

Office of the Speaker THERESE M. TERLAJE

I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 37th Guam Legislature Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

Speaker Terlaje Raises Concerns Over Delay in Notice to Guam Office of Veterans Affairs; Urges Veterans to Attend Island-Wide Convention on April 6, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (February 21, 2024 - Hagåtña, Guam) – Statement of Speaker Terlaje regarding funding for the Veteran's Convention on Bill No. 114-37(LS).

"Since May 2023 these veterans have been working together to urge passage of my B114 to appropriate \$40k for an island-wide convention. Turns out the Governor was able to use ARP money all along and finally released 100k on Feb 2, 2024, to the Guam Office of Veterans Affairs. Today, as we started deliberations on B114 in session, is the first time the GOVA or Legislature was told of this transfer specific for the convention."

She further added that, "Valuable time and resources of our veterans have been needlessly expended because of the lack of communication from the Governor. I sincerely hope this convention is able to reach the estimated 28,000+ veterans in Guam and bridge the gap on information and resources available to these veterans most of all I hope our veterans will feel the support of our entire community. I urge all the veterans to attend the momentous island-wide convention on April 6, 2024, and contact the Guam Office of Veterans Affairs for more information."

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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Attachment: Picture of GOVA and Members from the Veteran Community attending hearing for Bill No. 114-37(LS) on February 5, 2024

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