

CARL T.C. GUTIERREZ GOVERNOR OF GUAM

SEP 3 0 1997

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 Substitute Bill No. 4 (LS), "AN ACT TO ADD A NEW §7120.2 TO CHAPTER 7 OF TITLE 16 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND TAXATION TO PROVIDE VETERAN LICENSE PLATES FOR GUAM'S VETERANS.", which I have signed into law today as **Public Law No. 24-66**.

This legislation provides for special license plates to be issued to veterans, with no increase in license plate fee. These license plates will be the same size and shape as regular license plates, and additionally will have the word "VETERAN" placed on it, with a United States flag displayed on one side and a Guam flag displayed on the other. The license number will be coded to show the branch of service where the veteran served, and the license plate will also denote recipients of medals of valor, combat duty or disabled person's symbols.

This legislation allows our veterans to be publicly honored for the personal sacrifices that they have made to preserve democracy and freedom. At a glance, the public can be reminded of the service of veterans and be informed of the bravery demonstrated in obtaining awards for exemplary service.

Very truly yours,

Carl T. C. Gutierrez

Governor of Guam

Attachment 00441

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

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Rec'd by:			stends

OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY
ACKNOWLEDGMENT RECEIPT
Received By Jami Jumale to
Time <u>3 p.m.</u>
Data 9-3-0-97



TWENTY-FOURTH GUAM LEGISLATURE 1997 (FIRST) Regular Session

CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO THE GOVERNOR

This is to certify that Substitute Bill No. 4 (LS), "AN ACT TO ADD A NEW §7120.2 TO CHAPTER 7 OF TITLE 16 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND TAXATION TO PROVIDE VETERAN LICENSE PLATES FOR GUAM'S VETERANS," was on the 12th day of September, 1997, duly and regularly passed.

ANTHONY C. BLAZ Acting Speaker

Attestee ÍOANNE M.S. BRÓWÑ

Senator and Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by the Governor this 23^{24} day of <u>September</u>, 1997, at 11:30 o'clock A.M.

Assistant Staff Officer Governor's Office

APPROVED:

CARL T. C. GUTIERREZ Governor of Guam

Date: Public Law No. 24-66



TWENTY-FOURTH GUAM LEGISLATURE 1997 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 4 (LS)

As substituted by the Committee on Finance and Taxation and as amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

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

AN ACT TO ADD A NEW §7120.2 TO CHAPTER 7 OF TITLE 16 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND TAXATION TO PROVIDE VETERAN LICENSE PLATES FOR GUAM'S VETERANS.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY OF GUAM:

The Guam Legislature, in an effort to Section 1. Legislative Intent. 1 provide due recognition to Guam's veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces as well 2 as para-military forces during World War II and the Island's strong 3 contribution to national security, supports the issuance of license plates 4 designed specifically for these distinguished members of our community. 5

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The Guam's Office of Veteran's Affairs estimates that there are close to 6 sixteen thousand (16,000) veterans living today on our Island. No matter how 7 many years pass, the commitment and sacrifice of these men and women who 8 serve their Country across the world and on Guam in the name of democracy 9 10 should not be forgotten.

To continue to thank and recognize our veterans, it is appropriate that 11 we provide them an added measure of respect and dignity by making 12 available license plates designed specifically to pay tribute to their deeds and 13 actions while serving their Country. 14

15 Just as other states and territories in the union have provided such a 16 lasting, visible tribute to their veterans, Guam's airmen, soldiers, sailors, marines, national guard, active reserve and para-military forces who have 17 18 transitioned into respective roles in our society must continue to feel our 19 Island's gratitude each and every day of their lives.

20 Section 2. A new §7120.2 is hereby added to Chapter 7 of Title 16 of the Guam Code Annotated to read as follows: 21

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"Section 7120.2. Veteran License Plates. (a) The purpose of this Section is to provide a veteran license plate(s) for veterans who reside 23 24 on Guam.

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(b) Definitions. Term used in this Section is defined as follows:

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(1) 'Veteran,' as it applies to this Law, means a person who served in the active duty military service in the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps or U.S. Coast Guard; also the Army or Air National Guard or active reserve component of the Army, Air Force or Navy, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. Additionally, it means a person who served during World War II in the Guam Combat Patrol, Wake Island Defenders, Guam Militia or Civilian Scouts.

12 (c) Application. Any person who is a veteran, verified by 13 Department of Defense 214 Form (DD214), or who otherwise is qualified 14 under Subsection (b)(1) of this Section and certified by the government 15 of Guam Veterans Affairs Office, and is the registered owner or lessee of 16 a passenger vehicle registered with the Department of Revenue and 17 Taxation, or who makes application for an original registration or 18 renewal registration of any such vehicle, may apply to the Motor 19 Vehicle Division of the Department of Revenue and Taxation for a 20 veteran license plate(s) which shall be affixed to the passenger vehicle 21 for which registration is sought in lieu of regular license plates.

(d) Color and Design. A veteran license plate shall be the
 same standard size and shape as a regular passenger vehicle with the
 additional features as follows:

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(1) Below the line 'GUAM USA,' will be the word
 'VETERAN' (in black lettering) bordered on the left by the United
 States Flag and on the right by the Guam Flag;

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On the next line, in the middle, will be the license plate 4 (2)number (in blue lettering) in alpha numeric format designating 5 branch of service and numerical sequence, such as A001 (Army), 6 AF050 (Air Force), N022 (Navy), MC033 (Marine Corps), CG006 7 (Coast Guard), NG310 (Army or Air National Guard), R711 8 (Army, Air or Naval Reserves), GCP001 (Guam Combat Patrol), 9 10 WD007 (Wake Island Defender), GM019 (Guam Militia), or CS042 (Civilian Scout). For a qualified person with a disability, as 11 12 defined under Title 16 Guam Code Annotated §7120.1, the veteran license plate shall display the International Symbol of Accessibility 13 14 in the same size as the letters and numbers on the plate.

(3) Below the license number, will be a line reserved for
decal entries denoting recipients of medals of valor, combat duty
or disabled person's symbols. Such entries shall include:
'DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS,' 'SILVER STAR,' 'BRONZE
STAR,' 'PURPLE HEART' OR 'COMBAT WOUNDED,' or other
equivalent awards.

(e) Fee. The fee for the issuance of a veteran license plate shall
not exceed the fee charged for a similar license plate for the same class
of vehicle.

24 **(f) Issuance.** A veteran license plate(s) shall be issued only to 25 the registered owner or lessee of the vehicle on which they are to be displayed. Registration for a veteran license plate shall be limited to
 two (2) vehicles per veteran."

Section 3. The Department of Revenue and Taxation shall commence
planning for the design and issuance of the veteran license plates and shall
implement the distribution of veteran license plates by January 31, 1998.

1. 24-66



TWENTY-FOURTH GUAM LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Chairman Finance & Taxation Vice-Chairman

Rules, Government Reform & Federal Affairs

Education

Natural Resources

Health & Human Services

Tourism, Economic Development & Cultural Affairs

Judiciary, Public Safety & Consumer Protection

Transportation, Telecommunications, & Micronesian Affairs

MEMBERSHIP

Guam Finance Commission

Commission on Self Determination September 9, 1997

The Honorable Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco 24th Guam Legislature 155 Hesler Street Agana, Guam 96910

Dear Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Finance and Taxation now reports its findings on Bill No. 4, "An Act to Add a New Subsection 7120.2 to Chapter 7 of Title 16 of the Guam Code Annotated to Require the Department of Revenue and Taxation to provide Veteran License Plates for Guam's Veterans," to the full Legislature with the recommendation TO DO PASS.

Votes of the committee members are as follows:

To Pass	_14
Not To Pass	
Inactive File	
Abstained	
Off-Island	
Not Available	

Copies of the Committee Report and all pertinent documents are attached for your information.

Anthony C. Blaz

Attachments

Office of the Vice-Speaker

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TWENTY-FOURTH GUAM LEGISLATURE

ATURE Office of the Vice-Speaker ANTHONY C. BLAZ

May 27, 1997

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Chairman Finance & Taxation

Vice-Chairman Rules, Government Reform & Federal Affairs

Education

Natural Resources

Health & Human Services

Tourism, Economic Development & Cultural Affairs

Judiciary, Public Safety & Consumer Protection

Transportation, Telecommunications, & Micronesian Affairs

MEMBERSHIP

Guam Finance Commission

Commission on Self Determination

- TO: Senator Mark Forbes, Vice Chairperson Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco, Ex-Officio Member Senator Elizabeth Barett-Anderson, Member Senator Joanne M.S. Brown, Member Senator Edwardo J. Cruz, Member Senator Lawrence F. Kasperbauer, Member Senator Alberto A.C. Lamorena, V.,Member Senator Carlotta A. Leon Guerrero, Member Senator John C. Salas, Member Senator Thomas C. Ada, Member Senator Mark C. Charfaurous, Member Senator William B.S.M. Flores, Member Senator Francis E. Santos, Member
- FR: Vice Speaker Anthony C. Blaz, Chairperson Committee on Finance and Taxation

RE: Voting Sheet on Bill No. 4

Transmitted herewith is the voting sheet and Committee Report on Bill No. 4, which was subsequently substituted by the Committee on Finance and Taxation, for your review and signature.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely.

Anthony C. Blaz

Committee on Finance and Taxation

Vote Sheet on

Bill No. 4

as substituted by the Committee on Finance & Taxation

"AN ACT TO ADD A NEW SUBSECTION 7120.2 TO CHAPTER 7 OF TITLE 16 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND TAXATION TO PROVIDE VETERAN LICENSE PLATES FOR GUAM'S VETERANS."

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	Antonio R. Unpingco, Ex-Officio				
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	Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson, Member				
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	Carlotta A. Leon Guerrero, Member				<u> </u>
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	William B.S.M. Flores, Member				
	Francis E. Santos, Member				

Committee on Finance and Taxation Report on Bill No. 4 as substituted by the Committee on Finance & Taxation

"AN ACT TO ADD A NEW SUBSECTION 7120.2 TO CHAPTER 7 OF TITLE 16 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND TAXATION TO PROVIDE VETERAN LICENSE PLATES FOR GUAM'S VETERANS."

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Pursuant to the requirements of the Standing Rules, notice of the Public Hearing on Bill No. 4 was published in the Pacific Daily News on Saturday May 10, 1997 and Tuesday May 13, 1997.

PUBLIC HEARING:

The Committee on Finance and Taxation conducted a public hearing on May 14, 1997 to hear testimonies on Bill No. 4,

"AN ACT TO ADD A NEW SUBSECTION 7120.2 TO CHAPTER 7 OF TITLE 16 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND TAXATION TO PROVIDE VETERAN LICENSE PLATES FOR GUAM'S VETERANS."

The public hearing was held in the Legislative Public Hearing Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

The hearing was called to order by the Chairperson of the Committee on Finance and Taxation, Vice Speaker Anthony C. Blaz. Committee members present were:

> Senator Eduardo J. Cruz Senator Thomas C. Ada Senator Joanne M.S. Brown Senator Alberto A.C. Lamorena, V

Other Senators present were:

Senator Frank B. Aguon, Jr. Senator Francisco P. Camacho

Providing Public Testimony on the Bill:

Lawrence A. Babin - VFW 2917 (oral) Joaquin Santos, Jr. - (oral) (written) Cris N. Quintanilla - VFW Post 2917 Pete Mandapat - Phil. Scouts (oral) George G. Flores - (oral) Juan T. Evangilista - Guam Combat Patrol (oral) Ben Gumatatao - (oral) John Blaz - Office of Veteran Affairs (oral) Norbert Perez - Republic of Guahan (oral) Jeffrey H. Raker - Special Forces Association (oral) Stan McGahey - FRA (oral) A. P. Sgambelluri - NAUS (oral) Joseph Gumataotao - FRA (oral)

BACKGROUND:

The hearing provided positive responses by many representatives of Veteran Organizations on Guam. The following is a summary of testimony provided on Bill 4:

Mr. Mandapat, representing Philippine Scouts testified that he would be willing to cooperate with whatever legislation is enacted for the benefit of Veterans.

Joaquin Santos, Jr. testified that although he does not personally endorse the bill as it is written, he offered some insight into how the license plates would be of value. He questioned the significance to the issuance of such a license plate with regards to gaining more respect than what he has already earned. He did outline his support for the bill but recommended to designate specific plates for purple heart recipients.

Mr. Joseph Gumataotao supported the bill and in his comments suggested that the words "Guam USA Where America's Day Begins" be included.

Mr. Cris Quintanilla confirmed his support for such legislation and thanked the committee for recognizing and enacting such legislation.

Mr. Lawrence Babin also commented on the implementation of plates that recognize recipients of the medal of honor and purple heart medals. He emphasized the personalization effect it would have on the driver and the Veteran.

Senator Joanne Brown, author of the bill, emphasized that the bill would provide the vehicle to recognize the very important role that our Veterans have among our community. Bill 4 in one small way would recognize the very unique role Veterans have contributed and at least recognize the sacrifices, contributions and the respect that all our Veterans deserve for what they have done for us.

Vice Speaker Anthony Blaz, echoed the sentiments of Senator Brown commenting on the good points that were brought up about special recognition for purple heart recipients. Senator Blaz commented on how Bill 4 would serve as just a small token of our appreciation but a token that is noteworthy here on our island because of the great pride we have in all our veterans and all our brothers and sisters who have served in the Armed Forces.

Senator Francisco Camacho in his capacity as a retired Col. Air Force Lieutenant announced that he is proud to represent the veterans. Senator Camacho also reiterated the sentiments of giving special recognition to the recipients of Purple Heart medals.

Senator Frank Aguon, Jr. expressed his concerns and stood in support of the proposed legislation. He outlined that this would be an initial step in recognizing the individuals who have served in our community. The senator applauded the sponsor and asked if the Veterans themselves might be able to participate in formulating a license plate that would be indicative of not only having served in the Armed Forces but would be indicative of our local culture.

Col. A. P. Sgambelluri - NAUS, testified in support of the bill recognizing that he is very happy that the day has finally come to pass. He had recommended however moderate changes to the bill and submitted his rendition of the plates in displaying an Alpha Numeric design that would reflect the category of veterans.

John Blaz, Director of Veteran Affairs, in his testimony summarized his recommendation for Veteran License Plates to include:

• not only active U.S. Military branches but also the Guard and Reserve components.

• Individuals who served in WWII. In the Guam Combat Patrol, Wake Island Defenders, Guam Militia, or Civilian Scouts.

• Testimony on the design having the license number reflect the Veteran group as well as a line that would indicate recipient of Medals of Valor.

FINDINGS:

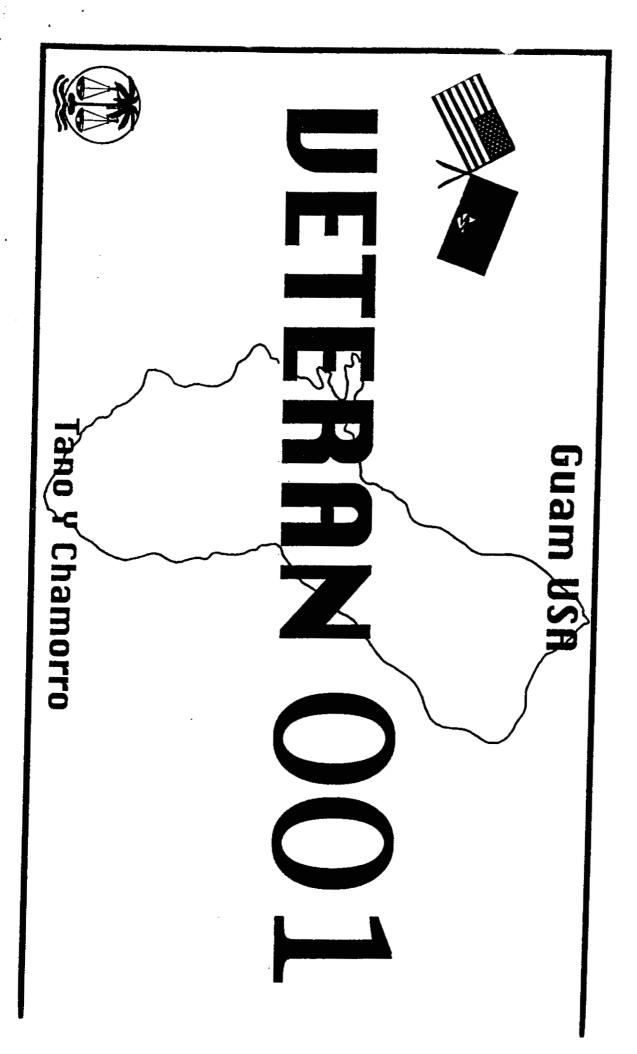
The Committee finds that:

Based on testimony provided for Bill 4 there are several design aspects and language modifications that needed to be addressed in the bill and the committee incorporated these changes in the substitute version of the bill.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee, having reviewed the testimonies presented at the hearing, does hereby recommend to the Legislature the following:

To do pass Bill No. 4, as substituted by the Committee on Finance & Taxation, "AN ACT TOADD A NEW SUBSECTION 7120.2 TO CHAPTER 7 OF TITLE 16 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND TAXATION TO PROVIDE VETERAN LICENSE PLATES FOR GUAM'S VETERANS."



ROBERT DEAVER

PAGE 01



THE AMERICAN LEGION

MID-PACIFIC POST# 1 GUAM, USA P.O. Box 23616, GMF, Guam 96921 • (671) 646-8251

MAY 13, 1997

Senator Joanne M. S. Brown Chairperson, Committee on Natural Resources Twenty-Fourth Guam Legislature

Dear Senator Brown:

As Post Commander of the American Legion, I would like to take this opportunity to express the support of the men and women of the American Legion to this most worthwhile and long overdue recognition of the Veterans of Guam.

I do feel that there are a couple of items that do need some discussion before the final version of this Bill is complete.

Page 2, Lines 6, 7, & 8. (1) Veteran means a person who served in the Active Military, Naval or Air Service and who was discharged or released under Honorable conditions.

This wording is necessary to preclude those with General, Bad Conduct or Dishonorable discharges from qualifying for this honor.

<u>Page 2. Lines 17 - 21</u>. d.) Color and Design. What happened to the design that the Veteran's Organizations worked on, approved and submitted to Mr. John Blas of the Veteran's Affairs Office last year. Also the size of the current license plate will not allow for the design as attached to the Bill.

<u>Page 2, Lines 25 & 26</u>. f.) Issuance. This should be clarified so that maximum sets of plates issued to Veterans is two. This would be one set for the family car and one additional set if the Veteran owns a vehicle that he or she use for transportation to and from work, etc.

The major flaws with the design as attached to this Bill are as follows:

1) Combination of letters, numbers & spaces cannot exceed 8. The design attached to the Bill requires 7 letters, 1 space, and up to 5 numbers if there are 16,000 sets issued. To accommodate this, the letters and numbers would be so small you couldn't read them. Our design as submitted to Veterans Affairs did not have this problem.

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ROBERT DEAVER

PAGE 02



THE AMERICAN LEGION

GUAM, USA P.O. Box 23616, GMF, Guam 96921 • (671) 646-8251

2) What about Handicapped license plates for Veterans. Our design would have allowed this.

3) Some Veterans prefer service related personalized plates. Your design does not accommodate this. Our design would have.

4) The Veterans would prefer red, white and blue license plates instead of the standard Guam colors.

Due to work commitments, I am unable to attend the public hearing, but I would like to submit the above testimony for your consideration. If I can be of any assistance to you on this very important matter, please feel free to call me.

For God and Country,

By Dearer

Bob Deaver Post Commander American Legion Mid Pacific Post #1

MAY-13-97 10:51 HENRY C. MANGLONA

TEL:671-789-1263

F:Ø1

Henry Cruz Manglona P.O. Box 3042 Agana, Guam 96932

Voice: (671) 789-0301 Fax: (671) 789-1263

May 13, 1997

Vice-Speaker Anthony Blaz Chairman, Committee on Finance & Taxation 24th Guam Legislature 155 Hesler Street Agana, Guam 96910

Dear Vice-Speaker Anthony Blaz:

This is a formal letter supporting the passage of Bill 4 - "To Require the Department of Revenue and Taxation to Provide Veteran License Plates for Guam's Veterans".

Issuance of commemorative license plates in Guam for the veterans has been way over due. All 50 states honor veterans with commemorative license plates. License plates that promote pride in service. This Bill will provide as a symbol of pride, respect and appreciation for the sacrifices of Guam veterans.

The side benefit of displaying special license plates is that by recognizing Guam's veterans, hard-earned benefits may be better appreciated and thus preserved. Display of these plates not only honor veterans, but constitutes grass roots lobbying in its simplest form.

I am a proud Vietnam veteran, who has served honorable in the U.S. military service.

All the hard work in support of Guam veterans by the Guam Legislature is greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

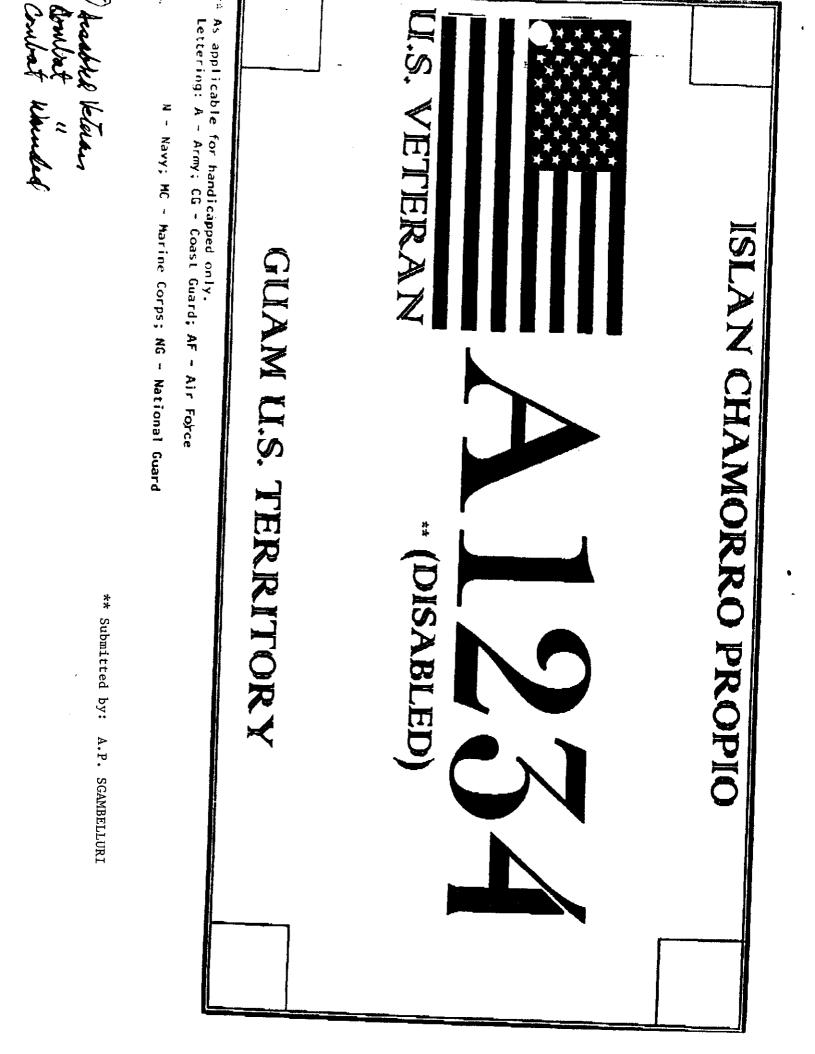
STATEMENT OF JOAQUIN S. SANTOS, JR.

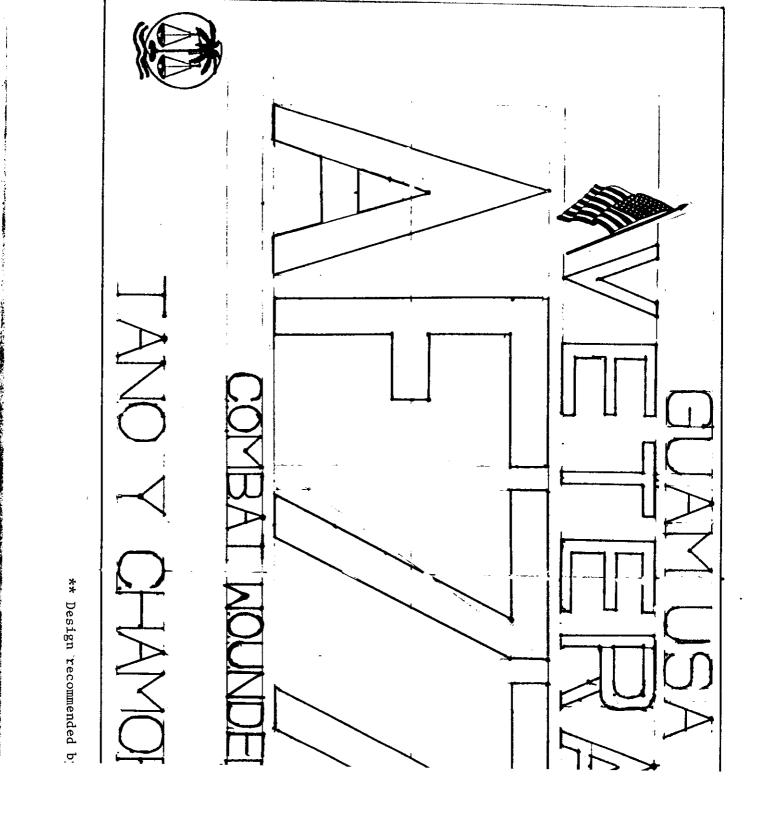
My name is Joaquin S. Santos, Jr. I am a retired Colonel, US Marine Corps, and I am here to provide testimony on Bill No. 4, An Act to provide Veteran License Plates for Guam's Veterans. At the onset, I believe that the Veterans on Guam applaud the sponsor/co-sponsors and supporters of this bill which is an attempt for some sort of public recognition/acceptance of the sacrifice in the defense of the Nation by the men and women of the US Armed Forces. However, I personally do not endorse this bill. Other than the identification that the owner/driver is (was) a Veteran of the US Armed Forces, there is no added value other than the publication of the tag that the driver/owner of the vehicle is a Veteran, and there is nothing to be gained from the perspective of the Veteran from the issuance of such a license plate. I am uncertain whether driving around the Island with a Veteran tag will gain me any more respect than what I've already earned. As a matter of fact, during the 70's and 80's, it was a liability to be identified as a Veteran especially if you were affiliated with the most unpopular war in the history of our Country. Vietnam. For retired Veterans, it will not gain them the right of passage through a military facility without an appropriate form of Department of Defense identification card. Veterans come in different identity, and the eligibility criteria for the issuance of the the license plate only apply to Retired Veterans and Veterans who voluntarily as well as involuntarily served their Country and were discharged from the US Armed Forces under Honorable or General Discharge, and that is the way it should be should you agree to pass this bill.

In the beginning of my statement, I stated that I do not endorse this bill, and to leave it at that would be irresponsible on my part to my Veteran colleague. I would, therefore, offer a better alternative to a license plate for Veterans that will have a clear and meaningful impact, and that is to designate one for PURPLE HEART recipients. Recipients of the Purple Heart are issued to servicemen and women who sustain injuries while in a combat condition. These select few and distinguished service men and women are clearly deserving of recognition for their deeds and actions while serving in the US Armed Forces. As a retired Veteran who know full well the meaning of having to serve my Country, and having to have issued Awards of Valor, I have the utmost respect and admiration for recipients of the Purple Heart Award. The time to honor those Purple Heart recipient Veterans among us is long overdue; the time to

act is now.

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FISCAL NOTE BUREAU OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH

BBMR-F7

Bill Number: <u>4</u>	<u></u>		Date]	Received:	2/14/97		
Amendatory Bill:				Reviewed:	2/28/97		
Department/Agency Aff	ected: <u>Revenu</u>	e & Taxation					
Department/Agency Hes		.					
Total FY Appropriation	to Date: <u>\$10.5</u>			·			
Bill Title (preamble):							
An act to add a new si						ostated to require the	
Department of Revenue	and Taxation to	o Provide Vel	teran license pla	ates for Gua	m's veterans.	-	
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Economics & Finance							
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ANALYST Chiptine Quichocho DATE 2/26/97 DIRECTOR trancer gorlandie DATE MEN 200 107 Christine D.F. Quichocho Joseph E. Rivera, Acting

FOOTNOTE Bill # 4 proposes to require the Department of Revenue & Taxation to provide Veteran license plates. This particular legislation will have a minimal financial impact on the general fund as it relates to the unit cost involved in designing the new templates for Veterans. As far as the other costs associated in the

registration process such as Notice of renewal of Vehicle Registration, Validation Stickers, Vehicle Registration Form and Personnel involved, these costs will remain unaffected at this point in time.

