



# OFFICE OF VICE SPEAKER TELENA CRUZ NELSON

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, AIR TRANSPORTATION,  
AND STATISTICS, RESEARCH, AND PLANNING

*I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN* | 35th GUAM LEGISLATURE

March 15, 2020

**TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL**

[speaker@guamlegislature.org](mailto:speaker@guamlegislature.org)

The Honorable Tina Muña Barnes  
Speaker, 35th Guam Legislature  
163 Chalan Santo Papa  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

**SUBJECT:** Request for Emergency Session on Bill No. 313-35

Dear Speaker Barnes,

*Buenas yan Håfa Adai!* Upon the declaration of a Public Health Emergency by our Maga'håga on March 14, 2020, I would like to respectfully request for an Emergency Session to discuss Bill No. 313-35, the "Unemployment Benefits Act of 2020." This will provide Guam's workforce and our working families the financial safety net they will need in the event of unprecedented unemployment and should the threat of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 worsen.

Our island's private sector, local businesses and tourism industry as a whole has already begun experiencing the trickle-down effects of COVID-19 despite the fact that we have yet to see a single confirmed case of the novel coronavirus. Many businesses have begun cutting operating hours and their employees' working hours in response to the significant loss of visitors to our island. Should the threat of the pandemic worsen, we could potentially see businesses and employers begin taking heightened measures that may include the reduction of employees or non-essential staff.

While we remain confident in our leadership's response plans, we should realize the imminent threat the pandemic poses not only to the health and safety of our island, but our workforce and the countless working families who rely on their paychecks to provide for their families and simply survive. As our Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Human Resources, I am confident that you will do what is necessary to care and account for the thousands of workers and their families who stand to receive support from the Unemployment Benefits Act of 2020.

We continue to pray for our island community at this time, as well as for your careful consideration in calling for an Emergency Session to take up Bill No. 313-35. *Un Dångkulu Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!*

*Senseronente,*

**Vice Speaker Telena Cruz Nelson**  
35<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

173 ASPINALL AVENUE, SUITE 202A ADA PLAZA CENTER HAGÁTÑA, GUAM 96910

**Phone:** (671) 989-7696/4678 **Email:** [senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org)