



CARL T.C. GUTIERREZ  
GOVERNOR OF GUAM

APR 08 1998

Refer to  
Legislative Secretary

The Honorable Antonio R. Unpingco  
Speaker  
Twenty-Fourth Guam Legislature  
Guam Legislature Temporary Building  
155 Hesler Street  
Agana, Guam 96910

Dear Speaker Unpingco:

Enclosed please find a copy of Bill No. 559 (LS), "AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$750,000.00) FROM THE TOURIST ATTRACTION FUND TO THE GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTRACTING THE SERVICES OF AN ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON AND A NEURO SURGEON", which I have signed into law today as **Public Law No. 24-153**.

We are in urgent need of the services of an orthopedic surgeon and a neurosurgeon at the Guam Memorial Hospital. This legislation provides the mechanism to fill this need as soon as possible. The funding will be repaid by the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority according to the terms of the loan.

Very truly yours,


  
Carl T. C. Gutierrez

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Joanne M. S. Brown  
Legislative Secretary

94731

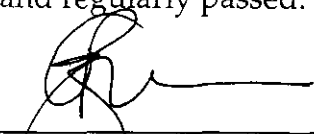
Office of the Speaker  
ANTONIO R. UNPINGCO

Date: 4-8-98  
Time: 1345  
Rec'd by:   
Print Name: Charlene Duena

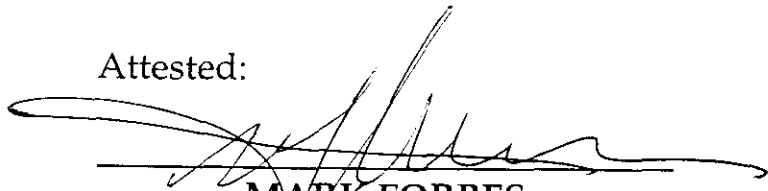
TWENTY-FOURTH GUAM LEGISLATURE  
1998 (SECOND) Regular Session

CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO THE GOVERNOR

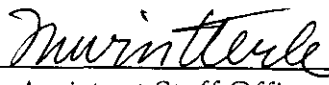
This is to certify that Bill No. 559 (LS), "AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$750,000.00) FROM THE TOURIST ATTRACTION FUND TO THE GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOR THE PURPOSES OF CONTRACTING THE SERVICES OF AN ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON AND A NEURO SURGEON," was on the 25<sup>TH</sup> day of March, 1998, duly and regularly passed.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ANTONIO R. UNPINGCO  
Speaker

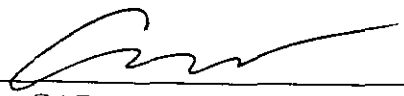
Attested:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MARK FORBES  
Senator and Acting Legislative  
Secretary

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This Act was received by the Governor this 31st day of March, 1998, at  
2:45 o'clock P.M.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Staff Officer  
Governor's Office

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CARL T. C. GUTIERREZ  
Governor of Guam

Date: 4-8-98

Public Law No. 24-153

**TWENTY-FOURTH GUAM LEGISLATURE**  
**1998 (SECOND) Regular Session**

**Bill No. 559 (LS)**

As amended by the Author  
and further amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

E. J. Cruz  
J. C. Salas  
L. F. Kasperbauer  
Felix P. Camacho  
T. C. Ada  
F. B. Aguon, Jr.  
A. C. Blaz  
J. M.S. Brown  
Francisco P. Camacho  
M. C. Charfauros  
W. B.S.M. Flores  
Mark Forbes  
A. C. Lamorena, V  
C. A. Leon Guerrero  
L. Leon Guerrero  
V. C. Pangelinan  
A. L.G. Santos  
F. E. Santos  
A. R. Unpingco  
J. Won Pat-Borja

**AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF SEVEN  
HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS  
(\$750,000.00) FROM THE TOURIST ATTRACTION  
FUND TO THE GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
FOR THE PURPOSES OF CONTRACTING THE  
SERVICES OF AN ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON AND  
A NEURO SURGEON.**

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

2           **Section 1. Legislative Findings.**           The Guam Legislature finds  
3 that there exists a serious threat of the level of health care provided the people  
4 of Guam and visitors for physician services in orthopedic and neurosurgical  
5 care, especially in time of emergencies. The Guam Legislature takes note that  
6 currently there are only two (2) orthopedic surgeons on Island. One (1)  
7 surgeon has expressed his intentions to the Guam Memorial Hospital  
8 Authority ("GMHA") that he will be relocating to the Mainland this coming  
9 July. This is a matter of serious concern since there were well over five  
10 hundred (500) orthopedic surgical procedures performed in 1997 at GMHA.  
11 Furthermore, the Guam Legislature acknowledges that this is overwhelming  
12 for a single Orthopedic Surgeon to bear and respond to patients needing such  
13 services, especially during emergency cases. Also presently neurosurgical  
14 emergency cases are being managed by non-neurosurgeons. The shortage or  
15 lack of these physicians shall not be tolerated by our growing community.  
16 Many deaths and complications may be prevented. Additional pain and  
17 suffering will be averted. It is the intention of the Guam Legislature to  
18 intercede and do what is right for the protection of our health and plant a seed  
19 that will perpetuate itself by appropriating from the Tourist Attraction Fund.

20           **Section 2. Appropriation.**           The sum of Seven Hundred Fifty  
21 Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00) is hereby appropriated from the Tourist  
22 Attraction Fund ("Fund") to GMHA for the purposes of contracting the  
23 services of an Orthopedic Surgeon and a Neurosurgeon, and may use the  
24 Fund for initial procurement of medical equipment and supplies to support

1 the surgical procedure to be performed by the Orthopedic Surgeon and  
2 Neurosurgeon.

3       **Section 3. Repayment Plan.** GMHA shall reimburse the Fund  
4 Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00), interest free, over a  
5 period of twenty-four (24) months beginning from the enactment of this  
6 Legislation.

7       **Section 4.** The Governor shall appoint a Task Force to include the  
8 Administrator of GMHA and a representative from each of the health care  
9 providers doing business on Guam, which shall address the need for  
10 orthopedic surgeons, neurosurgeons and other specialists on Island, and  
11 which shall have as its purpose the promulgation of a permanent solution to  
12 address this need.