



Office of the Speaker
THERESE M. TERLAJE

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

Speaker Issues Statement on War Claims Bill 130-36 Signed Into Law as P.L. 36-59

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (October 21, 2021 – Hagåtña, Guam) – Speaker Therese Terlaje has issued the following statement on the War Claims Bill 130-36 which was signed into law as P.L. 36-59:

“There was an error in engrossment of Bill 130-36. Specifically, language was included in the engrossed bill that should not have been included. Unfortunately, no senator or staff caught the error in the engrossed bill prior to voting. The bill containing the error was passed by 13 ayes and 2 absent votes and signed into law by the Governor as P.L. 36-59.

I am working with the Committee on Rules and the Central Staff to further ensure our process catches these errors before voting.

Any further action as to P.L. 36-59 will have to be by consensus of the Legislature during session.

The error stems from an amendment that I proffered to expand those eligible for this local war claims program beyond the federal limitations by adding the words "regardless of time of death", which the amendment was ruled materially different and thus out of order by the Chairman on Appropriations, Senator Joe San Agustin. I made a motion to overrule the Chair, which failed, with only myself, Senator Sabina Perez, Senator Telo Taitague, and Senator Jose "Pedo" Terlaje voting in favor of the motion. No vote was taken on the floor amendment.

Despite the error in the Legislature's handling of the bill, I will continue to support war claims for those who suffered but died prior to the December 23, 2016, federal cutoff date.”

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For more information, please contact Speaker Therese M. Terlaje’s office at (671) 472-3586 or via e-mail at senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com.

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