







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
257-36 (LS)	Amanda L. Shelton Joe S. San Agustin Therese M. Terlaje Tina Rose Muña Barnes Mary Camacho Torres Clynton E. Ridgell	AN ACT TO INCREASE COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE (COLA) PAYMENTS FOR GOVERNMENT OF GUAM RETIREES AND TO APPROPRIATE (\$15,945,600) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION (DOA) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023.	2/18/22 4:32 p.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2022 (SECOND) Regular Session

Bill No. 257-36 (LS)

Introduced by:

Amanda L. Shelton 
Joe S. San Agustin 
Therese M. Terlaje 
Tina Rose Muña-Barnes 
Mary Camacho Torres 
Clynton E. Ridgell 

AN ACT TO INCREASE COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE (COLA) PAYMENTS FOR GOVERNMENT OF GUAM RETIREES AND TO APPROPRIATE (\$15,945,600) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION (DOA) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023.

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

2 **Section 1. Findings and Intent.**

3 *I Liheslaturan Guahan* finds that the Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) paid
4 to each retiree of the Government of Guam Retirement Fund is paid annually by
5 appropriation by *I Liheslaturan* in the amount of \$2,000 per eligible retiree. *I*
6 *Liheslaturan Guahan* further finds that the last time the COLA was increased was
7 in FY 2015, when it was increased from \$1,800 per retiree, to \$2,000 per retiree.

8 *I Liheslaturan Guahan* further finds that the cost of living on Guam has
9 increased since FY 2015 to include the increases in housing, utilities, health
10 insurance, groceries, and other goods and services and has placed a strain on the

1 fixed income of our manamko'. In light of the increase to the minimum wage in
2 September 2021 as well as the increase or planned increases in wages to other
3 essential workers in the Government of Guam, *I Liheslaturan* is intent on not
4 leaving our manamko' behind.

5 *I Liheslaturan Guahan* further finds that COLA payments are typically made
6 in one installment on or before November 1 of each fiscal year. Therefore, given
7 the circumstances presented herein relative to the increase in the cost of living on
8 Guam, especially for our manamko', *I Liheslaturan Guahan* intends to increase the
9 current COLA payment from \$2,000 to \$2,200 beginning in FY 2023 which is
10 estimated to cost about an additional \$1.1 million. And to further mandate an
11 increase to COLA annually by \$100 during each of FYs 2024, 2025, and 2026 until
12 such COLA payment reaches \$2,500 per eligible retiree.

13 **Section 2: Appropriations for Cost of Living Allowances (COLA).**

14 (a) *I Maga 'hågan Guåhan shall* provide by a single lump sum payment,
15 a "Cost of Living Allowance" (COLA) of Two Thousand Two Hundred Dollars
16 (\$2,200) to each retiree of the Government of Guam Retirement Fund (GGRF) who
17 is retired as of September 30, 2022, *or his/her survivor, no later than* November 1,
18 2022. If a retiree is a Defined Benefit and a Defined Contribution retiree, the retiree
19 or his/her survivor shall only be entitled to a single COLA payment. The sum of
20 Fifteen Million Nine Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Six Hundred Dollars
21 **(\$15,945,600)** is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
22 Administration for Fiscal Year 2023, to pay said COLA.

23 (b) The Guam Power Authority, the A.B. Won Pat International Airport
24 Authority, the Guam Economic Development Authority, the Guam Housing
25 Corporation, the Government of Guam Retirement Fund, the Jose D. Leon Guerrero
26 Commercial Port, the Guam Waterworks Authority, and the Guam Visitors Bureau
27 *shall* pay a COLA in a single payment of Two Thousand Two Hundred Dollars

1 (\$2,200) to every Government of Guam Retirement Fund retiree who retired from
2 each respective aforementioned agency as of September 30, 2022, *or* his survivor,
3 *no later than* November 1, 2022 for Fiscal Year 2023.

4 (c) Each agency mentioned in Subsection (b) *shall* reimburse the General
5 Fund for any COLA paid by the Fund in Fiscal Year 2023 to retirees who have
6 retired from that agency and their survivors *no later than* December 31, 2022.

7 (d) Any retiree or survivor eligible to receive the COLA may waive their
8 payment authorized herein by filing a notarized affidavit waiving such payment with
9 the entity responsible for the Retirement Fund.

10 (e) *If* a retiree is both a Defined Benefit and a Defined Contribution Retiree,
11 her or his survivor *shall* only be entitled to a single COLA payment.

12 **Section 3. To Increase COLA Payments each year until Fiscal Year**
13 **2026.** Beginning with the Fiscal Year 2023, the Cost of Living Allowance shall
14 increase to a single lump sum payment of Two Thousand Two Hundred Dollars
15 (\$2,200), and shall increase as follows until 2026:

16 (a) FY 2023: Two Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$2,200);

17 (b) FY 2024: Two Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$2,300);

18 (c) FY 2025: Two Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$2,400);

19 (d) FY 2026: Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500).

20 **Section 4. Effective Date.**

21 This act shall be effective upon enactment.

22 **Section 5. Severability.**

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