



I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
35TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

April 7, 2020

Transmitted via Electronic Mail

governor@guam.gov

The Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero

I Maga'hågan Guåhan

Ricardo J. Bordallo Complex
513 West Marine Corps Drive
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Re: Support for Legislation to Provide Direct Aid to Guam's Families

Buenas yan Håfa Adai Governor Leon Guerrero,

As the 35th Guam Legislature prepares to convene an emergency session, we would like to secure your commitment to supporting legislation that provides direct aid to at least 30,000 families.

The local government should exhaust all options and implement all policies necessary to ensure compliance with your social distancing orders. Enacting punitive deterrents is an important consideration, but lawmakers from both parties agree that economic assistance and humanitarian relief are critical at this time.

Many of us in this body have been working tirelessly to identify viable, workable ways to grant direct financial assistance to workers who have been laid off or have had their hours reduced. Finding a sound source of local funds has been the major impediment to these efforts. Any reported or projected revenue surplus has surely been whittled away. Current collections are hamstrung with so many businesses closed and essentially no new tourists visiting. Cash balances for government accounts cannot be accessed by the legislature independently.

But given financial flexibility in the past, this administration has shown its ability to fund priority local policies, like the upfront payments of war reparations.

Once again, members of the legislature are proposing this workable model: the administration finds the money where it can for direct economic assistance, and the legislature will authorize a ceiling of transfers from previously inaccessible funding sources.

There are other complementary and competing measures that also propose ways to ease the financial strain on our people caused by this pandemic. While the best intentions have guided all legislation seeking this goal, we remain committed to finding a reasonable, workable route to this kind of local assistance.



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Governor Leon Guerrero, you can be assured that we will answer your call to action on the legislative authority you seek.

But while voting on measures desired by our chief executive may demonstrate good faith to our *Maga'håga* and her administration, failing to pass direct assistance to suffering families would be acting in bad faith for the people we all serve.

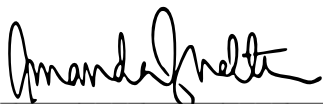
We are open to any amendments proffered by your fiscal team that will make a locally funded economic relief program viable. Our goal is to pass a workable measure that will be enacted by you—not grandstand for headlines. With this in mind, we hope to continue working together to help save lives and to help the people who need an extra hand up in order to comply with your orders to stay at home.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'.

Sincerely,



Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Speaker



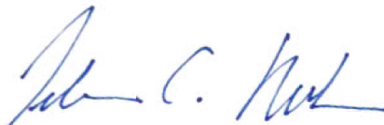
Amanda L. Shelton
Legislative Secretary



Kelly Marsh (Taitano), Ph.D.
Senator



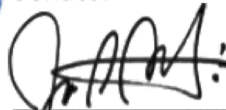
Jose "Pedro" Terlaje
Senator



Telena Cruz Nelson
Vice Speaker



Régine Biscoe Lee
Senator



Joe S. San Agustin
Senator