



Office of the Speaker
THERESE M. TERLAJE

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

May 18, 2021

Transmitted via Electronic Mail:

Honorable Leevin T. Camacho
Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
590 S. Marine Corps Drive, Suite 901
Tamuning, Guam 96910
lcamacho@guamag.org

SUBJECT: Open Government Law - Meetings

Hafa Adai Attorney General Camacho,

Please find attached a letter from The Vigilance Committee declaring a violation of the Open Government Law. I would like your opinion, as soon as possible, as to whether you concur that the Governor and I and all the senators violated the Open Government Law.

Any further expansion of previous guidance relative to the Open Government Law and its application to the many types of meetings the Governor or senators hold each day, including Cabinet meetings, meetings between the Governor and an individual senator on his individual priorities, meetings between two or more senators, and any other meetings implicated by the accusation, would be greatly appreciated and go a long way in clarifying the law.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and I look forward to your response. Please do not hesitate to contact me immediately if you need more information or if further clarification of the request is required.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse',

Therese M. Terlaje

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 472-3586 | Fax: (671) 969-3590 | Email: senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com | www.senatorterlaje.com

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



The Vigilance Committee

GCIC, Inc. 414 West Soledad Avenue, Hagåtña, GU. 96910

May 18, 2021

Transmitted via Electronic Mail
speaker@guamlegislature.org

Honorable Therese M. Terlaje
Speaker, 36th *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* [Guam Legislature]
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Ref: TVC 21-091

Subject: NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF THE OPEN GOVERNMENT LAW

Hafa Adai Speaker Terlaje:

We are in receipt of your May 17 response to our Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. After thorough review of your response, you are in violation of the Open Government Law.

The Open Government Law states:

§ 8105. Exception. A chance meeting of two or more members of a public agency shall not be considered a public meeting. No chance meeting, informal assemblage or electronic communication shall be used to decide or deliberate public business in circumvention of the spirit or requirements of this Chapter.

Madam Speaker, the meeting held on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at Adelup with the Governor and members of the 36th Guam Legislature was an informal assemblage. Whether or not a decision was made, the public will never know. Based on the governor's invitation and the multiple statements in the media, it is evidently clear that the intent of the informal assemblage with members of the 36th Guam Legislature and the governor was to deliberate public business, specifically, the '*plans for expenditure of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds*'.

It is clear the spirit of the Open Government Law, whether intentional or not, was trampled on and circumvented by you and the members of the 36th Guam Legislature.

The spirit of the Open Government Law states:

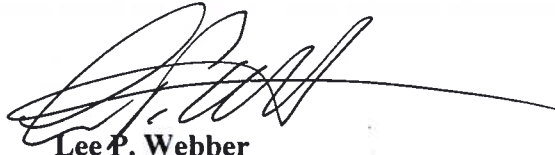
§ 8102. Policy. The Legislature declares it is the policy of this Territory that the formation of public policy and decisions is public and shall not be conducted in secret. The people of Guam do not yield their individual rights to the public agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created.

www.stayvigilant.org
Email: stayvigilantguam@gmail.com

It is this same spirit and declaration that carries this notice of violation. The people of Guam, in delegating their authority, do not give you and the senators of the 36th Guam Legislature the right to decide what is good for them to know and what is not good for them to know. The people of Guam demand to be informed and assert their right over the government they have created.

Madam Speaker, the discussions of public business in an illegal meeting has the potential to taint any legislation that could be traced back to your illegal meeting. Therefore, I am asking you to email me by May 24, 2021, all public documents which would show your plan to remediate the harm that this illegal meeting may have caused.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Webber', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Lee P. Webber

President, The Vigilance Committee, Inc.

Attached: Speaker Terlaje's Response to FOIA



Vigilance Committee <stayvigilantgu@gmail.com>

Demand of Public Records pursuant to the Sunshine Reform Act

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <speaker@guamlegislature.org>
To: Vigilance Committee <stayvigilantgu@gmail.com>
Cc: Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Mon, May 17, 2021 at 12:18 PM

Håfa adai Mr. Webber,

Thank you for your email. There was no legislative meeting held on May 11, 2021 at 2:30pm. I have no documents in my possession in response to your request for items 1) and 2). I have attached all documents in my possession relative to the invitation from the Governor.

It was my hope in meeting with the Governor to receive and compare her detailed plans for expenditure of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds with the Legislature's, and to urge her to act immediately in prioritizing the RISE Act payments upon receipt of the \$553 M in cash in the next few days. We have not yet received the Governor's detailed plans for the ARP funds.

In fact, there was no decision on the expenditures of the American Rescue Plan (ARP), no bill pending on the ARP, and no quorum required regarding action on the ARP. In my official capacity as the Speaker of the Guam Legislature, I accepted an invitation to meet with the Governor of Guam.

Sincerely,
Therese Terlaje

Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan

36th Guam Legislature

Office Location: Ada Plaza Center, Suite 207, [173 Aspinall Avenue](#), Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Address: Guam Congress Building, [163 Chalan Santo Papa](#), Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T: (671) 472-3586 F: (671) 989-3590 Email: speaker@guamlegislature.org

website: www.senatorterlaje.com

On Wed, May 12, 2021 at 1:52 PM Vigilance Committee <stayvigilantgu@gmail.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]



Documents related to Governor invitation to May 11, 2021 meeting.pdf

6490K



Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <speaker@guamlegislature.org>

Letter from Governor Leon Guerrero

Eliza G. Dames <eliza.dames@guam.gov>

Tue, Apr 20, 2021 at 1:49 PM

To: Speaker's Office <speaker@guamlegislature.org>, senatorchrisduenas@gmail.com

Cc: Joshua F Tenorio <joshua.tenorio@guam.gov>, Jon Junior Calvo <jon.calvo@guam.gov>, Alice Taijeron <alice.taijeron@guam.gov>

Hafa Adai,

Please see the attached letter from Governor Leon Guerrero relative to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter.

Thank you.

--



Eliza Dames
Special Assistant
Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex
Office of the Governor
Hagatna, Guam
(671) 473-1104

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 **041921_Speaker TMT Re-ARP Act of 2021.pdf**
407K

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR

UFISINAN I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

April 19, 2021

The Honorable Therese Terlaje
Speaker
I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, GU 96910

The Honorable Christopher M. Dueñas
Minority Leader
I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
116 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, GU 96910

RE: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

Dear Speaker Terlaje and Senator Duenas:

Last month President Joe Biden signed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, a progressive package that addresses the economic and health crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Broadly, this \$1.9 trillion relief bill, of which Guam expects to receive \$664 million, is an aggressive plan to provide direct relief to states and territories across the nation, contain COVID-19, and rescue the economy.

While we await for additional federal guidance on how these monies can be spent, my administration is formulating a spending plan that will deliver immediate relief to struggling families, stabilize government operations, and charts a course for economic recovery. This includes the construction of a new public hospital and public health facility and an offset for revenue shortfalls to allow government agencies to continue to provide critical services.

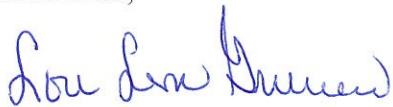
To successfully transition from crisis response to economic recovery, we know we must work together under a One Guam approach. I would like to arrange a meeting with the members of the 36th Guam Legislature to discuss your priorities and ideas to rebuild a stronger Guam and work

From: Governor Lou Leon Guerrero
To: Speaker Terlaje and Senator Duenas
April 16, 2021
Page 2 of 2

together to incorporate them into a comprehensive summary once federal guidance is received. Prior to this meeting, please send a list of collective priorities to my office by April 30, 2021.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 meets the historic challenge our nation faces as we recover from the devastation of COVID-19. Though we may have our differences, I know we all have the best interests of the People in Guam in mind. I look forward to your response and productive partnership to build our island back better.

Senseramente,



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO

Maga'hågan Guåhan

Governor of Guam



Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <speaker@guamlegislature.org>

Letter from Governor Leon Guerrero

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <speaker@guamlegislature.org>
To: "Eliza G. Dames" <eliza.dames@guam.gov>

Wed, Apr 21, 2021 at 4:48 PM

Hafa Adai Ms. Dames,

This is to confirm receipt of your email and attached Letter from Governor Leon Guerrero regarding the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase,

Maria Abante
Legislative Assistant

Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan

36th Guam Legislature

Office Location: Ada Plaza Center, Suite 207, 173 Aspinall Avenue, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

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website: www.senatorterlaje.com

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021 at 1:49 PM Eliza G. Dames <eliza.dames@guam.gov> wrote:

Hafa Adai,

Please see the attached letter from Governor Leon Guerrero relative to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter.

Thank you.

--



Eliza Dames
Special Assistant
Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex
Office of the Governor
Hagatna, Guam
(671) 473-1104

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Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Letter from Speaker Therese Terlaje and Minority Leader Senator Duenas regarding the American Rescue Plan Act

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 27, 2021 at 10:41 AM

To: Governor Guam <governor@guam.gov>

Cc: Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>, "Amanda S. Shelton" <senatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Telena Cruz Nelson <senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org>, "Senator Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, "Honorable Joanne M. Brown" <office@senatorjoannebrown.com>, Sabina Perez <sabina@senatorperez.org>, "Mary C. Torres" <senatormary@guamlegislature.org>, Chris Duenas <senatorchrisduenas@gmail.com>, James Moylan <senatormoylan@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>, Senator Jose Pedro Terlaje <senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>, "Honorable V. Anthony Ada" <senatorvanthoniyada@gmail.com>, Clynt Ridgell <clyntridgell@guamlegislature.org>, "Honorable Frank F. Blas Jr." <office@senatorfrankblas.com>

Hafa adai Honorable Governor Leon Guerrero,

Please see the attached letter from Speaker Therese Terlaje and Minority Leader Senator Christopher Duenas regarding the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Respectfully,
Jocelyn de Guia
Chief of Staff

Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan

36th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

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website: www.senatorterlaje.com

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36th Legislature Response Ltr to Governor regarding American Rescue Plan_4.27.21.pdf

354K



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

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 472-3586 | Fax: (671) 969-3590 | Email: senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com | www.senatorterlaje.com

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please send to: speaker@guamlegislature.org*



Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Letter from Speaker Therese Terlaje and Minority Leader Senator Duenas regarding the American Rescue Plan funds

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 30, 2021 at 3:57 PM

To: Governor Guam <governor@guam.gov>

Cc: Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>, "Amanda S. Shelton" <senatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Telena Cruz Nelson <senatorrcnelson@guamlegislature.org>, "Senator Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, "Honorable Joanne M. Brown" <office@senatorjoannebrown.com>, Sabina Perez <sabina@senatorperez.org>, "Mary C. Torres" <senatormary@guamlegislature.org>, Chris Duenas <senatorchrisduenas@gmail.com>, James Moylan <senatormoylan@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>, Senator Jose Pedro Terlaje <senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>, "Honorable V. Anthony Ada" <senatorvanthoniyada@gmail.com>, Clynt Ridgell <clyntridgell@guamlegislature.org>, "Honorable Frank F. Blas Jr." <office@senatorfrankblas.com>

Hafa adai Honorable Governor Leon Guerrero:

Please see the attached letter dated April 30, 2021 from Speaker Terlaje and Minority Leader Senator Duenas regarding the American Rescue Plan funds.

Respectfully,
Jocelyn de Guia
Chief of Staff

Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan

36th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T: (671) 472-3586 F: (671) 989-3590 Email: senatorterlajeguam@gmail.comwebsite: www.senatorterlaje.com

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**Follow up Response Ltr to Governor regarding American Rescue Plan_4.30.21.pdf**

351K



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 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



Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <speaker@guamlegislature.org>

Letter from Governor Lourdes Leon Guerrero

Eliza G. Dames <eliza.dames@guam.gov>

Sat, May 8, 2021 at 1:26 PM

To: Speaker's Office <speaker@guamlegislature.org>, senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org, Office of Senator Telena Cruz Nelson <senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Amanda Shelton <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com, sen.cridgell@teleguam.net, Senator Pedro Terlaje <senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>, Office of Senator Sabina Perez <office@senatorperez.org>, senatormoylan@guamlegislature.org, "Office of Senator Frank Blas, Jr." <office@senatorfrankblas.com>, senatorvanthoniyada@gmail.com, office@senatorjoannebrown.com, senatorchrisduenas@gmail.com, Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>, Senator Senator Mary Camacho Torres <senatormary@guamlegislature.org>
Cc: Jon Junior Calvo <jon.calvo@guam.gov>, Alice Taijeron <alice.taijeron@guam.gov>, Rikki Orsini <rikki.orsini@guam.gov>

Hafa Adai Senators,
Please find the attached letter from Governor Leon Guerrero regarding the list of priorities for consideration of the ARP.

Thank you.

--



Eliza Dames
Special Assistant
Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex
Office of the Governor
Hagatna, Guam
(671) 473-1104

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040721_Senators Re-36th GL List of Priorities for Consideration.pdf

45K

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR

UFISINAN I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

May 03, 2021

Senators of the 36th Guam Legislature
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, GU 96910

Håfa Adai Senators:

The passage of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 brings much needed relief to communities, health systems, businesses, and workers. While Guam continues to wait for additional federal guidance, we continue to work diligently to rebuild a stronger, more prosperous Guam.

On April 19, 2021, I sent a letter to Speaker Therese Terlaje and Minority Leader, Senator Chris Duenas requesting a collective list of priorities and ideas to effectuate a successful transition from emergency response to economic recovery.

The Lt. Governor, and I would like to invite you to a meeting on **Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 2:30p-4:00pm. at the Adelup Large Conference Room** to discuss your list.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 gives us the tools we need to not only defeat COVID-19 but to build a recovery that benefits the People of Guam. I look forward to your response and productive partnership to build our island back better.

Senseramente,

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
Maga'hågan Guåhan
Governor of Guam



Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Re: Meeting with Governor Leon Guerrero

Eliza G. Dames <eliza.dames@guam.gov>
To: Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>
Cc: Jennifer Dulla <jennifer.dulla@guam.gov>

Wed, May 5, 2021 at 8:17 AM

Thank you

On Tue, May 4, 2021 at 5:58 PM Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com> wrote:

Hafa adai,

This is to confirm Speaker Terlaje's attendance on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 2:30pm-4:00pm at the Adelup Large Conference Room.

Sincerely,
Jocelyn de Guia
Chief of Staff

On May 4, 2021, at 9:59 AM, Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <speaker@guamlegislature.org> wrote:

Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan

36th Guam Legislature

Office Location: Ada Plaza Center, Suite 207, [173 Aspinall Avenue](#), Hagåtña, Guam 96910Address: Guam Congress Building, [163 Chalan Santo Papa](#), Hagåtña, Guam 96910T: (671) 472-3586 F: (671) 989-3590 Email: speaker@guamlegislature.orgwebsite: www.senatorterlaje.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Eliza G. Dames** <eliza.dames@guam.gov>

Date: Tue, May 4, 2021 at 9:15 AM

Subject: Meeting with Governor Leon Guerrero

To: Speaker's Office <speaker@guamlegislature.org>, <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>, Office of Senator Telen Cruz Nelson <senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Amanda Shelton <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, <sen.cridgell@teleguam.net>, <senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>, <senatormoylan@guamlegislature.org>, <senatorchrisduenas@gmail.com>, Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>, Senator Senator Mary Camacho Torres <senatormary@guamlegislature.org>, Office of Senator Sabina Perez <office@senatorperez.org>, Office of Senator Frank Blas, Jr. <office@senatorfrankblas.com>, <senatorvanthoniyada@gmail.com>, <office@senatorjoannebrown.com>

Cc: Jennifer Louise Dulla <jennifer.dulla@guam.gov>, Jon Junior Calvo <jon.calvo@guam.gov>, Alice Taijeron <alice.taijeron@guam.gov>

Hafa Adai,

Governor Leon Guerrero has invited you to a meeting on **Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 2:30pm-4:00pm at the Adelup Large Conference Room**. The letter of invitation is attached.

Jennifer Dulla, our Protocol Director will be in touch with your respective offices to coordinate the meeting.

Thank you and we look forward to confirming your attendance.

--



Eliza Dames
Special Assistant
Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex
Office of the Governor
Hagatna, Guam
(671) 473-1104

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<050321_Senators Re-ARP Meeting.pdf>

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Eliza Dames
Special Assistant
Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex
Office of the Governor
Hagatna, Guam
(671) 473-1104

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Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Letter from 36th Guam Legislature regarding priorities for the American Rescue Plan funds

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Fri, May 7, 2021 at 1:29 PM

To: Governor Guam <governor@guam.gov>

Cc: Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>, "Amanda S. Shelton" <senatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Telena Cruz Nelson <senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org>, "Senator Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, "Honorable Joanne M. Brown" <office@senatorjoannebrown.com>, Sabina Perez <sabina@senatorperez.org>, "Mary C. Torres" <senatormary@guamlegislature.org>, Chris Duenas <senatorchrisduenas@gmail.com>, James Moylan <senatormoylan@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>, Senator Jose Pedro Terlaje <senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>, "Honorable V. Anthony Ada" <senatorvanthoniyada@gmail.com>, Clynt Ridgell <clyntridgell@guamlegislature.org>, "Honorable Frank F. Blas Jr." <office@senatorfrankblas.com>, "Eliza G. Dames" <eliza.dames@guam.gov>, Jon Junior M Calvo <jon.calvo@guam.gov>

Hafa adai Honorable Governor Leon Guerrero,

Please see the attached letter from the 36th Guam Legislature regarding priorities for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds.

Respectfully,
Jocelyn de Guia
Chief of Staff

Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan

36th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

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36th Guam Legislature Letter to Governor - Priorities for American Rescue Plan funds.pdf

288K



Office of the Speaker
THERESE M. TERLAJE

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

May 6, 2021

Transmitted via Electronic Mail:

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

SUBJECT: 36th Guam Legislature's Proposal for Allocation of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Funds

Håfa Adai Governor Leon Guerrero:

The 36th Guam Legislature would like to ensure that funds received as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) provide both short-term and long-term relief to our residents, aid our economic recovery, and address long-standing infrastructure needs of the island. It is our understanding that \$664 M will be made available to Guam through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund of ARP. In addition to the \$664 M, there are funds that may be directly appropriated to Guam through the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund for additional infrastructure needs. The Guam Department of Education was awarded approximately \$287 M from the U.S. Department of Education, as part of the American Rescue Plan, to be utilized for the safe return of students to face-to-face instruction, maximizing instructional time and addressing learning gaps, and to compensate and supplement the re-opening of schools and to ensure safe environments for students, faculty, staff and school communities at-large in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are also aware of \$33.6 M available to Guam through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, \$13.5 M through the Homeowner Assistance Fund, and \$56.2 M through the State Small Business Credit Initiative because of the ARP. We stand ready to assist in getting this additional rental, mortgage and small business assistance out to the people as quickly as possible. Accounting and use of all of these federal funds are integral to a comprehensive plan for Guam. The priorities listed below are separate from the government's FY 2022 budget needs and are subject to adjustments based on more information.

With this in mind, we are respectfully requesting that the ARP funds be prioritized and allocated for the following initiatives listed below:

DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO THE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES – TOTAL: \$68,000,000

Implementation of Public Law 35-136 - the Recovery Income Support and Empowerment (RISE) Program: \$30,000,000

- To provide direct payments to eligible Guam residents impacted by the public health emergency through the implementation of the RISE Act. Eligible individuals will receive a one-time payment of \$800 and joint filers will receive \$1600 as described in P.L. 35-136.

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RE: 36th Guam Legislature's Proposal for Allocation of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Funds

Small Business Pandemic Assistance Program and Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA) programs: \$35,000,000

- Funding for the Small Business Pandemic Assistance Program to provide direct assistance to businesses negatively impacted by the pandemic; and to develop additional programs or opportunities for the creation of new small businesses and to encourage economic growth.

***Ayuda I Mangáfa* Help for Families (AIM) Program: \$3,000,000**

- For the reopening of the *Ayuda I Mangáfa* Help for Families (AIM) Program to provide direct payments to eligible individuals who were unable to submit applications by the November 12, 2020 deadline.

EXPAND HEALTHCARE SERVICES - TOTAL: \$233,156,322

Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS): \$6,466,334

- To ensure continuity in health and social services for senior citizens by offsetting shortfalls in the Healthy Future Fund, to support health inspections and safety monitoring of food establishments and businesses during the re-opening of the economy, to ensure health licensing boards fulfill their mandates to vet health professionals through the expanded licensing process, and maximize Medicaid and MIP insurance coverage and providers.

Guam Memorial Hospital (GMH): \$22,000,000 for existing hospital; \$200,000,000 for new hospital

- To address urgent infrastructure repairs to the existing public hospital to ensure safety in patient care and compliance with CMS mandates. Immediate capital improvement projects are necessary for the hundreds of patients and families who need medical attention and healthcare. Advance funding for the new public hospital.

Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC): \$4,519,988

- To ensure mental health and detoxification and rehabilitation services are provided to the community and potentially expanded despite FY 2021 shortfalls in the Healthy Futures Fund.

Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities (DISID): \$170,000

- To ensure comprehensive services are provided to individuals with disabilities and their families despite FY 2021 shortfalls in the Healthy Futures Fund.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES - TOTAL: \$341,124,678

Guam Waterworks Authority (GWA): \$52,000,000

- Funding to avert immediate rate increases for ratepayers and to repair existing pipelines, connect sewer lines to outlying areas and tracts of land which are not currently on-grid, as well as for the expansion of the septic tank elimination program to protect the Northern Aquifer Lens from potential leaching and contamination.

Department for Public Works (DPW): \$30,000,000

- To primarily repair Guam's roads and advance the Village Streets Master Plan and fund related projects, equipment, supplies and materials. This funding will allow the execution of major highway and infrastructural

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RE: 36th Guam Legislature's Proposal for Allocation of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Funds

projects overseen by DPW that have been either delayed or unfunded and promote commerce and transportation throughout Guam.

Guam Visitors Bureau (GVB): \$ 338,000,000

- For tourism recovery efforts and as temporary supplemental funding for the loss of Tourism Attraction Fund revenues due to drastic decreases in tourist arrivals to Guam, Matapang Beach enhancement project.

Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (GCQA): \$25,000,000

- To assist GCQA in light of the financial shortfall in the GCQA fund and contractual services, to include various service and communications contracts, maintenance of systems, Drug Dog Detector Unit related expenses, scanners and fuel experienced due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Additionally, the funding will aid the Agency in becoming an established and reliable source of revenue for the People of Guam. The funding empowers the important role of GCQA in supplementing Guam's main industries and revenue sources, and further supports the streamlining of shipping information through digital manifest, the creation of a Transshipment Task Force, and the reinforcing of drug interdiction and invasive species efforts in partnership with the Port Authority of Guam.

Guam Regional Transit Authority (GRTA): \$6,000,000

- To increase capacity for passengers with the purchase of new busses and vans including vehicle fleet maintenance and repairs; and address operational needs.

Mayors Council of Guam (MCOG): \$7,000,000

- For the purchase of equipment to conduct a full-scale village beautification program island-wide.

Department of Land Management (DLM): \$15,000,000

- To improve the public's access to public land information and to assist the public in swiftly obtaining and securing land titles and land registration information through more government land surveys a modernized Title Search Web Service System at the Department of Land Management. The upgrades to the data systems at DLM will support the timely review and actions necessary for homeowners, developers, businesses, and regulatory agencies to promote meaningful and sustainable development for the community.

Chamorro Land Trust Commission (CLTC): \$25,000,000

- To bring in long awaited water and sewer infrastructure to CLTC properties to support the building of affordable homes for families and allow agricultural and economic diversification. This infusion of infrastructure to large tracts will encourage the development of affordable and permanent housing and assist with the establishment of additional business activity in parts of Guam currently underutilized.

Guam Ancestral Lands Commission (GALC): \$1,500,000

- To provide additional resources to GALC for land surveys, subdivisions, infrastructure, utilities and roads on previously vacant tracts of property. Support will be given to GALC to ensure the highest and best use of land assets of the Land Bank towards "extinguishment of claims" and elimination of poverty of ancestral landowners who cannot regain possession or title to their ancestral lands because of continued public benefit use by either the Federal Government or the Government of Guam.

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RE: 36th Guam Legislature's Proposal for Allocation of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Funds

Guam Solid Waste Authority (GSA): \$ 8,857,910

- For the continuation of operation with the loss of employees, a decrease in commercial fee collection and the off-set cost of recycling. This funding will also allow the upgrade in equipment that is being pushed over its service life (trucks, carts, etc.) and with this upgrade allow GSA to prepare for the possible implementation of mandatory trash collection. Operations and Equipment have continued during this current pandemic with a greater strain on the system, with people staying home. The set aside funding for the new cell acknowledges proper planning in place for the future expansion.

Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR): \$18,000,000

- For the increased and enhanced preservation of Guam's historic sites. Additionally, the funding will help the Guam Historic Resources Division, also known as the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) procure more archaeologists to aid in the preservation of ancient burial sites and ancestral human remains discovered through construction activity at historic sites. These projects will contribute to the beautification of the island in preparation for the re-opening of Guam to tourism partners and further addresses the concerns of the community. The funding will also contribute to maintenance of public parks, patrol vehicles and cemeteries.

Department of Administration: \$9,440,662

- To upgrade/replace AS400 system for a new financial management system for the government; address contractual services; and increase capacity for services and equipment for improved and timely accounting and reporting of government finances.

Guam Police Department (GPD): \$5,000,000

- To increase/replace equipment- patrol cruisers, maintenance vehicles, firearms, vehicle maintenance to increase police presence in the community.

Guam Fire Department: \$4,687,141

- To encourage rapid response and protect the public's health and safety by equipping the responders with more vehicles, equipment for firefighting and medical response (ambulances, jet-skis, response vehicles, aerial ladders, pumper trucks); and to address contractual services (office equipment and fire station building maintenance).

Department of Corrections (DOC): \$20,000,000

- Implementation of master plans & equipment; including new correctional facility.

Department of Youth Affairs (DYA): \$5,000,000

- For the construction of a new administration building to provide proper care, custody, detention and rehabilitation of youth entrusted to the Department; and for the establishment of an interagency juvenile justice data sharing system to provide a multidisciplinary approach for youth in contact with law enforcement and youth entering the justice system.

Judiciary of Guam: \$10,000,000

- To support the timely resolution of cases in criminal and civil court and efficient work processes through expanded courtrooms and through upgrades to the Judiciary's case management and e-filing systems for better public access to individuals in the court system.

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RE: 36th Guam Legislature's Proposal for Allocation of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Funds

Office of the Attorney General (OAG): \$4,000,000

- To improve the parents' access to child support information, payments, and enforcement through investment in a Child Support Enforcement Division case management system and to integrate databases with GPD for better collaboration and data sharing.

Office of Technology (OTECH): \$5,000,000

- To expand the public's access to GovGuam agencies' services and assistance by implementing government wide upgrades in agencies' broadband and technology infrastructure, hardware, and automation, and to develop the central public notice website as mandated by statute.

Department of Revenue and Taxation (DRT): \$10,000,000

- To stand up programs that will support the Department's progress to automate and make its services more convenient and accessible for community members through equipment upgrades, and to improve revenue collection, and to design, develop, install, operate and maintain technology services ensuring network interoperability and capability in collaboration with OTECH, DOA, and BSP.

Department of Agriculture (DoAg): \$5,000,000

- Investing in DoAg will allow them to not only meet their mandates as a regulatory agency, but it will also allow them to help develop Guam's extremely underdeveloped Agricultural industry. Funding to build new spaces for conservation officers and the Forestry division; and to assist the Department's efforts to curb increases in the stray animal population through an expanded facility for Guam Animals in Need.

Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA): \$1,500,000

- To protect Guam's environment through enhanced monitoring and regulatory action.

GO Bond 2019 (Finance the Expansion of Layon Landfill): \$2,996,875

- To ensure maintenance of Revenue Bond requirements despite shortfalls to SWOF. This funding will ensure GSWA bond standing and responsibility.

Ordot Dump closure & post closure costs: \$27,142,090

- Funding for Ordot Dump Closure and Post Closure Costs. This funding will allow GSWA to place its money back into its reserves for this purpose and ensure the Ordot dump is closed and properly maintained to protect the environment and public health. This is the remaining portion of federal receivership and that will promote financial sustainability of a utility that is working to regain full authority.

Guam Veterans Affairs Office (GVAO): \$5,000,000

- Maintenance of the Veterans' cemetery with increased funding for equipment, supplies & materials and capital improvements such as the Korean monument, etc.

WORKFORCE TRAINING/DIVERSIFICATION AND DIRECT STUDENT AID - TOTAL: \$18,500,000

Department of Labor (DOL): \$3,000,000

- To provide services to the unemployed as well as mitigate unemployment fraud; and for the planning and development of a local unemployment program, a study of the workmen's compensation program, and the expansion of GDOL services available to displaced workers search for employment. GDOL will play a main role in rebuilding the economy and making sure there is a robust labor force with a diversified skill set.

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RE: 36th Guam Legislature's Proposal for Allocation of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Funds

Guam Community College (GCC): \$7,000,000

- For the advancement of GCC'S Apprenticeship Program to develop and train Guam's workforce to meet industry needs, especially in areas that are critical for economic recovery and healthcare.

University of Guam (UOG): \$7,000,000

- For direct financial aid to students in need through the Student Financial Assistance Program and to increase scholarships for the nursing program, social work program, other health related programs, teaching programs, and Protech scholarships for medical school.

Guam Academy Charter Schools (GACS): \$1,500,000

- To encourage and support the enrollment of additional students at all charter schools, and to further supplement supplies and equipment for the newly established Career Tech High Charter School Academy. The funding will contribute to charter schools staying afloat financially amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and significant reductions in their enrollment.

STREAMLINE AND UPGRADE GOVERNMENT SERVICES - TOTAL: \$3,219,000

Civil Service Commission (CSC): \$286,000

- To ensure the Commission is able to fulfill its mandates to uphold a merit system for Guam and is supported in their efforts to automate and enhance timely reviews and actions.

Department of Chamorro Affairs (DCA): \$760,000

- To promote public and visitor engagement in the preservation, practice, and perpetuation of culture through education and outreach programs and services, Museum and Chamorro Village entrepreneurial capacity despite the FY 2021 shortfalls in the Tourist Attraction Fund.

I Kumision I Fino CHamoru (Kumision): \$500,000

- To support language and cultural education programs despite the FY 2021 shortfall in the Tourist Attraction Fund.

Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency (CAHA): \$173,000

- To ensure the maintenance and improvement of art programs and services despite the FY 2021 shortfall in the Tourist Attraction Fund.

Guam Educational Telecommunications Corporation (PBS): \$300,000

- To expand educational programs and services available through upgrades to system equipment.

Guam Ethics Commission (GETHC): \$200,000

- To support the Commission with training of members and employees and address contractual requirements.

Guam Public Library System (GPLS): \$1,000,000

- Support for increased broadband capabilities and information technology to serve the community's need to access information, education materials, and government services and meetings.

Grand Total: \$664,000,000.00

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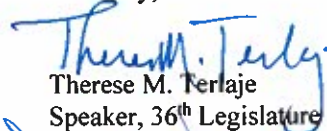
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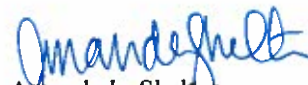
RE: 36th Guam Legislature's Proposal for Allocation of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Funds


We look forward to our upcoming meeting for further discussion and collaboration regarding this proposal for the American Rescue Plan Act funds.


Sincerely,


Therese M. Terlaje
Speaker, 36th Legislature



Tina Rose Muna Barnes
Vice Speaker, 36th Legislature

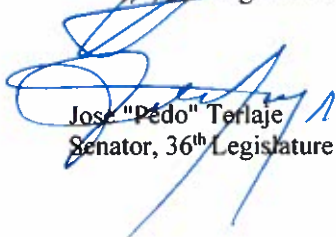

Amanda L. Shelton
Legislative Secretary, 36th Legislature

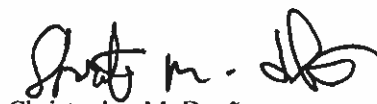

Telena Cruz Nelson
Majority Leader, 36th Legislature



Sabina F. Perez
Majority Whip, 36th Legislature


Joe S. San Agustin
OFB Chair, 36th Legislature


Clynton E. Ridgell
Senator, 36th Legislature

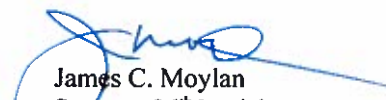

Jose "Pedro" Terlaje
Senator, 36th Legislature



Christopher M. Dueñas
Minority Leader, 36th Legislature



Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Minority Whip, 36th Legislature


V. Anthony Ada
Senator, 36th Legislature


Joanne M. Brown
Senator, 36th Legislature


James C. Moylan
Senator, 36th Legislature


Telo T. Taitague
Senator, 36th Legislature


Mary Camacho Torres
Senator, 36th Legislature

https://www.postguam.com/news/local/senators-want-rise-health-care-among-priorities-for-660m/article_bdf88f98-ae9-11eb-806f-cb94dd17c465.html

Senators want RISE, health care among priorities for \$660M

JOHN O'CONNOR | THE GUAM DAILY POST

MAY 8, 2021



GMH: Guam Memorial Hospital is the largest single item on the Legislature's priority listing for the \$660 million anticipated to come from the American Rescue Plan. Lawmakers want \$22 million to support the existing facility and \$200 million as an advance to fund a new facility - \$100 million less than what the governor proposed. Kevin Milan/The Guam Daily Post

The implementation of a local financial relief program, expanded health care services and various infrastructure upgrades are some of the items lawmakers have included in their priority list for the governor for the \$660 million anticipated to come from the American Rescue Plan.

"We are presenting the governor an opportunity to unite with the entire Legislature on general priorities so that, going forward, we will put all of our energy into implementation instead of confrontation," Speaker Therese Terlaje stated in a press release.

The listing includes \$68 million in direct individual and family assistance, including \$30 million to implement the Recovery Income Support and Empowerment Program, known as RISE. There have been repeated calls to implement the program, which was enacted last term and promises a one-time payment of up to \$800 for eligible individuals and up to \$1,600 for joint tax filers.

In addition to the RISE program, lawmakers reserved \$35 million for the Small Business Pandemic Assistance Program and Guam Economic Development Authority programs, as well as \$3 million for the Ayuda I Mangafa Help for Families program.

Health care and infrastructure

But the largest chunks that senators carved out of the ARP money would go to expanding health care services, more than \$233 million, and infrastructure and technology upgrades, more than \$341 million.

Lawmakers want about \$6.4 million to go to the Department of Public Health and Social Services in order to ensure the continuity of services for senior citizens, to support inspections and safety monitoring of business establishments, to ensure health licensing boards fulfill mandates to vet health professionals through the expanded licensing process, and to maximize Medicaid and Medically Indigent Program coverage.

By far, the largest single item would go to Guam Memorial Hospital. Lawmakers want \$22 million to support the existing facility and \$200 million as an advance to fund a new facility - \$100 million less than what the governor proposed.

Another item is \$4.5 million for the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center for mental health and detoxification services, and \$170,000 to the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities.

About \$52 million was identified for the Guam Waterworks Authority to avert immediate rate increases and fund sewer line repairs and the expansion of the septic tank elimination program.

To support tourism recovery and to supplement revenue losses in the Tourism Attraction Fund, lawmakers set aside \$38 million for the Guam Visitors Bureau in their priority list. The Mayors' Council of Guam would get \$7 million for beautification projects and \$6 million would go to the Guam Regional Transit Authority to purchase new buses and vans and to finance fleet maintenance, as well as operational needs.

Another \$30 million was listed for the Department of Public Works, primarily to repair roads and advance the Village Streets Master Plan.

Coinciding with recent discussions around the need to better address historic findings and sites, lawmakers carved out \$18 million for the Department of Parks and Recreation, partly to help the State Historic Preservation Office hire more archaeologists.

The Chamorro Land Trust Commission and Guam Ancestral Lands Commission would receive \$25 million and \$1.5 million, respectively, to support infrastructure at CLTC properties and to help the GALC with its mission to assist ancestral landowners.

Some technology upgrade-related funding priorities include \$15 million for the Department of Land Management to upgrade its data systems, and \$9 million to the Department of Administration to upgrade or replace the aged AS400 financial management system, as well as to address other issues.

The Department of Revenue and Taxation would receive \$10 million under the senators' priority list, for equipment upgrades.

Lawmakers want to set aside \$5 million for the Guam Police Department and \$4.6 million to the Guam Fire Department for equipment purchases and contractual services.

The Department of Corrections would receive \$20 million to implement its master plans and for equipment, including a new facility. Another \$10 million was carved out for the Judiciary of Guam to support the timely resolution of cases and upgrade the judiciary's data systems.

Solid-waste-related initiatives include nearly \$3 million to ensure revenue bond requirements for the Layon Landfill expansion, and \$27 million for Ordot dump closure and post-closure costs. As COVID-19 significantly impacted Guam Solid Waste Authority revenues, lawmakers set aside \$8.8 million for the agency, with the intention that some of that money will also go toward building up the agency for mandatory trash collection.

Lawmakers listed several other priorities, including \$3.2 million to streamline and upgrade government services.

Meeting next week

Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero has asked to meet with lawmakers May 11 to discuss their priorities for the \$660 million.

Leon Guerrero wrote to the Legislature on April 19, seeking a meeting and requesting a list of legislative priorities by April 30.

Lawmakers requested additional information from the governor, which did not come before the deadline, although they promised to submit a list regardless, with some adjustments.



GUAM NEWS

PRESS RELEASE - LEGISLATURE PRIORITY LIST FOR ARP FUNDING.PDF

UPDATED MAY 10, 2021





Office of the Speaker
THERESE M. TERLAJE
Theresa Terlaje, Speaker of the 36th Guam Legislature
Committee on Health, Labor, Justice and Culture

May 11, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR THE GOVERNOR

MEMORANDUM FOR THE GOVERNOR
 Honorable Louie B. Lora, Governor
 1000 Capitol Building, Office of the Governor
 San Juan, Guam

SUBJECT: 36th Guam Legislature's Proposal for Allocation of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Funds

36th Guam Legislature Letter Overview

The 36th Guam Legislature would like to request that funds received as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPF) be used for health care and long-term care services, as well as other essential services, and other long-term infrastructure projects for the island. It is our understanding that ARPF will be used to fund a variety of projects through the Governor's Office and to fund the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPF) in addition to the ARPF we have already received for health care services through the Department of Health's Health Services Program Fund for additional health care services. The House Department of Health's proposal is to request approximately \$217.5 million from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for the use of federal funds to support the health care system, including long-term care and community health care. It is requested that the Department of Health be notified of the availability of these funds and that the Department of Health be notified of the availability of these funds as soon as possible.

We also intend to request \$112.5 million through the Economic Relief Act's Program, \$112.5 million through the Department of Health's Fund, and \$112.5 million through the State Health Department's Health Services Program of the ARPF. We intend to work to get the ARPF funds, including all small business assistance and to the extent possible, to the island as quickly as possible. Accordingly, all use of ARPF funds should be reported to the Governor as soon as possible. The Governor should be notified of the availability of these funds as soon as possible.

With this in mind, we are respectfully requesting that the ARPF funds be prioritized and allocated for the following purposes:

SUBJECT: AMOUNTS TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM

Implementation of Public Law 116-218 - the Recovery Stimulus Support and Enhancement (RSSE) Program

To provide direct payments to eligible health care providers for the public health emergency through the implementation of the RSSE, an eligible recipient will receive a maximum payment of \$500 and per patient. Data will report RSSE as described in P.L. 116-218.

Governor's Office Building, 1000 Capitol Building, San Juan, Guam 96909
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"An investment of global thoughtfulness of governments, by the United States, is to establish a world of freedom, justice, and to provide for the common good."



GUAM NEWS

36TH GUAM LEGISLATURE LETTER TO GOVERNOR - PRIORITIES FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS.PDF
UPDATED MAY 10, 2021

JOHN O'CONNOR

Reporting on utilities, education and other topics.

NEWS

Senators submit spending list ahead of meeting with governor

Monday, May 10th 2021, 4:44 PM ChST

By **Nestor Licanto**




The "\$664 million" meeting is all set for tomorrow between Governor Leon Guerrero and the Legislature. Senators have submitted their spending wish list for the Governor's discretionary federal relief funding, and will make their pitch during a closed door meeting at Adelup.

The governor asked for the priority list, after some heavy bipartisan lobbying from senators who wanted input on the spending for the American Rescue Plan windfall. Speaker Therese Terlaje sent the list Friday in a letter signed by all 15 lawmakers. Their priorities break down into four categories - direct assistance: \$68 million, including \$30 million for the RISE Act, and \$35 million for small businesses. Healthcare: \$233 million, including \$200 million for a new hospital - though

the \$300 million.

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Infrastructure and technology upgrades: \$341 million, including \$52-million for gwa so they won't have to raise water and sewer rates. And finally, workforce training and diversification:\$18.5 million.

Speaker Terlaje told KUAM News, "Because this is a one-time influx of funds and they're huge amounts really. So we want to take care of those perennial problems that we have not been able to get over despite our efforts."

So the bulk of the spending is for capital improvements rather than operational shortfalls. Minority Leader Chris Duenas said, "What have been the longstanding issues with government entities that provide service to our people that don't involve staff salaries or increases or don't provide additional money for staff, so that they can handle that in their General Fund budget. What have been the longstanding issues with regard to IT stuff, with regard to infrastructure."

The governor is still waiting though for federal guidance on how the money can be spent.

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Matthew Philips

It is a federal grant. Nobody from the Legislature tells UOG how to spend a grant.

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