



Office of the Speaker  
**TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES**  
*I Mina' Trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guahan*



04/05/20

**The Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero**

*I Maga'Hagan Guahan*

TRANSMITTED VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL [governor@guam.gov](mailto:governor@guam.gov)

**Re: Bill 333-25**

Dear Governor Leon Guerrero,

As I am sure you are aware, three of my colleagues introduced recent legislation that, among other things, would set a local statutory deadline for your execution of federal relief programs related to COVID-19.

I support getting much needed relief to our residents, but I also understand from a recent White House briefing given to legislators throughout the nation, federal program guidelines at the federal agency level are still pending. Because federal agencies are still crafting the administrative mechanisms to execute the will of Congress, it is my hope that our respective branches can accomplish the intent of this legislation without the need for a law.

To that end, I ask that you commit to providing the legislature with all Memorandum of Agreements (MOA), Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Program Rules, and such other documents as might be necessary to secure federal assistance within 24 hours of when they are executed.

Additionally, while it seems that each of these federal programs do not require the preexisting adoption of administrative rules and regulations, I ask that you notify us within 24 hours of such a need being made known to you.

Moreover, should any law, rule, or regulation be needed to aid you in your response to COVID-19, or in our mutual effort to ensure that Guam's People get help right now, I ask that you clearly list these need to us by noon on April 6th so that we can address those needs immediately.

Lastly, I ask that our mutual branches of government work together to schedule weekly digital informational briefings on the progress of federal aid to our people. It is my hope that the date of this first informational briefing can be announced before close of business, on the 6th of April. I understand that your administration, and our Government of Guam is focused on responding to the current crisis at hand, as well as implementing federal programs. As such, while we would



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be fulfilling our statutory obligation to serve as the check and balance for any democratic system of government, it is my intent to get this 35<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature to aid you in your efforts, as well as inform our People - while also outlining plans for recovery efforts.

While the measure by my colleagues would give you 10 days to sign the measure into law, and another 5 days to comply with the measure should you in fact sign it into law, I am confident that you would be amenable to start working *immediately*.

In the past few days, I have been criticized for my willingness to build bridges instead of burning them--that is how I was raised. When a family is in crisis, the family's best chance of survival is found in coming together. That unity does not mean that we lack the courage to disagree, it means that we are strong enough as a family to work together even when we don't see eye to eye. This unity also means that we share a common goal, and to that extent, I look forward to working with you on behalf of the People of Guam.

*Sinseru yan Magahit,*

**Tina Rose Muña Barnes**  
**Speaker, 35<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature**

CC: All Members, 35<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature



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