

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-990

March 18, 2020

The Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Maga'hågan Guåhan | Governor of Guam
Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Hafa Adai, Governor Leon Guerrero,

I respectfully implore your reconsideration and join the rest of our island's leaders in urging you to take the necessary steps to facilitate a community wide lock down and mandatory ground stop of commercial passenger traffic for the A.B. Won Pat Guam International Airport.

While the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) makes the determination regarding ongoing airport operations, your request for airport operational shutdown considerations should be formally communicated if that is a desired objective during these times.

Your emergency declaration for the island similar to President Trump's national emergency declaration, should mirror his subsequent directive to close off non-essential travel coming into the country in select cases. Any action to contain virus spread serves as a substantial reason to close most commercial passenger travel at our airport.

Taking steps to temporarily restrict general social interactions on our island will additionally help subside the staggering fear and uncertainty our people face in the wake of this unprecedented pandemic. We can also ensure that the capacity of our healthcare system to care for the people of Guam is preserved and maintained given the limited medical resources and assets available on the island. All models indicate that the slower the rate of infection, the less fatalities incur as a result of healthcare system overload.

While I understand your concerns of the unintended consequences that may result from a travel ban, it is important to keep our minds set on the ultimate goal of preserving the health and safety of the island at large. A non-essential travel ban would facilitate the recovery our island desperately needs. Additionally, with the \$479,000 secured in CDC grant funds for Guam, I urge you to procure additional COVID-19 test kits and aggressively increase testing, as the ratio of tests conducted to exposures contained also show a positive trend.

Our economy has taken incredible hits just in the last month and is at a near stand-still. I want to assure you that I am making unprecedented efforts to ensure that Guam's needs are included in the various economic stimulus packages being considered on the national level. Let us focus on flattening the health risk exposure curve now, and we will fill the economic gaps as we save lives.

Sincerely,



Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
Member of Congress, Guam