MINA' TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN THIRTIETH GUAM LEGISLATURE 2010 (SECOND) Regular

Bill No. 368-30 (cor)

Introduced by:

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FRANK B. AGUON, #THOMAS C. ADA

ADOLPHO B. PALACIOS, SR.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO APPROVING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE ISSUANCE BY GPA OF REVENUE BONDS TO FINANCE THE LOCAL MATCHING PORTION OF THE COSTS OF THE SMART GRID PROJECT; FUND CERTAIN OTHER GENERATION, TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION PROJECTS; TO FUND THE COSTS OF AN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING; TO REFUND SPECIFIC OUTSTANDING GPA BONDS: AND TO APPROVE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE GUAM **POWER ISSUANCE** BY **AUTHORITY** SUBORDINATE REVENUE BONDS TO FUND CERTAIN **RESERVES** AND REFUND ITS **OUTSTANDING** OBLIGATIONS RELATING TO ITS COMMERCIAL PAPER PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

- Section 1. Legislative Findings. (a) Section 8203 of Title 12 of the
- 3 Guam Code Annotated provides that the Guam Power Authority ("GPA")
- 4 is authorized to incur indebtedness by the issuance of revenue bonds with
- 5 the approval of the Governor to raise funds for the purpose of establishing
- 6 the electric power system of GPA, or of acquiring lands for the system, or

- of acquiring, constructing, improving, equipping, maintaining, repairing, renewing, replacing, reconstructing or insuring the system, or any part
- 3 thereof, or for the purpose of refunding any such bonds, or for any
- 4 combination of such purposes.

- (b) Section 12004 of Title 12 of the Guam Code Annotated provides that the GPA shall not enter into any contractual agreements or obligations (including bonds) which could increase rates and charges prior to the written approval of the Guam Public Utilities Commission (the "GPUC").
- (c) Section 50103 of Title 12 of the Guam Code Annotated provides that agencies and instrumentalities of the government of Guam, including GPA, shall issue bonds and other obligations only by means of, and through the agency of the Guam Economic Development Authority ("GEDA"), and that GEDA shall not sell any bond without the approval by *I Liheslaturan Guahan* of the terms and conditions of the issuance of the bonds.
- (d) GPA applied for and has been awarded a grant in the amount of approximately \$16.6 million from the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability of the United States Department of Energy (the "DOE") for the modernization of its electric grid infrastructure through automation of the electric distribution system and acquisition and installation of smart electric meters for customers (the "Smart Grid project"). The DOE requires GPA to provide funds to match the grant for the Smart Grid project within 120 days of GPA's acceptance of the award from the DOE.

(e) GPA expects the Smart Grid project to create 210 jobs during the first 36 months and to result in up to \$5 million of annual cost savings for GPA in each fiscal year for the first 15 years following completion of the installation of the Smart Grid project.

- (f) GPA expects the construction of an administration building to stabilize and reduce the costs of providing the necessary space for administration and related services and to provide an opportunity to consolidate the office spaces of GPA and the Guam Waterworks Authority.
- (g) GPA needs to finance the completion of certain generation, transmission and distribution projects for the purpose of enhancing system reliability, improving system stability, and installing new fire protection equipment in several of its power plants.
- (h) GPA has outstanding certain revenue bonds, known as the 1993 Series A Bonds and the 1999 Series A Bonds, and certain subordinate obligations relating to its commercial paper program.
 - (i) Based on current market conditions, GPA expects to be able to refinance certain of its outstanding revenue bonds for debt service savings or in order to restructure debt service.
 - (j) On April 6, 2010, the Consolidated Commission on Utilities (the "CCU") adopted a resolution relative to (1) approving the issuance of additional revenue bonds (A) to finance the local matching portion of the costs of the Smart Grid project and the costs of an administration building and certain other generation, transmission and distribution projects and (B)

to refund all or a portion of the outstanding GPA revenue bonds, and (2)
approving the issuance of subordinate revenue bonds to provide for
reserves and to pay the costs of refinancing GPA's outstanding obligations
relating to its commercial paper program.

- (k) *I Liheslaturan Guahan* has determined to approve the issuance of revenue bonds by GPA for the purposes described in subparagraph (1) of the preceding paragraph and the issuance of subordinate revenue bonds by GPA for the purpose described in subparagraph (2) of the preceding paragraph, all subject to approval by *I Maga'lahen Guahan*, the GPUC and the Board of Directors of GEDA in accordance with law.
- Section 2. Approval of the Terms and Conditions of the Issuance by GPA Revenue Bonds to Finance the Local Matching Portion of the Costs of the Smart Grid Project, Certain Other Generation, Transmission and Distribution Projects, and the costs of an Administration Building.
- (a) *I Liheslaturan Guahan*, pursuant to §50103(k) of Title 12 of the Guam Code Annotated, hereby approves the terms and conditions of the issuance by GPA of revenue bonds in a principal amount not to exceed One Hundred Fifty-Five Million Dollars (\$155,000,000) for the purpose of financing the projects and paying the other costs listed in subsection (c) of this section, *provided*, that such bonds have a final maturity not later than 32 years from their date of issuance, bear interest at such rate or rates and are sold for such price or prices as shall result in a net interest cost to GPA not exceeding the limitation provided by Section 8214 of Chapter 8 of Title 12

- of the Guam Code Annotated, as amended, and are issued and sold pursuant to GPA's existing bond indenture and otherwise in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 8 of Title 12 of the Guam Code Annotated, including approval by the CCU and by *I Maga'lahen Guahan* as provided
- including approval by the CCU and by *I Maga'lahen Guahan* as provided therein.
- 6 (b) The sale of the bonds shall be approved by the Board of
 7 Directors of GEDA as provided by Chapter 50 of Title 12 of the Guam Code
 8 Annotated and the terms and conditions of the issuance of the bonds shall
 9 be approved by the GPUC as provided by Chapter 12 of Title 12 of the
 10 Guam Code Annotated.

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The proceeds of the bonds may be applied to pay for the costs of issuance of the bonds, for accrued and capitalized interest thereon, for credit enhancement therefor, to provide for reserves and to pay the local matching portion of the costs of the Smart Grid project, the costs of an and other generation, administration building, transmission projects, including but not limited to environmental distribution generation improvements, underground fuel pipeline compliance, protection GPA facilities, conversion, fire upgrades at substation/transmission upgrades and improvements, system protection relaying improvements, and power distribution system improvements, subject in each case to approval by the GPUC of such projects in accordance with Chapter 12 of Title 12 of the Guam Code Annotated.

Section 3. Approval of the Terms and Conditions of the Issuance by GPA of Refunding Bonds.

I Liheslaturan Guahan, pursuant to §50103(k) of Title 12 of the Guam

Code Annotated, hereby approves the terms and conditions of the issuance

of revenue bonds by GPA for the purpose of refunding all or a portion of

GPA's outstanding 1993 Series A and 1999 Series A revenue bonds in

accordance with the following requirements, limitations, terms and

conditions:

(a) The aggregate principal amount of the refunding bonds shall not exceed the amount determined in accordance with Section 8229 of Title 12 of the Guam Code Annotated.

- (b) All obligation of GPA to pay debt service on, and the redemption price of, the prior bonds shall be discharged concurrently with the issuance of the refunding bonds. Thereafter, the prior bonds shall be payable solely from and secured solely by an escrow established for such purpose.
- (c) The final maturity of the refunding bonds shall not be greater than 15 years after the final maturity of the bonds being refunded.
- (d) Such bonds shall be issued and sold pursuant to GPA's existing bond indenture and in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 8 of Title 12 of the Guam Code Annotated, including approval by the Consolidated Commission on Utilities and by *I Maga'lahen Guahan* as provided therein.

1 (e) The sale of the bonds shall be approved by the Board of
2 Directors of GEDA as provided by Chapter 50 of Title 12 of the Guam Code
3 Annotated and the bonds shall be approved by the GPUC as provided by
4 Chapter 12 of Title 12 of the Guam Code Annotated.

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- Section 4. Approval of the Terms and Conditions of the Issuance by GPA of Subordinate Revenue Bonds to Refinance Outstanding Commercial Paper Notes.
 - (a) *I Liheslaturan Guahan*, pursuant to §50103(k) of Title 12 of the Guam Code Annotated, hereby approves the terms and conditions of the issuance by GPA of subordinate revenue bonds in a principal amount not to exceed Sixty-Five Million Dollars (\$65,000,000) for the purposes listed in subsection (c) of this section, *provided*, that such bonds have a final maturity not later than October 1, 2019, bear interest at such rate or rates and are sold for such price or prices as shall result in a yield to the bondholders not exceeding nine percent (9%) per annum, and are issued and sold in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 8 of Title 12 of the Guam Code Annotated, including approval by the CCU and by *I Maga'lahen Guahan* as provided therein.
 - (b) The sale of the subordinate bonds shall be approved by the Board of Directors of GEDA as provided by Chapter 50 of Title 12 of the Guam Code Annotated and the subordinate bonds shall be approved by the GPUC as provided by Chapter 12 of Title 12 of the Guam Code Annotated.

(c) The proceeds of the subordinate bonds may be applied to pay for the costs of issuance of the subordinate bonds, for credit enhancement therefor, to provide for reserves and to pay the costs of refinancing GPA's outstanding obligations relating to its commercial paper program, subject in each case to approval by the GPUC of such purpose in accordance with Chapter 12 of Title 12 of the Guam Code Annotated.

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Section 5. Amendment of Chapter 8 of Title 12 of the Guam Code Annotated. Subparagraph (a) of Section 8214 of Chapter 8 of Title 12 of the Guam Code Annotated is hereby amended to read, as follows:

"(a) Bonds shall bear interest at a <u>net</u> rate of not to exceed nine percent (9%) per annum, <u>after subtracting from bond</u> interest the amount of any direct subsidy payment to be received from the United States in connection with such Bonds. Interest shall be payable annually or semi-annually or in part annually and in part semi-annually except that the first coupon on any bond may be payable any number of months less than twelve (12) after the date of such bond."

Section 6. Local Sales of Bonds. GEDA shall undertake its best efforts to cause a portion of any bonds approved pursuant to Section 3, 4 or 5 of this Act, to be offered for sale to residents of Guam, as well as to residents of other jurisdictions, if and to the extent that such offer and any sales resulting from such offer do not increase the costs to GPA of issuing

- and repaying such bonds. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to
- the contrary, these bonds may be sold to employees of GPA.