### I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Tide	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE AUTHOR REPORT FILED	NOTES
215-36 (COR)	Tina Rose Muña Barnes Jose "Pedo" Terlaje	Relative to expressing the utmost support of I Liheslaturun Gudham for the passage of H.R. 5606, the "Return Home to Housing Act," which seeks to amend Title 38 of the United States Code to adjust the rate of per diem payments provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to grantees that provide services to homeless veterans; and further requesting parity and inclusion of all veterans residing in Guam and in all territories.	11/29/21 8:37 a.m.	TBA		11/30/21 11:41 a.m.	Author	1/19/22 5:00 p.m.	1/24/22 5:02 p.m.	



### THE OFFICE OF SENATOR TELENA CRUZ NELSON

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÂHAN | 36th GUAM LEGISLATURE

January 20, 2022

The Honorable Therese M. Terlaje

Speaker I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan 163 Chalan Santo Papa Hagåtña, Guam 96910

VIA: The Honorable Amanda L. Shelton

Acting Chairperson, Committee on Rules

RE: Author's Report on Resolution No. 215-36 (COR)

Håfa adai Speaker Terlaje,

Transmitted herewith for consideration by the Body is the report on Resolution No. 215-36 (COR), "Relative to expressing the utmost support of I Liheslaturan Guåhan for the passage of H.R. 5606, the "Return Home to Housing Act," which seeks to amend Title 38 of the United States Code to adjust the rate of per diem payments provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to grantees that provide services to homeless veterans; and further requesting parity and inclusion of all veterans residing in Guam and in all territories," which was virtually heard on Wednesday, January 19, 2022.

Sincerely,

Senator Telena Cruz Nelson

Author

**COMMITTEE ON RULES RECEIVED:** 

January 20, 2022

4:05 P.M.

### **AUTHOR'S REPORT**

**Resolution No. 215-36 (COR),** "Relative to expressing the utmost support of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* for the passage of H.R. 5606, the "Return Home to Housing Act," which seeks to amend Title 38 of the United States Code to adjust the rate of per diem payments provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to grantees that provide services to homeless veterans; and further requesting parity and inclusion of all veterans residing in Guam and in all territories."

By Senator Telena Cruz Nelson, Prime Author; Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muna Barnes; Senator Jose "Pedo" Terlaje; Senator Joe S. San Agustin; Senator Joanne M. Brown; Senator James C. Moylan; Senator Mary Camacho Torres



Guam Congress Building 163 Chalan Santo Papa Hagåtña, Guam 96910 Tel 671-472-2461 Cor@guamlegislature.org

November 30, 2021

### **MEMO**

To: Rennae Meno

Clerk of the Legislature

**Attorney Ana Won Pat-Borja** Legislative Legal Counsel

From: Senator Amanda L. Shelton

Acting Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Re: Referral of Resolution No. 215-36 (COR)

Håfa adai,

As per my authority as Acting Chairperson of the Committee on Rules, I am forwarding the referral of **Resolution No. 215-36 (COR)** – Telena Cruz Nelson, Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Jose "Pedo" Terlaje, Joe S. San Agustin, Joanne Brown, James C. Moylan, Mary Camacho Torres – "Relative to expressing the utmost support of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* for the passage of H.R. 5606, the "Return Home to Housing Act," which seeks to amend Title 38 of the United States Code to adjust the rate of per diem payments provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to grantees that provide services to homeless veterans; and further requesting parity and inclusion of all veterans residing in Guam and in all territories."

Please ensure that the subject resolution is referred to **Senator Telena Cruz Nelson**, **Author of Resolution No. 215-36 (COR)**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mary Maravilla, Committee on Rules Director at 472-2461.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Senator Amanda L. Shelton

Acting Chairperson, Committee on Rules



### FIRST NOTICE of Virtual Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 5:00 P.M.

Office of Senator Telena Cruz Nelson <senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org>

Tue, Jan 11, 2022 at 9:00 AM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org

Cc: Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>, mis <mis@guamlegislature.org>, Audio / Video

<av@guamlegislature.org>

Bcc: Auriann Camacho <ac.senatortcn >, Tim Aguon <tim.aguon@gvao.guam.gov>, Lucia Perez

<lucia.perez@gvao.guam.gov>, Bill Cundiff <cundiffb175 >, ronald.quinata@gvao.guam.gov, marjorie.mesa-hunter@gvao.guam.gov, linda.hernandez@gvao.guam.gov, tanya.eubanks@gvao.guam.gov, jrmprotocol@fe.navy.mil, esther.c.aguigui.mil@mail.mil, rstopasna@ghura.org, Audrey Aguon <a href="mailto:aaguon@ghura.org">aaguon@ghura.org</a>

January 11, 2022

### **MEMORANDUM**

To: All Honorable Senators, Stakeholders and Media

From: Senator Telena Cruz Nelson

Subject: FIRST NOTICE of Virtual Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 5:00

P.M.

Buenas yan Håfa Adai! Please be advised that the Committee on Education, Self-Determination and Historic Preservation, Infrastructure, Border Safety, Federal and Foreign Affairs, and Maritime Transportation will convene a Virtual Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 5:00 p.m., via I Liheslaturan Guåhan's Zoom Conference platform. The agenda includes the following:

- Resolution No. 234-36 (COR), "Relative to expressing the utmost support of I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan (the 36th Guam Legislature) for S. 3284, the "Veterans Assistance Helpline Act of 2021," which seeks to permanently establish a toll-free telephone helpline for veterans to use in order to quickly obtain information and assistance with all services from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs."
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Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!

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Committee on Education, Self-Determination and Historic Preservation, Infrastructure, Border Safety,

Federal and Foreign Affairs, and Maritime Transportation

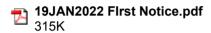
I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature

173 Aspinall Avenue, Suite 202A Ada Plaza Center, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

**Phone:** (671) 989-7696/4678

Email: senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org

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# THE OFFICE OF SENATOR TELENA CRUZ NELSON

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN | 36th GUAM LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON

EDUCATION,

SELF DETERMINATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION,

INFRASTRUCTURE,

BORDER SAFETY,

FEDERAL AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS,

AND

MARITIME TRANSPORTATION January 11, 2022

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To: All Honorable Senators, Stakeholders and Media

From: Senator Telena Cruz Nelson

Subject: FIRST NOTICE of Virtual Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 19,

2022 at 5:00 P.M.

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Si Yu'os Ma'ase'!

## Philippines prepares more hospital beds with record COVID-19 cases



WAITING FOR A BOOSTER: Filipinos wait for a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine amid rising infections, in Makati City, Metro Manila, Philippines, Jan 5. Eloisa Lopez/Reuters

MANILA (Reuters) - The Philippines ordered an increase in hospital beds and medical resources in and around the capital Manila, a senior government official said on Sunday, as the country set another record for new COVID-19 infections.

Nearly 60% of the 28,707 cases came from the capital region, which has seen a steady increase in admissions in recent days, although hospital capacity in the area was still below critical levels, government data showed.

Health authorities were also directed to increase inoculation rates outside the region, with many provinces lagging, acting presidential spokesperson Karlo Nograles said in

Another 15 people died from COVID-19, the health ministry said in a bulletin, bringing the death toll to 52,150. The country has reported a total of more than 2.96 million cases since the pandemic started, among the highest in Southeast Asia.

Government offices including the Senate, the House of Representatives and the Presidential Communications Operations Office have announced temporary closures as a precaution after several of their staff have been infected.

The rise in COVID-19 cases prompted the government to tighten mobility curbs last week. President Rodrigo Duterte has threatened unvaccinated people with arrest if they disobey stay-at-home orders.

At the end of last year, 45% of the country's 110 million people had been fully vaccinated. Under existing rules, unvaccinated people in the capital region can only step out of their homes for essential trips.

### Japan, US to cooperate on tech for next-generation nuclear reactors

(Japan News) - Japan and the United States will work together to develop technology related to core equipment and systems of nuclear reactors in a next-generation fast reactor project, according to the outline of a memorandum of understanding.

The memorandum is expected to be signed later this month by U.S. nuclear start-up TerraPower LLC, the Japan Atomic Energy Agency and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. They also plan to sign a confidentiality agreement on sensitive technologies. After the Japanese side receives design information from the U.S. side, they will sign a formal agreement, perhaps this summer.

According to sources, the candidate areas of cooperation will include equipment for placing new fuel in a reactor and removing spent fuel; a system for locating damaged fuel while a reactor is in operation; a technology for pumps and heat exchangers to circulate liquid sodium, which serves as a coolant that extracts heat from the core; and technology related to in-core structures such as plates to block radiation. Based on the design of the fast reactor, the two sides will discuss technical details regarding each area.

With support from the U.S. Energy

Department, TerraPower plans to begin construction of the reactor in Wyoming in 2024 and will aim to put it into operation in 2028.

On Thursday, Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Koichi Hagiuda held a videoconference with U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, during which he mentioned the Japanese government's intention to support the technical cooperation. Granholm expressed her high hopes regarding Japanese technology.

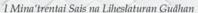
#### Preventing an accident

The envisaged fast reactor is designed to transfer heat, which is generated in the core, to a heat exchanger using sodium, and the heat will be used to convert water into steam to activate a power generation turbine. Liquid sodium is silvery-white and opaque, unlike water, which is used as a coolant in mainstream nuclear reactors, so the fuel and structures inside a reactor cannot be directly seen by a camera.

Of particular interest to the U.S. side is the technology to safely remove fuel and replace it as planned. This is essential for the stable operation of fast reactors and the efficiency of maintenance and checkups. If damaged fuel can be identified, it would be possible to restore operations promptly and prevent an accident.



### SPEAKER THERESE M. TERLAJE Committee on Health, Land, Justice & Culture



NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING- Wednesday, January 19, 2022 AGENDA:

### 9:00 AM

- Bill No. 168-36 (LS) Senator Telena Cruz Nelson- AN ACT TO ADD NEW SS 41806 AND AMEND SS 41810 OF ARTICLE 18, CHAPTER 4, DIVISION 1, TITLE 26, GUAM ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS, RELATIVE TO THE REQUIRED REGISTRATION OF PRESCRIBERS TO THE GUAM PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM (PDMP).
- Bill No. 169-36 (LS) Senator Telena Cruz Nelson- AN ACT TO AMEND APPENDIX A, APPENDIX B. APPENDIX C. APPENDIX D. AND APPENDIX E OF CHAPTER 26, TITLE 9 OF GUAM CODE ANNOTATED. RELATIVE TO UPDATING THE LIST OF SCHEDULED CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES PROVIDED IN THE GUAM UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT.

### 2:00 PM:

Bill No. 147-36 (LS) — Senator Frank Blas Jr. - AN ACT TO ADD A NEW SUBSECTION 160.101 TO CHAPTER 160 OF TITLE 8, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO THE PRIVACY OF A VICTIM OF A SEXUAL OFFENSE.

### 3:00 PM:

 $\underline{\textit{Bill No. 237-36 (COR)}} - \underline{\textit{Senator Sabina Flores Perez}} - \underline{\textit{AN ACT TO AMEND}} ~\S~34406~(e)~\underline{\textit{AND}} ~\S~34406~(f)$ OF CHAPTER 34, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO UPDATING VIOLATIONS OF PROTECTING ANIMAL WELFARE AND SAFETY (PAWS) FOR ANIMALS PROVIDING ASSISTANCE.

Contact the Office of the Speaker at 472-3586 or senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com, to register to provide live or written testimony. All hearings broadcast on GTA TV Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117/112.4, and livestream on the Guam Legislature YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/c/GuamLegislatureMedia. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Individuals needing special accommodations can contact the Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje. This Ad was paid with Legislature Funds.



## THE OFFICE OF SENATOR TELENA CRUZ NELSON

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN | 36th GUAM LEGISLATURE

### NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2022 5:00 P.M.

- Resolution No. 234-36 (COR) -"Relative to expressing the utmost support of I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan (the 36th Guam Legislature) for S. 3284, the "Veterans Assistance Helpline Act of 2021," which seeks to permanently establish a toll-free telephone helpline for veterans to use in order to quickly obtain information and assistance with all services from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs."
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Written testimonies may be delivered to the Office of Senator Telena Cruz Nelson or via email to senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org. The Committee requests that testimonies be submitted on or before January 14, 2022. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals requiring assistance or accommodations should contact the Office of Senator Telena Cruz Nelson at 671-989-7696. All hearings will be broadcast on GTA TV Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117/112.4, and the Guam Legislature Youtbue.



## SECOND NOTICE of Virtual Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 5:00 P.M.

Office of Senator Telena Cruz Nelson <senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org>

Fri, Jan 14, 2022 at 9:00 AM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org

Cc: Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>, mis <mis@guamlegislature.org>, Audio / Video

<av@guamlegislature.org>

Bcc: Tim Aguon <tim.aguon@gvao.guam.gov>, Lucia Perez <lucia.perez@gvao.guam.gov>, Bill Cundiff <cundiffb175 >, ronald.quinata@gvao.guam.gov, marjorie.mesa-hunter@gvao.guam.gov, linda.hernandez@gvao.guam.gov, tanya.eubanks@gvao.guam.gov, jrmprotocol@fe.navy.mil, esther.c.aguigui.mil@mail.mil, rstopasna@ghura.org, Audrey Aguon <aaaguon@ghura.org>

January 14, 2022

### **MEMORANDUM**

To: All Honorable Senators, Stakeholders and Media

From: Senator Telena Cruz Nelson

Subject: SECOND NOTICE of Virtual Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at

5:00 P.M.

Buenas yan Håfa Adai! Please be advised that the Committee on Education, Self-Determination and Historic Preservation, Infrastructure, Border Safety, Federal and Foreign Affairs, and Maritime Transportation will convene a Virtual Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 5:00 p.m., via I Liheslaturan Guåhan's Zoom Conference platform. The agenda includes the following:

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Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!

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Committee on Education, Self-Determination and Historic Preservation, Infrastructure, Border Safety,

Federal and Foreign Affairs, and Maritime Transportation

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature

173 Aspinall Avenue, Suite 202A Ada Plaza Center, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

**Phone:** (671) 989-7696/4678

Email: senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org

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# THE OFFICE OF SENATOR TELENA CRUZ NELSON

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN | 36th GUAM LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON

EDUCATION,

SELF DETERMINATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION,

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AND

MARITIME TRANSPORTATION January 14, 2022

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Si Yu'os Ma'ase'!

## 'Darkest days': Haiti honors victims of 2010 earthquake

By Jacqueline Charles Miami Herald

Haitians in Haiti and their supporters across the U.S. commemorated the Caribbean nation's catastrophic 2010 earthquake Wednesday, marking the 12th anniversary of the devastation with sadness and reflection.

"In the immediate aftermath, an outpouring of support flowed to Haiti from across the U.S. and around the globe to aid survivors and rebuild the nation," said U.S. Rep. Frederica Wilson, D-Fla., who represents one of the largest Haitian-American communities in the United States. "Still, 12 vears later, much more needs to be done if Haiti is to ever rebuild and become self-sufficient."

The magnitude 7 quake killed 316,000 and left 1.5 million homeless, according to Haitian government figures. Another 1.5 million people suffered injuries.

Despite billions of dollars in promised aid, the rebuilding still has not taken root and promises remained unfulfilled. Haiti is in many ways worse off today than it was on the day the ground shook and nearly destroyed the capital, Port-au-Prince.

Thousands remain displaced due to the natural disaster, and others have been displaced as well because of recent gang violence in the capital. For every destroyed Catholic Church and home that has



MEMORIAL MASS: Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry lays flowers during an ecumenical Mass in memory of the victims of the 2010 Haiti earthquake, in Port-au-Prince, on Wednesday, Richard Pierrin/AFP/Getty Images

been rebuilt, there are scores of other buildings that lie in rubble or where construction has been stalled, including a new Hospital of the State University in Haiti, promised by the U.S. and France, and a Parliament building.

The country remains in the throes of a deepening political crisis after the July 7 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse, a crime that is still unsolved. Instead of an elected president or working parliament, the country has an interim prime minister and just 10 senators, whose end of term remains a matter of debate.

Other continuing fallout of the quake: Three U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement deportation flights landed in Haiti on Wednesday, courtesy of the Biden administration. Many of those on board, say immigration advocates, are Haitians who had left their homeland for South America in the wake of the disaster, only to find themselves deported after recently crossing into the U.S. without proper documents.

"As we commemorate the more than 250,000 lives lost in the 2010 earthquake, it is unconscionable for the United States to respond by sending three deportation flights to Haiti including pregnant women and children. That's 10 flights just this week alone," said Guerline Jozef, co-founder of the Haitian Bridge Alliance, an immigration advocacy group. "It is a classic example of the continued violence the United States has imposed on Haiti and flagrant disregard for Haitian lives. I want to know how the Haitian government

can accept this on a day like today." A long road ahead

In Haiti, flags flew at half-staff and Prime Minister Ariel Henry, joined by members of his government and the diplomatic community, made the annual pilgrimage to Titanyen, the site outside of the capital where most of the dead are buried in mass graves on a barren mountain. There, they laid flowers at a monument with a large rock for a top, commemorating the dead.

"January 12th did not destroy one house only. It destroyed the economy of the whole country. It's going to take a long time to go back to the way we were before the quake," said Henry, whose job in the immediate aftermath was to document the dead as chief of staff to the health minister in 2010.

The office of the United Nations in Haiti, which lost personnel in Haiti when part of the Christopher Hotel, where its headquarters was housed, collapsed, called Jan. 12, 2010, "one of the darkest days" in Haiti's history.

"12 years ago, a devastating earthquake claimed hundreds of thousands of lives in Haiti, including 102 members of the @UN family," U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres said in a tweet. "Today and every day, we remember the victims & honour their legacy through our work. They will never be forgotten."

In a statement, the U.N. country team said it remains committed to the country and remarked that the same kind of resilience displayed in the aftermath of the earthquake was also on display Aug. 14, when a magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck three regional departments, Grand Anse, Nippes and the South, leaving at least 2,207 dead, 12,268 injured and 320 missing, along with more than 129,000 destroyed or damaged homes.



### NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2022 5:00 P.M.

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### **GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY** ATURIDAT ESPETAT MIMURIAT GUAHAN

850 Gov. Carlos Camacho Road Tamuning, Guam 96913



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

GMHA RFP No. 002-2022: A&E Design Phase and Services During Construction (SDC) for GMHA's Proposed Conversion of its Center Island into Additional Parking.

Submission Due: 14:00 p.m. CST, Monday, January 31, 2022

\*\* A Site Visit for assessment is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. CST. on Friday, January 21, 2022 at the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority. All Covid-19 precautions must be followed. All bidders are requested to be present. All questions must be submitted in writing no later than Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at

All bids must be sealed, submitted one (1) original and four (4) duplicates, and received by the Materials Management Department by the due date of January 31, 2022 at 14:00 p.m. CST. Proposal documents are available until the submission dates at the same department for a non-refundable fee of \$20.00 per set, or can be downloaded from the GMHA website. Funding is made available via General Funds.

All interested firms must register with the GMHA Materials Management Department to participate in the bid. Please call (671) 647-2165 to register, or register online at www.gmha.org. Registration is required to ensure that all Amendments or Notices are communicated to all bidders throughout the bid process. GMHA shall not be liable for failure to provide notice to any party that did not register contact information with GMHA.

For more information, please visit our public information page at www.gmha.org.

/s/ Lillian Perez-Posadas, RN, MN Hospital Administrator/CEO



## CORRECTED: SECOND NOTICE of Virtual Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 5:00 P.M.

Office of Senator Telena Cruz Nelson <senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org>

Fri, Jan 14, 2022 at 10:44 AM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org

Cc: Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>, mis <mis@guamlegislature.org>, Audio / Video

<av@guamlegislature.org>

Bcc: Tim Aguon <tim.aguon@gvao.guam.gov>, Lucia Perez <lucia.perez@gvao.guam.gov>, Bill Cundiff <cundiffb175 , ronald.quinata@gvao.guam.gov, marjorie.mesa-hunter@gvao.guam.gov,

linda.hernandez@gvao.guam.gov, tanya.eubanks@gvao.guam.gov, jrmprotocol@fe.navy.mil, esther.c.aguigui.mil@mail.mil, rstopasna@ghura.org, Audrey Aguon <a href="mailto-sague">aaaguon@ghura.org</a>

Please disregard the previous email sent and see below the corrected Second Notice:

January 14, 2022

### **MEMORANDUM**

To: All Honorable Senators, Stakeholders and Media

From: Senator Telena Cruz Nelson

Subject: SECOND NOTICE of Virtual Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 19,

2022 at 5:00 P.M.

Buenas yan Håfa Adai! Please be advised that the Committee on Education, Self-Determination and Historic Preservation, Infrastructure, Border Safety, Federal and Foreign Affairs, and Maritime Transportation will convene a Virtual Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 5:00 p.m., via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* Zoom Conference platform. The agenda includes the following:

- Resolution No. 234-36 (COR), "Relative to expressing the utmost support of I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan (the 36th Guam Legislature) for S. 3284, the "Veterans Assistance Helpline Act of 2021," which seeks to permanently establish a toll-free telephone helpline for veterans to use in order to quickly obtain information and assistance with all services from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs."
- Resolution No. 215-36 (COR), "Relative to expressing the utmost support of I Liheslaturan Guåhan for the passage of H.R. 5606, the "Return Home to Housing Act," which seeks to amend Title 38 of the United States Code to adjust the rate of per diem payments provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to grantees that provide services to homeless veterans; and further requesting parity and inclusion of all veterans residing in Guam and in all territories."

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals requiring assistance or accommodations should contact the Office of Senator Telena Cruz Nelson.

The hearing will be broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 112-4, and streamed online via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed on YouTube. A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing. We look forward to your participation!

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!

--



#### The Office of Senator Telena Cruz Nelson

Committee on Education, Self-Determination and Historic Preservation, Infrastructure, Border Safety,

Federal and Foreign Affairs, and Maritime Transportation

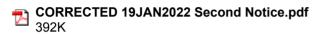
I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature

173 Aspinall Avenue, Suite 202A Ada Plaza Center, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

**Phone:** (671) 989-7696/4678

Email: senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org

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# THE OFFICE OF SENATOR TELENA CRUZ NELSON

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN | 36th GUAM LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON

EDUCATION,

SELF DETERMINATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION,

INFRASTRUCTURE,

BORDER SAFETY,

FEDERAL AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS,

AND

MARITIME TRANSPORTATION January 14, 2022

### **MEMORANDUM**

To: All Honorable Senators, Stakeholders and Media

From: Senator Telena Cruz Nelson

Subject: SECOND NOTICE of Virtual Public Hearing on Wednesday, January

19, 2022 at 5:00 P.M.

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Si Yu'os Ma'ase'!



## Invitation to Participate in the Virtual Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 5:00 P.M.

1 message

Office of Senator Telena Cruz Nelson <senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org>

Thu, Jan 6, 2022 at 2:02 PM

To: Telena Cruz Nelson <senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org>

Bcc: Tim Aguon <tim.aguon@gvao.guam.gov>, Lucia Perez <lucia.perez@gvao.guam.gov>, Bill Cundiff <cundiffb175@ >, ronald.quinata@gvao.guam.gov, marjorie.mesa-hunter@gvao.guam.gov, linda.hernandez@gvao.guam.gov, tanya.eubanks@gvao.guam.gov, jrmprotocol@fe.navy.mil, esther.c.aguigui.mil@mail.mil, rstopasna@ghura.org, Audrey Aguon <a href="mailto:seriation:s

Buenas yan Håfa Ådai!

Senator Telena Nelson is inviting and encouraging your participation in the **Virtual Public Hearing** to be held on **Wednesday**, **January 19, 2022** at **5:00 P.M.** The public hearing notice will be sent out at a later date.

The agenda includes the following:

- Resolution No. 234-36 (COR), "Relative to expressing the utmost support of I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan (the 36th Guam Legislature) for S. 3284, the "Veterans Assistance Helpline Act of 2021," which seeks to permanently establish a toll-free telephone helpline for veterans to use in order to quickly obtain information and assistance with all services from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs."
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### **SUBMITTING TESTIMONY:**

- Written Testimony: submit via email to senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org
- Virtual Oral Testimony: Sign up to provide virtual testimony via Zoom by contacting The Office of Senator Telena Cruz Nelson via email at senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org or (671) 989-7696.

Si Yu'us Ma'åse.

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### The Office of Senator Telena Cruz Nelson

Committee on Education, Self-Determination and Historic Preservation, Infrastructure, Border Safety,

Federal and Foreign Affairs, and Maritime Transportation

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature

173 Aspinall Avenue, Suite 202A Ada Plaza Center, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

**Phone:** (671) 989-7696/4678

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## Zoom & Google File Link: Virtual Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 5:00 P.M.

Office of Senator Telena Cruz Nelson <senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org> Wed, Jan 19, 2022 at 7:18 AM To: "Hon. Therese M. Terlaje" <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>, "Hon. Amanda L. Shelton" <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, Telena Cruz Nelson <senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Sabina Perez <office@senatorperez.org>, "Hon. Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Senator Jose Pedo Terlaje <senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>, "Senator Clynton E. Ridgell" <clyntridgell@guamlegislature.org>, "Senator Mary C. Torres" <senatormary@guamlegislature.org>, "Senator Telo T. Taitague" <senatortelot@gmail.com>, "Senator Joanne M. Brown" <office@senatorjoannebrown.com>, Office of Senator Moylan Guam Legislature <officeofsenatormoylan@guamlegislature.org>, "Senator V. Anthony Ada" <senatorvanthonyada@gmail.com>, "Honorable Senator Frank Blas, Jr," <office@senatorfrankblas.com>, "Senator Christopher M. Dueñas" <senatorchrisduenas@gmail.com>

Cc: Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>, mis <mis@guamlegislature.org>, Audio / Video <av@guamlegislature.org>

Bcc: Tim Aguon <tim.aguon@gvao.guam.gov>, Lucia Perez <lucia.perez@gvao.guam.gov>, Bill Cundiff <cundiffb175 >, ronald.quinata@gvao.guam.gov, marjorie.mesa-hunter@gvao.guam.gov, linda.hernandez@gvao.guam.gov, tanya.eubanks@gvao.guam.gov, jrmprotocol@fe.navy.mil, esther.c.aguigui.mil@mail.mil, rstopasna@ghura.org, Audrey Aguon <a href="mailto-saguam.gov"><a href="m

Buenas yan Håfa Adai Senators:

Please see the Zoom link and Google Drive file link for the virtual public hearing on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 5:00 p.m., for the following agenda items.

**Resolution No. 234-36 (COR)**, "Relative to expressing the utmost support of I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan (the 36th Guam Legislature) for S. 3284, the "Veterans Assistance Helpline Act of 2021," which seeks to permanently establish a toll-free telephone helpline for veterans to use in order to quickly obtain information and assistance with all services from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs."

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Guam Legislature is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Virtual Public Hearing - Telena C. Nelson Time: Jan 19, 2022 05:00 PM Guam, Port Moresby

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: Passcode:

Google Drive Hearing File

To ensure a smooth and productive hearing, we ask for your cooperation and assistance by following these virtual hearing guidelines:

- 1. Please ensure to log in with your full name. To rename on your Zoom account; Click the "Participants" icon in the **Zoom** toolbar. In the Participants window, next to your name click "More" and choose "**Rename**". Enter a new name and click "**Rename**" to save it for that meeting.
- 2. Please LOG IN to the virtual hearing link 15 minutes prior to the hearing. A pre-hearing test will be conducted by our MIS Division and the Committee, prior to going live.
- 3. Please ensure that your VIDEO remains ON and you are visible throughout the hearing.
- 4. Please MUTE your AUDIO unless called upon to present, respond or to ask questions.

- 5. Participants must be visible at all times and not engaged in other activities during the hearing. As much as possible, log in from an area with good lighting, little to no background noise, and good internet connectivity.
- 6. If you are having technical difficulties, kindly log off and return using the same link, we will work toward reconnecting you.
- 7. You may contact 472-3586, to quickly relay immediate technical issues during the hearing to our MIS Division.
- 8. Further hearing protocol and decorum requirements will be announced at the beginning of the hearing.

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### The Office of Senator Telena Cruz Nelson

Committee on Education, Self-Determination and Historic Preservation, Infrastructure, Border Safety,

Federal and Foreign Affairs, and Maritime Transportation

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature

173 Aspinall Avenue, Suite 202A Ada Plaza Center, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

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## FRIENDLY REMINDER: Invitation to Participate in the Virtual Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 5:00 P.M.

Office of Senator Telena Cruz Nelson <senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org>

Wed, Jan 19, 2022 at 9:59 AM

To: Telena Cruz Nelson <senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org>

Bcc: Tim Aguon <tim.aguon@gvao.guam.gov>, Lucia Perez <lucia.perez@gvao.guam.gov>, Bill Cundiff <cundiffb175 m>, ronald.quinata@gvao.guam.gov, marjorie.mesa-hunter@gvao.guam.gov,

linda.hernandez@gvao.guam.gov, tanya.eubanks@gvao.guam.gov, jrmprotocol@fe.navy.mil,

esther.c.aguigui.mil@mail.mil, rstopasna@ghura.org, Audrey Aguon <aaaguon@ghura.org>, dtmendiola716

Buenas yan Håfa Ådai!

Senator Telena Nelson is inviting and encouraging your participation in the **Virtual Public Hearing** to be held on **Wednesday**, **January 19, 2022** at **5:00 P.M.** The public hearing notice will be sent out at a later date.

The agenda includes the following:

- Resolution No. 234-36 (COR), "Relative to expressing the utmost support of I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan (the 36th Guam Legislature) for S. 3284, the "Veterans Assistance Helpline Act of 2021," which seeks to permanently establish a toll-free telephone helpline for veterans to use in order to quickly obtain information and assistance with all services from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs."
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Si Yu'us Ma'åse.





### The Office of Senator Telena Cruz Nelson

Committee on Education, Self-Determination and Historic Preservation, Infrastructure, Border Safety,

Federal and Foreign Affairs, and Maritime Transportation

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# THE OFFICE OF SENATOR TELENA CRUZ NELSON

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN | 36th GUAM LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON

EDUCATION,

SELF DETERMINATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION,

INFRASTRUCTURE,

BORDER SAFETY,

FEDERAL AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS,

AND

MARITIME TRANSPORTATION

Virtual Public Hearing Agenda

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 5:00 P.M.

- I. Call to Order at 5:00 P.M.
- II. Opening Remarks by Senator Telena C. Nelson, Committee Chairperson
- III. Items for discussion –

**Resolution No. 234-36 (COR)**, "Relative to expressing the utmost support of I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan (the 36th Guam Legislature) for S. 3284, the "Veterans Assistance Helpline Act of 2021," which seeks to permanently establish a toll-free telephone helpline for veterans to use in order to quickly obtain information and assistance with all services from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs."

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- IV. Closing Remarks
- V. Adjournment



# OFFICE OF VICE SPEAKER TELENA CRUZ NELSON

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN | 35th GUAM LEGISLATURE

Res. No. 215-36 (COR) Virtual Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet Wednesday, January 19, 2022 • 5:00 P.M.

NAME	AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION (IF ANY)	SUPPORT? OPPOSE?	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	ORAL TESTIMONY	CONTACT NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
Director Tim Aguon	Guam Veterans Affairs Office	<b>/</b>		<b>/</b>		
Administrator Lucia Perez	Guam Veterans Affairs Office	<b>V</b>		<b>✓</b>		
		7				

Page	1	of	1	

#### AUTHOR'S REPORT DIGEST

### I. OVERVIEW

Resolution No. 215-36 (COR) was introduced on Wednesday, November 29, 2021, by the Prime Author, Senator Telena Cruz Nelson, Senators Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muna Barnes, Jose "Pedo" Terlaje, Joe S. San Agustin, Joanne M. Brown, James C. Moylan, Mary Camacho Torres, and was referred by the Committee on Rules to the Prime Author on November 30, 2021. The Prime Author, Senator Telena Cruz Nelson, convened a Virtual Public Hearing on Resolution No. 215-36 (COR) on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 5:00 p.m., via I Liheslatura's Zoom Conference platform.

### **Public Notice Requirements**

Public Hearing notices were disseminated via email to all senators, stakeholders, and all main media broadcasting outlets on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, and again on Friday, January 14, 2022. Notice was also provided on the Guam Legislature website at www.guamlegislature.org.

### **Senators Present**

Senator Telena Cruz Nelson, Prime Author Senator Amanda L. Shelton Senator Telo T. Taitague Senator Joanne M. Brown

### Appearing before the Committee

Director Tim Aguon, Guam Veterans Affairs Office Administrator Lucia Perez, Guam Veterans Affairs Office

### II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The Virtual Public Hearing was Called-to-Order at 5:31 P.M.

Senator Telena Cruz Nelson, Prime Author: We will now move onto Resolution No. 215-36 (COR), relative to expressing the utmost support of I Liheslaturan Guåhan for the passage of H.R. 5606, the "Return Home to Housing Act," which seeks to amend Title 38 of the United States Code to adjust the rate of per diem payments provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to grantees that provide services to homeless veterans; and further requesting parity and inclusion of all veterans residing in Guam and in all territories.

Specifically, what this legislation would do is to raise the maximum allowable rates that USDVA can reimburse to service providers and for also supplying transitional housing to displaced veterans. It also will bring, will also update the VA's Grant and Per Diem Program funding in accordance with the recent inflation and cost of living within certain states and territories, within the states and territories.

So, Mr. Aguon, do you have any testimony or any comments on this resolution?

**Director Tim Aguon, Guam Veterans Affairs Office:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Again, I'm Tim Aguon. I'm the Director of Guam Veterans Affairs. Actually, this is I believe that this is a really good resolution. One of the challenges that we're experiencing right now because we're trying to avail our state office to be part of the GPD Program, which is the Grant and Per Diem Program.

Unfortunately, only states that are currently participating can apply for this grant. So, I'm actually attending the conference next month to figure out how we can navigate and add Guam's State Office here to be part of the program since I'm not sure if my predecessors ever made an attempt to try and get Guam included in this. We've...I've made a couple of attempts to try and get us on this but I've gotten kicked backed because we're not on the list.

So, when I attend this conference next month that's one of my priorities to sit down with these people and Lucy and I are going to sit down with all the grants people and we're going to bring the fire because there's a lot of things that Guam should be eligible for in regards to grant programs that we're not on the list, right?

For some reason or another but this is a key one because this is supportive of our homeless veterans, our veterans that are in transition, our veterans that don't have jobs that have low-income. So, this is something. That you know our veterans that we have here not just for Guam but you know we're trying to establish Guam as a regional hub for Micronesia and the Pacific, International Pacific, which is something that we've discussed with the new appointee for Pacific Strategic Programs last week.

So, we have a sit down date with the Program Director when we get to Virginia next month but I am totally support of this and hopefully we have success at this conference and Guam can avail to this program. Thank you.

**Senator Telena Cruz Nelson, Prime Author:** Thank you, Director Aguon. Ms. Perez, is there any comment or questions that you would like to add or ask?

Administrator Lucia Perez, Guam Veterans Affairs Office: No, I did everything that he said.

**Senator Telena Cruz Nelson, Prime Author:** Okay, thank you. Okay, I'll now call on my colleagues to if they have any questions or comments. Senator Shelton, do you have any?

Senator Amanda Shelton: Thank you very much Madam Chair. I want to thank again our GVAO for being here for the testimony that they've provided today for both resolutions. I think this is another effort on our part that is something we can all get behind again in support of our veterans.

And I think this is timely and I give you my full support to help move this swiftly as Director Aguon goes off very soon to have. These conversations and I think it's great to have the backing of the Guam Legislature with him. The support with him that he can be able to share that with those he's meeting in Virginia to help build the case for Guam and to ensure that we're getting all of the benefits for our veterans here that they rightfully deserve.

So, thank you. We wish you the best of luck, Mr. Aguon and we hope to send you off to Virginia with this resolution in hand. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Senator Telena Cruz Nelson, Prime Author:** Thank you, Senator Shelton. Senator Taitague, do you have any questions or comments?

**Senator Telo Taitague:** Thank you, Madam Chair for the opportunity and I'm wishing you the very best Tim, go get'em. You know stand your ground tell them about how many people are you know are you know I was how many people in Guam who joined the military. You know and how many have died you know for our country. I mean let them remind them of that there's so many of us who you know are forgotten when it comes to what's avail what's been given to the veterans.

You know that they get in the mainland that we don't get here on Guam. So, please stand up and fight. Thank you, good luck to that but you know I also wanted to bring up there are several you know just the resolution itself that there are several known homeless veterans on Guam walking our public streets as you know and is there an active VA transitional program provided for veterans homeless individuals in Guam using per diem grants currently?

**Director Tim Aguon, Guam Veterans Affairs Office:** I'm going to say no not that I'm aware of unless WestCare has received a grant from them but not to my knowledge. Which is the reason why I'm trying to we are trying to establish us as a first time applicant because throughout the grant program it's for current grantees only. But you know how can we ever be a current grantee if we don't get on the list right or you know be able to apply for it.

So, you know our goal is to hold them to the fire and yes, we're going to quantify and justify our existence with the total number of veterans that we have that have served that are serving and those that have fallen before us. and it's one of our priorities because this is a way for us to support those homeless veterans like I mentioned before right is the transition is the gap that we need to fill here on and throughout Micronesia for the veterans.

The transition period from whether you're getting out of active duty or out of the service whether it be guarded reserve or retiring. This is the gap that we don't have currently in regards to services or monies to provide these veterans that are in search of stability and maintaining their lifestyle. So, yes, absolutely we're going to bring the fire. We're going to bring the numbers and hopefully there's somebody there that can assist us and I'm sure the relationship that we just established with

the new Pacific Strategic Director, she told us she's got our support. We have a sit down with her and hopefully she's going to lead the band on this drum beat that we're going to bring.

**Senator Telo Taitague:** Okay, well, when we gather on this resolution and what it's doing it's basically increasing the per diem to our veterans to provide you know better living facilities and you know cost of living of course, has gone up but has our local VA office reached out to private providers like well non-profits even like the Guam Coalition other than WestCare taking advantage of the VA's transitional housing programs for our local and resident vets.

**Director Tim Aguon, Guam Veterans Affairs Office:** Okay, so, as I mentioned right? This is the kind of goes hand in had one of the other priorities is for us to be part of this program that's offered in many states, which is called Pathways, right? So, this is sort of like similar to the soup kitchen overnight stay for homelessness but this is specific for veterans.

Many states have this program along they have a facility that also has counselors, service rep, visits from doctors and some of them even have a pharmacy for the transition, veterans that are there. And we don't have that here on Guam but we are working this office is working with OHAP and the Lieutenant Governor's program on homelessness and the way we can contribute to their programs is to get on board on this so, that will be that will open the door for us to get into us securing a location. As an example, one of well I won't say that because then I don't want to be...that if we were able to secure a location, a current location that's not being used or occupied. We can use this Pathways and the Per Diem Grant to facilitate this building for the veterans in transition.

That's something that's on my board here. It's one of the priorities and there's things with the VA that go hand in hand so, you can't have one without the other. And so, with this per diem, it's going to open the door for us to get the Pathways program that most states currently have that's the only way we can support the programs from OHAP or our other non-profit organizations. We have to open the door for them and then we can participate and fully support a veteran transition homelessness however you want to word it. That's the only way we can fund or assist them in getting the grants for it.

**Senator Telo Taitague:** Okay, well, again I wish you the very best and yes, bring the fire, bring the power and bring our history – our history of our vets here on Guam and how we've lost so many in the war per capita versus any other state. So, for anyone who deserves this it's our veterans right here at home on Guam. So, wish you the very best and thank you. Lucia, always a pleasure to see you to as well. Take care. Happy New Year to you both.

**Senator Telena Cruz Nelson, Prime Author:** Thank you, Senator Telo. Senator Brown, do you have any questions or comments at this time?

Senator Joanne Brown: I don't have too much more to add, Madam Chair. I think all the good points have been brought up with regards to the intent of this resolution and certainly I think

anything we can do to facilitate getting more federal resources to assist our veterans particularly those that are in this transition or homeless period. I mean obviously they would have had other challenges that have been facing them in order to put them in that situation. But nevertheless, since these opportunities are available for our veterans back in the mainland of course, we feel our veterans are just as deserving on equal footing and certainly I'm very supportive of this resolution.

So, thank you for allowing me and thank you to our representative from the Veterans Affairs Office (Guam) for providing input with regards to both these resolutions this evening.

Senator Telena Cruz Nelson, Prime Author: Thank you, Senator Brown. At this time, I just want to thank you Director Aguon and Ms. Perez, you know the amazing teamwork that the Veteran Affairs Office (Guam) has done amongst your staff and us being able to reach out to you and making yourself available to us. we have learned a great deal about the veterans assistance that is provided to our island and we've also learned areas where we need to improve. And it's been very difficult in the past under previous leaderships to get specific information to address the challenges that the Veteran Affairs Office (Guam) has and also that the veterans, the services that are needed and that could be available to them but the programs are not in place.

And so, I thank you for you know doing your due diligence and really taking a proactive approach and going out there to the mainland and saying hey Guam needs to be its own entity. We deserve these programs. The veterans have earned these programs and so, I thank you for that. This is by far under your leadership and through your team we've received a wealth of information and a wealth of activity going on to improve our Veteran Affairs Office (Guam) and the services they provide.

So, thank you very much for your hard work and I appreciate that. I can tell you guys are a little bit tired but we're done now. So, thank you very much.

**Director Tim Aguon, Guam Veterans Affairs Office:** Thank you. Thank you, Chairman and thank you, Senators, for your support and your continued support of this office and the veteran community. We really appreciate it. We can't do this alone. This is one fight, one island, one team. So, you know, they stood up and sacrificed for us to enjoy the freedoms that we have today and we're putting our best foot forward and giving the same type of energy that they have given us in order for us to live the life that we have today. So, thank you very much.

**Senator Telena Cruz Nelson, Prime Author:** Thank you, Director Aguon. Okay, so, that being said and there are no further questions or testimonies, we will conclude the Virtual Public Hearing.

The Committee will continue to accept written testimony for the next ten (10) working days. Testimonies may be sent via email to senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org or delivered to the Office of Senator Telena Cruz Nelson at Suite 202A, 173 Aspinall Avenue, *Hagåtña*, Guam 96910. A recording of today's hearing will be available on YouTube at Guam Legislature Media.

We will now conclude the Virtual Public Hearing. It is now 5:45 p.m., in the evening. Thank you very much and have a good night.

The public hearing was adjourned at 5:45 P.M.

### III. FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The Prime Author, Senator Telena Cruz Nelson, hereby reports out on Resolution No. 215-36 (COR), "Relative to expressing the utmost support of I Liheslaturan Guåhan for the passage of H.R. 5606, the "Return Home to Housing Act," which seeks to amend Title 38 of the United States Code to adjust the rate of per diem payments provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to grantees that provide services to homeless veterans; and further requesting parity and inclusion of all veterans residing in Guam and in all territories," with the recommendation **to do adopt.** 

### I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN 2021 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 215-36 (COR)

Introduced by:

Telena Cruz Nelson
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Jose "Pedo" Terlaje
Joe San Agustin
Joanne Brown
James Moylan
Mary Camacho Torres May Che,

Relative to expressing the utmost support of I Liheslaturan Guåhan for the passage of H.R. 5606, the "Return Home to Housing Act," which seeks to amend Title 38 of the United States Code to adjust the rate of per diem payments provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to grantees that provide services to homeless veterans; and further requesting parity and inclusion of all veterans residing in Guam and in all territories.

## BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I MINA'TRENTAL SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÂHAN:

- 3 WHEREAS, H.R. 5606, known as the "Return Home to Housing Act," as
- 4 introduced in the United States House of Representatives on October 15, 2021 by
- 5 Georgia Representative Congresswoman Nikema Williams; and referred to the House
- 6 Committee on Veterans' Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the "Return Home to Housing Act," will raise the maximum allowable rate that the Department of Veterans Affairs can reimburse to service providers for supplying transitional housing to homeless veterans; and by ensuring they can get adequately reimbursed for their costs, H.R. 5606, will help housing providers supply more housing to displaced veterans in need; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary authorizes grant funding benefits for homeless veterans; in which available grants can assist eligible entities in establishing services and programs by providing outreach, rehabilitative services, vocational counseling and training, and transitional housing assistance to displaced veterans in need; and to support housing retention for Veterans who were previously homeless and are transitioning to permanent housing; and

WHEREAS, the Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem (GPD) program, established in 2010, which creates transitional housing programs through awarding grants to fund projects that offer communities a way to provide housing and other services to homeless Veteran; and grantees work closely with an assigned liaison who monitors the services the grantees offer to veterans and provide direct assistance; and grants from the GPD program usually consist of a capped per diem payment from Veterans Affairs to community organizations; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation would adjust the rate of per diem payments originally from one hundred fifteen percent (115%) to two hundred percent (200%) of the rate authorized for state homes for domiciliary care in which may increase from time to time; and where such services furnished to a homeless veteran placed in housing that will become permanently housed upon termination of the furnished services, the maximum proposed rate of per diem from one hundred fifty percent (150%) to two hundred percent (200%); and

WHERERAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs – Grant and Per Diem Program (VA-GPD) is offered annually to fund entities providing services to unhoused veterans; to promote the developmental and provision of supportive housing and services with the goal of assisting veterans who are experiencing homelessness achieve

residential stability, increase skill levels and/or income, and obtain greater selfdetermination, and to ease transitions back into society; and

WHEREAS, on September 3, 2021, the Department of Veterans Affairs – Grant and Per Diem Program (VA-GPD) published a Capital Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) announced the availability of grant funding of approximately \$75 Million Dollars for the renovation, acquisition or construction of GPD transitional housing to improve personal safety for Veterans, reduce risks associated with close quarters living and increase the availability of individual unit style transitional housing; and

WHEREAS, under the CARES Act; a provision was passed which allocated additional funding to the V.A. in support of the global COVID-19 pandemic efforts which allows the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in response to the public health emergency, to temporarily waive the cap on per diem payments to eligible entities; and as of October 1, 2021, the maximum per diem rate for all transitional housing (Per Diem Only, Transition in Place, and Special Need) under the V.A. Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program is One Hundred Fifty-two Dollars and Seventy-three Cents (\$152.73) and the maximum Service Center rate is Nineteen Dollars and Nine Cents (\$19.09); and the maximum amount payable under the per diem is Fifty Dollars and Ninety-one Cents (\$50.91) per day per veteran housed; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 5606, the "Return Home to Housing Act," proposes adjustments to the rate per diem payments provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary for services furnished to homeless veterans to support the additional operating costs associated with serving unhoused veterans in response to an emergency with safe isolation spaces during a state of emergency; and the proposed increased rate per diem payments would also provide assistance required for safety and survival in response to an emergency; now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, expresses the utmost support of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* for the passage of H.R. 5606, the "Return

1 Home to Housing Act," which seeks to amend Title 38 of the United States Code to

adjust the rate of per diem payments provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to

grantees that provide services to homeless veterans; and to further requests parity and

4 inclusion of all veterans residing in Guam and in all territories; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules

certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of

the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Joseph Biden, President of the

United States of America; to the Honorable Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United

States of America; to the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, U.S. House of

10 Representatives; to the Honorable Congresswoman Nikema Williams, Georgia

11 Representative; to the Honorable Michael F.Q. San Nicolas, Guam Delegate, U.S.

12 House of Representatives; Denis Richard McDonough, U.S. Secretary of Veterans

13 Affairs; Monica Diaz, Executive Director of Veterans Health Administration -

14 Homeless Programs Office; P. Tim Aguon, SMSgt, USAF (ret), Director of Guam

15 Veterans Affairs Office; Aja Cruz Ramos, President of Operations of WestCare Pacific

16 Islands; Christina Cruz, Lead Veterans Advocate, Supportive Services for Veterans

17 Families (SSVF) of WestCare Pacific Islands; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon

18 Guerrero, I Maga'hågan Guåhan.

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DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RILES OF I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÂHAN ON THE DAY OF NOVEMBER 2021.

THERESE M. TERLAJE Speaker AMANDA L. SHELTON
Acting Chairperson, Committee on Rules

AMANDA L. SHELTON Legislative Secretary

## H. R. 5606

To amend title 38, United States Code, to adjust the rate of per diem payments provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to grantees that provide services to homeless veterans.

### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

October 15, 2021

Ms. Williams of Georgia (for herself, Ms. Tenney, Ms. Jacobs of California, and Mr. Garbarino) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

### A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to adjust the rate of per diem payments provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to grantees that provide services to homeless veterans.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Return Home to Hous-
- 5 ing Act".

1	SEC. 2. ADJUSTMENTS TO RATE OF PER DIEM PAYMENTS
2	PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS
3	AFFAIRS FOR SERVICES FURNISHED TO
4	HOMELESS VETERANS.
5	Section 2012(a)(2)(B) of title 38, United States
6	Code, is amended—
7	(1) in clause (i)—
8	(A) in subclause (I), by inserting ", includ-
9	ing in response to an emergency" after "appro-
10	priate''; and
11	(B) in subclause (II)(aa)(BB), by striking
12	"115" and inserting "200"; and
13	(2) in clause (ii), by striking "150" and insert-
14	ing "200".