EDDIE BAZA CALVO
Governor

RAY TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor Of Guam.

JUL 13 2017

GL# 34-17-719
Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz

Honorable Benjamin J.F. Cruz
Speaker
I Mina'trentai Kuåttro Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

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Dear Mr. Speaker:

Pursuant to § 102(e) of Chapter 1, Title 1, Guam Code Annotated, transmitted herewith is a copy of Executive Order No. 2017-04, which was signed on July 13, 2017.

Senseramente,

EDDIE BAZA CALVO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HAGÅTÑA, GUAM 96910
U.S.A.

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2017-04

DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the island of Guam is experiencing a rapidly increasing rate of mortality in our palm trees, most especially, in our iconic coconut tree amongst other native flora; and

WHEREAS, invasive species such as, but not limited to the coconut rhinoceros beetle, *Oryctes rhinoceros*, have been attacking Guam's iconic coconut trees since it was first discovered on the island in 2007. In its adult stage, this invasive species bores into the crowns of the coconut tree and some other 45 species of palms to feed on tree sap, providing both negative and adverse impacts on Guam's flora, further endangering the existence of Guam's palm trees, as tree mortality occurs when beetles destroy the meristem; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that the preferred breeding sites for some invasive species such as, but not limited to the coconut rhinoceros beetle, are standing coconut stems, decaying piles of improperly disposed vegetation and green waste. Decaying vegetation is also the preferred food source of the immature coconut rhinoceros beetle and other invasive species; and

WHEREAS, a multilayered approach towards identifying an effective means of containment and eradication of the coconut rhinoceros beetle is underway, including, but not limited to the suggested use of an experimental fungus - *Green Muscardine*, the deployment of a virus - *Oryctes nudivirus*, and the use of specific pesticides in non-U.S. jurisdictions have demonstrated limited success, more must be done; and

WHEREAS, our current landfill does not accept green waste for proper processing and disposal, green waste is left displaced throughout our island, creating the ideal breeding, feeding and dwelling sites for not just the coconut rhinoceros beetle, but for the *Wasmannia auropunctata*, or Little Fire Ant, further diminishing Guam's biodiversity;

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the People of Guam that the permitting of the emergency use of air curtain destructors to immediately process and dispose of decaying vegetation and green waste, be deployed in our efforts to contain, curtail, and assist in eradicating the negative and adverse effect of invasive species, subject to the existing statutory permitting requirements and processes as specified in Guam or federal law; and

WHEREAS, the use of this resource be allowed until sufficient systems are established to manage green waste and control invasive species that use green waste to proliferate.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, EDDIE BAZA CALVO, *I Maga'låhen Guåhan*, Governor of Guam, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Organic Act and laws of Guam, do hereby order and direct as follows:

I. The Guam Environmental Protection Agency shall:

a. Pursuant to Title 22 of the Guam Administrative Rules and Regulations, Chapter 1, Article III, Section 9, §1311 of the Guam Air Pollution Control Standards and Regulations, to enact that "In the event of a declared state of emergency, open burning of vegetation shall be allowed at an authorized solid waste processing or disposal facility provided that an air curtain destructor is utilized."

b. Assist in the Department of Agriculture's efforts in the development of a sustainable year-round plan for green waste and decaying vegetation reduction.

II. The Department of Public Works shall cause all heavy equipment assets to be made readily available to all parties, relative to the transport of green waste from originating points to a Guam EPA approved disposal facility.

III. The General Services Agency, under the Guam Department of Administration shall give priority to procure any services requested by the Department of Agriculture, in connection with this Executive Order, in accordance and subject to Guam procurement law, for the immediate procurement of services relative to this order.

IV. The Department of Agriculture shall:

a. Be the procuring agency for the services described in this Executive order.
b. Identify temporary storage locations of green waste for transport and disposal.
c. Co-develop and implement a sustainable year-round plan for the reduction and/or eradication of invasive species, which thrive on green waste and decaying vegetation, aligned with the applicable rules and regulations under the Guam Environmental Protection Agency.

SIGNED AND PROMULGATED at Hagåtña, Guam, this 13th day of July, 2017.

EDDIE BAZA CALVO
I Maga'låhen Guåhan
Governor of Guam