



Office of the Speaker THERESE M. TERLAJE

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (April 30, 2021 – Hagåtña, Guam) – Please see Speaker Therese Terlaje's extension of remarks from today's session below. Also attached are letters sent to the Governor regarding the American Rescue Plan Act funds.

"Again, I want to thank all of my colleagues for all of their collaboration during this session. We knew we would have an abbreviated session this week due to very special events that were equally important, and I think we were able to accomplish a lot in the time that we were able to meet in session.

I believe that discussion and listening to each other is our best avenue forward, and that in hearing each other in this session hall, we also hear the people of Guam. And we will stay connected to the people of Guam through listening to each other in session debates, through our interactions at special events and even through all of our other interactions. And I hope that we will remember that most of our battles are long on Guam and that we came into this Legislature to make change, including changing hearts and minds so that people in our community can see the common ground in front of us and be united going forward.

I want to inform the public that this afternoon the Minority Leader and I sent a follow-up letter to the Governor's request for the Legislature's priority list for the American Rescue Plan funds. Earlier this week, we sent an initial letter requesting more information regarding what portion of the federal funds had been promised or committed to particular projects or agencies, so that we have a clearer picture of how much is available for prioritization. We have not received a response, but the Legislature is looking forward to meeting with the Governor regarding these funds, and we will be sending a listing of priorities by early next week. We want to reiterate that all of us in this Legislature are willing to meet to discuss, at the Governor's convenience, the priorities for the people of Guam.

As we move forward, we must get as much information as possible and be able to adjust what we learn locally and federally. For example, just this morning, the U.S. Senate passed legislation regarding water utilities and infrastructure, a very important component, I think for Guam to move forward. All of these different sources of federal funds and the potential needs and current needs of the people of Guam must be examined and reconciled.

As we approach deliberations on our FY 22 budget. We want to ensure that our local funds and federal funds will be used in a fair and equitable way so that they reach all of the people of Guam, especially those in the most need. We must truly deliberate with all of the information in front of us through a good faith effort to devise a plan that will provide immediate relief and also long-term solutions that we've waited for so long for everyone in our community. And I thank my colleagues sincerely for their efforts in this regard.

I also want to take just a moment to thank all of the staff here at the Guam Legislature, especially the protocol office and the clerk's office and the legal office for all of their extra efforts this week and last week, and assisting in hosting the two very special events. We thank you for your time and effort and for assisting us to be successful in our efforts. *Si Yu'os Ma'ase.*"

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**For transmittal of official Messages & Communications to the Guam Legislature to be distributed to all Senators, please send to: speaker@guamlegislature.org*



Office of the Speaker
THERESE M. TERLAJE

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

April 27, 2021

Transmitted via Electronic Mail:

Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero

I Maga'hagån Guahan, Governor of Guam

governor@guam.gov

SUBJECT: \$664 M spending plan for federal funds from American Rescue Plan

Håfa Adai Governor Leon Guerrero:

Thank you for your April 19th letter requesting a meeting and list of priorities for the \$664 M expected from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The Legislature has been consistent and vocal regarding its desire to work with the administration to ensure that these funds provide relief to our residents, aid our economic recovery, and address long-standing infrastructure needs of the island.

In order to prepare a potential spending plan with priorities for the \$664 M in federal funds, the Legislature is requesting a clearer idea of what portion of funds have been promised or committed to particular projects or agencies. We have heard the administration publicly announce that \$300 M of the American Rescue Plan funds will be set aside for the construction of a new hospital. We have heard publicly that Guam Visitors Bureau will receive \$20 M for GVB operations and an additional \$18 M for renovations at Matapang Beach. We also heard that shortfalls of the Judiciary and other government agencies will be covered by these funds. Based on the March 2021 CRER and Special Funds tracking reports, there is an estimated shortfall in general revenues of \$9.6 M and \$14.7 M in special funds for FY 2021. It was also reported that the Mayors Council was promised \$800,000 for shortfalls for annual paid leave from the previous term and that possibly \$14 M would be used to offset GWA increases in water rates. We have also seen requests from GEDA for \$37.8 M for various programs.

Before the Legislature sends a listing of priorities, we respectfully ask for a true account of how much of the \$664 M is available and uncommitted. We are wary of having any listing of priorities from the Legislature be pitted against agencies or projects that have already been promised funds from the administration.

We are also inquiring if the administration plans on adjusting the current budget of FY 2021 or updating revenue estimates in the executive budget request for FY 2022 based on current reopening plans and economic recovery trends. As you know the FY 2021 Executive Budget request was approximately \$30 M less than the adopted FY 2021 budget. The Legislature needs all of this information to firm our response and priority spending plan for the American Rescue Plan.

We look forward to your favorable response.

Sincerely,

Therese M. Terlaje
Speaker, 36th Legislature

Christopher M. Duenas
Minority Leader, 36th Legislature

cc: All Members, 36th Guam Legislature

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April 30, 2021

Transmitted via Electronic Mail:

Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
I Maga'hagån Guahan, Governor of Guam
governor@guam.gov

SUBJECT: Follow-up to request for information regarding American Rescue Plan


Håfa Adai Governor Leon Guerrero:


On behalf of the Legislature, we are still looking forward to meeting with you at your convenience regarding the spending plan for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and intend to send a list of priorities by early next week.

In light of our previous letter dated April 27th and no response from your office, we are making adjustments to our proposal based on the information we have available to us.

We look forward to any information you can provide to assist our efforts.

Sincerely,


Therese M. Terlaje
Speaker, 36th Legislature


Christopher M. Dueñas
Minority Leader, 36th Legislature

cc: All Members, 36th Guam Legislature