



SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature

Senator Therese M. Terlaje Introduces Bill 12-38 to Restore Vital Health Services at Mangilao Facility

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (January 14, 2025 - Hagåtña, Guam) – Senator Therese M. Terlaje has re-introduced legislation to restore critical medical and family care services lost by the 2019 abrupt closing of the public health clinic in Mangilao. As pointed out during testimony by the Acting Chief Public Health Officer, the Mangilao facility was the sole location offering specific essential services. The facility housed critical resources, including a new X-ray machine, laboratory, dental office, and other vital equipment, all of which were left unused following its closure, leading to the discontinuation of those services. The Administrator for the Bureau of Family Health and Nursing Services also testified that only half as many pregnant patients were being cared for outside of the Mangilao facility and half as many patients treated for communicable disease as of January 2024, and urged the reopening of maternal health, communicable disease, blood testing, lab, x-ray, pharmacy, and dental services to address the critical need for accessible healthcare services in Guam. Bill No. 12-38(COR) proposes reserving Lot No. 2417-1-R7, the former Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) main building in Mangilao, for immediate use as a central health clinic. The legislation also authorizes continued partnership with federally funded community health centers, and the Guam Community College Nursing Program, to strengthen Guam's healthcare workforce.

The Mangilao facility, which was forced to close in 2019 due to a fire, once served as a central hub for essential health services. Before its closure, the facility recorded over 8,300 service encounters annually, including nearly 1,800 women's health services and 600 child health services. Since the facility's closure, these numbers have plummeted by 49%, with child health services seeing a staggering 73% decline by 2023.

"This decline represents more than just numbers—it reflects families unable to access the care they need," said Speaker Terlaje. If enacted, the bill will empower DPHSS to immediately rebuild its capacity to deliver comprehensive health services, mitigate barriers to care, and restore public trust in Guam's healthcare infrastructure. Additionally, if the property is not utilized as intended within five years, the legislation ensures its transfer to Guam Community Health Centers to fulfill the same purpose.

JANUARY 14, 2025

"This bill aims to urgently restore the clinic and services that were lost, and directly address the disparities in healthcare suffered and rising since 2019," Speaker Terlaje concluded.

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ATTACHED: Bill No. 12-38 (COR)

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

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
BILL STATUS

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	FISCAL NOTES	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
12-38 (COR)	Therese M. Terlaje	AN ACT TO RESERVE LOT NO. 2417-1-R7, THE FORMER DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES MAIN BUILDING IN <i>MANGILAO</i> , FOR IMMEDIATE USE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES AND TO AUTHORIZE ITS USE FOR THE GUAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE NURSING PROGRAM.	1/13/25 9:18 a.m.						Exhibit A

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2025 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 12-38 (COR)

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje 

AN ACT TO RESERVE LOT NO. 2417-1-R7, THE FORMER DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES MAIN BUILDING IN MANGILAO, FOR IMMEDIATE USE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES AND TO AUTHORIZE ITS USE FOR THE GUAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE NURSING PROGRAM.

1 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2 **Section 1. Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the
3 Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) central health clinic
4 played a critical role in providing essential health services to the people of Guam,
5 particularly women and children. The closure of the DPHSS main building in
6 Mangilao due to a supposed electrical fire in 2019 has had a profound impact on the
7 accessibility and availability of these services.

8 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that in 2018, prior to the closure, the Mangilao
9 facility recorded 8,331 encounters with services, including 1,751 services for women
10 and 600 for child health. These numbers underscore the importance of the Mangilao
11 facility as a central hub for health care services. However, since the relocation of
12 DPHSS operations from the Mangilao building, there has been a significant decline
13 in service delivery. Data provided by the DPHSS Administrator for the Bureau of
14 Family and Nursing Services reveals that by 2023, the number of encounters had
15 dropped to 4,281, including only 947 services for women and 162 for child health.

1 This represents a 49% decrease in overall encounters, a 46% decrease in services for
2 women, and a staggering 73% decrease in child health services.

3 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that decreased care for women and children is a
4 critical public health concern. The inability to provide adequate services jeopardizes
5 the health and well-being of vulnerable populations, contributing to potential long-
6 term adverse outcomes for families and communities. The lack of a centralized and
7 adequately equipped facility has created barriers to care, resulting in underserved
8 needs and an erosion of trust in the public health infrastructure.

9 Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to address this urgent issue
10 by reserving Lot No. 2417-1-R7, the site of the former DPHSS main building in
11 Mangilao, for immediate use as a central health clinic. This reservation aims to
12 restore and enhance access to comprehensive health services, including women’s
13 and child health care. Additionally, this legislation authorizes continued use of the
14 property to augment the Northern and Southern Guam Health Centers and the Guam
15 Community College Nursing Program, fostering collaboration and supporting the
16 development of a robust public health workforce.

17 **Section 2. Reservation and Designated Use of Property.**

18 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, Lot No. 2417-1-R7 in the
19 municipality of *Mangilao*, consisting of a computed area of seventeen
20 thousand seven hundred seventeen (17,717) square meters as shown on Map
21 No. 225FY2021 (Lot) and recorded under Document Number 966048, is
22 hereby reserved for the Department of Public Health and Social Services,
23 pursuant to 21 GCA § 60112. A survey map designating the area of seventeen
24 thousand seven hundred seventeen (17,717) square meters (Map) for the
25 property has been prepared, recorded, and provided by the Department of
26 Land Management for the GCC. A copy of the Map is attached hereto as
27 Exhibit A.

1 (b) The use of Lot No. 2417-1-R7 shall be consistent with the purpose of a central
2 community health center and the mission of the Department of Public Health
3 and Social Services.

4 (c) The Department of Public Health and Social Services may also:

5 (i) Enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Guam
6 Community College to allow a portion of Lot No. 2417-1-R7, located
7 in the municipality of Mangilao, to be used for the Guam Community
8 College Nursing Program.

9 (ii) Transfer a portion or all of Lot No. 2417-1-R7, located in the
10 municipality of Mangilao, to the Guam Community Health Centers
11 program for the purpose of establishing a central community health
12 clinic.

13 (iii) If the property is not utilized by the Department of Public Health and
14 Social Services for the development of a central community health
15 clinic within five (5) years of the enactment of this legislation,
16 ownership shall be transferred to the Guam Community Health Centers
17 for its use as a central community health clinic.

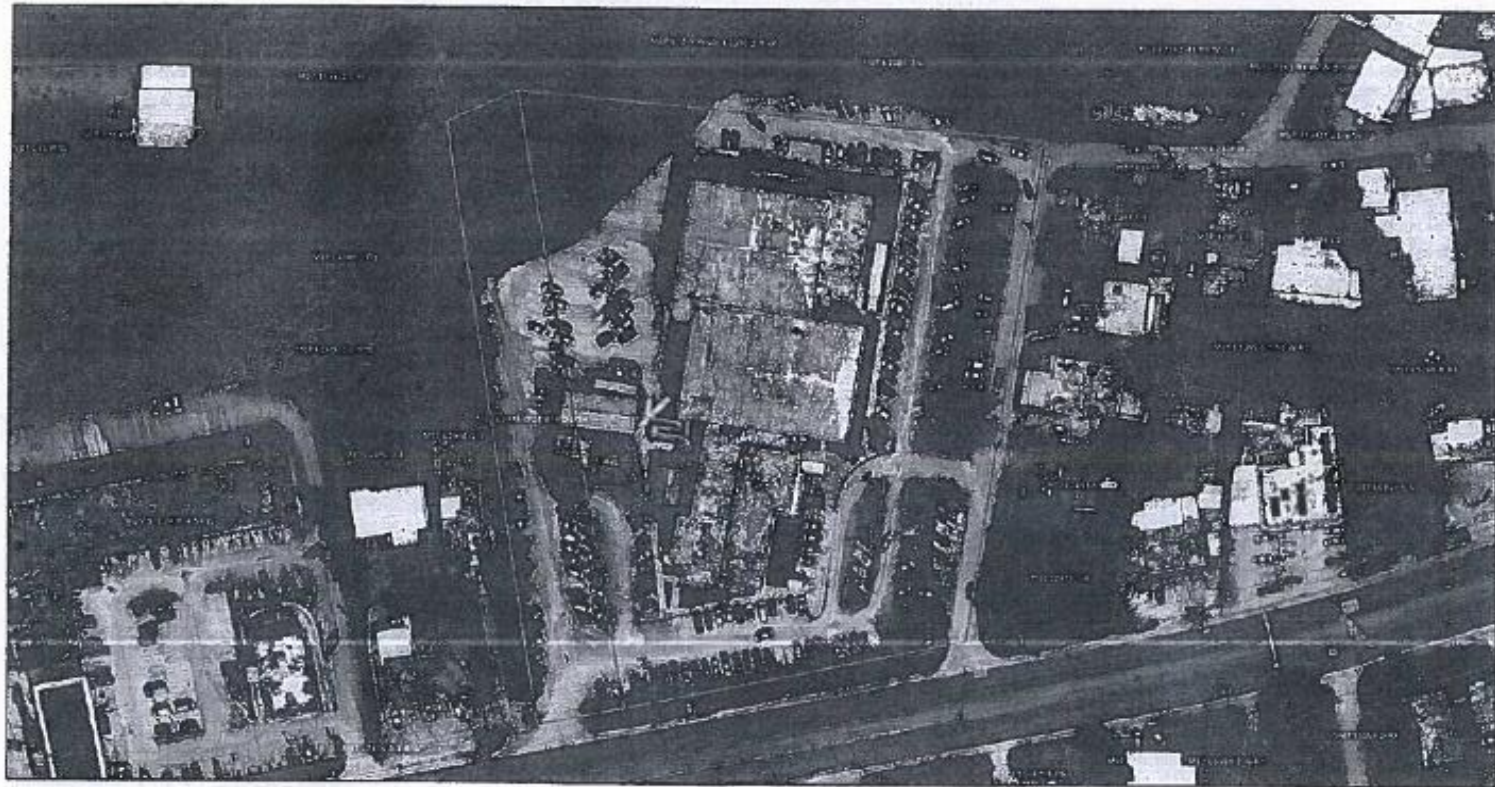
18 **Section 3. Exemption from Appraisals.** 2 GCA § 2107(b) and Section
19 6.04(c)(4) of the Standing Rules of *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*,
20 relative to land appraisals, shall not apply to this Act.

21 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment.

22 **Section 5. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
23 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity shall not
24 affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without
25 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are
26 severable.

Exhibit A

**LOT 2417-1-R6, MANGILAO
FORMER PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITY**



DISCLAIMER: This map is for planning purposes only. It is for use in litigation or for mapping requiring survey level accuracy. Some data might be confirmation process at the time this product was prepared. The Department does not assume any liability for any inaccuracies in the map.

PREPARED BY: MARGARITA V. SOLIA
DEPARTMENT OF LAND MANAGEMENT

