

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
227-36 (COR)	Amanda L. Shelton Telena Cruz Nelson Joe S. San Agustin Jose "Pedro" Terlaje James C. Moylan V. Anthony Ada Tina Rose Muña Barnes	AN ACT TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE 2 TO CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS ACT IN HELPING VETERANS ACCESS HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HEALTHCARE, THROUGH VARIOUS LOCAL AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS; TO APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT AND OR THE 2021 GENERAL FUND UNAPPROPRIATED REVENUES TO THE GUAM VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED (SERVE) ACT. "	11/30/21 6:13 p.m.	12/1/21	Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing	12/13/21 6:00 p.m.	2/10/22 4:49 p.m.	Request: 12/2/21 12/15/21	



SENATOR JOE S. SAN AGUSTIN

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

February 4, 2022

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. 227-36 (COR) As Amended

Dear Speaker Terlaje:

Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report on **BILL NO. 227-36 (COR) As Amended by the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing**. As Introduced by Amanda L. Shelton, Telen Cruz Nelson, Joe S. San Agustin, Jose "Pedo" Terlaje, James C. Moylan, V. Anthony Ada, and Tina Rose Muña Barnes. "AN ACT TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE 2 TO CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS ACT IN HELPING VETERANS ACCESS HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HEALTHCARE, THROUGH VARIOUS LOCAL AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS; TO APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT AND OR THE 2021 GENERAL FUND UNAPPROPRIATED REVENUES TO THE GUAM VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED (SERVE) ACT."


Committee votes are as follows:

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

COMMITTEE ON RULES
RECEIVED:

February 4, 2022
3:13 P.M.

Respectfully,


Senator Joe S. San Agustin
Chairman



SENATOR JOE S. SAN AGUSTIN

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

COMMITTEE REPORT

BILL NO. 227-36 (COR)

As Amended by the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing.

As Introduced by Amanda L. Shelton, Telena Cruz Nelson, Joe S. San Agustin, Jose “Pedo” Terlaje, James C. Moylan, V. Anthony Ada, and Tina Rose Muña Barnes.

“AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW ARTICLE 2 TO CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS ACT IN HELPING VETERANS ACCESS HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HEALTHCARE, THROUGH VARIOUS LOCAL AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS; TO APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT AND OR THE 2021 GENERAL FUND UNAPPROPRIATED REVENUES TO THE GUAM VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE “*SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED (SERVE) ACT.*”



SENATOR JOE S. SAN AGUSTIN

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

February 04, 2022

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. 227-36 (COR) As Amended

Håfa Adai Committee Members,

Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report on **BILL NO. 227-36 (COR) As Amended by the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing**. As Introduced by Amanda L. Shelton, Telen Cruz Nelson, Joe S. San Agustin, Jose "Pedo" Terlaje, James C. Moylan, V. Anthony Ada, and Tina Rose Muña Barnes. "AN ACT TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE 2 TO CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAMCODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS ACT IN HELPING VETERANS ACCESS HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HEALTHCARE, THROUGH VARIOUS LOCAL AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS; TO APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT AND OR THE 2021 GENERAL FUND UNAPPROPRIATED REVENUES TO THE GUAM VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED (SERVE) ACT."

This report includes the following:

- Copy of COR Referral of Bill No. 227-36 (COR)
- Notices of Public Hearing and Other Correspondence
- Copy of Public Hearing Agenda
- Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet

- Committee Report Digest
- Copy of Bill No. 227-36 (COR) As Introduced
- Copy of Bill No. 227-36 (COR) As Amended
- 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

December 1, 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. 227-36 (COR)**

Håfa Adai,

As per my authority as Acting Chairperson of the Committee on Rules and subject to §6.01(d)(1), Rule VI of our Standing Rules, I am forwarding the referral of Bill No. 227-36 (COR) – Amanda L. Shelton, Telena Cruz Nelson, Joe S. San Agustin, Jose "Pedro" Terlaje, James C. Moylan, V. Anthony Ada, Tina Rose Muña Barnes – "AN ACT TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE 1 TO DIVISION 3 OF CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS ACT IN HELPING VETERANS ACCESS HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HEALTHCARE, THROUGH VARIOUS LOCAL AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS; TO APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT TO THE GUAM VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED (SERVE) ACT."."

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





Michaella Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com>

First Notice of Virtual Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 21, 2021

3 messages

Rose Mesa <rose.senatorsa@gmail.com>

Mon, Dec 13, 2021 at 5:28 PM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org

Cc: Management Information System <mis@guamlegislature.org>, Tom Unsiog <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>, Joe San Agustin <protocol@guamlegislature.org>, "Dr. Tom Krise" <tkrise@triton.uog.edu>, Kevin Kerrigan <kevin@postguam.com>, Robert Klitzkie <kklitzkie@hotmail.com>

December 13, 2021**To: All Honorable Senators, Stakeholders and Media****From: Senator Joe S. San Agustin, Chairman****Subject: First Notice of Virtual Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 21, 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 **Tuesday, December 21, 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.

Confirmation Hearing of **Dr. John J. Rivera** to serve as a **Member of the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority, Board of Commissioners for Five (5) Years from May 3, 2021 to May 2, 2026.**

Bill No. 227-36 (COR) Amanda L. Shelton Telen Cruz Nelson Joe S. San Agustin Jose "Pedo" Terlaje James C. Moylan V. Anthony Ada Tina Rose Muña Barnes

AN ACT TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE 1 TO DIVISION 3 OF CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS ACT IN HELPING VETERANS ACCESS HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HEALTHCARE, THROUGH VARIOUS LOCAL AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS; TO APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT TO THE GUAM VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED (SERVE) ACT."

1:30 p.m.

Bill No. 170-36 (LS) As amended by the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing Frank Blas Jr. Joe S. San Agustin V. Anthony Ada

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$250,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT AND OR THE 2021 GENERAL FUND UNAPPROPRIATED REVENUES TO THE GUAM UNIQUE MERCHANDISE AND ART (GUMA) FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO INCUBATED BUSINESSES GRADUATES OF THE GUMA PROGRAM

-
Bill No. 172-36 (LS) As Amended by the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, And Housing. Joe S. San Agustin Clynton E. Ridgell Tina Rose Muña Barnes Frank Blas Jr. Amanda L. Shelton Jose "Pedo" Terlaje

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THREE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,500,000) FROM 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT AND OR THE 2021 GENERAL FUND UNAPPROPRIATED REVENUES TO THE GUAM HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE REVITALIZATION AND RENOVATION OF THE HISTORIC FRANCISCO Q. SANCHEZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE HUMATAK MAYOR'S OFFICE.

-
Bill No. 230-36 (LS) Committee on Rules by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan , the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic

Act of Guam. AN ACT TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE 13.3 TO CHAPTER 1, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ADOPTING THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR PAYMENTS FOR GUAM WORLD WAR II CLAIMS.

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 Dångkolo 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



Michaella Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com>

Second Notice of Virtual Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 21, 2021

1 message

Rose Mesa <rose.senatorsa@gmail.com>

Fri, Dec 17, 2021 at 8:33 AM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org, "Dr. Tom Krise" <tkrise@triton.uog.edu>, Kevin Kerrigan <kevin@postguam.com>, OYA - POST <managingeditor@postguam.com>, Robert Klitzkie <klitzkie@hotmail.com>, Sabina Matanane <sabrina@kuam.com>
Cc: Management Information System <mis@guamlegislature.org>, Tom Unsioq <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>, Joe San Agustin <protocol@guamlegislature.org>

December 17, 2021

To: All Honorable Senators, Stakeholders and Media

From: Senator Joe S. San Agustin, Chairman

Subject: Second Notice of Virtual Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 21, 2021

Buenas yan Håfa Adai!

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Bill No. 227-36 (COR) Amanda L. Shelton Telena Cruz Nelson Joe S. San Agustin Jose "Pedo" Terlaje James C. Moylan V. Anthony Ada Tina Rose Muña Barnes

AN ACT TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE 1 TO DIVISION 3 OF CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS ACT IN HELPING VETERANS ACCESS HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HEALTHCARE, THROUGH VARIOUS LOCAL AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS; TO APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT TO THE GUAM VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED (SERVE) ACT."

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Bill No. 172-36 (LS) As Amended by the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, And Housing. Joe S. San Agustin Clynton E. Ridgell Tina Rose Muña Barnes Frank Blas Jr. Amanda L. Shelton Jose "Pedo" Terlaje

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Bill No. 230-36 (LS) Committee on Rules by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan , the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic

Act of Guam. AN ACT TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE 13.3 TO CHAPTER 1, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ADOPTING THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR PAYMENTS FOR GUAM WORLD WAR II CLAIMS.

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We look forward to your participation!

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



Office of

SENATOR Joe S. San Agustin

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

VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, December 21, 2021

Guam Congress Building Public Hearing Room

AGENDA

9:00 a.m.

Confirmation Hearing of **Dr. John J. Rivera** to serve as a **Member of the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority, Board of Commissioners for Five (5) Years from May 3, 2021 to May 2, 2026.**

Bill No. 227-36 (COR) Amanda L. Shelton Telena Cruz Nelson Joe S. San Agustin Jose "Pedo" Terlaje James C. Moylan V. Anthony Ada Tina Rose Muña Barnes

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Joe S. San Agustin Clynton E. Ridgell Tina Rose Muña Barnes Frank Blas Jr. Amanda L. Shelton Jose "Pedo" Terlaje AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THREE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,500,000) FROM 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT AND OR THE 2021 GENERAL FUND UNAPPROPRIATED REVENUES TO THE GUAM HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE REVITALIZATION AND RENOVATION OF THE HISTORIC FRANCISCO Q. SANCHEZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE HUMÁTAK MAYOR'S OFFICE.

Bill No. 230-36 (LS) Committee on Rules by request of I Maga'hågan Guåhan , the Governor of Guam, in accordance with the Organic

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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
December 13, 2021 • 6:00 p.m. • Legislature's Virtual Zoom Platform

Bill No. 227-36 (COR) - Amanda L. Shelton / Telen Cruz Nelson / Joe S. San Agustin / Jose "Pedo" Terlaje / James C. Moylan / V. Anthony Ada / Tina Rose Muña Barnes

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NAME	AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION (IF ANY)	SUPPORT? OPPOSE?	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	ORAL TESTIMONY	CONTACT NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
Bill Cundiff				✓		
CMS Duane Perez	Student, University of Guam	support		✓		
Wien Winner	Student, University of Guam	support		✓		
Lucia Perez	GVAO	support		✓		



SENATOR JOE S. SAN AGUSTIN

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

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

1. OVERVIEW

Bill No. 227-36 (COR) was introduced on **November 30, 2021** by Senator Amanda L. Shelton, Senator Telena C. Nelson, Senator Joe S. San Agustin, Senator Jose "Pedo" Terlaje, Senator James C. Moylan, Senator V. Anthony Ada, and Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes. The bill was subsequently referred by the **Committee on Rules** to the **Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing** on **December 01, 2021**.

The Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing convened a Virtual Public Hearing on **Bill No. 227-36 (COR)** on **Tuesday, December 21, 2021**, beginning at **9:00 a.m. Via 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), **Monday, December 13, 2021** (5-Day Notice), (Second Notice) **Friday, December 17, 2021** (48-Hour Notice).

Senators Present:

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, Chairperson
Senator Amanda L. Shelton, member
Senator Therese M. Terlaje, member
Senator Telo T. Taitague
Senator Joanne Brown
Senator Telena C. Nelson

Appearing before the Committee:

Lucia Perez, Special Projects Coordinator, Guam Veterans Affairs Office
Bill Cundiff, Private Citizen
Wien Winner, Student, University of Guam
Duane Perez, Student, University of Guam

Written Testimony Submitted:

NONE

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY AND DISCUSSION

The Virtual Public Hearing was Called-to-Order at 9:00 am

Chairman Joe S. San Agustin: Thank you, Good Morning and *Hafa Adai*, the committee on general government operation appropriation housing is called the order today is Tuesday December 21st 2021 the time now is 9:31. welcome to everyone connected by zoom and those tuning in their television for the YouTube on Monday December 13th then again on Friday December 17th the agenda today I'd like to thank Senator Amanda for sharing the nomination earlier thank you very much Senator Amanda the agenda this morning colleagues and to the people Guam is Bill 227-36 COR introduced by Senator Amanda Shelton co-sponsored by Senator Majority Leader Senator Telena Nelson myself Joe San Agustin, Jose Pedro Terlaje, James Moylan, Tony Ada, Tina Rose Muna Barnes **An Act to amend Article 1 to division 3 of chapter 67 Title 10 Guam code annotated relative to establishing the Veterans Bill of Rights Act in helping veterans access housing employment and higher education and health care through various local and federal programs to appropriate (500 000) from the 2021 earned income tax credit reimbursement the Guam veteran's affairs office to implement the same and to cite this act as the "securing and ensuring that rights veterans earned (serve) act."**

My colleagues just to advised you that there will be amendments to reflect that the additional language to read that and or from the 2021 general fund unappropriated revenue so other than the EIC the earned income tax credit will also add the if there's any available unappropriated funds that they'll be able to use the general rules of cutter for this zoom meeting the zoom meeting is hosted by /my staff and will mute all zoom participants until called upon members of the committee and non-committee members will be allowed to pose a question to an individual testifying individual testifying shall first be recognized by me before speaking and begin by stating their name for record-keeping purposes when called to speak, please ensure that you are on me question and testimony shall be confirmed will be confined correction to the substance or nature of the agenda personal inference as to the character or the motive any Senator or any individual testifying is not permitted any violation of this general rule of conduct will stop and remove from the virtual public hearing please ensure that your video remains on throughout the hearing participants will be visible at all times cannot engage in any other activity during the hearing but if you're having a drink having coffee please feel free to do that if you're having a snack I won't have any reservations on that failure to maintain visibility may cause you a removal from the meeting live stream I'd like to acknowledge my colleague that have joined us today we have a Senator Amanda Shelton we have a new Master's Degree recipient there's Senator Telena Nelson we have Senator Joanne Brown and we have Senator Tony Ada.

let me see what we have here I guess that covers it then we have several folds that we testify the references of the bill and before we begin that I'd like to ask Senator Amanda Shelton please give her opening statement on the bill Senator Amanda.

Senator Amanda Shelton: *Si Yu'os Ma'ase* Mr. Chair thank you very much for hearing this bill today the serve act or bill number 227-36 (COR) is the product of the collaboration between the 2021 *fanunachan* and cohort of the University of Guam Master Public Administration Degree program and the 36th Guam legislature to inform public policy relative to veteran services and care the six co-sponsors of the bill includes all veterans of the Guam legislature and I want to thank Senator Talena Cruz Nelson yourself Senator San Agustin, Senator Jose Pedro Terlaje, Senator James C. Moylan, Senator Anthony Ada and Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muna Barnes for joining me as co-sponsors of this bill and for their service to our island and nation the MPA cohort is made up of veterans and many of them come from legacies of military service bringing the spill close to home our shared vision for the serve act is to provide our veterans with the expanded support in employment housing health care and education that they have rightfully earned the bill will revitalize the Guam veterans' affairs office by

providing the resources they need to improve and expand services for our veterans I am proud to partner with the founder 2021 MPA cohort in getting this done and I want to thank them for leading the charge in support of our veterans and I want to congratulate Mr. Chair they graduated just yesterday so they're still working on this big project even after their graduation so, what this does the serve act enables the Guam Veterans Affairs office to execute the veterans bill of rights and ensure that Guam veterans receive increased access to housing assistance by targeting of housing programs eligible to veterans and streamlining federal and local processes to expedite veteran applications employment support by gathering data and reports on workforce need projections highlighting in demand industries and leveraging veterans' skills and experience through partnerships and federal and local agencies higher education opportunities by allowing veterans to be awarded college credit for military training and experience offering early registration to veterans and accommodating veteran students called to active-duty service and healthcare by developing and operating veteran health navigator services to evaluate the eligibility of veterans for federal and local health service coverage and treatment based on their service and preventing veteran suicide by ensuring veterans have access to mental health services to include holistic treatment for post-traumatic stress disorders depression suicide and suicide ideation additionally, the bill will appropriate 500 000 from revenues received from earned income tax reimbursements to the GVAL for the operations and implementation of programs and services for fiscal year 2022 and after discussions with you Mr. Chair find it prudent that as you mentioned we proffer an amendment in committee to include the following language and or from the unappropriated 2021 General Fund Revenues this amendment ensures a funding source for this bill in the case that the monies from earned income tax reimbursements are not available or received I want to thank you again Mr. Chair for your time today and for your co-sponsorship of this bill I look forward to the discussions today from our community to help and strengthen this veterans bill of rights *Si Yu'os Ma'ase*.

Chairman Joe S. San Agustin: Thank you, Senator Shelton I just need a thumbs up from everybody can you guys all hear me quite clearly because I know you can okay, we told the landlord to tell everybody else in the building to stop their noise but anyway moving along we'll begin with Ms. Lucia Perez from the Guam Veterans Office ma'am here is.

Lucia Perez, Special Projects Coordinator, Guam Veterans Affairs Office: Good morning good morning good morning the director will be submitting Director Tim Aguon will be submitting his written testimony but verbally the office of veteran's affairs does support this bill and it's as it's written now with its updates as required or as mentioned we did submit we have worked with the Bureau of Budget Management Resources which has also provided the physical note on the bill and went through the bill ensuring that we covered all items from staffing all the way down to something as simple as making sure that individuals have the proper technology to be able to assist our veterans and also be accredited so, for example just so that we're all clear the individuals that will be holding these positions will have to be individuals that are accredited and are very aware of all the different programs within the office of veteran's affairs and even the federal side of the house so that when they sit down with our veterans they understand what it means when it comes to housing assistance or which agencies that we're going to be working with such as GHURA and Guam Housing Corporation and even the Department of Administration like we are now to ensure that veterans that are outside of you know earshot will have available means for rental assistance for example and then also with the employment services we are looking everyone knows that in order to succeed in anything whether it's grants or even coming before the legislature to justify its budget concerns we need data and so, there are positions in this bill or what we've written into and work with BBMR to ensure that there are individuals who will be tasked with so task is to go out there and gather the data there's also the program of the outreach we have put an internal program

right now it's just making sure that we get the proper staffing to go out and represent the office within the different organizations veteran organizations that are out there currently we do it through the veteran commission meetings where we have the different presidents or representatives from the organizations that attend these meetings monthly so they'll have an idea of what it is that is available out there we will also be working with areas such as Department of Labor so that we can ensure that when veterans go there seeking jobs or even having any questions that they're referred to the proper individuals what I've seen and what the director has seen within the past year that we have both come on board July second was that our frustration from our veterans are from the inability to get the information that they need and to go to the right individuals so it is our hope that with this bill will actually have a team will know and be able to call up agencies such as the University on Guam such as GCC such as Guam Housing and Urban so that we can get information for the veterans so they don't get the quote-unquote lack of a better phrase run around right because that's the frustration part for our people is not getting the correct information and then being told oh you need to go here only to be told oh no they told you to go the wrong place, go here so like the saying goes time is money and money is time we would hope that this is will cut that cut to the chase and make sure that all time that is utilized is used to its maximum capacity and efficiency I will remain on for questions should you have any questions about how the budget is set up.

Chairman Joe S. San Agustin: All right thank you Miss Perez we'll now move on to Mr. Bill Cundiff now go ahead and unmute Bill.

Bill Cundiff, Private Citizen: Can you hear me now? now Senator how are you anyway, Merry Christmas to all of you on the panel and all the Senators and I wish you all a healthy and prosperous New Year and I hope that we can navigate through all of this COVID and have a decent life later on anyway I normally support all almost all veterans bills I do not support this one at all this is the first time that I'm not supporting our bill this bill is too convoluted it's duplicative and it takes away what other organizations are doing this bill sounds like the sky is falling down that we are big as New York and unable to navigate the thousands of programs this bill mentions far from the truth they're very duplicative when I was Director of AHRD I ran all these programs and my employment rate was 85 for veterans these programs are quite duplicative in nature and we've taken away the responsibilities of all those agencies who are doing these programs it provides no oversight to AHRD I mean to GVAO no oversight no fairness you this bill do not provide any additional resources to GVAO we're doing a back thing here and once we do this back shot it's very difficult GVAO does not have the training and doesn't have the expertise to do this what you have done in the beginning here of this program is that you have identified the problem you have identified the problem and now you're taking the problem and you're giving it to GVAO to implement research the problem and do the work it's a waste of time and a lot of waste of resources when I was the tap manager for Anderson Air Force Base Transition Assistance Manager we had this program as far as briefing all the veterans before they leave the Air Force at least 20 years so, they all know what programs are available to them they all know it's not like we're in New York or that we don't know where AHRD is we don't know where Department of Labor is we don't know where GHURA is University of Guam or GCC it's not like that, Our Vets can navigate these agencies and they have the responsibilities if they're hungry if they want to get educated they're going to do it we just can't hold their hands because somebody default, I mean the sky is falling down no we can't do that so all right I have some recommendations then I'll go through the bill and I'll tell you what other things I feel was wrong number one set up a partnership with all these agencies to design a comprehensive briefing it's not hard GCC, UOG, AHRD Department of Labor GHURA there's only a few agencies that we have so set up a partner and the bathroom when they go there use the money for transportation transporting our veterans to their appointments this is such a broken thing for the longest, longest, longest time that we can't fix

so simple to fix but we cannot fix it I understand that we have a van down there at GVAO and it's not starting so, we need to move away from this thing here and so, here's what I found on your findings you're saying that veterans bill of rights in helping veterans access you mean veterans can I access this bill I mean these programs I don't I don't think so I think we're gonna make them aware not access once they're aware they can access but not that they cannot access and then on the part where it'd be enacted by the people of Guam line five it says however these services are not widely known throughout the Guam Community furthermore the landscape of veteran's services is ambiguous and exhaustive for stakeholders to navigate come on this is this is far from the truth we don't have too many places where they can go. And then on line seven *Liheslaturan* further finds that veterans rights and benefits must be acted on in a timely manner by the government agencies who are facilitating who facilitate and administer these programs what you're saying is they need to do their job. why are we transferring this program to GVAO this paragraph tells us that we want them to do their job? and line 23 on article 1 short title 6701 it says this act shall be cited as is securing and ensuring their rights veterans earned service served act what is this you already said that it is a business bill of rights now, you're saying securing and ensuring the rights of business service serve act what is what is that. and on line 4 on 6702 so the office may apply for and receive administer grants sub grants or enter into inter government governmental and inter-governmental agreements to provide services to veterans as defined pursuant to local federal laws and so on, you're telling these organizations to provide grants on things that they're doing that don't make any sense at all it doesn't make sense at all and so we have a lot of for example you're talking about housing on all of these programs West Care is given an early grant by the VA to provide all these programs homeless programs, food programs, housing programs, educational programs, job search programs, all these programs the West Care is given millions of dollars every year to do these programs so we are very duplicative in trying to do this one GovGuam agency that does all these things and I ran that agency it's a One-Stop Career Center the run stop career center the priority in the one-stop career center is for veterans and their families to get job training education and so on there is a there is a slot there is a person at DOL that works on these programs right now but perhaps they're not doing their job I don't know why so it's not that they can access the program no you're correct in the beginning of this of this bill you're correct that you we are not we don't know what these programs are people are working together to get these programs out to the troops and no, we should not take it for granted that the business cannot access this program so, this is I think I'm not sure what the intent of this program is I don't know what the bill of rights are and I don't know why we're saying that they can't access this program I think that we should go back to the drawing board and get everybody together find a way to market these programs and leave it where they are and do it a significant outreach and market for all these programs because they're there as a top manager at Anderson Air Force Base there's not a single person getting out of the Air Force or getting out of the military in Guam that we do not brief it's mandated by Congress and if we don't brief one person and it's not in their records, we get a hit so they all know we brief him on veteran's rights we brief veterans bills we brief them education everything about veterans so I do not support this bill I think we should go back to the drawing board and get everybody together and do a and get all the programs in place as far as marketing educating our troops and then perhaps to be much more successful thank you.

Chairman Joe S. San Agustin: Thank you Thank you kuñao Bill good points we'll now move to Mr. Duane Perez Sargent Major, Commandant Sargent Major Perez you on here he is, there you go.

Duane Perez, Student, University of Guam: *Hafa Adai* Senators my name is Duane Perez I'll be testifying on behalf of the bill so, bill 227 bill 227 sends a very strong message to our island veterans right thanking them for their service and that's and that's how we interpret this

bill right and it thanks them by providing assistance with housing employment support higher education and access to healthcare now I understand the gentleman before me with veterans or active-duty personnel exiting service but we do have reservists who are veterans who don't get that opportunity with an out brief and this bill helps facilitate our veterans who don't have that information that these services will be provided and additionally the other side of this bill it does encourage and inspire Guam sons and daughters to serve in armed forces and when they come home they got this bill waiting for them right, they have these bills of rights secure and ensuring the rights of veterans earned and I believe that this bill is a step in the right direction for our veterans that's all I have.

Chairman Joe S. San Agustin: Thank you, Dwayne we have now Mr. Winner, Mr. Winner Sir you're on.

Wien Winner, Student, University of Guam: Good morning, Senators and everyone logging out logged in my name is Win Winner and I'm a veteran and I use the Guam veteran's office as my veteran service organization when apply for VA benefits I support bill 227 because I think it gives the veteran's access to the benefits that it deserves I know some veterans that do not have benefits for some reason maybe they don't know how to apply and I think this bill will guarantee them access to it when I got out of the military on active duty in 2011 I was looking for a veteran service organization here in Guam and when I googled it the only variant service organization here in Guam that I saw online was the Guam veteran's service organization so, I went there and then they helped me apply for benefits so I think this bill will give health to the veteran's service or veteran Guam office to go out and look for information that they can provide to the veterans when they can when they come in and apply for benefits that's all I got thank you.

Chairman Joe S. San Agustin: Thank you, Mr. Winner I think that we only had Mr. Pablo but he hasn't come back on so that being said we're going to move to questions I also recognize that we're joined also by Speaker Terlaje and Senator Telo Taitague who now begin questions starting with Senator Amanda and then Senator Nelson then we'll just move down the line Senator Amanda?

Senator Amanda Shelton: Thank you, Mr. Chair I'll reserve any questions for my closing.

Chairman Joe S. San Agustin: Alright thank you. Senator Nelson ma'am?

Senator Telena C. Nelson: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Mr. Cundiff, do you know about the Housing and Urban Development Veteran Assistance Supplemental Housing Program? You're on mute sir.

Bill Cundiff, Private Citizen: Apologize, before Senator Respicio exit his office we got we sat together and we wrote up a bill that gives priority to the veterans at Guam Housing and also there is a, there is a worldwide program to help veterans find housing and part of their program right now has been implemented by WestCare that, that is the top priority for the for the U.S. Veterans Secretary as far as housing is concerned.

Senator Telena C. Nelson: Okay thank you. Mr. Chair just for the record we've reached out to GHURA and asked them how many it's, it's noticed as HUD-VASH. How many HUD-VASH recipients there are and they stated that they had about 50. However, there's only 24 HUD-VASH recipients because they're not getting anybody really applying for it. Now, now we worked with the Veteran Affairs Office and inquired through them also, and the cumbersome issue of this and why it's so rigorous is that this is like Section 8 for veterans so

they can avail to this. The process is also, that you go to the Veteran Affairs Office and they go through a screening process before they send you to GHURA and then GHURA also has another federal listing requirements to apply to this program. The challenge is, is this HUD-VASH sits on the desk in the GHURA Housing Development area for some time. It doesn't get acted upon and prioritizes the veterans and that's the challenge here this is the gap between that program. Mr. Cunliffe are you also aware of monthly stipends given to veterans for housing?

Bill Cundiff, Private Citizen: Monthly stipend given to veterans automatically for stipend?

Senator Telena C. Nelson: for housing yes.

Bill Cundiff, Private Citizen: Automatically?

Senator Telena C. Nelson: Yes.

Bill Cundiff, Private Citizen: No.

Senator Telena C. Nelson: Okay see, thank you Mr. Cundiff. *(inaudible)* So, there are stipends.*(inaudible)*

Bill Cundiff, Private Citizen: Now here here's what's going on. If you and we're not, we have not implemented this program here the.

Senator Telena C. Nelson: Right, you have not implemented the program.

Bill Cundiff, Private Citizen: The UCX program the unemployment program for veterans.

Senator Telena C. Nelson: Okay.

Bill Cundiff, Private Citizen: We have not implemented that program for in the in that unemployment program for veterans they can they can get almost everything as they apply for jobs.

Senator Telena Nelson: Okay.

Bill Cundiff, Private Citizen: but we have not implemented that program in Guam.

Senator Telena C. Nelson: Okay, thank you. Also, Mr. chair the, Mr. Cundiff are you aware of perhaps a soldier or an airman or any of the troops of any of the branches going to their basic training their AIT fulfilling their time in service for four years and coming back to Guam and receiving college credit for it?

Bill Cundiff, Private Citizen: Yes, I am.

Senator Telena C. Nelson: Okay for, at the university?

Bill Cundiff, Private Citizen: For an example the Guam Community College, excuse me; the Community College of the Air Force,

Senator Telena C. Nelson: Okay.

Bill Cundiff, Private Citizen: has an automatic thing and then what they can do when they come back and apply for University of Guam, they can take those credits and transfer to University of Guam I'm quite aware of that.

Senator Telena C. Nelson: Okay but that's just for the Air Force that's not all military branches.

Bill Cundiff, Private Citizen: No everybody can take their courses and get it go and get it transferred if they're applying for college and they have these courses and they're asked what they have done in the past the University of Guam or GCC can convert that to their credits.

Senator Telena C. Nelson: Okay Mr. Chair currently there is no program within the University of Guam that allows those that are returning to transfer their credits within the university themselves and there's just I appreciate the dialogue but there's just a lot of gaps that are within this within the system that our veterans are concerned about also for mental health and well-being so we always hear in the public hearings or just within the communities itself the challenge of the CBOC and we've lost soldiers to suicide because it was very difficult for them to get service I don't I don't know why but after combat we've lost soldiers to suicide and I some and one of them is a family member of mine and it was very challenging for him to navigate through the mental health system and so here we're I charging the Veteran Affairs officers Office to make sure, that they have these caregivers these support officers to understand the mental health system and to ensure and work closely with them on getting mental health treatment and that is one of the challenges that we face here today I support this bill I thank you for uh hearing this bill and I thank Senator Shelton for finding a funding source because it is very difficult to move forward with Shelton any of these programs without a funding source and I and I respect Mr. Cundiff's position but I feel that this will fill some of the gaps that within our veterans community that we are facing and if we don't start now uh if we don't create some type of foundation to let the veterans know that by statute we support them these are their these are their rights that they have earned then we will continue this effect of not being able to support our veterans and continue to listen to them on deaf ears so this bill is saying we hear you we want to do something in statute to support you and we want to move forward in any way we can to ensure that that happens thank you Mr. Chair.

Chairman Joe S. San Agustin: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Senator Brown do you have any questions for any of the individuals that have spoken ma'am?

Senator Joanne Brown: Thank you very much. Certainly, I do want to find out because it sounds like we're creating additional positions and I am supportive of the veterans as many of our people are and we have such a large population on Guam of veterans. I mean, I'm a family member of a combat veteran so I certainly appreciate the desire to provide more services but I also want to know are we actually directly creating more positions versus what's currently happening? and I did want to get more information, I mean we've heard a lot about WestCare and what they're providing. Are we duplicating that with regards to government service? You know, I know it's very desirable to say that we're doing all these things but are we really? and what exactly are we adding on? Are we creating more positions? So this is not a one-time appropriation? The other question that I have which I'll come back to, I don't care for the direction we're going with regards to funding source. I mean the money's either there or it's not there. I mean creating, we're appropriating but there's a backup. I'd want to have a very definite funding source that it's a legitimate funding source so we're not saying oh we're providing this but you know we're not quite sure about how and where the funding is coming from because if this is a continuing appropriation that's expected every year, I think we need to know that as well and be up front with regards to that. So, Mr. Cundiff I appreciate your testimony. I don't

want to be dismissive of what you're what you're saying certainly with your background and certainly with your position also being a veteran and a very active you know member in the community speaking out on veterans' issues. So, if you could elaborate further, what is it you think that, you know, WestCare for example can provide or is providing versus the Guam Veterans Office? What are your thoughts on that? Are we replicating it to, you know, trip over ourselves or what are your. *(inaudible)*

Bill Cundiff, Private Citizen: Well, what we're doing is you guys have identified the problem in the beginning of this bill okay and what we're doing is because we're not supposedly, they don't know what the programs are. So, we're taking that, "they don't know" and then give it to the VA office and let them know it. The programs are there. Why don't we take these programs get all these people together to find a way to outreach to ensure that our vets know what the programs are? When I was chairman of the commission, Guam Veterans Commission, I always have WestCare come in and brief us of the status of their programs. I have to sign a couple times of support to give them the grant. They have housing, they can find housing for our veterans, they can find education opportunity for our veterans, they can find employment for our veterans, they can find all these things at their job, they even have a food locker for our veterans who are hungry. So, they have this program. Other people have the program if you look deeply into the One-Stop Career Center this is their charter to make sure that our vets and their families understand what their program the programs are for them. The educational and so on even housing. So, I'm not sure why are we duplicating these things? I'm not against this program. I'm against the duplication of efforts. And I'm not sure if the VA can handle the *[unintelligible]* can handle the amount of people that will be going over there and asking questions and just referring them. That's all they're going to be doing is, they ask the question and refer them that's all basically what's going to happen. So, I'm not against it, it's just we've got to get our stuff together as far as getting the word out to our veterans. I'm you know, I'm a veteran's advocate. I'll do anything for our veterans but I'm not into duplicating of efforts and all of that stuff. So, I support them getting the housing but we're duplicating the programs of these offices. That one office at Department of Labor that handles veterans' affairs, veterans' services is not being used and I never heard of them. I did a lot of research on them but I've never seen anything out in the streets for them. So, this is where it's lacking and you guys have identified the program in the beginning of this the problem in the beginning of this bill that we're convoluted, we're duplicative and so on.

Senator Joanne Brown: So, do you think Mr. Cundiff just a question, that getting the information out there, do you think there's a problem with that? That veterans that are eligible are not really hearing about these programs? I mean people have different ways of dealing. You have those that are very engaged they're involved in veteran's organizations after they've retired or step down from service. You have others that simply want to go off on their own they're just reliving some of their experiences in the military especially those in combat you know it's not something a lot want to do. They just want to go about their lives and maybe don't have an interest in being engaged so.

Bill Cundiff, Private Citizen: You're right.

Senator Joanne Brown: Yeah.

(inaudible)

Bill Cundiff, Private Citizen: you know.

(inaudible)

Senator Joanne Brown: Out in our community so that veterans that might not directly want to always be involved but you know will have access. Is that what you're saying is lacking or do you think there's a lack of that?

Bill Cundiff, Private Citizen: Well number one, if you're hungry, you're going to go eat. If you want to get educated, you're going to get educated. If you like housing, you're going to find housing, you're going to go find housing, you're going to find ways to get it. So, the problem in my opinion, is that the word is not getting down to where the rubber meets the road. That we're not taking these programs and spreading it out and telling the community what's going on. We need to work together, come together, and speak from one voice only. Put these programs together under whatever title you want to call it and have a briefing. Put a web page on it, set up a whatever outreach and only so that our troops can understand what they are. It's not that we don't want, I mean you know, it's not that I don't support this, no it's not that. It's just that we, it's all over the place and we, we're, it's not together and we don't, they don't know what it is, perhaps.

Senator Joanne Brown: Do you think that hiring more personnel in the Guam Veterans Office is going to resolve that? Is, because that sounds, that's my next question, not to ask you but to the sponsors or to Guam Veterans Office. It sounds like.

Bill Cundiff, Private Citizen: I don't think so. I don't think it's going to resolve the problem. I mean you know, right now they don't know what they are. So, we're taking something that they don't know, give it to them and then let them know what they are and then market them or send them to the right direction. So, all we're doing is referring. That's all they're doing is referring to the people back to their responsible agency and so Senator Nelson said that it's too cumbersome to navigate the housing area. Well and they don't have priority and well pass the bill and make them a priority.

Senator Joanne Brown: Well, there are a lot of priorities. I mean there are families out there also that have children that are homeless. *(inaudible)* It's very hard to weigh. I mean.

Bill Cundiff, Private Citizen: That's right you're correct.

Senator Joanne Brown: *(inaudible)* needs regardless of whether you're a veteran or not and I know there are many veterans who would not want a homeless family with children to be left behind either so I mean it you know I think we end up over ourselves while trying to be the same thing and not really look at the issue clearly. So, but I did want to ask if I appreciate your I input Mr. Cundiff but I also wanted to ask the sponsors or Guam Veterans Affairs, what exactly are we talking about because it sounds very much like we're talking about adding additional personnel on at the Guam Veterans Office to execute these additional responsibilities?

Chairman Joe S. San Agustin: Well, we'll ask Ms. Perez and folks let me remind you if we mute you, don't unmute until we call you or your called upon. Ms. Perez if you can please, maybe you can respond to that, the question by Senator Brown.

Lucia Perez, Special Projects Coordinator, Guam Veterans Affairs Office: Thank you, Senator. I was waiting for you to give me permission to unmute. So, yes Senator Brown to your question it will require additional people additional personnel. As we have stated in our past and anyone present at our budget hearing, we are very short-staffed. So, we did submit to BBMR which was hopefully attached and given to the team here the number of positions that

we're looking at and it will require say two additional veteran service representatives and why it can't just be a regular clerk it's because to understand it and maybe there's a disconnect in our understanding of what this bill is. So, with all due respect Mr. Cundiff our office was understanding that it's not just a referral system it's actually going it's outreach it's when people walk in individuals walk in whether it be the veteran themselves or somebody who's concerned about a veteran or a family member and sitting down with the VSR's the Veteran Service Rep and identifying their problem. It's the VSR or this program coordinator whoever is handling this program within the Veterans Affairs Office to find out, did they submit? did they fill out all the applications? where is it at? To make sure that everything was done accordingly because before the Veterans Affairs Office goes out either making a referral calling contacting the agencies, we also want to make sure that we're bringing all the proper documentation and making sure that that individual applying is qualified and if they don't qualify then figure out what needs to happen so that they can get assistance. so, to your question of additional personnel yes ma'am we would need them and we did submit again to BBMR via the physical note everything that is needed that we could think of.

Senator Joanne Brown: And I want to ask one other question of you what coordination of any do you do with WestCare to I provide outreach to veterans because I also again I mean you know I have no problem supporting veterans certainly from where I come from I mean most of my life has been orientated that way even though I myself have not served but I do want to know what I services are being provided I'm not for continuing to grow the Government of Guam which I see continuously happening these days at a time when a year from now six months from now I don't know what our revenue source is going to be because I know supporting our own government right now where it's at on our existing economy we're going to be in big trouble so I love being Santa Claus it's Christmas I guess it's a wonderful time to do it but I also don't want to continue to grow government if I if I can't afford to pay for it and I don't want to give our people more government than they can they can afford so I just want to know if WestCare and I probably am going to make a little more effort to find out to what degree WestCare is involved and what the feedback is from the veterans community with regards to the services that they're providing but I would like to know to what degree the Guam veterans affairs office is engaged with them and also their work and their outreach and what their mission is to assist our veterans to provide the very services we're talking about here today.

Lucia Perez, Special Projects Coordinator, Guam Veterans Affairs Office: right so I know Director Aguon has been in communication with them with that said we will have him reply to that formally what I also know that happens on a frequent basis is we do hear the frustration especially at the veterans commission meeting of I'm not I'm trying not to throw anyone under the bus but of agencies or programs responsible as Mr. Cundiff has said not doing their job which is the frustration of the veterans so WestCare has the programs whether they're active or not we're going to have to go to them and have them come out and justify or answer these questions formally I'm not privy to their numbers or their data so I don't want to assume or presume what it is that they do I just know and I can say beyond a reasonable doubt and anybody that knows me will say that unless i hear it see it experience it even if you whisper in my ear I trust what you say but I will verify and what I'm hearing and verifying from the veteran community is that they're not getting the assistance and what's also happening so for example housing as we with the pandemic we've seen an increase of veterans coming from for example, the Philippines true veterans from the Philippines coming in because they have to exit and go back they want to go back Philippines isn't accepting them so now they come to Guam wholeness you know so we're trying to assist them with that process and it's the numbers are increasing and if it weren't for our various veteran service organizations like the VFW we will have more homeless veterans on island than we'd like to have.

Senator Joanne Brown: well, it doesn't sound like there's a lot of engagement collectively within your structure at the veteran's affairs office with WestCare and certainly something I think we'll look into a little further to get some answers because again, I don't want to duplicate if we don't have to efforts in government, I am concerned about continued growth of government the continued creation of positions adding positions granted we know there's special areas in the government where it's needed but again, I love to have a lot of things but I don't know who's paying the bill I don't want to make promises to people that's why I don't like the inconsistency in the funding source of this bill I'd rather have a direct source because if you're talking hiring people and keeping them on, we're not talking about oh a one-time appropriation and then next year we don't have to worry about it sounds like something that has to be incorporated into the actual budget bill for the government of Guam rather than a special separate piece of legislation so I think that's something that also needs to be looked further as well but thank you very much Miss Lucy for you for your input and certainly thank you to Mr. Cundiff and thank you Mr. Chair for the opportunity to ask this question to make these comments with regards to this bill thank you.

Chairman Joe S. San Agustin: Thank you, Senator Brown, thank you Ms. Perez. Madam Speaker do you have any questions to the folks that have been testifying on the bill.

Senator Therese Terlaje: Thank you Mr. Chair I agree with all of them that you know the bill especially in the intent you know codifies that the legislature wants to prioritize funding towards the you know veterans' affairs and from this particular bill it looks like navigation of existing programs particularly federally funded programs and I don't think anybody has any objection to that I think what we are you know what I want to make sure is that we are doing this in the most efficient way possible with the resources that we have so, I do share some of the concerns that have been raised for particularly so OFB has said that the funding source identified in this bill may not be viable that's one we have in writing I haven't seen an updated fiscal note other than that and the one from BBMR Says it talks about how the EITC was already appropriated in the budget bill and then it talks about the intended use of the 500 000 from EITC reimbursements and that is for salaries over overtime benefits travel contractual services supplies and materials equipment miscellaneous 43 000 capital outlay 50 000 and but when you when you really get into what is going to be achieved we're talking about it I don't know it sounds to me like pretty much navigational services like our local veteran's office is going to help veterans navigate those existing programs that they should be able and they are absolutely entitled to right now and I guess I want to ask Ms. Perez is you know you say that's what your office is doing right now right and I think one of the persons who testifies that's why they go to your office and so I just want to and you're supposed to be doing this I know for claims right that's one of the things we're also supposed to be outreaching your office supposed to be out reaching for the registry and we've tried all different kinds of ways to increase this potential that you have to outreach and to reach them to actually reach them and that's still a challenge it looks like even with all the work of the veteran's commissions all the work of these veteran's organizations it still seems to be a challenge to truly reach all the veterans on Guam and so I guess I can see your logic that if you get more employees, you're going to have more people to help with that outreach and more people to help with those referrals but what I'm worried about is I mean these are in the end you know referrals to huge programs for example housing employment higher learning opportunities and health care and so the veterans should be able to avail of these services and we're hearing today's that some of the issues are that is that it's where these services are available that's where the gaps are to me, I mean of course, we have outreach gaps but you've already been you know set up to take care of that and now it's these programs that perhaps needs to be improved right for example we don't have the University of Guam here to discuss anything about this higher learning opportunities and you

know how are they going to implement this are they able to implement this on their own do they really need us to pass a bill for them to do that or same thing with the housing if the program exists at GHURA as somebody said earlier then we should have GHURA in here and we should be oversighting GHURA and finding out why are we not able to do this on a timely basis why what is causing the delays for these veterans and the same thing with employment if we've prioritized in almost every agency of the government we've made preferences for the veterans and prioritize them so why aren't these agencies doing that or why aren't they fulfilling that mandate right and if the veteran's affairs often that's my concerns I go back again you know like a circle to the veteran's office veterans' affairs office "The Guam Veterans Affairs Office" if we're going to put this on their shoulders well why haven't they come to us and tell us these are the issues the service providers are not providing the service or the service providers don't are full right because we can refer 100 more people but if these service providers are full, we're not going to get one more veteran served and I really want to know where that issue lies because if it's I want, I want the service to be provided I want of course we want them to know about it but I feel like your office can absolutely do that outreach right now because we're supposed to be doing outreach already right outreach for registry purpose outreach for the current services that you're providing and so that's you know I'm very concerned about that I don't want to fund additional outreach if it's already the mandate to do outreach when we can fund the actual service you know I want to fund the service that they need if that's the problem like they're lacking service providers or you know we've maxed out our contract with somebody or you know or the feds are only providing up to this many clients and then you know we as a local government can fund the rest because this bill doesn't provide the service it puts a duty on the Guam veteran's office to do in addition to what they're doing now yeah you know make sure they receive college credit and I think there's nothing to prevent them from doing that right now and I and another concern that I heard somebody mentioned today is that so I'm gonna, you know I'm gonna weigh all these things but I really want to know I think we really need to get to the root of the issue where are the service providers and why? are they not providing this service or you know is there some other issue that is that is presenting to us and also, I've received so many calls to my office and the number one issue with the veterans that call my office has been the veteran cemetery and so, I know that they have made great strides in the work at the veteran's cemetery I've seen it myself but that still is a big issue to them as my understanding that this is an issue that's brought up at the commission meetings and I you know again I don't even see the veterans commission people here and so, I'm wondering about that gap you know so we're we have gaps and I agree with the suggestions that bring everybody together let's make sure where the where the real issue lies let's resolve that and I'm all for that and hopefully that we expand the services to everyone beyond what's being provided today and of course, the veteran's affairs office they absolutely should continue to do their outreach and make sure that all veterans are aware of the services available to them. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman Joe S. San Agustin: All right Madam Speaker I'm getting bad connection but I are you done?

Senator Therese Terlaje: Yes, were you not able to hear me?

Chairman Joe S. San Agustin: All right no, no I was hearing you about my internet connection was unstable so, but are you done Ma'me or are you or did you pose a question for the panel.

Senator Therese Terlaje: I'm done thank you.

Chairman Joe S. San Agustin: All right, thank you all right Senator Telo Taitague ma'am do you have any questions I'm just letting everybody know that here's my connection is unstable so I'm trying to keep up with everybody's Senator Telo please.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Thank you, Mr. Chair, yeah, I do see it freezing every once in a while, on your connection so well thank you for the opportunity, Mr. Chair to provide testimony I'd like to thank those who testified today I don't think there's any Senator that's here today or even the other Senators who do not support the veterans there have been many bills prior to this that have helped the veterans and we stand in support but however you know there are some concerns and I have such great respect for Mr. Cundiff for you know his insight I mean he's been doing this a very long time you could even ask him were the skeletons are you know he would be able to tell you that too I mean even going back and to what's happening today you know I was just quite surprised too about the stipend too that's being given regardless of even asking for it or any I'm gonna look into that and Mr. Cundiff I wonder if you can look into that too as well because that's new to me just all you have to do is be a veteran and you get a stipend so that's kind of I think we'll all open to that that's.

Bill Cundiff, Private Citizen: Yeah, I will that's new to me.

(inaudible)

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Yes, please and if you can't just WhatsApp your findings, I'm very curious on that. You know Mr. Perez thank you so much for testifying I do have a question for you your veteran correct Mr. Perez.

Duane Perez, Student, University of Guam: yes, that's correct ma'am.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay and on this bill, what is some of the things that offer this bill is offering to you that you can't avail right now.

Duane Perez, Student, University of Guam: Well Ma'am I'm still serving so a lot of the language and or the things being offered in the bill I still have access to them but I do know of some veterans who have problems getting some of these services and specifically the medical access to the medical Ma'am.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: to medical that's another thing I had on my notes because it mentioned suicide I mean you know I can tell you go to go on behavioral wellness it doesn't matter if you're a vet or a homeless individual you go there they will not turn you away if you have suicidal tendencies or need assistance or have a friend even if you're an individual who knows someone who might be on that verge going down a path that you can go to behavioral wellness and uh let them know of that individual so plus, with the Naval Hospital and what they're what they offer there's quite a bit of programs that can be established there so if you do Mr. Perez know of someone please don't hesitate to call behavioral wellness you know they I'm sure they'll help you if you know anyone in those circumstances but anything else Mr. Perez other than medical.

Duane Perez, Student, University of Guam: Oh no ma'am that that's the biggest item on the bill for me ma'am.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay thank you Mr. Perez and Merry Christmas to you and your family thank you for coming here Mr. Winner is there anything in the bill that you don't have the ability to have access to.

Wien Winner, Student, University of Guam: no ma'am um I'm currently I usually look up online what kind of benefits I can apply for and I use the Guam Veterans Office to apply for the benefits what I like about the bill is it gives help for the very the Guam Veterans Office to get all the information so when the veteran go apply for the benefits, they have information in there to help them so like the ability to looking for housing I'm not sure if like I see some veterans on the street like with signs like homeless veterans willing to work for food I don't know if they know about the benefits about looking for housing they can apply for and if they do if the Guam Veterans Office have information maybe they can help them looking for housing.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay well thank you so much Mr. Winner for that and if you see anybody or know of anyone you know Mr. Cundiff if you can't get through with the veteran's office on Guam, I'm sure Mr. Cundiff knows of nonprofit organizations that can help those veterans who are on who are on the street who are living in the homeless section so please I hope you guys can connect via WhatsApp you know in this chat group you know exchange numbers if not then I know the speaker has Mr. Cundiff s phone number so please if you see anyone on the street if you can please call Mr. Cundiff and you're right Mr. Winner on one thing the veteran's office has not been fully staffed you know to provide all the assistance that is needed that's something that we definitely need to look at in the budget bill when providing sustainable funding for these individuals and I thank you again, Mr. Winner for your testimony and Merry Christmas to you and your family as well you know one of the concerns of course is the funding source I just received the fiscal note last night and read through it and I know the speaker mentioned some of the comments on it but you know this funding says that there's a comment on here it says the final amount to be reimbursed for EITC has yet to be determined as well as the time frame in which the funds will be availed to the government of Guam should the internal revenue service and the US Treasury avail EITC reimbursements via trust account those funds would not be subject to legislative approval you know I don't like legislation you know definitely I don't want to have individuals you know have hope you know well actually scratch that everyone should have hope but when you're putting and putting it in writing or legislation that this funding is going to you know cover all these areas and the funding is not there then I have an issue with that, then I need to bring it to those people who are there here to testify or not in support or whether they are in support of the bill to let them know the reality of this funding source we need to be real one of the things that Senator Brown mentioned earlier too was the fact that we have to sustain these positions we create these jobs you know we then have to sustain it and just to let you know this EITC is funding the hospital as well as DOC and tax refunds to the people this is their money that's what EITC has been funded for in the budget bill so I do have a concern but Lucia I appreciate your comments and I know the struggles you have at the veterans office because I hear it every year about not enough employees there but let's you know if we are going to fund some employees let's do it where we can sustain them and I think my next question to you was during the budget bill how many employees did you request for in your budget bill .

Lucia Perez, Special Projects Coordinator, Guam Veterans Affairs Office: Senator Joe I can speak?

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Yes okay.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, Chairperson: Yes Please, Please Ms. Perez.

Lucia Perez, Special Projects Coordinator, Guam Veterans Affairs Office: So, during the budget bill I was one person who is very vocal about the number of positions that we need and so, they gave us I think two more positions.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Okay.

Lucia Perez, Special Projects Coordinator, Guam Veterans Affairs Office: Just for the VSR's for 20 000 veterans that is not enough and I can say that many people think or maybe because they don't fully understand the process when a veteran comes in and needs to apply for something that it's not just a 30-minute appointment Mr. Cundiff knows this right it's sometimes if you're a new individual it's a minimum of two hours okay so our team has that word then you brought up the cemetery, cemetery does not fall on deaf ears we requested for additional money thank you very much it was I believe a hundred and twenty-five thousand more or two hundred thousand Mr. Senator Joe San Agustin more than what was originally stated and for that we are truly appreciative whether that's gonna cover what needs to be done at the cemetery and with the staff remains to be seen but please know that whatever funding that is given to us and that we currently have we are utilizing and going to utilize down to every single penny for what it's supposed to be like at the cemetery fixing the chapel that is that one of our forefront items right now so in terms of other staff yes, we only have four accredited VSR and even that our VSR's have voiced the concern and I spoke with and the director spoke with Speaker Terlaje one of the objectives that we're going to be going through this year is getting those individuals assessed and although I for one I came from private Sector I understand you know personnel equity and making sure that we use utilize everybody but this is one agency that I've seen that for the important job that is it does it barely with the personnel needs it means so if we're asking for additional, we've asked and I'm going to continue to ask we're starting FY 23 budget call it's going to be in there it's going to be justified beyond any doubt but it is what it is

Senator Telo T. Taitague: Well thank you thank you Ms. Perez for that but you know you said you had two more that the legislature was able to fund for two additional okay that was that what you requested for in your budget bill to ask for two more bodies or did you get before what we requested and what we got were two different but we got two that we didn't have so for us that's like yeah, can you can you answer the question did you ask for four bodies or did you ask for two.

Lucia Perez, Special Projects Coordinator, Guam Veterans Affairs Office: I actually asked for four additional VSR's and I believe three additional cemeteries to start out with and we got two.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: okay out of seven you got two okay but you did get the funding for the cemetery additional funding okay so well yes but five more to go you know and I'm pretty sure that there is a you know the same kind of standard in other jurisdictions or counties that have the veteran's office in those counties to determine you know how many VSRs are per capita you know in those locations I'm looking forward to hearing I will ask that during the budget hearing with regards to their scenarios and their jurisdictions and how many they have to oversee their office as well and to do the job you know so okay thank you Mr. Chair for the opportunity Mr. Cundiff always a pleasure and thank you so much for taking the time out of your schedule to be here as well and wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and thank you Mr. Chair for the opportunity.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, Chairperson: Thank you, thank you Senator Telo I just want to clear because I'll be last to speak before Senator Amanda does the closing but I just want to

clear the air just a little bit for everyone and for the people listening and watching when it was mentioned earlier that the OSB statement was the funding start this bill may not be viable I think we need to complete the sentence should one receive the funding and the other bills affecting these funding sources are passed so, if this bill passes then it becomes viable I just want to complete that the other statement that was made earlier bureau budget statement on the very bottom should the internal revenue serve the US Treasury unveil EITC reverse it be via trust exactly what happened for 2022 they identified it as an advancement that's why it's not available for appropriation if it comes as a reimbursement it's available for appropriation so that being said moving along on this I'm in support of this bill it's to build the VA the veteran's office as an outlet and I understand where command sergeant major Duane Perez brought up and some folks I've met out there the veterans there's no outlet there's reservists out there that don't have a means if you're active duty like *kunao* Cundiff said yeah there's a process you trained you're told exactly where to go not to get it but generally speaking is it available no WestCare exists yeah but as well does everybody know about where skirt no so with that it is to put into one office and get it and get the outlet out there and the and the means establish the web and let the veterans office take care of it from here and with that at least you know where I'm coming from this one and I asked Senator Shelton to go ahead and close on the bill our final statement thank you.

Senator Amanda L. Shelton: Thanks Mr. Chair and to your point on the funding source I also want to mention again what was mentioned earlier at the beginning of present that after discussions with you and the committee on appropriations we've also felt that language should be included in this bill that all includes an additional funding source so to read and or from the unappropriated 2021 general fund revenue so Mr. Chair will work together to ensure that is included during the committee work so thank you very much for that and I want to thank Mr. Cundiff here and Mr. Winner and Mr. Perez and Ms. Perez from the GVAO for all of your contributions to the discussion today, thank you very much for bringing these different perspectives for us to have as we take action on this bill and I think what we've all learned today is that there are many different services available to our veterans through nonprofit organizations through different government agencies but we have the GVAO that has been established by our local statute to provide for our veterans all of these different services and this bill today before us will further empower the GVAO to assist and uplift our veterans whether that be through a navigating services or finding or providing direct services and so some of these nonprofit organizations that we have like a WestCare providing the supportive services for veterans families program and the emergency food and shelter program and then we have the HUD vash program that was all discussed earlier these are all different very targeted programs for different groups of veterans and I think that we know now that veterans don't always know that these are available at all of these different outlets but we have the GVAO here who can help our veterans find these programs find the right programs for them that they are rightfully entitled to and so I think we also heard lots of other problems happening with the GVAO you know the resources that are still needed for other responsibilities through that office such as the cemetery and we don't want to minimize those problems but also not to allow those issues that exist within the GVAO right now to prevent us from progress in other ways for our veterans so those are certainly issues that we will continue to work on to find resources for to ensure that we are taking care of our veteran cemetery but remembering that we have all of these veterans who are here before us looking for services and a key to access I think access was a big topic today access a key to access is having the information available and knowing about these programs so perhaps there there's no issue there's no issue preventing a veteran from getting these benefits but they don't even know about it to begin with so a key to the access is having the information and the education that GVAO can provide through its services navigating all of these programs and so just providing these additional resources that we have today in this bill to the GVO to carry out these programs to streamline these processes

to give this information to give this information to our veterans who we know like Mr. Winner are maybe some of them are googling where to find help where can veterans go an organization on Guam and this is the office that exists this is the office that was established by our local statute to provide for our island veterans and so we want to be able to empower this office and to give them the resources that they need while expanding some of the duties that we know will help to fill the gaps that exist now in our system and I know that we talked about veterans having services in lots of other places throughout the government of Guam but I want us to remember today those veterans are a very special group of people to us here on island and throughout the nation they have given freely of their time and of their service to our community and these are benefits that we have made clear that they rightfully deserve and we want to be able to support that in every way possible and so this bill it does identify issues that exist the processes for veteran services but it also helps us to identify solutions so I know that there are lots of other ideas that can be added to this bill perhaps or in another build down the line but I don't want us to think of every single issue out there those veterans are faced with and have that prevent us from taking action today when we have the opportunity to do so and many veterans who are suffering in silence they're not out actively looking for services they're not knocking down the door of the WestCare or of GHURA or of the GVAO even so we're able today here to provide these resources so that GVAO can meet the veterans where they are in their suffering in their pain and help them to find the help that they need to provide the services that they need so I want to thank you again Mr. Chair for your time today for hearing this bill and of course all of the veterans and all of the advocates who have been here to discuss this bill and to help us strengthen it and I really look forward to amending the bill in the way that's necessary so that we can do this for our veterans and continue to work together to bring them the services that they need Si Yu'os Ma'ase Mr. Chair and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone please stay safe.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, Chairperson: All right thank you that the committee will receive will continue to receive testimony and please submit your testimony to the mail room of the Guam Legislature or through email at senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com and again I want to thank everyone for attending this virtual public hearing and for providing feedback I suggested the public hearing is now adjourned it is now 10:50 and my colleagues and to Commander Major Perez and Mr. Winner thank you for participating and Ms. Perez please we need to stay in contact what's going on down there at the veteran's office Merry Christmas please be safe thank you.

The Public Hearing is adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

III. Findings and Recommendations

The Committee had determined that the Guam Veterans Affairs Office will be the liaison Office, which will provide a One-stop Center for Veterans to inquire about benefits and services that may be available to them locally and or federally.








The Committee determined that such appropriation is a one-time appropriation, and that main sponsor is aware that funding may need to be continuous annually to ensure that the program will be available and easily accessible for Veterans.

The Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing hereby reports out Bill No. 227-36 (COR) – As Introduced by – Amanda L. Shelton, Telena Cruz Nelson, Joe S. San Agustin, Jose “Pedro” Terlaje, James C. Moylan, V. Anthony Ada, Tina Rose Muña Barnes. As amended by the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE 2 TO CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS ACT IN HELPING VETERANS ACCESS HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HEALTHCARE, THROUGH VARIOUS LOCAL AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS; TO APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT AND OR THE 2021 GENERAL FUND UNAPPROPRIATED REVENUES TO THE GUAM VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE “SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED (SERVE) ACT.”
with the recommendation TO DO PASS.

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

Bill No. 227-36 (COR)

Introduced by:

Amanda L. Shelton 
Telena Cruz Nelson 
Joe S. San Agustin 
Jose "Pedo" Terlaje 
James C. Moylan 
V. Anthony Ada 
Tina Rose Muña Barnes 

AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW ARTICLE 1 TO DIVISION 3 OF CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS ACT IN HELPING VETERANS ACCESS HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HEALTHCARE, THROUGH VARIOUS LOCAL AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS; TO APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT TO THE GUAM VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "*SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED (SERVE) ACT.*"

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Finding and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guáhan*
3 acknowledges the sacrifices that our men and women have made during their
4 military service to protect the Nation and territories, when government services to
5 Veterans are available. However, these services are not widely known throughout

1 the *Guåhan* community. Furthermore, the landscape of Veteran Services is
2 ambiguous and exhaustive for stakeholders to navigate.

3 *I Liheslatura* further finds that the availability and government assistance for
4 Veterans to avail in government programs is unreasonably delayed and rigorous. *I*
5 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the men and women who dutifully served in the arms
6 services are entitled to local and federal benefits as Veterans.

7 *I Liheslatura* further finds that Veteran rights and benefits must be acted on
8 in a timely manner by the government agencies who facilitate and administer these
9 programs.

10 Therefore, it is the intent if *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to establish a Veterans Bill
11 of Rights in Guam law to advance the livelihoods of veterans in Guam and increase
12 their access to critical services for housing, employment, education and healthcare.

13 **Section 2.** A new Article 1 is hereby *added* to Division 3 of Chapter 67 of
14 Title 10, Guam Coded Annotated, to read:

15 **“ARTICLE 1**

16 **SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED**

17 **(SERVE) ACT**

18 **§ 6701. Short Title.**

19 **§ 6702. Guam Veterans Office as Lead Agency.**

20 **§ 6703. Veterans Bill of Rights.**

21
22 **§ 6701. Short Title.**

23 This Act shall be cited as the “Securing and Ensuring the Rights
24 Veterans Earned (SERVE) Act.”

25 **§ 6702. Guam Veterans Affairs Office as Lead Agency.**

26 All references to “Office” in this Act shall mean the Guam Office of
27 Veterans Affairs, established under 10 GCA Chapter 67, which shall be the

1 agency responsible for implementing the provisions of this Act. In the
2 development of programs and services under this Act, the Office shall
3 consider the input of the Veterans Affairs Commission.

4 The Office may apply for, receive, and administer grants, subgrants or
5 enter into intra-governmental and inter-governmental agreements to provide
6 services to veterans, as defined pursuant to local or federal laws, regulations,
7 or guidelines. The Office is authorized to comply with the requirements of
8 federal grants, subgrants, and intra-governmental and inter-governmental
9 agreements, to include the provision of services to individuals who may
10 qualify for such services pursuant to the terms of federal grants, subgrants,
11 and intra-governmental and inter-governmental agreements.

12 **§ 6703. Veterans Bill of Rights.**

13 **(a) Housing Assistance.**

14 (1) Increase veterans' access to housing assistance by
15 streamlining processes through inter-governmental and intra-
16 governmental partnerships.

17 (A) The Office is hereby directed to target housing
18 programs and streamline federal and local processes to expedite
19 and reward applicants through interagency Memoranda of
20 Understanding or Memoranda of Agreement.

21 **(b) Employment Support.**

22 (1) Increase veterans' access to jobs by applying smart data to
23 direct veterans in-demand fields.

24 (A) The Office is hereby directed to create and produce
25 electronic reports of workforce need projections, by industry, job
26 type, geography, and needed credentials; including to compare
27 workforce needs with existing and projected workforce and

1 credential availability; and highlight top in-demand industries,
2 job types, and credentials.

3 (B) The Office shall include in this report a pathway of
4 which in-demand job titles and credentials would leverage skills,
5 experience and credentials possessed by veterans; and forward
6 the underlying data report and that additional information
7 monthly to appropriate military outplacement offices, education
8 centers, non-profit programs, and Government agencies working
9 to connect veterans with jobs.

10 (c) Higher Learning Opportunities.

11 (1) Award college credit from military training and
12 experiences

13 (A) Every veteran who enrolls as a student in good
14 standing at any institution with the local university system and
15 community college system, shall upon application be granted
16 academic credits without limitation towards his or her degree for
17 completion of courses that were part of such veteran's military
18 training or service if the completed courses meet the standards of
19 the American Council on Education or its equivalent for the
20 awarding of academic credits. No fee, tuition, or other charge
21 shall be assessed against a veteran who qualifies for such credit
22 pursuant to this section.

23 (B) The Office shall adopt such procedures as necessary
24 to fully implement the provisions in this section.

25 (2) Increase flexibility in course registration to reflect
26 returning veterans' needs.

1 (A) At institutions within the local university system
2 and community college system:

3 (i) Institutions that offer an early course
4 registration period for any segment of the student
5 population shall have a process in place to offer early
6 course registration to students who are veterans or national
7 guard members.

8 (ii) A student who is called to active duty in the
9 armed forces of the United States after having regularly
10 attended a course for thirteen (13) or more weeks or
11 having completed eighty-five percent (85%) of the
12 course's work for the term through acceleration shall be
13 given full credit for each course in which he or she has a
14 grade of C or better.

15 (iii) Students called to active duty who does not
16 meet attendance requirements sufficient to earn a grade
17 shall be entitled to a one hundred (100%) refund of tuition
18 and fees.

19 (iv) Veterans with no previous college experience
20 shall be permitted to file applications up to the end of
21 registration and allowed to begin classes pending
22 completion of their application and provision of
23 supporting documents.

24 (v) Upon their return from active-duty veterans
25 may register even after normal registration periods end,
26 without late fees or other penalties.

1 (3) Leverage veterans' experiences and expand proven cost-
2 effective training programs.

3 (A) The Office shall annually review apprentice,
4 training, and other vocational programs focused on providing job
5 training and placement to returning military servicemembers and
6 veterans. Such annual review shall evaluate the costs and results
7 recommend programs for expansion with state funding,
8 including to estimate future returns to the state of improved
9 outcomes from program expansion.

10 (B) The Office shall provide an annual report to the
11 legislature and Governor on January 1 of each year for five (5)
12 years after the passage of this Act, to be used to inform annual
13 budget decisions.

14 (d) Access to Healthcare.

15 (1) Increase veterans' access to healthcare through healthcare
16 coverage and treatment they are eligible for based on their service.

17 (A) The Office is hereby directed to develop and operate
18 veteran health navigator services to increase access to healthcare
19 coverage and services.

20 (i) The Office shall identify, train, and deploy
21 veteran health navigators who have direct knowledge of
22 the veteran communities they serve.

23 (ii) Veteran health navigators shall help identify
24 all federal and other health benefits, coverage, and
25 services available to veterans and their families.

26 (iii) Veteran health navigators shall coordinate
27 with relevant departments, healthcare providers, and

1 health insurance programs to help veterans and their
2 beneficiaries apply for coverage under such programs,
3 including helping veterans overcome barriers within the
4 health care system to ensure enrollment in health plans and
5 effective delivery and coordination of health services.

6 (2) Prevent veteran suicide and increase veterans' access to
7 mental health services.

8 (A) Ensure veterans and their families have access to
9 mental health treatment, including for post-traumatic stress
10 disorder, depression, suicide, and suicidal ideation.

11 (i) Ensure access to mental health coverage,
12 services, and treatment is included as holistic approach of
13 the veteran health navigator program described in §
14 6703(d)(1)(A) as a source of information about the unique
15 needs, coverage, and treatment gaps faced by veterans and
16 their families, the Office shall examine all existing
17 programs designed to increase access to affordable quality
18 healthcare, to evaluate whether the needs of veterans and
19 their families are met by those programs designed to
20 increase access to affordable quality healthcare, to
21 evaluate whether the needs of veterans and their families
22 are by those programs or whether further coordination
23 with the veteran health navigators or the steps would better
24 meet the needs of veterans and their families.

25 (ii) The Office shall execute any steps identified
26 in (i) above and produce a report of its findings,
27 recommendations and any additional legislative or budget

1 action it recommends; and shall deliver that report to the
2 legislature and Governor and release it to the news media.

3 (iii) The Office shall prepare a report showing the
4 impacts of Medicaid expansion have had to date for the
5 community of veterans and their families and shall include
6 any recommendations for better including or serving
7 veterans and their families; and shall deliver a report to the
8 Legislature and Governor and release it to the news
9 media.”

10 **Section 3. Appropriation.** The sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars
11 **(\$500,000)** from the revenues received from the earned income tax credit
12 reimbursement for calendar year 2021 pursuant to Section 7530(b) of U.S. Public
13 Law 117-2, under the American Rescue Plan Act, is hereby appropriated to the
14 Guam Veterans Affairs Office for its operations and implementation of programs
15 and services under this Act, for Fiscal Year 2022. This appropriation shall be
16 available until fully expended.

17 **Section 4. Implementation.** The Guam Office of Veterans Affairs shall
18 have one (1) year from the effective date of this Act to implement programs and
19 services, and any other mandates under the Veterans Bill of Rights as established by
20 this Act.

21 **Section 5. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
22 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity *shall*
23 *not* affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without
24 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are
25 severable.

26 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Act *shall* become effective upon enactment.

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

Bill No. 227-36 (COR)

As Amended by the Committee on General
Government Operations, Appropriations,
and Housing.

Introduced by:

Amanda L. Shelton
Telena Cruz Nelson
Joe S. San Agustin
Jose “Pedo” Terlaje
James C. Moylan
V. Anthony Ada
Tina Rose Muña Barnes

AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW ARTICLE 2 TO CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS ACT IN HELPING VETERANS ACCESS HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HEALTHCARE, THROUGH VARIOUS LOCAL AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS; TO APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT AND OR THE 2021 GENERAL FUND UNAPPROPRIATED REVENUES TO THE GUAM VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE “*SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED (SERVE) ACT.*”

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Finding and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*

3 acknowledges the sacrifices that our men and women have made during their

1 military service to protect the nation and U.S. Territories; however, when
2 government services for veterans are available, they are not widely known
3 throughout the *Guåhan* community. Furthermore, the landscape of veterans services
4 is ambiguous and difficult for stakeholders to navigate.

5 *I Liheslatura* further finds that the men and women who dutifully served in
6 the Armed Services are entitled to local and federal benefits as veterans; however,
7 the assistance received in accessing government programs is unreasonably delayed
8 and rigorous.

9 *I Liheslatura* further finds that veteran rights and benefits must be acted on in
10 a timely manner by the government agencies who facilitate and administer these
11 programs.

12 Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to establish a Veterans Bill
13 of Rights to advance the livelihoods of veterans and increase their access to critical
14 services for housing, employment, education, and healthcare.

15 **Section 2.** A new Article 2 is hereby *added* to Chapter 67 of Title 10, Guam
16 Coded Annotated, to read:

17 **“ARTICLE 2**

18 **SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED**

19 **(SERVE) ACT**

20 **§ 67200. Short Title.**

21 **§ 67201. Guam Veterans Office as Lead Agency.**

22 **§ 67202. Veterans Bill of Rights.**

23

24 **§ 67200. Short Title.**

25 This Act shall be cited as the “Securing and Ensuring the Rights
26 Veterans Earned (SERVE) Act.”

27 **§ 67201. Guam Veterans Affairs Office as Lead Agency.**

1 All references to “Office” in this Act shall mean the Office of Veterans
2 Affairs established under this Chapter, which shall be the agency responsible
3 for implementing the provisions of the Veterans Bill of Rights and this Act.
4 In the development of programs and services under this Act, the Office shall
5 consider the input of the Guam Veterans Commission.

6 The Office may apply for, receive, and administer grants or subgrants,
7 or enter into intra-governmental and inter-governmental agreements to
8 provide services to veterans, as defined pursuant to local or federal laws,
9 regulations, or guidelines. The Office is authorized to comply with the
10 requirements of federal grants, subgrants, and intra-governmental and inter-
11 governmental agreements, to include the provision of services to individuals
12 who may qualify for such services pursuant to the terms of federal grants,
13 subgrants, and intra-governmental and inter-governmental agreements.

14 **§ 67202. Veterans Bill of Rights.**

15 (a) Housing Assistance.

16 (1) Increase veterans’ access to housing assistance by
17 streamlining processes through inter-governmental and intra-
18 governmental partnerships.

19 (A) The Office shall target housing programs and
20 streamline federal and local processes to expedite and reward
21 applicants through interagency Memoranda of Understanding or
22 Memoranda of Agreement.

23 (b) Employment Support.

24 (1) Increase veterans’ access to jobs by applying data to direct
25 veterans to in-demand fields.

26 (A) The Office shall create and produce electronic
27 reports of workforce need projections, by industry, job type,

1 geography, and needed credentials; including a comparison of
2 workforce needs with existing and projected workforce and
3 credential availability; and highlight top in-demand industries,
4 job types, and credentials.

5 (B) The Office shall include in its report(s) a pathway
6 in which, in-demand job titles and credentials would leverage
7 skills, experience, and credentials held by veterans; and forward
8 the underlying data report(s) and additional information monthly
9 to appropriate military outplacement offices, education centers,
10 non-profit programs, and government agencies working to
11 connect veterans with jobs.

12 (c) Higher Learning Opportunities.

13 (1) Award college credit from military training and
14 experiences.

15 (A) Every veteran who is enrolled as a full-time or part-
16 time student in good standing at any institution within the local
17 university system and community college system, shall, upon
18 application, be granted academic credits, without limitation,
19 towards his or her degree for completion of courses that were part
20 of such veteran's military training or service if the completed
21 courses meet the standards of the local institution that are
22 equivalent or greater than the standards set by the American
23 Council on Education for the awarding of academic credits. No
24 fee, tuition, or other charge shall be assessed against a veteran
25 who qualifies for such credit pursuant to this Section.

26 (B) The Office shall adopt such procedures as necessary
27 to fully implement the provisions in this Section.

1 (2) Increase flexibility in course registration for veterans.

2 (A) At institutions within the local university system
3 and community college system:

4 (i) Institutions that offer an early course
5 registration period for any segment of the student
6 population shall have a process in place to offer early
7 course registration to students who are veterans or
8 National Guard members.

9 (ii) A student who is called to active duty in the
10 U.S. Armed Forces after having regularly attended a
11 course for thirteen (13) or more weeks or having
12 completed eighty-five percent (85%) of the course's work
13 for the term through acceleration may be given credit for
14 each course in which he or she has a grade of C or better.

15 (iii) Students called to active duty may be entitled
16 to a one hundred percent (100%) refund of tuition and fees
17 if no accommodation(s) are given by the educational
18 institution.

19 (iv) Veterans with no previous college experience
20 shall be permitted an extension of one (1) week to file
21 applications after the end of the registration period and
22 allowed to begin classes pending completion of their
23 application and provision of supporting documents with
24 the clearance of the Institutions Admissions and Records
25 Office

1 (v) Upon return from active-duty, veterans may
2 register after the normal registration periods end, without
3 late fees or other penalties.

4 (3) Leverage veterans' experiences and expand proven cost-
5 effective training programs.

6 (A) The Office shall annually review apprentice,
7 training, and other vocational programs focused on providing job
8 training and placement to returning military service members and
9 veterans. Such annual review shall evaluate the costs and results,
10 and recommend programs for expansion with federal and/or local
11 funding, including an estimate of future returns to Guam, of
12 improved outcomes from program expansion.

13 (B) The Office shall provide an annual report to the
14 Speaker of I Liheslatura and I Maga'hågan Guåhan on January
15 1 of each year for five (5) years after the passage of this Act, to
16 be used to inform annual budget decisions.

17 (d) Access to Healthcare.

18 (1) Increase veterans' access to healthcare through eligible
19 healthcare coverage and treatment based on service.

20 (A) The Office shall develop and operate veteran health
21 navigator services to increase veteran access to healthcare
22 coverage and services.

23 (i) The Office shall identify, train, and deploy
24 veteran health navigators who have direct knowledge of
25 the veteran communities they serve.

1 (ii) Veteran health navigators shall identify all
2 federal and other healthcare benefits, coverage, and
3 services available to veterans and their families.

4 (iii) Veteran health navigators shall coordinate
5 with relevant departments, healthcare providers, and
6 health insurance programs to help veterans and their
7 beneficiaries apply for coverage under such programs,
8 including helping veterans overcome barriers within the
9 healthcare system to ensure enrollment in healthcare plans
10 and effective delivery and coordination of healthcare
11 services.

12 (2) Prevent veteran suicide and increase veterans' access to
13 mental health services.

14 (A) Ensure veterans and their families have access to
15 mental health treatment, including for post-traumatic stress
16 disorder, depression, suicide, and suicidal ideation.

17 (i) Ensure access to mental health coverage,
18 services, and treatment included as a holistic approach of
19 the veteran health navigator program described in §
20 67202(d)(1)(A). Based on the information about the
21 unique needs, coverage, and treatment gaps faced by
22 veterans and their families, the Office shall examine all
23 existing programs designed to increase access to
24 affordable quality healthcare and evaluate whether the
25 needs of veterans and their families are met by such
26 programs.

1 (ii) The Office shall execute any steps identified
2 in Subsection (d)(2)(A)(i) of this Section and produce a
3 report of its findings, recommendations, to include any
4 recommended legislative or budgetary actions; and, shall
5 transmit the report to the Speaker of I Liheslatura, I
6 Maga'hågan Guåhan and release it to news media.

7 (iii) The Office shall prepare a report showing the
8 impacts of Medicaid expansion on veterans and their
9 families to date and shall include any recommendations
10 for better including or serving veterans and their families;
11 and, shall transmit such report to the Speaker of I
12 Liheslatura and I Maga'hågan Guåhan and release it to
13 the news media.”

14 **Section 3. Appropriation.** The sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars
15 **(\$500,000)** from the revenues received from the earned income tax credit
16 reimbursement for calendar year 2021 pursuant to Section 7530(b) of U.S. Public
17 Law 117-2, under the American Rescue Plan Act and or the Fiscal Year 2021
18 General Fund Unappropriated Revenues, , is hereby appropriated to the Guam
19 Veterans Affairs Office for its operations and implementation of programs and
20 services under this Act for Fiscal Year 2022. This appropriation shall be available
21 until fully expended.

22 **Section 4. Implementation.** The Guam Office of Veterans Affairs shall
23 have one (1) year from the effective date of this Act to implement programs and
24 services, and any other mandates under the Veterans Bill of Rights as established by
25 this Act.

26 **Section 5. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
27 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity shall

1 not affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without
2 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are
3 severable.

4 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Act *shall* become effective upon enactment.

COMMITTEE MARKUP

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

Bill No. 227-36 (COR)

As Amended by the Committee on General
Government Operations, Appropriations,
and Housing.

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Introduced by:

Amanda L. Shelton
Telena Cruz Nelson
Joe S. San Agustin
Jose “Pedo” Terlaje
James C. Moylan
V. Anthony Ada
Tina Rose Muña Barnes

AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW ARTICLE ~~-21~~ TO **DIVISION 3**
~~OF~~ CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE
ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE
VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS ACT IN HELPING
VETERANS ACCESS HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT,
HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HEALTHCARE,
THROUGH VARIOUS LOCAL AND FEDERAL
PROGRAMS; TO APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED
THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE 2021
EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT
AND OR THE 2021 GENERAL FUND
UNAPPROPRIATED REVENUES TO THE GUAM
VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE TO IMPLEMENT THE
SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE “*SECURING
AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED
(SERVE) ACT.*”

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Finding and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*

3 acknowledges the sacrifices that our men and women have made during their

1 military service to protect the ~~n~~Nation and ~~U.S. T~~erritories; ~~however,~~ when
2 government services ~~for~~~~t~~o ~~v~~Veterans are available; ~~h~~owever, the ~~y~~se services are
3 not widely known throughout the *Guåhan* community. Furthermore, the landscape
4 of ~~v~~Veterans ~~s~~Services is ambiguous and ~~exhaustive~~ ~~difficult~~ for stakeholders to
5 navigate.

6 *I Liheslatura* further finds ~~that the men and women who dutifully served in~~
7 ~~the Armed Services are entitled to local and federal benefits as veterans; however,~~
8 ~~that the the availability and government assistance for received~~Veterans ~~into avail~~
9 ~~in~~accessing government programs is unreasonably delayed and rigorous. ~~I~~
10 ~~Liheslaturan Guåhan finds that the men and women who dutifully served in the~~
11 ~~Armeds S~~services are entitled to local and federal benefits as ~~v~~Veterans.

12 *I Liheslatura* further finds that ~~v~~Veteran rights and benefits must be acted on
13 in a timely manner by the government agencies who facilitate and administer these
14 programs.

15 Therefore, it is the intent ~~of~~ ~~if~~ *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to establish a Veterans
16 Bill of Rights ~~in Guam law~~ to advance the livelihoods of veterans ~~in Guam~~ and
17 increase their access to critical services for housing, employment, education, and
18 healthcare.

19 **Section 2.** A new Article ~~21~~ is hereby *added* to ~~Division 3 of~~ Chapter 67 of
20 Title 10, Guam Coded Annotated, to read:

21 **“ARTICLE 21**

22 **SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED**

23 **(SERVE) ACT**

24 **§ 6720001. — Short Title.**

25 **§ 6720102. — Guam Veterans Office as Lead Agency.**

26 **§ 672023. — Veterans Bill of Rights.**

27

1 **§ 672001. ~~-----~~. Short Title.**

2 This Act *shall* be cited as the “Securing and Ensuring the Rights
3 Veterans Earned (SERVE) Act.”

4 **§ 6720102. ~~-----~~. Guam Veterans Affairs Office as Lead Agency.**

5 All references to “Office” in this Act shall mean the ~~Guam~~ Office of
6 Veterans Affairs, established under ~~10 GCA Chapter 67~~ this Chapter, which
7 shall be the agency responsible for implementing the provisions of ~~the~~
8 ~~Veterans Bill of Rights and~~ this Act. In the development of programs and
9 services under this Act, the Office shall consider the input of the ~~Guam~~
10 Veterans ~~Affairs~~ Commission.

11 The Office may apply for, receive, and administer grants ~~or~~ subgrants,
12 or enter into intra-governmental and inter-governmental agreements to
13 provide services to veterans, as defined pursuant to local or federal laws,
14 regulations, or guidelines. The Office is authorized to comply with the
15 requirements of federal grants, subgrants, and intra-governmental and inter-
16 governmental agreements, to include the provision of services to individuals
17 who may qualify for such services pursuant to the terms of federal grants,
18 subgrants, and intra-governmental and inter-governmental agreements.

19 **§ 672023. ~~-----~~. Veterans Bill of Rights.**

20 (a) ~~-~~ Housing Assistance.

21 (1) ~~-~~ Increase veterans’ access to housing assistance by
22 streamlining processes through inter-governmental and intra-
23 governmental partnerships.

24 (A) ~~-~~ The Office ~~is hereby directed shall to~~ target housing
25 programs and streamline federal and local processes to expedite
26 and reward applicants through interagency Memoranda of
27 Understanding or Memoranda of Agreement.

1 (b) Employment Support.

2 (1)- Increase veterans' access to jobs by applying ~~smart~~ data to
3 direct veterans to in-demand fields.

4 (A) The Office ~~is hereby directed to~~shall create and
5 produce electronic reports of workforce need projections, by
6 industry, job type, geography, and needed credentials; including
7 ~~to compare~~a comparison of workforce needs with existing and
8 projected workforce and credential availability; and highlight top
9 in-demand industries, job types, and credentials.

10 (B) The Office shall include in ~~its~~this report(s) a
11 pathway ~~in~~of which, in-demand job titles and credentials would
12 leverage skills, experience, and credentials ~~possessed~~held by
13 veterans; and forward the underlying data report(s) and ~~that~~
14 additional information monthly to appropriate military
15 outplacement offices, education centers, non-profit programs,
16 and ~~g~~Government agencies working to connect veterans with
17 jobs.

18 (c)- Higher Learning Opportunities.

19 (1)- Award college credit from military training and
20 experiences.

21 (A) —Every veteran who ~~is~~ enrolleds as a ~~full-time or~~
22 ~~part-time~~ student in good standing at any institution ~~with~~in the
23 local university system and community college system, ~~shall,~~
24 upon application, be granted academic credits, without
25 limitation, towards his or her degree for completion of courses
26 that were part of such veteran's military training or service if the
27 completed courses meet the standards of ~~the local institution that~~

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1 are equivalent or greater than the standards set by the American
2 Council on Education for the awarding of academic credits~~the~~
3 ~~American Council on Education or its equivalent for the~~
4 ~~awarding of academic credits.~~ No fee, tuition, or other charge
5 *shall* be assessed against a veteran who qualifies for such credit
6 pursuant to this Section.

7 (B) The Office shall adopt such procedures as necessary
8 to fully implement the provisions in this Section.

9 ~~(2)- Increase flexibility in course registration to reflect~~
10 ~~returning veterans' needs for veterans.~~

11 ~~(A)- At institutions within the local university system~~
12 ~~and community college system:~~

13 (i) ~~—Institutions that offer an early course~~
14 ~~registration period for any segment of the student~~
15 ~~population shall have a process in place to offer early~~
16 ~~course registration to students who are veterans or~~
17 ~~National Guard members.~~

18 (ii) ~~—A student who is called to active duty in~~
19 ~~the U.S. Armed Forces of the United States after having~~
20 ~~regularly attended a course for thirteen (13) or more weeks~~
21 ~~or having completed eighty-five percent (85%) of the~~
22 ~~course's work for the term through acceleration may~~~~shall~~
23 ~~be given full credit for each course in which he or she has~~
24 ~~a grade of C or better.~~

25 (iii)- ~~Students called to active duty may be entitled~~
26 ~~to a one hundred percent (100%) refund of tuition and fees~~

1 if no accommodation(s) are given by the educational
2 institution.

3 Students called to active duty who does not meet
4 attendance requirements sufficient to earn a grade shall be
5 entitled to a one hundred (percent (100%) refund of tuition
6 and fees for courses for which the student was absent as a
7 result of active duty status.

8 (iv) Veterans with no previous college experience
9 shall be permitted an extension of one (1) week to file
10 applications after up to the end of the registration period
11 and allowed to begin classes pending completion of their
12 application and provision of supporting documents with
13 the clearance of the Institutions Admissions and Records
14 Office.

15 (v) Upon their return from active-duty, veterans
16 may register even after the normal registration periods
17 end, without late fees or other penalties.

18 (3) Leverage veterans' experiences and expand proven cost-
19 effective training programs.

20 (A) The Office shall annually review apprentice,
21 training, and other vocational programs focused on providing job
22 training and placement to returning military service members and
23 veterans. Such annual review shall evaluate the costs and results,
24 and recommend programs for expansion with state federal and/or
25 local funding, including an estimate of future returns to the
26 stateGuam, of improved outcomes from program expansion.

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1 (B)– The Office shall provide an annual report to ~~the the~~
2 Speaker of ~~legislature-I Liheslatura~~ and ~~Governor-I Maga 'hågan~~
3 Guåhan on January 1 of each year for five (5) years after the
4 passage of this Act, to be used to inform annual budget decisions.

5 (d) Access to Healthcare.

6 (1)– Increase veterans' access to healthcare through eligible
7 healthcare coverage and treatment ~~they are eligible for~~ based on ~~their~~
8 service.

9 (A) —The Office ~~is hereby directed to~~shall develop and
10 operate veteran health navigator services to increase ~~veteran~~
11 access to healthcare coverage and services.

12 (i) The Office shall identify, train, and deploy
13 veteran health navigators who have direct knowledge of
14 the veteran communities they serve.

15 (ii) Veteran health navigators shall ~~help~~ identify
16 all federal and other ~~healthcare~~ benefits, coverage, and
17 services available to veterans and their families.

18 (iii) Veteran health navigators shall coordinate
19 with relevant departments, healthcare providers, and
20 health insurance programs to help veterans and their
21 beneficiaries apply for coverage under such programs,
22 including helping veterans overcome barriers within the
23 health-care system to ensure enrollment in ~~healthcare~~ plans
24 and effective delivery and coordination of ~~healthcare~~
25 services.

26 (2) Prevent veteran suicide and increase veterans' access to
27 mental health services.

1 ~~(A)~~ Ensure veterans and their families have
2 access to mental health treatment, including for post-traumatic
3 stress disorder, depression, suicide, and suicidal ideation.

4 (i) Ensure access to mental health coverage,
5 services, and treatment ~~is~~ included as a holistic approach
6 of the veteran health navigator program described in §
7 6720203(d)(1)(A). ~~as a source of~~Based on the information
8 about the unique needs, coverage, and treatment gaps
9 faced by veterans and their families, the Office shall
10 examine all existing programs designed to increase access
11 to affordable quality healthcare ~~and, to~~ evaluate whether
12 the needs of veterans and their families are met by ~~those~~
13 such programs ~~designed to increase access to affordable~~
14 quality healthcare, to evaluate whether the needs of
15 veterans and their families are by those programs ~~or~~
16 whether further coordination with the veteran health
17 navigators or the steps would better meet the needs of
18 veterans and their families.

19 (ii) ~~The Office shall~~ execute any steps identified
20 in Subsection (d)(2)(A)(i) of this Section ~~above~~ and
21 produce a report of its findings, recommendations, ~~and to~~
22 include any recommended ~~additional~~ legislative or
23 budgetary actions ~~it recommends~~; and, shall ~~deliver~~
24 transmit ~~that~~ the report to the Speaker of *I Liheslatura*, ~~and~~
25 *I Maga'hāgan Guāhan* the legislature and Governor and
26 release it to ~~the~~ news media.

1 (iii)- The Office shall prepare a report showing the
2 impacts of Medicaid expansion have had to date for on the
3 community of veterans and their families to date and shall
4 include any recommendations for better including or
5 serving veterans and their families; and, shall deliver
6 transmit such a report to the Speaker of the I Liheslatura
7 and I Maga 'hågan Guåhan Legislature and Governor and
8 release it to the news media.”

9 **Section 3. Appropriation.** The sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars
10 (\$500,000) from the revenues received from the earned income tax credit
11 reimbursement for calendar year 2021 pursuant to Section 7530(b) of U.S. Public
12 Law 117-2, under the American Rescue Plan Act and or the Fiscal Year 2021
13 General Fund Unappropriated Revenues, ; or excess revenue from Fiscal Year 2021,;
14 is hereby appropriated to the Guam Veterans Affairs Office for its operations and
15 implementation of programs and services under this Act, for Fiscal Year 2022. This
16 appropriation shall be available until fully expended.

17 **Section 4.- Implementation.** The Guam Office of Veterans Affairs shall
18 have one (1) year from the effective date of this Act to implement programs and
19 services, and any other mandates under the Veterans Bill of Rights as established by
20 this Act.

21 **Section 5.- Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
22 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity shall
23 not affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without
24 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are
25 severable.

26 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Act shall become effective upon enactment.

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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

December 15, 2021

MEMO

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

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

Re: **Fiscal Note on Bill Nos. 222-36 (COR), 225-36 (COR), and 227-36 (COR)**

Håfa adai,

Attached, please find the fiscal note for the following bill:

Bill No. 222-36 (COR)

Bill No. 225-36 (COR)

Bill No. 227-36 (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. 227-36 (COR)**

Bill No. 227-36 (COR) AN ACT TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE 1 TO DIVISION 3 OF CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS ACT IN HELPING VETERANS ACCESS HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HEALTHCARE, THROUGH VARIOUS LOCAL AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS; TO APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT TO THE GUAM VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED (SERVE) ACT.

Department/Agency Appropriation Information

Dept./Agency Affected: Guam Veterans Affairs Office (GVAO)		Dept./Agency Head: Pierre T. Aguon, Director	
Department's General Fund (GF) appropriation(s) to date:		\$968,605	
Department's Other Fund appropriation(s) to date:		\$0	
Total Department/Agency Appropriation(s) to date:		\$968,605	

Fund Source Information of Proposed Appropriation

	General Fund:	Special Fund:	Total:
FY 2021 Unreserved Fund Balance	\$0	\$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/	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Special Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

Analyst: **Date:** 12/09/21 **Director:** **Date:** DEC 15 2021
Mikel Espiritu, BMA I Lester L. Carlson, Jr., Director

Notes:
1/ See attached Comments.

**BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH
COMMENTS ON BILL NO. 227-36 (COR)**

The intent of the proposed legislation is to establish a Veterans Bill of Rights in Guam law to advance the livelihoods of veterans in Guam and increase their access to critical services for housing, employment, education, and healthcare. In addition, the bill seeks to appropriate Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) from the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) reimbursement for calendar year 2021, pursuant to Section 7530(b) of the U.S. Public Law 117-2 also known as the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, to the Guam Veteran's Affairs Office (GVAO) for its operations and implementation of programs and services mandated in this proposed legislation for Fiscal Year 2022. Said appropriation shall be available until fully expended. It should be noted that a legal/technical correction is needed relative to properly adding this legislation, should it pass, into the Guam Code Annotated. There is no Division 3 of Chapter 67 under Title 10 of the Guam Code Annotated (GCA). There is, however, a Chapter 67 under Division 3 of Title 10 GCA.

The GVAO has fully expressed their support of the bill as written. The GVAO has also submitted a proposed FY 2022 budget for the \$500,000 funding from the EITC as shown below. Based on the proposed budget, GVAO will hire five (5) additional personnel to include a Program Director, three (3) Veteran Service Representatives, and two (2) Data Control Clerk II – Veteran Registry to carry out the mandates of this proposed legislation. In addition, GVAO intends to purchase five (5) work stations for these additional personnel as well as other related furniture, fixtures, and equipment.

Appropriation Classification	Amount
Regular Salaries/Increments/Special Pay	\$ 154,870
Overtime	\$ 30,974
Benefits	\$ 120,993
Travel	\$ 13,000
Contractual Services	\$ 7,800
Supplies & Materials	\$ 48,000
Equipment	\$ 30,500
Miscellaneous	\$ 43,200
Capital Outlay	\$ 50,663
TOTAL	\$ 500,000

The Bureau notes that several proposed legislations have been introduced appropriating funds from the FY 2021 EITC reimbursements, including two which have been included in the FY2022 Budget Act (P.L. 36-54). The current list of proposed Bills are as follows:

Bill No.	Amount	Appropriation Recipient
121-36 (COR)	\$35,000,000.00	GMI ¹
148-36 (LS)	14,971,882.00	UOG (\$6,630,570) & GCC (\$8,341,312)
153-36 (COR)	5,000,000.00	DOC ¹
170-36 (LS)	250,000.00	Guam Unique Merchandise and Art
171-36 (LS)	250,000.00	Valley of the Latte, LLC
172-36 (LS)	3,500,000.00	Guam Preservation Trust
177-36 (LS)	3,750,000.00	BPT Revenue Losses Offset
186-36 (COR)	1,500,000.00	DPW - Emergency Boat Access
187-36 (COR)	3,500,000.00	DPR
188-36 (COR)	3,000,000.00	CLIC/DOAG (Slaughterhouse)
189-36 (COR)	5,000,000.00	GWA - Water & Sewer Infrastructure
196-36 (COR)	9,500,000.00	Mayor's Council - Renovate & Repair of Sports Facility
197-36 (COR)	10,000,000.00	UOG
199-36 (COR)	580,070.00	Public Defender Services Corp.
200-36 (COR)	10,000,000.00	Guam Visitors Bureau
201-36 (COR)	5,500,000.00	GCC, GDOL, UOG - workforce dev't., apprenticeship, scholarship
227-36 (COR)	500,000	GVAO
Total Appropriations	\$111,801,952.00	

¹ Appropriated in P.L. 36-54 (FY2022 Budget Act)

The final amount to be reimbursed for EITC has yet to be determined as well as the timeframe in which the funds will be availed to the Government of Guam. Should the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Treasury avail EITC reimbursements via a trust account, those funds would not be subject to legislative appropriation.

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@gmail.com

December 9, 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. 227-36 (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.

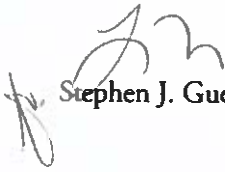
The Office has received Bill No. 227-36 (COR), AN ACT TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE 1 TO DIVISION 3 OF CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS ACT IN HELPING VETERANS ACCESS HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HEALTHCARE, THROUGH VARIOUS LOCAL AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS; TO APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT TO THE GUAM VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED (SERVE) ACT.

The proposed Bill No. 227-36 (COR) seeks to establish the Securing and Ensuring the Rights Veterans Earned (SERVE) Act to advance the livelihoods of veterans in Guam and increase their access to critical services for housing, employment, education and healthcare. The Act designates the Guam Veterans Affairs Office as the responsible agency for implementing the provisions of the Act and shall consider input of the Veterans Affairs Commission. The office may apply for, receive, administer grants, subgrants or enter into intra-governmental and inter-governmental agreements to provide services to veterans, pursuant to local or federal laws, regulations, or guidelines. The Bill also appropriates \$500,0000 from the revenues received from the earned income tax credit reimbursement for calendar year 2021 pursuant to Section 7530(b) of U.S. Public Law 117-2, under the American Rescue Plan Act, to the Guam Veterans Affairs Office for its operations and implementation of programs and services under the SERVE Act for Fiscal Year 2022.

According to the Department of Revenue and Taxation, the average EITC from Tax Year 2014 – 2019 amounts to \$55.8M. Historically, this will be the first time the Government of Guam will be reimbursed for EITC and therefore, the timeframe and the final amount has yet to be determined. As of the date of this fiscal note, OFB is unaware that any reimbursement for calendar 2021 has been received. It should be noted that there are also several bills that have cited

calendar year 2021 EITC reimbursements as a funding source which cumulatively exceeds the estimated \$55.8M that Guam has been averaging in EITC payments. Therefore, the funding source identified for this bill may not be viable should Guam receive the funding and the other bills affecting this funding source are passed.

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. 227-36 (COR)- As Amended by the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing. As Introduced by Amanda L. Shelton, Telen Cruz Nelson, Joe S. San Agustin, Jose "Pedro" Terlaje, James C. Moylan, V. Anthony Ada, and Tina Rose Muña Barnes. "AN ACT TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE 2 TO CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS ACT IN HELPING VETERANS ACCESS HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HEALTHCARE, THROUGH VARIOUS LOCAL AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS; TO APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT AND OR THE 2021 GENERAL FUND UNAPPROPRIATED REVENUES TO THE GUAM VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED (SERVE) ACT."

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>	 02.04.22	✓				
Senator Amanda L. Shelton <i>Vice Chairperson (Gen Govt Operations, Appr & Housing)</i>	E-vote 02.04.22	✓				
Senator Clynton E. Ridgell <i>Vice Chairman (Appropriations) Member</i>						
Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <i>Member</i>						
Vice-Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <i>Member</i>	E-vote 02.04.22	✓				
Senator V. Anthony Ada <i>Member</i>	E-vote 02.04.22	✓				
Senator Frank F. Blas Jr. <i>Member</i>	E-vote 02.04.22			✓		
Senator Jose "Pedro" Terlaje <i>Member</i>						
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. 227-36 (COR) As Amended

9 messages

Michaella Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com>

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 1:58 PM

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

Hafa Adai Committee Members,

Please see attached Committee Report for Bill No. 227-36 (COR) As Amended by the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing. **"AN ACT TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE 2 TO CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS ACT IN HELPING VETERANS ACCESS HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HEALTHCARE, THROUGH VARIOUS LOCAL AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS; TO APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT AND OR THE 2021 GENERAL FUND UNAPPROPRIATED REVENUES TO THE GUAM VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED (SERVE) ACT."** As Introduced by Senator Amanda L. Shelton, Telenia C. Nelson, Joe S. San Agustin, Jose "Pedo" Terlaje, James C. Moylan, V. Anthony Ada, Tina Rose Muña Barnes.

Please indicate your preferred actions 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 into the Committee Vote Sheet and will be 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 Bill No_227-36 (COR).pdf**
2081K

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

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:22 PM

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

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

To Report Out Only

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

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:23 PM

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

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

Good afternoon:

To Do Pass.

Si Yu'os Ma'àse'.

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 Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 1:58 PM Michaela Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com> wrote:
 [Quoted text hidden]

Michaela Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com> Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:29 PM
 To: "Office of Senator Amanda L. Shelton" <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>
 Cc: Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, Clynt Ridgell <clyntridgell@guamlegislature.org>, Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Tony Ada <senatorvanthoniyada@gmail.com>, "Office of Senator Frank Blas, Jr." <office@senatorfrankblas.com>, Senator Pedro Terlaje <senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>, "Senator Mary C. Torres" <senatormary@guamlegislature.org>, "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Rose Mesa <rose.senatorsa@gmail.com>, Joseph Mesngon <joe.senatorsa@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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Michaela Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com> Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:29 PM
 To: "Office of Senator Frank Blas, Jr." <office@senatorfrankblas.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
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Tel: (671) 989-5445

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Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org> Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:33 PM
 To: Michaela Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com>
 Cc: Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, Office of Senator Shelton Guam Legislature <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, Clynt Ridgell <clyntridgell@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Tony Ada <senatorvanthoniyada@gmail.com>, "Office of Senator Frank Blas, Jr." <office@senatorfrankblas.com>, Senator Pedro Terlaje <senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>, "Senator Mary C. Torres" <senatormary@guamlegislature.org>, "Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Rose Mesa <rose.senatorsa@gmail.com>, Joseph Mesngon <joe.senatorsa@gmail.com>

To do pass.



Sinseru yan Minagåhet,

Office of the Vice Speaker • Tina Rose Muña Barnes

Committee on Rules

Committee on Public Accountability, Human Resource, Guam Buildup, Hagåtña Revitalization, Regional Affairs, Public Library, Telecommunications, and Technology

36th Guam Legislature

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Guam Congress Building | 163 Chalan Santo Papa | Hagåtña, GU 96910

senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org

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Gumai pribilehu yan konfedensia este siha na mensåhi. Solo espesiåntemente para hågu ma entensioña pat ma aturisa para unrisibi. Sen prubidu kumu ti un ma aturisa para manribisa, na'setbe, pat mandespåtcha. Yanggen lachi rinisibu-mu nu este na mensåhi, put fabot ago' guatu gi I numa'huyong gi as senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org yan despues destrosa todú siha I kopian mensåhi. Si Yu'os ma'åse'.

On Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 1:58 PM Michaela Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Michaela Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com>

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:35 PM

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

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

[Quoted text hidden]

Senator V. Anthony Ada <senatorvanthonyada@gmail.com>

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 3:00 PM

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

To Do Pass

On Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 1:58 PM Michaela Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

--



Office of Senator V. Anthony Ada

36th Guam Legislature

I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

204 Hesler Place, Ada Plaza Center, Suite 202 & Suite 203

Hagatna, Guam 96910

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Gumai pribilehu yan konfedensia este siha na mensâhi. Solo espesiâtmente para hâgu ma entensioña pat ma aturisa para unrisibi. Sen prubidu kumu ti un ma aturisa para manribisa, na'setbe, pat mandespâtcha. Yanggen lachi rinisibu-mu nu este na mensâhi , put fabot ago' guatu gi I numa'huyong gi as senatorvanthonyada@gmail.com yan despues destrosa todû siha I kopian mensâhi. Si Yu'os ma'âse'.

Michaella Celorio <msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com>
To: "Senator V. Anthony Ada" <senatorvanthonyada@gmail.com>

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 3:01 PM

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.senatorsa@gmail.com

Tel: (671) 989-5445

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