places are moving very quickly to try to bring back the international travel and you know we have been here for 18 months.

I think the best thing for us to do is make sure that our industry is also ready to accept travelers when they come in and make sure that we do not have less players we need to make sure the employees are there and the reason is because I mean we've seen this during other pandemics in the past and you know from experience is that once you start to lose employees you know the businesses may still continue in some sense but you lose that force of services that we have provided to these visitors and once you start to lose the services the quality of the services that we provide your tourism industry starts to drop again and the reason is because people you know feel that the industry is not ready to accept many travelers right or they had bad experiences when they came to the island and so what we need to make sure is that training new people bringing creating training programs is important but you know it will take time for these people to get trained and that's especially to gain that experience that the many of the people who have been working in the industry for decades especially the what you know the speaker had called that the micro business is you know the one-man two-man, three-man businesses that have provided the services for many of the bigger players transportation-wise guide wise so forth the sales clerks you know they have worked so long that they can actually communicate with our visitors speaking in different languages you know many had spoken Japanese languages in the past and when the Korean travelers had increased many have learned how to speak these languages just so that they can provide the better services to their guests I think that you know the ideas are good in trying to build all these better you know not better but I'm sorry you know try to build training programs and trying to combine the other things but because we do not have that main core domestic travel portion you know I usually call them you know Guam that Guam is a one-way tourism business and the reason is because most of our travelers come to Guam but most of us don't travel reciprocate you know the same number of travelers going to their countries right and so that is part of that is one of our weaknesses that we have and the reason is because it also falls back to the other part of travel industry called the cargo business where we have cargo's coming in but we rarely have cargos going out and you know that is something that we should also look into in regards to the industry because that will also help with the airline partners that if they are able to feel the cargo going out of the island then that will also help the prices coming in from our core market you know which will reduce and make us a much better competitors to other destinations but that's what I have uh

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Senator

Senator Sabina Flores Perez: Okay thank you thank you so much.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: There's a few people have their hands raised I'd like to recognize them they think they want to provide some more input Akihiro Tani, Steven Kasberbauer and then Jay Merril, Mr. Tani please go ahead.

Akihiro Tani, Manager, Pacific Underwater Observatories: Thank you very much for giving me your opportunity, I'd like to also refer to several concerns late by speaker too, I try to explain briefly, yes, so first thing so I want to explain from our, company station I'm in charge of five different businesses, one of the businesses which conduct show businesses, we are so lucky we receive SV OG grant so, for that component one of the businesses so my headache is reduced however another four businesses so I'd like to explain one business as an example.

We do have a small restaurant, Japanese restaurant in Tumon area so that's one company, this company regular sale is let's say 70,000 U.S. dollars a year so annual sales is 840,000, and normally land itself is less than businesses like 10 percent so length obligation during pandemic for close to two years itself is 20 percent of that annual sales which is like 160,000 so to pay off this length obligation we have no income for past almost 20 at two years right? And we this company gradually received a GEDA length assistance grant. We received 26,000 but it's only a little bit so our length obligation is still there. We receive PPP twice for this lesson. First year when we receive PPP, the PPP regulation is saying like this oh company can receive 2.5 months payroll was money. We have to pay off over eight weeks but this restaurant was closed during pandemic and we have no way to hire to operate our business because it was totally closed, but considering that the purpose of a federal program, we pay all of our money, we receive under PPP through paycheck even our staff didn't work at all and I didn't receive any in my compensation because this company, this small restaurant didn't have any income so, what I'm trying to say is a federal grant and also local government support helped, we are very, very grateful without those support maybe majority of businesses attending today's hearing we already disappeared but however, the federal amount and then also the local grant is not enough to survive for any businesses close to two years, it's impossible, it's totally impossible, what the majority of the business owner did is we try anything what we can do so we try unnecessary, we try to sell unnecessary company for a company property or if we do have a company housing we sell it on the list and we laid any fund to reach to up to this point so, that's a reason why we join to this volunteer group of the solid station and then I'd like to also mention that speaker pointed out there are several big larger corporation tourism cooperation in our list supporting this program for example like hotels.

There is a hotel company owning five or six hotels, they signed it, they are not eligible the reason why they support it is this profession knows what drives tourism tourists coming to Guam to have their quality time with family they want to go to the beach they're going to go to jet ski, they're going to go to Paris Airing they're going to ride on carabao, those are memories tourism. Tourists is looking at looking for currently those small businesses really on the edge of cliff. We don't have much time to wait for another three or four months to wait for the help and if we don't have enough help now like immediate help maybe those businesses go out and what's going to happen is that sixty percent of tourism, a sixty percent of the Guam private sector used to be a big part of grammar economy, this economy itself going to collapse.

We are not talking I don't know anything about budget allocation we are not I'm not no knowledge about it but we are discussing this 60 percent of ecosystem, do we want to keep it for year 2023? Yeah 2024? or five years from now? Do we want to keep it if we need to keep

it this is the time if we don't unless we don't need it if we grab locate another alternate large enough income source large enough industry to hire local people and then maybe we don't need, we can go for it but if I'm not mistaken tourism itself developed up to before copied level over 40 years or 50 years and I don't I personally don't think any industry can refuel that big part of the private sector within one year or two years? I think it's difficult so I really hope that to look at this solid station to seven that ecosystem and then to rehiring people when tourists start coming in and these small businesses reach to that month within one month two months three months and then recently hiring and then that's the fastest way to private sector to employ local business that's what I believe. I'm not sure if I can fully answer those concerns but I just want to express my opinion thank you very much for giving me this opportunity, chairman thank you.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you Mr. Tony, Mr. Kasperbaur and then Mr. Merrill and then Ms. Lujan but I'm going to ask everyone if you can please keep your comments to a minimum as we are running into a time crunch. We do have session at 1 P.M., it is 11:45 a.m. right now so please keep your comments as succinct as possible Mr. Kasperbauer, you're recognized, yes.

Steven Kasperbauer, President, Alupang Beach Club: Thank you for the opportunity to give a reply to the question and ask by our senator. First of all I like to call leap the leap multiplier and what do I mean by that is when these companies get the money, the first thing they're going to do is spend sixty percent on the employees so for example if there's a hundred thousand dollars that is received by a company sixty thousand will go to the employees, what does that mean in the multiplier or are they going to pay their taxes they're going to pay their FICA they're withholding but they're going to buy, pay their bank loans, they're going to pay their rent, their mortgage, their utilities, their car payments, their health insurance you know we need assistance as part of the payroll program to help keep their health insurance going and then food and necessities you know car loans, gas etc. Now what happens when they spend that money in all those areas of the economic sector, it repeats the same cycle with those employees of those different places where they spend the money so this money is going to roll over many times.

The FICA withholding is going to go over many times and it's all going to happen right here on the island and it's going to have this really fantastic wonderful multiplying effect because we still have a good part of the island that those economies are okay. The military, the construction and the government so by infusing this it doesn't obviously the 40 is not going to stay for more than a few days in the company as it rolls out and when we look at this you know the tourism attractions collateral is only valuable as long as there's tourism here so from the economic standpoint of running a business in tourism most all these companies that we have run on rolling loans because of the different cycles of tourism such as you could have a North Korea crisis or you could have a crisis like this and what's going to happen is banks may be scared to loan into the largest industry on this island and as that happens and confide necroes will either have shrunk down or closed and as employees wait without that kind of assurance they'll leave island and what we're looking at is for some of our jobs that are entry level etc., you know versus the states people can travel from state to state to get a job, we would have to import that base level of employees to come to this island just to fill the gap when we want to ramp back up to where we were so I really appreciate the questions because it allows us to make sure that before you get into session that you can have a broader perspective of the leap multiplier which is really a fantastic up through all the agencies and the government that working together this dollar goes five six seven maybe ten times in such a small economy right

now and it's going to really keep people in a situation where their loans are up to speed their mortgages their car payments whatever else and their family and their family needs so thank you very much.

Senator Sabina Flores Perez: All right thank you so much for all the responses and yes that basically what I was trying to get at is the infrastructure of terrorism how it how it also is very similar to something that almost fell apart and I, you know wanted to definitely want to support the industry to make sure that we're ready for when the tourists come back and we want to be ready so thank you for all your responses. I have a question for GEDA so, regarding the loan forgiveness so correct me if I'm wrong but this is very similar to the PPP program is that correct? So how does one determine whether it's going to be a grant versus you know forgiveness you know at what point do you forgive the loan for those businesses that are applying?

Melanie Mendiola, Administrator, & CEO, Guam Economic Development Authority: thank you senator well what we're looking at is currently based on our feedback from the stakeholder meetings. What we're looking at is two different categories of business, the category a would be for businesses with four employees or less so these are micro businesses and category b would be for five employees or more and to start we'd work with businesses who suffered the greatest interruption of course it would be open to all businesses but the priority funding would be given to businesses who suffered the greatest interruption or covered establishments so that's about a 50 or 60 level of interruption what we were looking at is for the small category a we were looking at because we have a lot of businesses that are owner operated in this category and so tying it to payroll is really kind of it's kind of not as feasible and so what we were looking at is category these businesses just be provided a grant with a ceiling of fifty thousand dollars and for category b this is the company these are the companies with five or more employees. We would tie sixty percent a sixty level of sixty percent so if you received a hundred thousand dollars if you used at least sixty thousand dollars towards payroll costs incurred from during the eligibility period which would go all the way out probably to the end of next calendar year then that then your loan would be forgiven and if not then it would turn into a low interest loan and reset you know recycled for the next anybody who maybe we didn't have fund enough funding for.

Senator Sabina Flores Perez: Okay thank you so much Mel this question is maybe for BBMR so in the executive order it states that the money can be also used for all rise program so that some of that 25 million is that correct if you can clarify that so not all no senator that reads additional payments under the all rights the governors 'basically making it known that the 30 million dollars was augmented it has nothing to do with the leap okay so this 25 million is not going to be also used right thank you for that clarification all right thank you so much, Mr. Chair.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thanks Mr. Merrill do you still have something you'd like to comment you like to add, I see your hand is up still.

Jay Merrill, Market Research and Development: Just to augment a little bit about of the comments that Tony's son was making resiliency implies both the ability to bounce back and then a sense of toughness to try and prevent the same types of problems in the future so I think it's a really good idea if it would be possible to include within payroll expenses retraining costs for employees that are re-entering into the market and then in addition allowable costs for grants that would go to helping ability to market in the new environment that they will be

entering into as the role of travel agencies are changing and the proliferation of online sales is occurring many small businesses need additional training in terms of how they're going to be able to compete in this ever-increasing digital marketing sphere and then in terms of the ability to prevent this from occurring again. It's important to understand that we need to regenerate the funds that have been allocated to survival that were to go into capital improvements and so that we can maintain the competitiveness of the destination that many of those investment potential investment funds have been taken up with paying for rents and for other ongoing expenses during the last two years and to allow those kinds of reinvestment funds to be used as excusable also I think would be a good way to meet the senators improving resiliency thank you.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you Mr. Merrill Ms. Lujan did you still have something to add?

Jovyna Lujan, Merchandise Manager, Protehi I Lina'Lata Group: Thank you, thank you acting chairman, I just wanted to speak to some of the speakers concerns I shared earlier as some of my colleagues here with Protay have already somewhat spoken into first, I want to say first I would really like to say how grateful I am professionally that this kind of dialogue is actually happening. it's probably it was initiate in maybe over the last six months on a more aggressive nature because no one really predicted the depth and the magnitude that the Pademic is having on our economy and all of the businesses and the community involved secondly, I very much appreciate her open and Frank sharing of her talking about speaker Terlaje, her concerns for all of the community needs that prevail in this band underfunded agencies the need to retool and to engage in new employee retraining efforts particularly in the nursing field as she mentioned areas where obviously there is a there are voids in our community that need to be met I was very impressed by the Speaker's discussion on the various programs where assistance services have been extended in the community and to it that particular list that she mentioned relating to businesses on the island let me say this from my heart. I feel like this is an opportunity for both the public and the private sector an unprecedented opportunity for both of us to share to share expertise from both ends and to learn from one another and so my humble request here is if the speaker would on the one hand would be open to sharing that composite list of assistants that have been how you say expanded over the last two years regarding businesses that would be very appreciated speaking from my company perspective many of us are able to take data given the credibility of the sources. I've spoken on a couple of occasions with Ken Lujan at U.S. small business assistance and we've while we've had some informal dialogue concerning the federal programs and the assistance length of the companies on Ireland. I believe the speaker's references to those specific assistance programs and the amounts length they seem to me anyhow to be very comprehensive and just speaking as a planner all right. I would very much appreciate for purposes of business planning going forward and business-related forecasts that my company normally engage in that's the first point. The second point is while I recognize the depth and the large sums referenced by the speaker and the opportunity to learn listening to her testimony and her concerns about both you know all of the segments and the social concerns in the community both the private sector and those of the public sector. I also feel that coming from the public sector side there are opportunities for government officials all of those engaged in this conversation this morning to also learn from the private sector and let me say why all right. Previously Guam had been so able to come back after all the combination of the various calamities that we have embraced in the last 50 years I mentioned earlier SARS wars right the invasion of Iraq national security threats typhoons calamities and that sort of thing what we in *protehi* have made time to share in our dialogue with the government.

The legislature different components of the community in discussions about the help needed for small business really is about the unique characteristic that the pandemic has caused and its unique effect on company's small businesses the micro businesses that are involved in the private sector. We are really at the heart of this matter we are really talking about a business operating expense at a time when there's no revenue for some or if there's substantially reduced revenue this is unique with the pandemic and while I appreciated the list and the horrendous sums or the large the millions of dollars that she referenced in terms of assistance that has gone out to private businesses. I say it's a chance for the first time maybe unprecedented somewhat unprecedented for people for the key officials in the public sector to take a peek at the depth of business operating expenses that combine encompass what we do as a Senator Frank Blas mentioned earlier to generate 60 of the Government of Guam revenues every year so, if you just took the government bond contribution from the private sector and drilled down to tourism. You're going to see the multiplier effect that Steven mentioned earlier, Steve Kasperbauer mentioned earlier, what's coming to surface in our discussions with GEDA on the assistance programs that they will soon be implementing is an opportunity for the public sector to have a peek on the expense side probably for the first time so I'm very grateful that this morning's dialogue has been very constructive in that regard.

We very much appreciate the word of caution coming from all members in terms of the micro, sorry the micro industries that some of the senators are concerned with Senator Perez mentioned industry retooling and her interest to look at what's happening there with the traditional tourism infrastructure and speaking for my company. We are definitely and have been retooling from day one, from the day from early the first quarter. When we took a look at the global signs of the pandemic and the reach and the threat on regular tourism trade that we are engaged with here leading up to the island-wide shutdown which transpired in March 2020.

Traditional businesses if that's the way you want to call it or in tourism, infrastructure businesses are taking and have been actively engaged in retooling. We are looking at modernizing our ability to communicate with our customers. We're looking at modernizing our capability and our capacity to improve our operating efficiencies whether it's data management, whether it's customer service, whether it's an analysis of the demographics of the customers. We serve whether it's reducing and making our related operating expenses more efficient in our case here at DKSH.

The pandemic has caused horrendous strains on logistics and the ability not just as some of the senators referenced earlier to access sufficient supply lines from manufacturers that have been adversely affected by the pandemic and therefore production have declined but moreover how to get those goods to go on so we're talking about shipping logistics. Some of my team members here talked a little about a little a lot about insurance, operational costs, we've talked about rent and every one of these areas, those of us in in Protehi we have been very actively engaged looking in every element of those costs. Those elements of business operating costs hoping to reduce costs and improve our operating efficiencies. What's really wonderful I think senators, about this dialogue and what's uniquely different it is that as a community Guam, has just never faced anything of the like and the depth as this pandemic and there are so many moving. How do you say dynamic movement of both external and internal factors that play into the pandemic and how the economy can come back and moreover in our respective businesses right one of the things that the University of Guam study noted that's referenced in Section 1 of **Bill No 214** was not just the how do you say the sharp decline but also the variety and the broad depth of experiences that were experienced in the private sector as a result of the pandemic at the end of 2020 this has never been before embraced by those of us even those of us who have been

around for 50 years and come through typhoons and other calamities this is the very first time that so many moving parts in the entire scenario stand to bear either direct or indirect influence on the outcome of how we as a community may stand up at the other side of this calamity. What I will say is that I assure you we are very grateful for the help I really feel that it's important that the government, the people in the government while the help that's come out to businesses do it's true, they are sizable sums but that gives the public sector the first time, first opportunity a glimpse of what business expenses are like so if we looking surely of assistance that have already come out and we're working together to look into what may happen over the next six months and beyond in relation to the downturn with the pandemic.

Let me just say there are learning experiences and opportunities on both sides of the coin for the first time. It's a chance to look at what the private sector really goes through and what businesses whether they are from the least to the greatest incumbent to keep our doors open which those of us in *protehi* stand committed to doing as a reasonably as reasonable as possible. DSH before the can pandemic occurred, we operated six retail locations in Guam and of the six long already we had to temporarily close two right there and permanently close two and we are now consolidating our ritual operations to the remaining two so there's a lot of dynamic but certainly the business community does need the help and we yield to the wisdom and the combined prudence of all the players that are involved. We're very impressed with the honesty and the open exchange of dialogue here and we stand ready to continue to assist if needed thank you.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you, Ms. Lujan, Senator Joanne Brown

Senator Joanne M. Brown: Thank you Mr. Chairman, I know we're three hours into this hearing and certainly a lot of comments have been made and a lot of testimony has been provided. I think we recognize a number of the issues that have been brought before us with regards to our private sector and certainly you know no none of us imagine that we'd be at the other end of this two years later we're not even have any sense of confidence if we are at the end or if this challenge is going to continue. I mean we were told publicly that we need to get vaccinated that we once we reach herd immunity we will be at a level of safety in our community and here we are you know people are still getting sick people that are vaccinated are still carriers and we still have people dying from this pandemic. I've also mentioned time and time again that as we've been going through this process. the revenues that the Government of Guam has been receiving and certainly we see a lot of press releases going out about all this additional revenue and then press release is also going out on how we should spend all this additional revenue as if somehow the Government of Guam is operating in isolation of the rest of the realities that are facing our people.

This artificial economy that we're living in you know this expectation and maybe I've been around too long but this expectation also that the general fund somehow is going to rescue all of us is also artificially propped up by the amount of federal infusion that our government has been receiving as a result of this pandemic and that in and of itself is going to be something we're going to have to watch very closely if we're simply going to look at depending on the federal money coming in and the military investment, certainly we recognize the critical importance that our tourism industry provides and the scary reality that if we're not able to bridge over with the hope that things will shift in a very positive way that we'll be able to get back to some sense of whatever we used to call normal of where our industry that's highly dependent, obviously on the very existence of why it's here is to be able to support visitors coming into the island and while there is talk hopefully that our neighboring sources in Asia

will desire to continue to travel. I hope so but what if it extends further so certainly from our perspective, we're all challenged I wish I could get on to say you got my 100,000 support and it's all good and I don't have to worry about the realities of operating the rest of the Government of Guam and not that the Government of Guam in and of itself should be operating in isolation of the realities but certainly this is a conversation I wish had come sooner in this process and that there was more vocal engagement so that the realities of where we are the broad perspective of where we are could be put on the table because certainly I recognize and would support providing more assistance to the private sector but I'm also trying to balance how we're going to address the issues of addressing other challenges in this government, how do we support our health care, how do we support our law enforcement, how do we pay our tax refunds to our people out there that are demanding and expecting that funds that they've overspent, overpaid to the government be paid so that you know the responsibility is great, it's a great responsibility so I'm not going to sit here and just play the politics say you got me no problem. I think that this issue needs to be debated primarily with regards to the source of the funding. I wish the administration I wish the business community would also be more vocal at least I have not heard it as loud as I think we all collectively need to hear it, to expect from the administration to be very public in relaying to all of us their intention of how they plan on spending the rescue funds because I think if we all knew that it would give us a better idea of how those of us also in the legislature can proceed because then we'll know what's being covered and what money is available to assist because the Government of Guam and some critical areas will have no alternative to fund some of these critical services if federal funding does not continue you know this reality is very real even for those of us that are not in the private sector. You know I went to a restaurant that I normally go to, it was an afternoon at 11:30 there were about five other tables in a venue that normally at that hour would be full because we already recognized that with this additional requirement of you know restaurants and eateries where you're going to be sitting down having your meal that you have to be vaccinated and I know this from hearing and seeing it's really affected a lot of those businesses because a lot of people are just even if they are vaccinated just don't like the hassle of being questioned you know are you vaccinated or not and then to have the lead waitress who I've known for many years who's working there and said you know I only work two days a week and she goes you know that's not enough to you know to make it by and she's living with the assistance of her sister who's helping her get through this time and that's a real reality. I think it's a real reality for a lot of our people out there that are not consistently receiving income who want to work but because of reduced hours and reduced customer base don't have the money coming in to get by and that's a reality for a lot of our people out there so I recognize that and I see it as people that I've known for many years and have had the opportunity to engage with so I know that reality is real but I think at the same time collectively we need to be demanding to know what is the accounting of our operations of our finances in the government and what is the intended use for the federal funds that have been provided by the federal government for the interest of our people. It's very hard for us to decide here well it's nice the governor is giving 25 million dollars and I guess we shouldn't be to upset because she's graciously giving 25 million dollars of money that was intended for our people specifically for needs that have been brought up by the private sector today to assist to bridge over to get us through this time if this continues, I don't doubt Mr. Chairman it's probably going to raise the issue as to whether or not sending setting aside such huge amounts and even though we recognize a need for a hospital is this the need is this the most pressing need for this money especially if this drags out another four or five months another year or so or even longer where this this assistance going to is going to be needed so I want to put that out for the representatives. The directors here from the administration the key financiers that are here telling us about these issues I wish they would also on behalf of the governor relay how that money is intending to be spent because we have our challenges.

I don't doubt government revenue will decline if we don't continue to see the federal assistance that we've received over the past two years as the U.S. economy continues to recover probably, we'll see less of it because we're not getting it primarily because we're Guam. We're getting it because the federal government is providing it to the U.S states and territories we're the addition to that process so i just want to relay that as we deliberate on this bill, I'm hoping the administration will be forthcoming with regards to how they're intending to spend this additional federal money that's been set aside for these purposes for the very purposes that everyone here in the business community has come forth to testify because I'm sure at the end of the day is it really a concern where the money's coming from or is the money coming? I'm sure the real concern is the money coming so that we can assist and survive really it comes down to survival because we need to be concerned about our tourism industry because of the infrastructure is not there and it does take time to build that goodness we've been dealing with this a 50-year build-up of our tourism sector if it's not there to accommodate our visitors when they're ready to travel we're going to be a tremendous disadvantage if Guam has to rely on our own economic engines to survive we're all we're all on the same ship government and Guam and private sector we're all on the same ship and we're either going to we're either going to be able to sail or we're going to sync together so these are very challenging times, it's going to make some tough decisions and I have no problem supporting our private sector but by all means I think we need to demand a greater degree of transparency so we know where and how this money is going to be spent so that we can collectively make responsible decisions because we can spend all the money today and not know what's there a month or two from now and if things don't shift with regards to this pandemic, we're all going to be sinking so I just think those are important key points to relay Mr. Chair and I do thank all the businesses that have come forth, I mean some are really literally putting their not just their business interests on the line, their heart of their investment and all that they work for to build to get to where they are today and believe me at least from my perspective I that's not lost on me today. I hear what you're saying but like I said at the same time please raise your voices to demand accountability of this money because his money is not the administration's money it's not the governor's money this money was intended for our community to help us exactly for the purposes that all of you are coming today to the legislature and certainly even for the money that's being asked out of the general fund I'm going to want to know where that money's coming from as the speaker mentioned and how's it going to be spent and what are we sacrificing if we put it for this purpose what are we sacrificing so I know time is passing us very quickly and we're heading into the luncheon I know colleague will be in session fairly shortly so i just wanted to relay those comments and thank you to all of you that have come and testified and certainly Mr. Chairman thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you Senator Brown for your comments now I will go to Senator Shelton, Senator Shelton, you're recognized.

Senator Amanda L. Shelton: Thank you very much Mr. Chair, I'd like to thank everyone here for their time today and for their contributions to this discussion especially for bringing up these issues to us in the tourism committee here in the legislature and of course for calling on us to work together and to find solutions together that can benefit our entire community and as was said here in the testimonies this isn't just about helping our businesses but it's about helping all of the people in our community stay gainfully employed and supporting the entire industry that keeps our island moving which is tourism so I want to thank you all for everything that you've contributed here today and I look forward to I'm sure much more discussion and work on this bill and I hope to move it forward in an upcoming session very soon thank you

very much Mr. Chair and to chairman San Agustin and to all of our colleagues for their support and to our representatives from the administration who have come to testify on the bill as well *Si Yu'os ma'ase'*,

Vice-Chairperson Clynton E. Ridgell: Thank you, Senator Shelton, okay the committee will continue to receive testimony for the next few days for the acceptance of any additional information or public testimony on the agenda item discussed. You may submit testimonies to the mail room of the Guam legislature or through email at senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com. I want to thank everyone for attending this virtual public hearing and for providing feedback and suggestions the public hearing is now adjourned the time is 12:19 P.M. Thank you

This Virtual Public Hearing for Bill No.214-36 (COR) is now adjourned at 12:19 P.M.

III. Findings and Recommendations











The Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing hereby reports out **Bill No. 214-36 (COR)** – As Introduced by Amanda L. Shelton Joe S. San Agustin, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Telena Cruz Nelson, Mary Camacho Torres, Jose “Pedo” Terlaje, James C. Moylan, Clynton E. Ridgell, Sabina Flores Perez, and V. Anthony Ada. **“AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$25,000,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE LOCAL EMPLOYERS’ ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP), AS ESTABLISHED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-25; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE “LOCAL EMPLOYERS’ ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP) ACT OF 2021.”**

by with the recommendation TO DO PASS.

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2021 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No.214-36 (COR)

Introduced by:

Amanda L. Shelton 
Joe S. San Agustin 
Tina Rose Muña Barnes 
Telena Cruz Nelson 
Mary Camacho Torres 
Jose "Pedo" Terlaje 
James C. Moylan 
Clynton E. Ridgell 
Sabina Flores Perez 
V. Anthony Ada 

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$25,000,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP), AS ESTABLISHED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-25; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP) ACT OF 2021."

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 that businesses in Guam were adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. A
4 study on the impact of COVID-19 on Guam residents and businesses conducted by
5 the University of Guam (UOG) Regional Center for Public Policy cites that private
6 businesses and their contribution to our island economy fell, with revenue

1 performance and businesses expenses dropping by sixty-six percent (66%) and
2 eighty-one percent (81%), respectively, between 2017 and 2020. In addition, twenty-
3 five percent (25%) of businesses surveyed in 2020 were temporarily or permanently
4 closed.

5 *I Liheslatura* further finds that these adverse impacts were felt more by some
6 economic sectors than others. The same UOG study found that Guam's tourism
7 sector experienced the most difficulty, with businesses in this sector
8 underperforming by thirty-two percent (32%). Within the tourism sector, seven
9 percent (7%) of businesses permanently closed and some businesses resorted to
10 employee furloughs or permanent layoffs.

11 *I Liheslatura* further finds that the COVID-19 public health crisis and
12 resulting economic crisis have created a variety of challenges for small businesses
13 in Guam. The island's economic recovery relies upon the capacity of businesses to
14 bounce back, and it is incumbent upon the government to provide critical assistance
15 to businesses adversely impacted by the pandemic, facilitating the urgent
16 deployment of capital and support to help these organizations not just to persevere,
17 but recover on solid footing.

18 *I Liheslatura* further finds that the federal Pandemic Unemployment
19 Assistance (PUA) program ended on September 4, 2021, leaving many of Guam's
20 workers without an employment safety net. In considering an assistance program for
21 businesses in Guam, *I Liheslatura* notes that such a program should ultimately help
22 businesses to re-hire previously furloughed employees or hire new workers from the
23 current unemployment pool.

24 Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to appropriate Twenty-
25 five Million Dollars (\$25,000,000) to the Department of Administration for the
26 Local Employers' Assistance Program (LEAP), as established by Executive Order
27 2021-25.

1 **Section 2. Appropriation.** The sum of Twenty-five Million Dollars
2 (\$25,000,000) from the General Fund is hereby appropriated to the Department of
3 Administration for the Local Employers' Assistance Program (LEAP), as
4 established by Executive Order 2021-025, or as amended thereafter.

5 **Section 3. Reporting.** The Department of Administration and the Guam
6 Economic Development Authority shall submit a report to the Speaker of *I*
7 *Lihselaturan Guåhan*, which shall include the cumulative amount of payments made
8 under the Local Employers' Assistance Program (LEAP) and the total administrative
9 costs to facilitate the Program.

10 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Act *shall* be effective upon enactment.



Vice Speaker

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON RULES

I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

GUAM CONGRESS BUILDING
163 CHALAN SANTO PAPA
HAGÁTÑA, GUAM 96910
TEL 671-472-2461
COR@GUAMLEGISLATURE.ORG

October 29, 2021

MEMO

To: **Rennae Meno**
Clerk of the Legislature

From: **Senator Amanda L. Shelton**
Acting Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Re: **Fiscal Notes on Bill Nos. 214-36 (COR) and 215-36 (COR)**

Håfa adai,

Attached, please find the fiscal notes for the following bills:

Bill No. 214-36 (COR)

Bill No. 215-36 (COR)

Please forward the same to Management Information Services (MIS) for posting on our website.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mary Maravilla, Committee on Rules Director at 472-2461.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.



**Bureau of Budget & Management Research
Fiscal Note of Bill No. 214-36 (COR)**

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$25,000,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP), AS ESTABLISHED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-25; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP) ACT OF 2021".

Department/Agency Appropriation Information	
Dept./Agency Affected: Department of Administration	Dept./Agency Head: Edward Birn, Director
Department's General Fund (GF) appropriation(s) to date:	\$7,967,080
Department's Other Fund (Specify) appropriation(s) to date: Indirect Cost Fund & Limited Gaming Fund	\$801,302
Total Department/Agency Appropriation(s) to date:	\$8,768,382

Fund Source Information of Proposed Appropriation			
	General Fund:	(Specify Special Fund):	Total:
FY 2021 Unreserved Fund Balance		\$0	\$0
FY 2022 Adopted Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 2022 Appro. (P.L. 36-54 thru _____)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sub-total:	\$0	\$0	\$0
Less appropriation in Bill	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total:	\$0	\$0	\$0

Estimated Fiscal Impact of Bill						
	One Full Fiscal Year	For Remainder of FY 2022 (if applicable)	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
General Fund	1/	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Special Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	1/	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

1. Does the bill contain "revenue generating" provisions? / / Yes / X / No
If Yes, see attachment
2. Is amount appropriated adequate to fund the intent of the appropriation? / X / N/A / / Yes / / No
If no, what is the additional amount required? \$ _____ / X / N/A
3. Does the Bill establish a new program/agency? / / Yes / X / No
If yes, will the program duplicate existing programs/agencies? / / N/A / / Yes / X / No
Is there a federal mandate to establish the program/agency? / / Yes / X / No
4. Will the enactment of this Bill require new physical facilities? / / Yes / X / No
5. Was Fiscal Note coordinated with the affected dept/agency? If no, indicate reason: / X / Yes / / No
/ X / Requested agency comments not received by due date / / Other:

Analyst: <u>Jason Baza</u>	Date: <u>10/26/21</u>	Director: <u>Lester L. Carlson, Jr.</u>	Date: <u>11/29/21</u>
Jason Baza, BMA Supervisor		Lester L. Carlson, Jr., Director	

Notes:
1/ The proposed legislation intends to appropriate \$25M from the General Fund to fund the Local Employers' Assistance Program (LEAP) program. The LEAP program was established per E.O. 2021-25, in which \$25M is to be allocated from the American Rescue Plan (ARP). The proposed legislation would increase the total funding to the LEAP program to \$50M.

Per the September 2021 Consolidated Revenue & Expenditure Report (CRER), the General Fund collected approximately \$62M above the adopted level contained in P.L. 35-99 (FY21 Budget Act). However, it should be noted that Special Revenue Funds, as a whole, collected approximately \$20.7M below the adopted level contained in P.L. 35-99. Should departments funded by special funds have spent to the levels appropriated to them in FY21, then the General Fund would be required to cover the revenue/cash shortfall from those funds. Further, P.L. 36-54 (FY22 Budget Act) appropriates \$20M from FY21 General Fund revenues for the payment of tax refunds. Lastly, the cumulative deficit from the General Fund amounted to approximately \$1.5M per the FY20 Audited financial statement. The result is an approximate balance of \$19.8M in unobligated General Fund revenues at the end of FY21.

OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET
STEPHEN J. GUERRERO, DIRECTOR
Tel: (671) 646-4416 / Fax: (671) 969-6737
Email: ofbguamlegislature@gmail.com
Address: Ran Care Bldg. Suite 2, 2nd Floor,
721 Marine Corps. Dr., Tamuning Guam 96913



COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,
APPROPRIATIONS AND HOUSING
I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guahan
SENATOR JOE S. SAN AGUSTIN
Tel: (671) 989-5445 / Fax: (671) 969-6737
Email: senatorjoessanagustin@gmpil.com

October 22, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Joe S. San Agustin
Chairman, Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations and Housing

From: Stephen J. Guerrero
Director, Office of Finance and Budget

Re: Funding Availability Note: Bill No. 214-36 (COR)

Hafa Adai Senator San Agustin!

Pursuant to the Standing Rules of the 36th Guam Legislature, the Committee on Appropriations and/or the Office of Finance and Budget (OFB) shall determine in writing if the funding source cited in Appropriation or Authorization for Appropriations bills are sufficient.

The Office has received Bill No. 214-36 (COR), AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$25,000,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP), AS ESTABLISHED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-25; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP) ACT OF 2021."

The proposed Bill No. 214-36 (COR) appropriates \$25 million (M) from the general fund to the Department of Administration for the Local Employers' Assistance Program (LEAP), as established by Executive Order 2021-25. The Executive Order outlines that of the funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), \$25M will be allocated for LEAP as well. Essentially, the \$25M in this proposed legislation will match ARPA funding for a total of \$50M for the establishment of this program. A business loan program of this magnitude will aid in the retention and expansion of private-sector employment during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing direct financial assistance to local small businesses.

According to the Bureau of Budget and Management Research (BBMR) Consolidated Revenue/Expenditure Report (CRER) as of September 2021, there is an excess of about \$62M in revenue collected vs. appropriated for FY 2021. This will be likely the intended funding source of the \$25M identified as an appropriation from the general fund in this Bill. However, please note that the \$62M excess revenue cannot be certified and possibly be adjusted pending the FY 2021 Government of Guam Financial Audit. This report is anticipated to be completed and released in May or June 2022.

Respectfully,

Stephen J. Guerrero



Office of
SENATOR Joe S. San Agustin

I Mina' trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan Thirty-Sixth Guam Legislature

COMMITTEE VOTE SHEET

BILL NO. 214-36 (COR) - As Introduced by Amanda L. Shelton, Joe S. San Agustin, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Telena Cruz Nelson, Mary Camacho Torres, Jose “Pedo” Terlaje, James C. Moylan, Clynton E. Ridgell, Sabina Flores Perez, and V. Anthony Ada. **“AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$25,000,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE LOCAL EMPLOYERS’ ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP), AS ESTABLISHED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-25; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE “LOCAL EMPLOYERS’ ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP) ACT OF 2021.”**

Committee Members	Signature	TO DO PASS	TO NOT PASS	TO REPORT OUT ONLY	TO ABSTAIN	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE
Senator Joe S. San Agustin <i>Chairman</i>	 11.16.21	✓				
Senator Amanda L. Shelton <i>Vice Chairperson (Gen Govt Operations, Appr & Housing)</i>	E-vote 11.16.21	✓				
Senator Clynton E. Ridgell <i>Vice Chairman (Appropriations) Member</i>	E-vote 11.16.21	✓				
Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <i>Member</i>						
Vice-Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <i>Member</i>	E-vote 11.16.21	✓				
Senator V. Anthony Ada <i>Member</i>	E-vote 11.16.21	✓				
Senator Frank F. Blas Jr. <i>Member</i>	E-vote 11.16.21			✓		
Senator Jose “Pedo” Terlaje <i>Member</i>	E-vote 11.16.21	✓				
Senator Mary Camacho Torres <i>Member</i>						

Committee Chairman: General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing

Ran - Care Commercial Building, CBU #230, 761 South Marine Corps Dr., Tamuning, Guam 96913

*Tel: (671) 989-5445 * Fax: (671) 969-6737 * email: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com*



Michaella Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com>

Request for E-vote: Bill No. 214-36 (COR) As Amended by the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing

13 messages

Michaella Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com>

Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 2:21 PM

To: Office of Senator Shelton Guam Legislature <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, Clynt Ridgell <clyntridgell@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Pedro Terlaje <senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>, Senator Tony Ada <senatorvanthonyada@gmail.com>, "Office of Senator Frank Blas, Jr." <office@senatorfrankblas.com>, "Senator Mary C. Torres" <senatormary@guamlegislature.org>
Cc: "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Rose Mesa <rose.senatorsa@gmail.com>, Catherine Leon Guerrero <cathy.senatorsa@gmail.com>

Hafa Adai Committee Members,

Please see Committee Report on Bill No. 214-36 (COR) As Introduced Amanda L. Shelton, Joe S. San Agustin, Tina Rose Muna Barnes, Telena C. Nelson, Mary Camacho Torres, Jose "Pedro" Terlaje, James C. Moylan, Clynton E. Ridgell, Sabina Flores Perez, and V. Anthony Ada. **"AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$25,000,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP), AS ESTABLISHED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-25; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP) ACT OF 2021."**

Please indicate your preferred action from the following;

- TO DO PASS
- TO DO NOT PASS
- TO REPORT OUT ONLY
- TO ABSTAIN;
- TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE

Please submit your response **ASAP**, which will be placed on the Committee Vote Sheet and filed with the Committee on Rules.

Thank you!

Best,

Michaella Celorio

Research Policy Analyst

Office of Senator Joe S. San Agustin

I Mina'Trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guahan

36th Guam Legislature

Chairman, Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations & Housing

Office of Finance and Budget

Email: msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com

Tel: (671) 989-5445



Committee Report on Bill No_ 214-36 (COR) As Introduced.pdf
3098K

Senator Tony Ada <senatorvanthonyada@gmail.com>

Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 2:26 PM

To: Michaella Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com>

Cc: Office of Senator Shelton Guam Legislature <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, Clynt Ridgell <clyntridgell@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Pedro Terlaje <senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>, "Office of Senator Frank Blas, Jr." <office@senatorfrankblas.com>, "Senator Mary C. Torres"

<senatormary@guamlegislature.org>, "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Rose Mesa <rose.senatorsa@gmail.com>, Catherine Leon Guerrero <cathy.senatorsa@gmail.com>

To do pass

Tony

On Nov 16, 2021, at 2:21 PM, Michaella Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

<Committee Report on Bill No_ 214-36 (COR) As Introduced.pdf>

Office of Senator Frank Blas, Jr. <office@senatorfrankblas.com>

Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 2:27 PM

To: Michaella Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com>

Cc: Office of Senator Shelton Guam Legislature <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, Clynt Ridgell <clyntridgell@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Pedro Terlaje <senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>, Senator Tony Ada <senatorvanthonyada@gmail.com>, "Senator Mary C. Torres" <senatormary@guamlegislature.org>, "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Rose Mesa <rose.senatorsa@gmail.com>, Catherine Leon Guerrero <cathy.senatorsa@gmail.com>

To Report Out Only

[Quoted text hidden]

Very respectfully,

Office of Senator Frank F. Blas, Jr.

Minority Whip

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan

36th Guam Legislature

Suite 502, DNA Building Hagatna GU 96932

(671)969-6456

office@senatorfrankblas.com



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Michaella Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com>
To: Senator Tony Ada <senatorvanthonyada@gmail.com>

Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 2:28 PM

Hafa Adai,

Noted with thanks!

Best,

Michaella Celorio

Research Policy Analyst

Office of Senator Joe S. San Agustin

I Mina'Trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guahan

36th Guam Legislature

Chairman, Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations & Housing

Office of Finance and Budget

Email: msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com

Tel: (671) 989-5445

[Quoted text hidden]

Michaella Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com>
To: "Office of Senator Frank Blas, Jr." <office@senatorfrankblas.com>

Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 2:29 PM

Hafa Adai,

Noted with thanks!

Best,

Michaella Celorio

Research Policy Analyst

Office of Senator Joe S. San Agustin

I Mina'Trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guahan

36th Guam Legislature

Chairman, Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations & Housing

Office of Finance and Budget

Email: msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com

Tel: (671) 989-5445

[Quoted text hidden]

Office of Senator Amanda L. Shelton <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>

Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 2:31 PM

To: Michaella Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com>

Cc: Clynt Ridgell <clyntridgell@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Pedro Terlaje <senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>, Senator Tony Ada <senatorvanthonyaada@gmail.com>, "Office of Senator Frank Blas, Jr." <office@senatorfrankblas.com>, "Senator Mary C. Torres" <senatormary@guamlegislature.org>, "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Rose Mesa <rose.senatorsa@gmail.com>, Catherine Leon Guerrero <cathy.senatorsa@gmail.com>

To do pass.



Office of the People • Senator Amanda L. Shelton
Legislative Secretary & Chairwoman, Committee on Air Transportation, Parks, Tourism, Higher Education, and the Advancement of Women, Youth, and Senior Citizens

36th Guam Legislature

163 Chalan Santo Papa, *Hagåtña*, Guam 96910

T +1 (671) 969-2574 • (671) 989-2572

E officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org

On Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 2:21 PM Michaella Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com> wrote:

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Michaela Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com>

Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 2:33 PM

To: "Office of Senator Amanda L. Shelton" <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>

Cc: Clynt Ridgell <clyntridgell@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Pedro Terlaje <senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>, Senator Tony Ada <senatorvanthonyada@gmail.com>, "Office of Senator Frank Blas, Jr." <office@senatorfrankblas.com>, "Senator Mary C. Torres" <senatormary@guamlegislature.org>, "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Rose Mesa <rose.senatorsa@gmail.com>, Catherine Leon Guerrero <cathy.senatorsa@gmail.com>

Noted with thanks.

Michaela Celorio

Research Policy Analyst

Office of Senator Joe S. San Agustin

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Chairman, Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations & Housing

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Email: msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com

Tel: (671) 989-5445

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Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>

Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 2:46 PM

To: Michaela Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com>

Cc: Catherine Leon Guerrero <cathy.senatorsa@gmail.com>, Clynt Ridgell <clyntridgell@guamlegislature.org>, "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, "Office of Senator Amanda L. Shelton" <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, "Office of Senator Frank Blas, Jr." <office@senatorfrankblas.com>, Rose Mesa <rose.senatorsa@gmail.com>, "Senator Mary C. Torres" <senatormary@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Pedro Terlaje <senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>, Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, Senator Tony Ada <senatorvanthonyada@gmail.com>

To do pass.

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Michaela Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com>

Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 2:46 PM

To: Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>

Cc: Catherine Leon Guerrero <cathy.senatorsa@gmail.com>, Clynt Ridgell <clyntridgell@guamlegislature.org>, "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, "Office of Senator Amanda L. Shelton" <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, "Office of Senator Frank Blas, Jr." <office@senatorfrankblas.com>, Rose Mesa <rose.senatorsa@gmail.com>, "Senator Mary C. Torres" <senatormary@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Pedro Terlaje <senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>, Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, Senator Tony Ada <senatorvanthonyada@gmail.com>

Noted with thanks.

Michaela Celorio

Research Policy Analyst

Office of Senator Joe S. San Agustin

I Mina'Trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guahan

36th Guam Legislature

Chairman, Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations & Housing

Office of Finance and Budget

Email: msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com

Tel: (671) 989-5445

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Senator Pedo Terlaje <senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>

Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 2:46 PM

To: Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>

Cc: Catherine Leon Guerrero <cathy.sensorsa@gmail.com>, Clynt Ridgell <clyntridgell@guamlegislature.org>, "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Michaella Celorio <msacelorio.sensorsa@gmail.com>, "Office of Senator Amanda L. Shelton" <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, "Office of Senator Frank Blas, Jr." <office@senatorfrankblas.com>, Rose Mesa <rose.sensorsa@gmail.com>, "Senator Mary C. Torres" <senatormary@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, Senator Tony Ada <senatorvanthonyada@gmail.com>

To do pass.

On Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 2:46 PM Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org> wrote:

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The Office of Senator Jose "Pedo" Terlaje

Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Response,
Military and Veterans Affairs, Mayors' Council, and Public Transit

36th Guam Legislature

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan

777 Route 4, MVP Center - Units 101/ 102, Sinajana, GU 96910

Tel: (671) 989-5301/ 3218

Email: senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com

Michaella Celorio <msacelorio.sensorsa@gmail.com>

Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 2:47 PM

To: Senator Pedo Terlaje <senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>

Cc: Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>, Catherine Leon Guerrero <cathy.sensorsa@gmail.com>, Clynt Ridgell <clyntridgell@guamlegislature.org>, "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, "Office of Senator Amanda L. Shelton" <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, "Office of Senator Frank Blas, Jr." <office@senatorfrankblas.com>, Rose Mesa <rose.sensorsa@gmail.com>, "Senator Mary C. Torres" <senatormary@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, Senator Tony Ada <senatorvanthonyada@gmail.com>

Noted with thanks.

Michaella Celorio

Research Policy Analyst

Office of Senator Joe S. San Agustin

I Mina'Trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guahan

36th Guam Legislature

Chairman, Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations & Housing

Office of Finance and Budget

Email: msacelorio.sensorsa@gmail.com

Tel: (671) 989-5445

[Quoted text hidden]

Clynt Ridgell <clyntridgell@guamlegislature.org>

Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 2:48 PM

To: Michaella Celorio <msacelorio.sensorsa@gmail.com>

Cc: Office of Senator Shelton Guam Legislature <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Pedo Terlaje <senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>, Senator Tony Ada <senatorvanthonyada@gmail.com>, "Office of Senator Frank Blas, Jr." <office@senatorfrankblas.com>, "Senator Mary C. Torres" <senatormary@guamlegislature.org>,

"Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Rose Mesa <rose.senatorsa@gmail.com>, Catherine Leon Guerrero <cathy.senatorsa@gmail.com>

To do pass

On Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 2:21 PM Michaella Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Michaella Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com>

Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 2:49 PM

To: Clynt Ridgell <clyntridgell@guamlegislature.org>

Cc: Office of Senator Shelton Guam Legislature <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Pedro Terlaje <senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>, Senator Tony Ada <senatorvanthoniyada@gmail.com>, "Office of Senator Frank Blas, Jr." <office@senatorfrankblas.com>, "Senator Mary C. Torres" <senatormary@guamlegislature.org>, "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Rose Mesa <rose.senatorsa@gmail.com>, Catherine Leon Guerrero <cathy.senatorsa@gmail.com>

Noted with thanks.

Michaella Celorio

Research Policy Analyst

Office of Senator Joe S. San Agustin

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36th Guam Legislature

Chairman, Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations & Housing

Office of Finance and Budget

Email: msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com

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Feedback on Legislation for Introduction to Government

1 message

MS. SIERRA LAUREN SANTIAGO <santiagos8921@gotritons.uog.edu> 16 November 2021 at 13:57

To: "speaker@guamlegislature.org" <speaker@guamlegislature.org>, "senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org" <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>, "officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org" <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, "senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org" <senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org>, "office@senatorperez.org" <office@senatorperez.org>, "senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, "clyntridgell@guamlegislature.org" <clyntridgell@guamlegislature.org>, "senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com" <senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>, "senatorchrisduenas@gmail.com" <senatorchrisduenas@gmail.com>, "office@senatorfrankblas.com" <office@senatorfrankblas.com>, "senatormary@guamlegislature.org" <senatormary@guamlegislature.org>, "senatorvanthonyada@gmail.com" <senatorvanthonyada@gmail.com>, "senatortelot@gmail.com" <senatortelot@gmail.com>, "office@senatorjoannebrown.com" <office@senatorjoannebrown.com>, "officeofsenatormoylan@guamlegislature.org" <officeofsenatormoylan@guamlegislature.org>
Cc: "Ms. MAJDI ANNE MUELLE ASUNCION" <asuncionm11941@gotritons.uog.edu>, DANIELA P FERRER <ferrerd13227@gotritons.uog.edu>

Håfa Adai Senators,

We are students at the University of Guam enrolled in PS 202 Government in the United States. One of our assignments is to identify a problem on Guam that can be resolved through legislation. In our bill, we chose to address the stray dog population by requiring an educational program for potential dog owners, banning commercial dog breeding, building additional dog shelters, and requiring female dogs to take a reversible form of reproductive control. We kindly ask that you review our initial draft and provide feedback that will aid our efforts to compose a comprehensive bill.

Thank you,

Majdi Asuncion

Daniela Ferrer

Sierra Santiago

 **PS202_ Writing a Bill .docx**
20K