*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*
**BILL STATUS**

| BILL NO. | SPONSOR | TITLE | DATE INTRODUCED | DATE REFERRED | CMTE REFERRED | FISCAL NOTES | PUBLIC HEARING DATE | DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED | NOTES |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **355-37 (COR)** | Joe S. San Agustin<br>Roy A. B. Quinata<br>Tina Rose Muña Barnes<br>William A. Parkinson<br>Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas<br>Amanda L. Shelton<br>Christopher M. Dueñas<br>Jesse A. Lujan<br>Thomas J. Fisher | AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE REVENUES IN EXCESS OF ADOPTED REVENUES IN PUBLIC LAW 37-42, THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET LAW, AS ENUMERATED IN THE CONSOLIDATED REVENUE EXPENDITURE REPORT OF AUGUST 2024. | 9/13/24<br>3:55 p.m. | 9/17/24 | Committee on General Government Operations and Appropriations | Request: 9/17/24<br><br>9/25/24 | 10/3/24<br>9:00 a.m. | 10/11/24<br>3:51 p.m. | Addendum<br>10/21/24 |

# COMMITTEE ON RULES

Senator Chris Barnett, Chairperson
*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*
*37th Guam Legislature*

October 21, 2024

**To:** **Joaquin P. Taitague**
Clerk of the Legislature

**Attorney Darleen Hiton**
Legislative Legal Counsel

**From:** **Senator Chris Barnett**
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

**Subject:** **Addendum for Bill No. 355-37 (COR) for processing.**

---

*Håfa Adai yan Biba Guåhan!*

Attached is an **Addendum for Bill No. 355 -37 (COR) for processing,** to be processed and posted on the legislature website for public accessibility.

SENATOR JOE S. SAN AGUSTIN
COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND APPROPRIATIONS
I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN

October 21, 2024

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** **Chris Barnett**
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

**From:** **Senator Joe S. San Agustin**
Chairperson, Committee on General Government Operations and Appropriations

**Subject:** **Additional Testimonies for Bill No. 355-37 (COR)**

Hafa adai Senator Barnett!

Please include the additional testimonies on Bill No. 355-37 (COR) , as attached, as an addendum to the Committee Report.

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse!*

SUITE 3, 2ND FLOOR, RAN CARE BLDG. CBU# 203 761 S. MARINE CORPS DR. TAMUNING, GUAM 96913
TEL: 671-989-5445 FAX: 671-969-6737 EMAIL: SENATORJOESSANAGUSTIN@GMAIL.COM

Gmail Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>

# Support Bill 355-37 —Guåhan Doula Project

1 message

**Noelani N** [redacted]> 12 October 2024 at 09:48
To: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com

Dear Senator San Agustin,

Håfa adai, my name is Noelani Nichols, and I'm a CHamoru birth doula, and also Brandi and Satrin's younger sister. I am emailing to share my STRONG support for Bill 355-37 Guåhan Doula Project. I support this bill because it is a step in the right direction to improve maternal and infant health outcomes and help save the lives of more moms and babies in Guåhan, especially CHamorus. Our people need initiatives like this to ensure we can have vibrant and healthy futures for many, many generations to come – the preservation of our culture is reliant on the health and wellbeing of our people.

Despite efforts from local and federal government agencies to improve health outcomes, the number of infants and mothers dying in Guam continues to rise year after year with indigenous and low-income communities bearing the heaviest burden. The good news is, we can do something about it. Doulas are an evidence-based intervention to promote healthier outcomes for moms and babies.

Studies suggest that increased access to doula care, especially in under-resourced communities, can improve a range of health outcomes for mothers and babies, lower healthcare costs, reduce cesarean sections, decrease maternal anxiety and depression, and help improve communication between low-income, racially/ethnically diverse pregnant people and their health care providers.

The majority of infant and maternal deaths are preventable and we have the opportunity to invest in doulas and build a strong, supportive birthworker community for Guåhan's mothers and children.

I really believe that this bill is vital to the health and wellbeing of the mothers and babies on Guåhan, and I also believe it's an extraordinary opportunity to set an example for the rest of the world as to what a culture of healthy, supported births can look like and the profound impact it can have on communities.

Un dångkulo' na Saina Ma'åse for listening. I wish you health and happiness.
In gratitude,

Noelani Nichols
[redacted]

Gmail **Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>**

# Urgent Action Needed: Pass Bill 318-37 & 355-37 - Guåhan Doula Project NOW!!

1 message

**Healing by Choice** <healingbychoicedetroit@gmail.com> 13 October 2024 at 01:19
To: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com

**The Honorable Senator Joe S. San Agustin**
Ran-Care Commercial Building, 2nd floor
761 S. Marine Corps Drive, Tamuning
senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com

October 12, 2024

**Subject:** Urgent Action Needed: Pass Bill 318-37 & 355-37 - Guåhan Doula Project NOW!!

Good day Senator San Agustin,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Amanda Hill, and I am with Healing by Choice!. I am writing to urgently request your support for Bill 318-37 & 355-37 , the *Guåhan Doula Project*, a crucial initiative that can help combat the alarmingly high maternal and infant mortality rates in Guam.

As you may know, doulas are an evidence-based intervention that significantly improves health outcomes for both mothers and babies. Every day that passes without this bill moving forward, more mothers and babies in Guam are at risk. Research shows that a doulas presence reduces maternal and infant mortality rates by offering essential, evidence-based support during pregnancy, labor, and the postpartum period. Bill 318-37 & 355-37 will make trained doulas accessible to all families, to access these vital services, leading to healthier birth outcomes.

The numbers speak for themselves: Guam's mothers and babies face preventable tragedies, as they are five times more likely to die before their first birthday than the national average. Bill 318-37 & 355-37 seeks to address this health disparity. We have a unique and clear opportunity to invest in doulas and build a strong, supportive birthworker community that can make a real impact on the lives of these families and their future.

In addition to improving access to trained doulas, Bill 318-37 & 355-37 also prioritizes culturally relevant care, particularly for Guam's indigenous and low-income communities. This approach is essential for empowering families and ensuring they feel informed and supported throughout their birthing journey.

I urge you to take action now, by supporting Bill 318-37 & 355-37 . Your voice and leadership can become a powerful advocate for the health and well-being of the mothers and babies in Guam.

Thank you for your attention and for prioritizing the future of Guam, as they cannot afford to wait.

Best regards,

Amanda Hill
Director, Healing by Choice!
healingbychoicedetroit@gmail.com

--
We will respond to your email within 3-5 days. We are a small part-time staff and we thank you for your patience in waiting for our response.

~Join us in reminding people that *they are worthy* through purchasing these affirmation postcards to send to your friends and community.
~Healing by Choice! on facebook and instagram
~If you are looking for individual services, here is a booklet of Detroit healing and health practitioners.

Gmail Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>

# Urgent Action Needed: Pass Bill 318-37 & 355-37 - Guåhan Doula Project NOW!!

1 message

**BWOCCChair** <bwoccchair@gmail.com> 13 October 2024 at 02:21
To: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com

**The Honorable Senator Joe S. San Agustin**
Ran-Care Commercial Building, 2nd floor
761 S. Marine Corps Drive, Tamuning
senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com

October 12, 2024

**Subject:**

Dear Senator San Agustin,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Natalie Shovlin-Bankole, MD, and I am a co-chair of the Birthworkers of Color Collective and an OBGYN. I am writing to urgently request your support for Bill 318-37 & 355-37 , the *Guåhan Doula Project*, a crucial initiative that can help combat the alarmingly high maternal and infant mortality rates in Guam.

As you may know, doulas are an evidence-based intervention that significantly improves health outcomes for both mothers and babies. Every day that passes without this bill moving forward, more mothers and babies in Guam are at risk. Research shows that a doulas presence reduces maternal and infant mortality rates by offering essential, evidence-based support during pregnancy, labor, and the postpartum period. Bill 318-37 & 355-37 will make trained doulas accessible to all families, to access these vital services, leading to healthier birth outcomes.

The numbers speak for themselves: Guam's mothers and babies face preventable tragedies, as they are five times more likely to die before their first birthday than the national average. Bill 318-37 & 355-37 seeks to address this health disparity. We have a unique and clear opportunity to invest in doulas and build a strong, supportive birthworker community that can make a real impact on the lives of these families and their future.

In addition to improving access to trained doulas, Bill 318-37 & 355-37 also prioritizes culturally relevant care, particularly for Guam's indigenous and low-income communities. This approach is essential for empowering families and ensuring they feel informed and supported throughout their birthing journey.

I urge you to take action now, by supporting Bill 318-37 & 355-37 . Your voice and leadership can become a powerful advocate for the health and well-being of the mothers and babies in Guam.

Thank you for your attention and for prioritizing the future of Guam, as they cannot afford to wait.

Best regards,
Natalie Shovlin-Bankole, MD
Co-Chair of Birthworkers of Color Collective
bwoccchair@gmail.com

Gmail **Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>**

# Support Bill 318-37 & 355-37, Guåhan Doula Project

1 message

**Eliza Ossolinski** <[redacted]> 12 October 2024 at 10:30
To: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com
Cc: aria.senatorsa@gmail.com

Dear Senator San Agustin,

Hello! My name is Eliza Ossolinski, and I am emailing to share my strong support for Bill 318-37 & 355-37 Guåhan Doula Project. I support this bill because I believe mothers, birthgivers, and infants in Guåhan deserve the resources and assistance for safe births, healthy lives, and community support. The indigenous communities of Guåhan and the Mariana Islands must be supported in their right to access healthcare and supportive resources. I hope you will consider supporting this bill.

Thank you so much.

Best,
Eliza Ossolinski

Gmail **Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>**

# Support Bill 318-37 & 355-37 —Guåhan Doula Project

1 message

**Delaney Carr** <[redacted]> 12 October 2024 at 12:30
To: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com
Cc: "aria.senatorsa@gmail.com" <aria.senatorsa@gmail.com>

Dear Senator San Agustin,

Hi, my name is Delaney Carr. I am emailing to share my strong support for Bill 318-37 & 355-37 Guåhan Doula Project. With extensive experience and education in the public health sector, I support this bill for a number of reasons.

Birth workers change lives and are critical providers of care, wisdom, support, and education that can significantly mitigate one of the most pressing issues of today: maternal and infant mortality and morbidity. Mothers and babies in Guam deserve access to all the resources that will help them thrive, including doula care.

The Guåhan Doula Project (Bill 318-37 & 355-37) is a positive step to improve maternal and infant health outcomes and help save the lives of more moms and babies in Guam.

Despite efforts from local and federal government agencies to improve health outcomes, the number of infants and mothers dying in Guam continues to rise year after year with indigenous and low-income communities bearing the heaviest burden. Doulas are an evidence-based intervention to promote healther outcomes for moms and babies.

Studies suggest that increased access to doula care, especially in under-resourced communities, can improve a range of health outcomes for mothers and babies, lower healthcare costs, reduce cesarean sections, decrease maternal anxiety and depression, and help improve communication between low-income, racially/ethnically diverse pregnant people and their health care providers.

The majority of infant and maternal deaths are preventable and we have the opportunity to invest in doulas and build a strong, supportive birthworker community for Guam's mothers and children.

Thank you,
Delaney

Gmail **Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>**

# Subject: Support Bill 318-37 & 355-37 —Guåhan Doula Project

1 message

**Glennie** <[redacted]> 12 October 2024 at 13:40
To: "senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>

Dear Senator San Agustin,

Hello, I'm Glen van Staveren and I'm with Birthworkers of Color Collective organization.
I am emailing to share my strong support for Bill 318-37 & 355-37 Guåhan Doula Project. I strongly support this bill because as a practicing doula and birthworker, it is vital that all individuals receive adequate maternal and infant care and support. Please read a list of reasons below why this bill is immensely important.

The Guåhan Doula Project (Bill 318-37 & 355-37) is a positive step to improve maternal and infant health outcomes and help save the lives of more moms and babies in Guam.

Despite efforts from local and federal government agencies to improve health outcomes, the number of infants and mothers dying in Guam continues to rise year after year with indigenous and low-income communities bearing the heaviest burden. Doulas are an evidence-based intervention to promote healther outcomes for moms and babies.

Studies suggest that increased access to doula care, especially in under-resourced communities, can improve a range of health outcomes for mothers and babies, lower healthcare costs, reduce cesarean sections, decrease maternal anxiety and depression, and help improve communication between low-income, racially/ethnically diverse pregnant people and their health care providers.

The majority of infant and maternal deaths are preventable and we have the opportunity to invest in doulas and build a strong, supportive birthworker community for Guam's mothers and children.

I urge you to pass this bill and support your people.

With Gratitude,
Glennie vs.

Gmail **Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>**

# Urgent Action Needed: Pass Bill 318-37 & 355-37

1 message

**Wishfia Brave** <[redacted]> 13 October 2024 at 00:37
To: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com

The Honorable Senator
Joe S. San Agustin
Ran-Care Commercial Building,
2nd floor 761 S. Marine Corps Drive, Tamuning senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com
October 11, 2024

Subject: Urgent Action Needed: Pass Bill 318-37 & 355-37 - Guåhan Doula Project NOW!!

Dear Senator San Agustin,
I hope this message finds you well. My name is Connie Dowding. I am writing to urgently request your support for Bill 318-37 & 355-37 , the Guåhan Doula Project, a crucial initiative that can help combat the alarmingly high maternal and infant mortality rates in Guam.
As you may know, doulas are an evidence-based intervention that significantly improves health outcomes for both mothers and babies. Every day that passes without this bill moving forward, more mothers and babies in Guam are at risk. Research shows that a doulas presence reduces maternal and infant mortality rates by offering essential, evidence-based support during pregnancy, labor, and the postpartum period. Bill 318-37 & 355-37 will make trained doulas accessible to all families, to access these vital services, leading to healthier birth outcomes.
The numbers speak for themselves: Guam's mothers and babies face preventable tragedies, as they are five times more likely to die before their first birthday than the national average. Bill 318-37 & 355-37 seeks to address this health disparity. We have a unique and clear opportunity to invest in doulas and build a strong, supportive birthworker community that can make a real impact on the lives of these families and their future.
In addition to improving access to trained doulas, Bill 318-37 & 355-37 also prioritizes culturally relevant care, particularly for Guam's indigenous and low-income communities. This approach is essential for empowering families and ensuring they feel informed and supported throughout their birthing journey.
I urge you to take action now, by supporting Bill 318-37 & 355-37 . Your voice and leadership can become a powerful advocate for the health and well-being of the mothers and babies in Guam.
Thank you for your attention and for prioritizing the future of Guam, as they cannot afford to wait.
Best regards,
Connie Dowding

Sent from my iPhone

Gmail **Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>**

# Bill 318-37 and 355-37

1 message

**Jill Coughlin** [redacted] 13 October 2024 at 00:50
To: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com

Dear Senator,

I am emailing with concern for the people of Guam, especially those expectant mothers and the country's survival. The maternal and infant mortality rate in Guam are the highest in The United States. This saddens me because with education, knowledge and practice, these rates would be lowered greatly and those lives would be saved. Educating and employing people to train in dula and birth work is necessary and needed.
I implore you to pass these bills and proactively contribute positively to the survival of your beautiful nation.

Most Sincerely,

Jill S Coughlin
Infant level coordinator, Montessori and RIE Teacher, parent of 4, wife, United States Citizen
Sent from my iPhone

Gmail **Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>**

# Urgent Action Needed: Pass Bill 318-37 & 355-37 - Guåhan Doula Project NOW!!

1 message

**Olivia Farley** <[redacted]> 13 October 2024 at 02:22
To: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com

**The Honorable Senator Joe S. San Agustin**
Ran-Care Commercial Building, 2nd floor
761 S. Marine Corps Drive, Tamuning
senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com

October 11, 2024

**Subject:** Urgent Action Needed: Pass Bill 318-37 & 355-37 - Guåhan Doula Project NOW!!

Dear Senator San Agustin,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Olivia. I am writing to urgently request your support for Bill 318-37 & 355-37, the *Guåhan Doula Project*, a crucial initiative that can help combat the alarmingly high maternal and infant mortality rates in Guam.

As you may know, doulas are an evidence-based intervention that significantly improves health outcomes for both mothers and babies. Every day that passes without this bill moving forward, more mothers and babies in Guam are at risk. Research shows that a doulas presence reduces maternal and infant mortality rates by offering essential, evidence-based support during pregnancy, labor, and the postpartum period. Bill 318-37 & 355-37 will make trained doulas accessible to all families, to access these vital services, leading to healthier birth outcomes.

The numbers speak for themselves: Guam's mothers and babies face preventable tragedies, as they are five times more likely to die before their first birthday than the national average. Bill 318-37 & 355-37 seeks to address this health disparity. We have a unique and clear opportunity to invest in doulas and build a strong, supportive birthworker community that can make a real impact on the lives of these families and their future.

In addition to improving access to trained doulas, Bill 318-37 & 355-37 also prioritizes culturally relevant care, particularly for Guam's indigenous and low-income communities. This approach is essential for empowering families and ensuring they feel informed and supported throughout their birthing journey.

I urge you to take action now, by supporting Bill 318-37 & 355-37 . Your voice and leadership can become a powerful advocate for the health and well-being of the mothers and babies in Guam.

Thank you for your attention and for prioritizing the future of Guam, as they cannot afford to wait.

Best regards,
Olivia Farley

[redacted]

Gmail

**Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>**

# Support Bill 318-37 & 355-37 —Guåhan Doula Project

1 message

**Emerita Bustos** [redacted] 13 October 2024 at 03:40
To: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com
Cc: aria.senatorsa@gmail.com

Dear Senator San Agustin,

Hi, my name is Emerita Bustos , and I'm with Birthworkers of Color Collective in Los Angeles California. I am emailing to share my strong support for Bill 318-37 & 355-37 Guåhan Doula Project. I support this bill because it addresses Guam's rising maternal and infant mortality rates by investing in evidence-based doula training programs and supportive services for pregnant, birthing, and postpartum people. Thank you.

Gmail **Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>**

# Pot Fabot Support Bill 355-37 —Guåhan Doula Project

1 message

**Angela Carrier** <[redacted]> 14 October 2024 at 04:02
To: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com
Cc: aria.senatorsa@gmail.com

The Honorable Senator Joe S. San Agustin
Ran-Care Commercial Building, 2nd floor
761 S. Marine Corps Drive, Tamuning

Dear Senator San Agustin,

I send this message to express my strong support for Bill 355-37 Guåhan Doula Project.

As a mother, daughter and granddaughter, I support this bill because it prioritizes and upholds our CHamoru values that center maternal well-being and the collective care of family, of community, of our island.

Doulas are an evidence-based intervention that have been shown to help improve birth outcomes and promote positive birthing experiences especially for vulnerable populations.

The majority of infant and maternal deaths are preventable and we have the opportunity to invest in doulas and build a strong, supportive birthworker community for Guam's mothers and children.

Thank you, saina ma'åse,
Angela Carrier

Gmail

**Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>**

# Urgent Action Needed: Pass Bill 318-37 & 355-37 - Guåhan Doula Project NOW!!

**Jessica Balraj** [redacted] 13 October 2024 at 01:09
To: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com

Dear Senator San Agustin,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Jessica Balraj and I am writing to urgently request your support for Bill 318-37 & 355-37 , the Guåhan Doula Project, a crucial initiative that can help combat the alarmingly high maternal and infant mortality rates in Guam.

As you may know, doulas are an evidence-based intervention that significantly improves health outcomes for both mothers and babies. Every day that passes without this bill moving forward, more mothers and babies in Guam are at risk. Research shows that a doulas presence reduces maternal and infant mortality rates by offering essential, evidence-based support during pregnancy, labor, and the postpartum period. Bill 318-37 & 355-37 will make trained doulas accessible to all families, to access these vital services, leading to healthier birth outcomes.

The numbers speak for themselves: Guam's mothers and babies face preventable tragedies, as they are five times more likely to die before their first birthday than the national average. Bill 318-37 & 355-37 seeks to address this health disparity. We have a unique and clear opportunity to invest in doulas and build a strong, supportive birthworker community that can make a real impact on the lives of these families and their future.

In addition to improving access to trained doulas, Bill 318-37 & 355-37 also prioritizes culturally relevant care, particularly for Guam's indigenous and low-income communities. This approach is essential for empowering families and ensuring they feel informed and supported throughout their birthing journey.

I urge you to take action now, by supporting Bill 318-37 & 355-37 . Your voice and leadership can become a powerful advocate for the health and well-being of the mothers and babies in Guam.

Thank you for your attention and for prioritizing the future of Guam, as they cannot afford to wait.

Best regards,

Jessica Balraj

Gmail

**Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>**

# Support Bill 355-37 —Guåhan Doula Project

**Michael Graham** <[redacted]> 14 October 2024 at 08:03
To: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com

Dear Senator San Agustin,

Hi, my name is Michael. I am emailing to share my strong support for Bill 355-37, the Guåhan Doula Project. Despite efforts from local and federal government agencies to improve health outcomes, the number of infants and mothers dying in Guam continues to rise year after year with indigenous and low-income communities bearing the heaviest burden. This is but one reason that I am supporting this bill. Studies suggest that increased access to doula care, especially in under-resourced communities, can improve a range of health outcomes for both mothers and babies including lower healthcare
costs, reduced incidence of cesarean sections, decrease maternal anxiety and depression, and improved communication between low-income, racially/ethnically diverse pregnant people and their health care providers. I believe that increased access to doula care would bring a host of positive health outcomes from mothers and babies, while uplifting and a vital community of birth workers on Guam. Thank you.

In gratitude,
Michael Graham

Gmail

**Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>**

# Support Bill 355-37 —Guåhan Doula Project

**Raina Beigler** <[redacted]> 13 October 2024 at 18:46
To: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com

Hello, my name is Raina Beigler and I'm with Birthworkers Of Color Collective. I am emailing to share my strong support for Bill 355-37 Guåhan Doula Project. I support this bill because the majority of infant and maternal deaths are preventable. We have the opportunity to invest in doulas in order to build a strong, supportive Birthworkers community for Guam's mothers and children. Please help us make this happen.

Thank you.

Raina Beigler

Gmail **Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>**

## Support for Bill 355-37

**Moñeka De Oro** <[redacted]> 13 October 2024 at 22:22
To: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com, Senator Sabina Perez <office@senatorperez.org>, Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Guam Doula Program

Mateo Francisco 2002
Carlo Miguel 2007
Sai 2010
Lumuhu 2023

These are just some of the nenis, that I have familial ties to that were born at the hospital and never made it home to their families. This is the heart breaking and absolutely horrifying reality we have on Guahan.

Im so grateful to Stevie Moreno, Auntie Jayne Flores and Sen Fisher for championing this issue. Improving birth experiences for mothers and babies
Has long term health and wellness correlations. Those women who had Traumatic births are much more likely to have complications and post pregnancy mood disorders.
The biggest reason why this bill is necessary to pass for me is the that the medical providers here are incredibly limited and over taxed here. When i found out i was pregnant in early April 2021, I called all the OB clinics and the earliest i could get an appointment was not for another six weeks. This is the period when most miscarriages happen. The shortages of OBGYNs on this island is so worrisome, and I echo the request to have resources invested in educating, recruiting and retaining these medical professionals.
In lieu of that, something we can do right now to improve health outcomes for women and babies is initiate the Guahan Doula Project.
Having more intimate access to someone who can answer questions, manage concerns, offer resources and advocate for pregnant people will definitely quell anxieties and trepidations Aguon's pregnancy, birth and postpartum.

My sisters, aunties, friends like all women have all had their fair share of experiences regarding their reproductive health and parenting journey. Having community members that are trained using a trauma informed and culturally reflective curriculum like the one offered by birth workers of color will only enhance our existing social networks of care.
While the anecdotes and the superstitions are wellmeaning, they may also be ungrounded.

I remember being pregnant for the first time and being overwhelmed by the different "rules".

-You cant wear a necklace while pregnant
- You can stand under the door way
- You can sleep with your feet to the door
- Your partner cant fish, hunt or anything.
- dont eat pika
- if you have heart burn you baby will have lots of hair

These are just to name a few….

And when the baby came there was even more things to be weary of.

- Dont be out at night with the baby
- Don't sleep with the baby
- THE SERENU, Adahi adahi the Serenu.
- Use this, not that, do this and not that
- A trained doula can help encourage parents to trust in their own abilities and build their skills of nurturing and communicating needs.

The doula training I was fortunate to be apart of last year, really helped us to understand the entire journey of from fertility well into the first year of life. Doulas can choose how their gifts can best be of service to their clients. There are doulas that help with caring for siblings and nourishing momma and the whole family. There are so many ways parents and babies can use the extra support.

Another group of women that need help that doulas can offer are those who unfortunately miscarry or are having issues with fertility and conception. I know way too many people who have lost a birth that they were so excited for. There is not enough resources to support pregnancy loss. Time off from work and medical assistance is not always guaranteed in these cases. The Guam doula program can grow into taking that supportive role through grief and loss.

Having given birth naturally with no medication three times to healthy boys all on the full moon. I definitely believe that the mindsets and beliefs around births need to nurtured. My first son was born in 2008 and while I had fear, I was not fearful. I questioned the way hollywood portrayals of birth and reasoned that with 8 billion people on earth Birth does not have be as crazy traumatic as the movies make it out to be. I trusted that my body was made to birth, my mom had 5 kids her mom had 5 and my great grandmother had 14 kids, my paternal side has the same propensity for reproducing. Having that inner confidence made a big difference. My first son was born within 30 minutes of my arrival at GMH. Having a doula there would have been helpful since I was being forced to sign papers and was strapped to the bed and then cut when I didnt want to be. I didn't even know I could advocate against these protocols.

In 2021 I was so fortunate to have a birthcoach, Edna Martin was such an incredible asset to me and my partner. In the last two months of my pregnancy She offered hypnobirthing coaching and virtual trainings. I listened to guided meditations everyday, had a work book to write in and put up birth affirmations all over my house. WIth my coaching I learned different ways to manage “surges” or contractions as well a different birthing positions. I had a birth plan and felt soo prepared and unstressed.
The birth of my son Kahlao was so calm and peaceful, and again I gave birth with in 30 minutes of getting to the CHCC in Saipan.

I have a 3 month old now and having the support of all the doulas in our Cohort was such a blessing. Just knowing that I could tap into this deep deep well of care and wisdom was so reassuring. Recently in my last trimester, I was dealing with pregnancy insomnia and anxiety. One phone call with Tia Aguon another guam doula really helped me to shift my negative thinking and bring me back to myself. She gave me great tools to reconnect with my self which empowered me to finish that pregnancy strong and I was able to labor with ease and birth in the healthy ways that I envisioned.
As I launch my own journey as a doula, I feel very competent and confident in helping those with Gestational Diabetes and hypertension on ways to manage their blood sugar via Amot Chamorro, diet and exercise and not expensive medicines that have uncomfortable side effects. I myself have been able to manage this plight twice now and I really enjoyed monitoring myself and collecting the data every day. After this bill passes, Id look forward into getting more specified training on nutrition and pregnancy. Id love to work with WIC and nutritionists and maybe even help coach mothers while they grocery shop. Doulas are an assets in the care team.
I really love how doulas coordinate and collaborate with medical professionals, family members and other programs to ensure the wellbeing of mamas and babies.
As a doula too, connecting future clients to our beautiful lands and the plants medicines that have aided our families for millennia is also something I can do. I have been getting labatoriu or steam baths together for friends and relatives since my first son was born. My grandmother did that for all her births as well.
I personally have also been reclaiming placenta ceremonies. My family and I have buried my two youngest sons' placentas on their ancestral lands in Saipan.
I love knowing that I can integrate cultural practices into my service.

While I end my testimony of support for this bill, I just wanted to share my experience of the doula training journey with birth workers of color. The first week of deep dive trainings were complimented by cultural workshops and grounding sessions. And after that concluded we gained accessed to an amazing Google classroom that has all kinds of modules to deepen our understanding of all things pregnancy, birth and post partum and articles that help aid understanding that social underpinnings of why Pacific Islanders in particular have such high infant and maternal mortality rates.

Along with this curriculum we were invited to be apart of mentor and support program and join others cohort members from all over the US who are also doing birth work. This community helps us to build confidence, share concerns and get advice from mentors who have being doing work for awhile. The source of support the network has to offer will undoubtedly lift so many people on this island.

So please senators let's us all work together to pass the Guam doula bill and improve the wellbeing of all!

<(>< ~ ~ Moñeka on the move ~ ~ ><)>

Gmail

**Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>**

# Support Bill 355-37 —Guåhan Doula Project

**Tahira Ali** <blacknovadoula@gmail.com> 12 October 2024 at 08:13
To: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com

Dear Senator San Agustin,

Hi, my name is Tahira, and I am a community doula, student midiwfe and member of the Birthworkers of Color Collective. I am emailing to share my strong support for Bill 355-37 Guåhan Doula Project.

The Guåhan Doula Project (Bill 318-37 & 355-37) is a positive step to improve maternal and infant health outcomes and help save the lives of more moms and babies in Guam. Despite efforts from local and federal government agencies to improve health outcomes, the number of infants and mothers dying in Guam continues to rise year after year with indigenous and low-income communities bearing the heaviest burden.
Doulas are an evidence-based intervention to promote healther outcomes for moms and babies. Studies suggest that increased access to doula care, especially in under-resourced communities, can improve a range of health outcomes for mothers and babies, lower healthcare costs, reduce cesarean sections, decrease maternal anxiety and depression, and help improve communication between low-income, racially/ethnically diverse pregnant people and their health care providers. The majority of infant and maternal deaths are preventable and we have the opportunity to invest in doulas and build a strong, supportive birthworker community for Guam's mothers and children.

Thank you,
Tahira
- BlackNovaDoula -

Gmail **Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>**

# Support Bill 355-37 —Guåhan Doula Project

**Sarah Michal Hamid** <[redacted]> 12 October 2024 at 05:23
To: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com

Dear Senator San Agustin,

Hi, my name is Sarah Hamid and I'm a doula at Tales of a Dai LLC. I am emailing to share my strong support for Bill 355-37 Guåhan Doula Project. I support this bill because I am a full spectrum doula who began my training in Hawai'i. During this time I recognized the need more than ever for doula support in our communities. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Sarah Michal Hamid
she/they

Gmail **Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>**

# Support Bill 355-37 Guahan Doula Project

**J'Neia Stewart** <[redacted]> 12 October 2024 at 05:57
To: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com

Dear Senator San Agustin,

Hi, my name is J'Neia Stewart, and I'm training to be a doula with Birthworkers of Color. I am emailing to share my strong support for Bill 318-37 & 355-37 Guåhan Doula Project. I support this bill because The Guåhan Doula Project (Bill 318-37 & 355-37) is a positive step to improve maternal and infant health outcomes and help save the lives of more moms and babies in Guam.

Despite efforts from local and federal government agencies to improve health outcomes, the number of infants and mothers dying in Guam continues to rise year after year with indigenous and low-income communities bearing the heaviest burden. Doulas are an evidence-based intervention to promote healthier outcomes for moms and babies.

Studies suggest that increased access to doula care, especially in under-resourced communities, can improve a range of health outcomes for mothers and babies, lower healthcare costs, reduce cesarean sections, decrease maternal anxiety and depression, and help improve communication between low-income, racially/ethnically diverse pregnant people and their health care providers.

The majority of infant and maternal deaths are preventable and we have the opportunity to invest in doulas and build a strong, supportive birthworker community for Guam's mothers and children.

Thank you.

--
J'Neia Kailynn Stewart
Louisiana State University, MA History, Spring 2019
Prairie View A&M University, BA History, Spring 2017
[redacted]

Gmail **Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>**

# Support Bill 355-37 —Guåhan Doula Project

**Ina Wellness Collective** <livia@inawellnesscollective.com> 13 October 2024 at 19:55
To: "Honorable Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>

Dear Senator San Agustin,

My name is Livia Marati and I am with Ina Wellness Collective. I am writing to urgently request your support for Bill 318-37 & 355-37, the *Guåhan Doula Project*, a crucial initiative that can help combat the alarmingly high maternal and infant mortality rates in Guam.

As a local women's holistic health coach, prenatal yoga teacher and doula, I work firsthand with expecting mothers on Guam and see the lack of support and resources available on the island for pregnant women. I believe that doulas can play an impactful role in supporting women through the massive change of having a child and increase the chances of a healthy pregnancy through education, coaching and mental/emotional support.

Thank you,
Livia Marati

--

**Livia Marati**
Founder of Ina Wellness Collective
Website | Instagram

Gmail

**Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>**

# Support Bill 318-37 & 355-37 —Guåhan Doula Project

**Nicole Archibald** <[redacted]> 14 October 2024 at 09:10
To: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com
Cc: aria.senatorsa@gmail.com

Dear Senator San Agustin,

Hi, my name is Nicole Ernst. I am emailing to share my strong support for Bill 318-37 & 355-37 Guåhan Doula Project.

I support this bill because studies suggest that increased access to doula care, especially in under-resourced communities, can improve a range of health outcomes for mothers and babies, lower healthcare
costs, reduce cesarean sections, decrease maternal anxiety and depression, and help improve communication between low-income, racially/ethnically diverse pregnant people and their health care providers.

Thank you,

Nicole

Gmail **Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>**

# Support Bill 355-37 -- Guåhan Doula Project

**alyssa** <[redacted]> 14 October 2024 at 13:00
To: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com

Dear Senator San Agustin,

Hi, my name is Alyssa, and I'm with Birthworkers of Color Collective. I am emailing to share my strong support for Bill 355-37 Guåhan Doula Project. I support this bill because the amount of infants and mothers dying in Guam persists to increase year after year. Investing in doulas can create a strong, supportive birthworker community and overall promote healthier outcomes for mothers and children.

Thank you.

Gmail **Joe S. San Agustin <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>**

# Bill 318-37 & 355-37 Guåhan Doula Project

**Alicia Davliatov** <[redacted]> 12 October 2024 at 09:52
To: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com

Dear Senator San Agustin,

Hi, my name is Alicia  and I am a mother . I am emailing to share my strong support for Bill 318-37 & 355-37 Guåhan Doula Project. I support this bill is a positive step to improve maternal and infant health outcomes and help save the lives of more moms and babies in Guam.Thank you.