



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

JUN 04 2021

Honorable Speaker Therese Terlaje  
36<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature  
163 Chalan Santo Papa  
Hagatna, Guam 96913

Re: Testimony for Guam Community College support of Resolution #93-36

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Speaker Terlaje and members of the 36<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature,

I'd like to start off this testimony with a sincere "Si Yu'os Ma'ase." Thank you for recognizing and supporting the programs at the Guam Community College. To my surprise during the College's FY 2022 budget hearing, I learned of the possibility for additional funding of \$7,000,000 to support our boot camp training programs. When asked what I would do, my response was that we would have to put "bootcamps on steroids" in order to launch this initiative. I still chuckle over that comment, but it truly represents the need for us....all of us...to provide something for our residents that need to upskill, retool, and get back to work.


For the past 15 years, the college has always focused on ways to leverage all the funding resources that have been made available. Today, this opportunity allows us all to share in prioritizing and establishing a framework that allows all of us to contribute to the college's mission as a leader in career and technical workforce development, providing the highest quality, student-centered education and job training for Micronesia.

I am also reminded that, as stewards of good financial leadership, these federal funds awarded to Guam must adhere to the guidelines stipulated for its intended use. As we delve through the guidance, we will more clearly understand the intended and authorized use of these funds, including the maintenance of effort (MOE) required as recipients of these funds.

As I close my testimony today, I encourage everyone to think of the long lasting impacts these funds can bring to our island community. We need to be the best financial stewards so that funds are spent appropriately; we need to ensure integrity in our procurement processes; we need to be accountable for all the funds that we receive.

Let's do this together in the best interest of our people and our island.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase for your continued support.

Senseramente  
  
Mary A. Y. Okada, Ed. D.  
President

