

I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
BILL STATUS

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	FISCAL NOTES	NOTES
405-35 (COR)	Régine Biscoe Lee	AN ACT RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION AREA ON SELECT GOVERNMENT OF GUAM PROPERTIES WHICH OVERLAY A PORTION OF THE NORTHERN GUAM LENS AQUIFER (NGLA) WHEREIN NO PRODUCTION WELLS SHALL BE INSTALLED AND NO DEVELOPMENT SHALL OCCUR.	9/23/20 6:17 p.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2020 (SECOND) Regular Session

Bill No. 405-35 (COR)

Introduced by:

Régine Biscoe Lee 

AN ACT RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION AREA ON SELECT GOVERNMENT OF GUAM PROPERTIES WHICH OVERLAY A PORTION OF THE NORTHERN GUAM LENS AQUIFER (NGLA) WHEREIN NO PRODUCTION WELLS SHALL BE INSTALLED AND NO DEVELOPMENT SHALL OCCUR.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*

finds that in order to provide more robust protection for the island's limited groundwater resources, it may be advantageous to create a Groundwater Conservation Area (GCA) on those lands owned by the government of Guam which overlay those areas of the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer (NGLA) containing the healthiest and most valuable groundwater.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan further finds that other jurisdictions have employed a range of options to better protect their groundwater resources, including the option of creating a GCA on lands which overlay their aquifers. In sum, the working theory is that prohibiting development on those lands which overlay the healthiest and most valuable portions of an aquifer may be one of the most effective ways to prevent contamination by surface pollutants. Similarly, prohibiting the installation of production wells on these same properties is

1 arguably the best way to ensure that groundwater is not withdrawn at a rate that
2 outpaces the aquifer's natural ability to recharge itself.

3 It is therefore the intent of *I Liheslatura* to create a task force charged with
4 exploring the feasibility of creating a GCA on select government properties which
5 overlay a portion of the NGLA.

6 **Section 2. Groundwater Conservation Area Task Force.**

7 (a) The Lieutenant Governor of Guam *shall* appoint a Groundwater
8 Conservation Area Task Force consisting of:

9 (1) the Administrator of the Guam Environmental Protection
10 Agency, or his/her designee;

11 (2) the General Manager of the Guam Waterworks Authority, or
12 his/her designee;

13 (3) the Director of the Bureau of Statistics and Plans, or his/her
14 designee;

15 (4) the Director of the Department of Agriculture, or his/her
16 designee;

17 (5) the Director of the Department of Land Management, or
18 his/her designee;

19 (6) the Director of the Chamorro Land Trust Commission, or
20 his/her designee;

21 (7) the Executive Director of the Guam Ancestral Lands
22 Commission, or his/her designee;

23 (8) the President of the University of Guam (UOG), or his/her
24 designee; and

25 (9) the Director of UOG's Water Environmental Research
26 Institute of the Western Pacific, or his/her designee.

1 (b) The Task Force *shall* be under the direction of the Office of the
2 Lieutenant Governor, who *shall* serve as its Chairperson.

3 (c) The Lieutenant Governor may extend participation in the Task
4 Force to any member of the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer Technical Advisory
5 Group to assist in the exploration of the feasibility of creating a GCA on
6 government lands which overlay over a portion of the NGLA.

7 (d) The Task Force *shall* produce a feasibility study in the form of a
8 written report that includes, at a minimum, an assessment of the following:

9 (1) Which zone, area, or portion of the NGLA is most in need of,
10 or could most benefit from, protection from surface pollutants?;

11 (2) Are any of the properties which overlay the above-identified
12 zones, areas, or portions of the NGLA owned by an agency or
13 instrumentality of the government of Guam—and if so, which ones?;

14 (3) To what type of use, if any, are the above-identified
15 properties being put by the respective agency or instrumentality?;

16 (4) What types of land use restrictions, if any, would be most or
17 least appropriate for the GCA—and why?;

18 (5) What government agencies or programs, if any, may benefit
19 from being granted access to the above-identified zones, areas or portions
20 of the NGLA—and why?; and

21 (6) other factors that the Task Force deems reasonably
22 appropriate to consider in its discretion.

23 (e) The Task Force *shall* submit the report identified in subsection (d)
24 of this Section to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* within six (6) months of
25 enactment of this Act.

26 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Act *shall* become effective upon enactment.