

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO  
MAGA'HAGA • GOVERNOR



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**Via Hand Delivery**  
**and E-mail: [speaker@guamlegislature.org](mailto:speaker@guamlegislature.org)**

April 5, 2020

**HONORABLE TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES**

Speaker

*I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

35<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building

163 Chalan Santo Papa

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

**Re: COVID-19 Response efforts**

Dear Madame Speaker:

I am in receipt of a letter authored by Vice Speaker Nelson and Senator Shelton. This letter echoes what others in the community have requested: severe action to respond to those on our island that have been unwilling to follow public health guidance in the shadow of this deadly virus.

This pandemic, evidenced by how it has affected the entire world, is unprecedented in the modern era. And while other nations, using extraordinary powers, have had some progress in curtailing the spread of COVID-19, those jurisdictions do not recognize the same strong fundamental rights afforded to Guam's people by the Constitution. As Governor, I must take strong measures to defeat COVID-19 while recognizing the rights of individuals grounded in the Organic Act.

To this end, my consultations with the Attorney General of Guam make clear that this new threat requires additional enforcement powers that can only be granted by the legislature.

Therefore, I am asking that you work with your colleagues to immediately author and pass legislation permitting me to limit movement to that which is needed for the support of essential businesses, the maintenance of life sustenance, and emergent medical needs. I also ask that the legislature mirror the efforts of other legislative bodies throughout the nation that have authorized methods of enforcement, including the issuance of significant fines and penalties.

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To: Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes  
Fr: Governor of Guam  
Dated: April 5, 2020  
Re: COVID-19 Response efforts

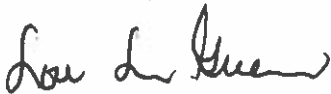
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Page 2 of 2

Since this public health emergency was declared, government of Guam employees who serve as our healthcare workers, law enforcement and public safety officers, and public health and social services workers have worked tirelessly to respond to the COVID-19 threat. To address the risk that they have faced by exposing themselves to potential transmission of COVID-19, I have signed Executive Order No. 2020-08, which establishes a differential pay policy for these employees. Guam law recognizes that the legislature is the body charged with determining the appropriateness of applying compensation retroactively. I am certain that you would agree with Senator Nelson that my Executive Order should apply for all work performed since the start of this public health emergency. I ask that the legislature enact legislation accordingly.

These needs are immediate, and while I am prepared to call a special session, I respect that the legislature must take steps to ensure the safety of its members and support staff amid this virus. For this reason, I urge you to act as quickly as your responsible judgement will allow.

*Senseramente,*



**LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO**

*I Maga'hågan Guåhan*

Governor of Guam

cc via email: *Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*  
Hon. Leevin Taitano Camacho, Attorney General of Guam