

*I Mina'trentai Sais 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
<b>166-36 (COR)</b>	Sabina Flores Perez Therese M. Terlaje	AN ACT RELATIVE TO APPROPRIATING SIX HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND THREE HUNDRED FOUR DOLLARS (\$650,304) TO GUAM ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY (GEPA) TO INCREASE REGULATORY CAPACITY.	7/30/21 12:28 pm						

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

**Bill No. 166-36 (COR)**

Introduced by:

Sabina Flores Perez *SFP*  
Therese M. Terlaje *mt*

**AN ACT RELATIVE TO APPROPRIATING SIX HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND THREE HUNDRED FOUR DOLLARS (\$650,304) TO GUAM ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY (GEPA) TO INCREASE REGULATORY CAPACITY.**

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds  
3 the regulatory demands of the Guam Environmental Protection Agency to enforce  
4 laws that ensure the protection of the health of our environment and people have  
5 increased significantly due to expansion of environmental laws, increased permitting  
6 applications for construction projects and increased incidences of violations, such as  
7 illegal dumping.

8 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that GEPA's is experiencing a critical  
9 staffing shortage that will be exacerbated by the anticipated retirement of key  
10 employees within the next three years. The lack of new workers combined with the  
11 loss of institutional knowledge poses a serious threat to our environmental  
12 protections.

13 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that increasing regulatory capacity is  
14 urgently needed through recruitment and retention of qualified staff and evaluating

1 pay scales to determine equity within the agency and to match those in the private  
2 sector or federal government.

3 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds greater funding for GEPA is needed to  
4 match the increased regulatory demand. Additionally, greater funding can be  
5 obtained through use taxes collected annually. According to 11 GCA Ch. 28 §  
6 28112 "20% of use tax collected in the previous fiscal year shall be appropriated to  
7 the Guam Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Cleanup Fund to cover  
8 the costs associated with preserving Guam's natural resources."

9 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* therefore intends to seek additional funding from Use  
10 Taxes to increase regulatory capacity in response to regulatory demands.

11 **Section 2. Appropriation to the Guam Environmental Protection**  
12 **Agency.** Six Hundred Fifty Thousand and Three Hundred Four Dollars (\$650,304)  
13 is hereby appropriated from the Fiscal Year 2021 Use Tax to the Guam  
14 Environmental Agency for the purposes of increasing regulatory capacity through  
15 hiring and retention and the purchase of equipment and supplies and services to  
16 support enforcement actions. The appropriation in this Section shall not lapse and  
17 shall continue until fully expended. Said appropriation shall not preclude GEPA or  
18 the Government of Guam from receiving federal aid or grants to pursue the aims of  
19 this Act.

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

21 **Section 4. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any  
22 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity *shall*  
23 *not* affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without  
24 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are  
25 severable.