

*I Mina'trentai Sais Na Lihelaturan Guåhan*  
**BILL STATUS**


BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	FISCAL NOTES	NOTES
41-36 (COR)	Therese M. Terlaje	AN ACT TO AMEND §4210 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES AND REPORTS FOR ADOPTIONS.	1/25/21 4:28 p.m.	1/27/21	Committee on Health, Land, Justice, and Culture	10/8/21 9:00 a.m.	10/20/21 3:21 p.m.  As amended by the Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture	Request: 1/29/21  2/10/21	



Office of the Speaker  
**THERESE M. TERLAJE**

*I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* | 36th Guam Legislature  
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

October 14, 2021

The Honorable Amanda L. Shelton   
Acting Chairperson, Committee on Rules

*I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

163 Chalan Santo Papa

Hagåtña Guam, 96910

**RE: Committee Report on Bill No. 41-36 (COR), As Amended by the Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture**

*Håfa Adai* Acting Chairperson Shelton:

Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report on the **Bill No. 41-36 (COR)**, As Amended by the Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture - Therese M. Terlaje – “An Act to Amend §4210 of Article 2, Chapter 4, Title 19, Guam Code Annotated, Relative to Expediting Social Studies and Reports for Adoptions.”

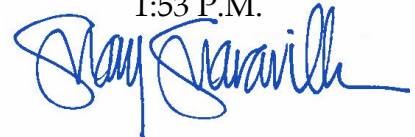
Committee votes are as follows:

<u>4</u>	TO DO PASS
<u>0</u>	TO NOT PASS
<u>3</u>	TO REPORT OUT ONLY
<u>0</u>	TO ABSTAIN
<u>0</u>	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE

**COMMITTEE ON RULES  
RECEIVED:**

October 14, 2021

1:53 P.M.



Sincerely,



**Therese M. Terlaje**

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 472-3586 | Fax: (671) 969-3590 | Email: [senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com](mailto:senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com) | [www.senatorterlaje.com](http://www.senatorterlaje.com)

*\*For transmittal of official Messages & Communications to the Guam Legislature to be distributed to all Senators,  
please send to: [speaker@guamlegislature.org](mailto:speaker@guamlegislature.org)*



Office of the Speaker  
**THERESE M. TERLAJE**

*I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* | 36th Guam Legislature  
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **Bill No. 41-36 (COR)**

As Amended by the Committee on Health,  
Land, Justice and Culture

Introduced by:  
Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

“An Act to Amend §4210 of Article 2, Chapter 4, Title 19, Guam Code Annotated, Relative to Expediting Social Studies and Reports for Adoptions.”



Office of the Speaker  
**THERESE M. TERLAJE**

*I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* | 36th Guam Legislature  
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

October 14, 2021

**MEMORANDUM**

**To: All Members**  
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

**From: Speaker Therese M. Terlaje** *Tmt*  
Committee Chairperson

**Subject: Committee Report on Bill No. 41-36 (COR), As Amended by the Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture**

Transmitted herewith for your consideration is the Committee Report on Bill No. 41-36 (COR), As Amended by the Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture. - "AN ACT TO AMEND §4210 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES AND REPORTS FOR ADOPTIONS."

This report includes the following:

- Copy of COR Referral of Bill No. 41-36 (COR), As Introduced
- Notices of Public Hearing & Other Correspondence
- Public Hearing Agenda
- Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet
- Submitted Written Testimonies & Supporting Documents
- Committee Report Digest
- Copy of Bill No. 41-36 (COR), As Introduced
- Copy of Bill No. 41-36 (COR), As Amended
- Amended Mark-up Version
- Copy of Fiscal Note
- Committee Vote Sheet

Please take the appropriate action on the attached vote sheet. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!*

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 472-3586 | Fax: (671) 969-3590 | Email: [senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com](mailto:senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com) | [www.senatorterlaje.com](http://www.senatorterlaje.com)

*\*For transmittal of official Messages & Communications to the Guam Legislature to be distributed to all Senators, please send to: [speaker@guamlegislature.org](mailto:speaker@guamlegislature.org)*



Vice Speaker

**TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES**

**CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON RULES**

*I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

GUAM CONGRESS BUILDING  
163 CHALAN SANTO PAPA  
HAGÁTÑA, GUAM 96910  
TEL 671-472-2461  
COR@GUAMLEGISLATURE.ORG

January 27, 2021

## MEMO

**To:** Rennae Meno  
Clerk of the Legislature  
  
Attorney Ana Won Pat-Borja  
Legislative Legal Counsel

**From:** Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes  
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

**Re:** Referral of Bill No. 41-36 (COR)

---

*Buenas yan Håfa adai,*

As per my authority as Chairperson of the Committee on Rules and subject to §6.01(d), Rule VI of our Standing Rules, I am forwarding the referral of Bill No. 41-36 (COR) – Therese M. Terlaje - "AN ACT TO AMEND §4210 OF CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES AND REPORTS FOR ADOPTIONS."

Please ensure that the subject bill is referred to the **Committee on Health, Land, Justice, and Culture**, chaired by Speaker Therese M. Terlaje.

I also request that the same be forwarded to the prime sponsor of the subject bill.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mary Maravilla, Committee on Rules Director at 472-2461.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

**Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes**  
Chairperson, Committee on Rules



*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>41-36 (COR)</b>	Therese M. Terlaje	AN ACT TO AMEND §4210 OF CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES AND REPORTS FOR ADOPTIONS.	1/25/21 4:28 p.m.	1/27/21	Committee on Health, Land, Justice, and Culture				



Speaker Therese M. Terlaje &lt;senatorterlajegum@gmail.com&gt;

**FIRST NOTICE of Virtual Public Hearing – Friday, October 8, 2021**

31 messages

**Speaker Therese M. Terlaje** <senatorterlajegum@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 1, 2021 at 9:23 AM

To: phnnotice@guamlegislature.org, Audio / Video &lt;av@guamlegislature.org&gt;, Guam MIS &lt;mis@guamlegislature.org&gt;

Cc: Ibarra Hernandez &lt;ihernandez@guamlegislature.org&gt;, Tom Unsiog &lt;sgtarms@guamlegislature.org&gt;

Bcc: psablan@guampdn.com, Vice Mayor Kevin AN Delgado <mangilao.vicemayor@gmail.com>, Troy Torres <troy@kanditnews.com>, Mayor Taitague <talofomayor@gmail.com>, manasilva626@yahoo.com, "Wen, Anne" <AWen@guam.gannett.com>, mtmmayorpaco17@gmail.com, haidee@postguam.com, "Vice Mayor Loreto V. Leones" <lloretoleones@gmail.com>, agatvice.chrisfejeran@yahoo.com, Phil Leon Guerrero <phil@postguam.com>, pattiontheradio@yahoo.com, life@guampdn.com, "Mayors' Council of Guam - Admin." <mcogadmin@teleguam.net>, hagatnamayor@hotmail.com, rudy iriarte <rudyiriarte@gmail.com>, Robert Hofmann <guammayor@gmail.com>, dmgeorge@guampdn.com, "Mayor Frankie A. Salas" <asanmainamayor@gmail.com>, jolene@spbgum.com, Sorensen Pacific Broadcasting <news@spbgum.com>, K57 <news@k57.com>, "Mayor Paul M. McDonald" <mayor.mcdonald671@gmail.com>, "Stole, Jasmine" <jstole@guam.gannett.com>, Mayor Anthony Chargualaf <inalahanmayor@gmail.com>, "Mayor Anthony P. Sanchez" <ymayortony@gmail.com>, KISH <kstokish@gmail.com>, Guam PDN <news@guampdn.com>, michael ko <gktv23@hotmail.com>, raygibsonshow@gmail.com, mayorerneestc@yahoo.com, Chris Malafunkshun Barnett <Chris@kuam.com>, Maureen Maratita <publisher@glimpesofguam.com>, Mai Habib <mai.habib@spbgum.com>, Bruce Hill <pacificjournalist@gmail.com>, emmanuel@mvariety.com, KPRG <admin.kprg@gmail.com>, Maria Louella Losinio <louella.losinio@gmail.com>, Jason Salas <jason@kuam.com>, John Oconnor <john@postguam.com>, carlsonc@pstripes.osd.mil, onedededo@gmail.com, The Post Editor in Chief <editor@postguam.com>, Rindraty Limtiaco <slimtiaco@guampdn.com>, atoves.tatuha@gmail.com, Jessie Bautista <jessie.bautista007@gmail.com>, MELISSA SAVARES <melissa.savares@gmail.com>, Oyaol Ngirairiki <managingeditor@postguam.com>, bryan@mvariety.com, reporters@postguam.com, KPRG Guam <pdkprg@gmail.com>, Umatac Mayor <umatacmo@gmail.com>, guam@pstripes.osd.mil, "Limtiaco, Steve" <slimtiac@guam.gannett.com>, Mar-Vic Cagurangan <publisher@pacificislandtimes.com>, tlamorena@gmail.com, mabuhaynews@yahoo.com, Patti Rodriguez <parroyo@spbgum.com>, Kelly Park <kcn.kelly@gmail.com>, Sabrina Salas Matanane <sabrina@kuam.com>, June Blas <mayorbarrigada@gmail.com>, "Mayor Louise C. Rivera" <mayorlrivera.tatuha@gmail.com>, Manuel Cruz <cruzma812@gmail.com>, "Santo Tomas, Joseph (Jojo)" <jsantotoma@guam.gannett.com>, mindy@postguam.com, Jessy Gogue <ocp.mayor@gmail.com>, Allan Ungacta <mayorallan.ungacta@yahoo.com>, Pacific Island Times <pacificislandtimes@gmail.com>, Desk Editor <deskeditor@postguam.com>, Kevin Kerrigan <kevin@spbgum.com>, gerry@spbgum.com, Jesse Alig <jesse.alig@pitiguam.com>, agatmayor@yahoo.com, Nestor Licanto <nestor@kuam.com>, dcrisost@guam.gannett.com, Dale Alvarez <dalealvarez@gmail.com>, editor@saipantribune.com, akaur@gannett.com, junhan@mvariety.com, reporters@kuam.com, Stephen Hattori <shattori@guampdsc.org>, Marissa Antonio <mantonio@guamcourts.org>, "jquintanilla@guamcourts.org" <jquintanilla@guamcourts.org>, "ica@aguigui.com" <ica@aguigui.com>, "Cynthia C. Sablan" <csablan@guamcourts.org>, Guam Bar Association <info@guambar.org>, varogum1@yahoo.com, Fanohge Coalition <fanohgecoalition@gmail.com>, Diana Calvo <dianacalvo@cssguam.org>, info@guamcoalition.org, Jayne Therese Flores <jayne.flores@guam.gov>, "Mae D. Muyco" <MaeFe.Muyco@dphss.guam.gov>, Krisinda Aguon <krisinda.aguon@dya.guam.gov>, Carlina Charfauros <ccharfauros@oagguam.org>, Dwayne at GCASAFV <dwayne@guamcoalition.org>, stephen ignacio <stephen.ignacio@gpd.guam.gov>, Leevin Camacho <ag@oagguam.org>, "Stephanie E. Mendiola" <smendiola@oagguam.org>, Camarine Ann Hopkins <camhopkins@oagguam.org>, Carlina Charfauros <ccharfauros@guamag.org>, "Arthur U. San Agustin" <arthur.sanagustin@dphss.guam.gov>, Hope Cristobal <hcris@guam.gov>, "Terry G. Aguon" <Terry.Aguon@dphss.guam.gov>, Melanie Brennan <melanie.brennan@dya.guam.gov>, @gmail.com, @gmail.com, @gmail.com, Harvest House <Harvest.House@hbcguam.net>

October 1, 2021

**MEMORANDUM**

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

From: Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, Chairperson  
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and CultureSubject: **FIRST NOTICE of Virtual Public Hearing – Friday, October 8, 2021***Buenas yan Håfa Adai,*

Please be advised that the Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture will convene a virtual public hearing, using the Legislature's virtual Zoom platform on **Friday, October 8, 2021, beginning at 8:00 a.m.**, for the following agenda items:

**8:00 AM:**

- **APPOINTMENT HEARING**: Lina NB McDaniel, to serve as a Member, Guam Parole Board. Term length: Four (4) years; May 26, 2021 to May 25, 2025. Appointment packet link: [https://www.guamlegislature.com/36th\\_Guam\\_Legislature/Mess\\_Comms\\_36th/Doc.%20No.%2036GL-21-1050.pdf](https://www.guamlegislature.com/36th_Guam_Legislature/Mess_Comms_36th/Doc.%20No.%2036GL-21-1050.pdf)

**9:00 AM:**

- **INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING**: DPHSS ON FINANCIAL RESOURCES, HEALTH CARE, AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR FOSTER CARE PARENTS. INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN BEING A FOSTER PARENT ARE ENCOURAGED TO WATCH THE BROADCAST.
- **BILL NO. 41-36 (COR)**- Therese M. Terlaje- AN ACT TO AMEND §4210 OF CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES AND REPORTS FOR ADOPTIONS. Bill Link: [https://www.guamlegislature.com/36th\\_Guam\\_Legislature/Bills\\_Introduced\\_36th/Bill%20No.%2041-36%20\(COR\).pdf](https://www.guamlegislature.com/36th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_36th/Bill%20No.%2041-36%20(COR).pdf)
- **BILL NO. 179-36 (LS)**- Telo T. Taitague / Sabina Flores Perez / Joanne Brown / Therese M. Terlaje- AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 13510 TO ARTICLE 5, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REQUIRING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE LICENSURE OF ADOPTION AGENCIES. Bill Link: [http://www.guamlegislature.com/36th\\_Guam\\_Legislature/Bills\\_Introduced\\_36th/Bill%20No.%20179-36%20\(LS\).pdf](http://www.guamlegislature.com/36th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_36th/Bill%20No.%20179-36%20(LS).pdf)

**2:30 PM**

- **APPOINTMENT HEARING**: Veronica M. Salas, to serve as a Member, KOSAS Board of Advisors. Term length: Four (4) years; August 27, 2018 to August 26, 2022. Appointment Packet link: [https://www.guamlegislature.com/36th\\_Guam\\_Legislature/Mess\\_Comms\\_36th/Doc.%20No.%2036GL-21-1025.pdf](https://www.guamlegislature.com/36th_Guam_Legislature/Mess_Comms_36th/Doc.%20No.%2036GL-21-1025.pdf)
- **APPOINTMENT HEARING**: Shawn M. Mendiola to serve as Member (Manhoben Representative), KOSAS Board of Advisors. Term length: Four (4) years; August 16, 2019 to August 15, 2023. Appointment Packet link: <https://guamlegislature.com/index/messages-and-communications/>

The public is invited to provide live testimony on the agenda items via Zoom. Email [senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com](mailto:senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com) or call 472-3586 by October 7, 2021, to register with your contact information. Written testimony may also be submitted via email or to the Guam Congress Bldg; 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam. All hearings broadcast on GTA TV Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117/112.4, and the Guam Legislature YouTube.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Individuals needing assistance or accommodations can contact the Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje.

In compliance with open government law, this public notice was also published in local print media, the Guam Daily Post, on October 1, 2021 and October 6, 2021.

**Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje**

Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

*I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

36th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T: (671) 472-3586 F: (671) 989-3590 Email: [senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com](mailto:senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com)website: [www.senatorterlaje.com](http://www.senatorterlaje.com)

Electronic Privacy Notice: This e-mail and any attachment(s), contains information that is, or may be, covered by electronic communications privacy laws and legal privileges, and is also confidential and proprietary in nature. If you are not the intended recipient, please be advised that you are legally prohibited from retaining, using, copying, distributing, or otherwise disclosing the information in this e-mail or any attachment in any manner. Instead, please reply to the sender that you have received this communication in error, and then immediately delete it. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

 **FIRST NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARINGS- October 8, 2021\_TMT.pdf**  
928K

**Mail Delivery Subsystem** <mailer-daemon@googlemail.com>  
To: [senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com](mailto:senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com)

Fri, Oct 1, 2021 at 9:24 AM





Office of the Speaker  
**THERESE M. TERLAJE**

*I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* 36th Guam Legislature  
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

October 1, 2021

**MEMORANDUM**

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

From: Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, Chairperson <sup>TMT</sup>  
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

Subject: **FIRST NOTICE of Virtual Public Hearing Friday, October 8, 2021**

*Buenas yan Håfa Adai,*

Please be advised that the Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture will convene a virtual public hearing, using the Legislature's virtual Zoom platform on **Friday, October 8, 2021, beginning at 8:00 a.m.** for the following agenda items:

**8:00 AM:**

- **APPOINTMENT HEARING:** Lina NB McDaniel, to serve as a Member, Guam Parole Board. Term length: Four (4) years; May 26, 2021 to May 25, 2025.

**9:00 AM:**

- **INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING:** DPHSS ON FINANCIAL RESOURCES, HEALTH CARE, AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR FOSTER CARE PARENTS. INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN BEING A FOSTER PARENT ARE ENCOURAGED TO WATCH THE BROADCAST.
- **BILL NO. 41-36 (COR)** - Therese M. Terlaje- AN ACT TO AMEND §4210 OF CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES AND REPORTS FOR ADOPTIONS.
- **BILL NO. 179-36 (LS)** - Telo T. Taitague / Sabina Flores Perez / Joanne Brown / Therese M. Terlaje- AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 13510 TO ARTICLE 5, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 472-3586 | Fax: (671) 969-3590 | Email: [senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com](mailto:senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com) | [www.senatorterlaje.com](http://www.senatorterlaje.com)

*\*For transmittal of official Messages & Communications to the Guam Legislature to be distributed to all Senators, please send to: [speaker@guamlegislature.org](mailto:speaker@guamlegislature.org)*

**REQUIRING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE LICENSURE OF  
ADOPTION AGENCIES.**

**2:30 PM**

- **APPOINTMENT HEARING:** Veronica M. Salas, to serve as a Member, KOSAS Board of Advisors. Term length: Four (4) years; August 27, 2018 to August 26, 2022.
- **APPOINTMENT HEARING:** Shawn M. Mendiola to serve as Member (Manhoben Representative), KOSAS Board of Advisors. Term length: Four (4) years; August 16, 2019 to August 15, 2023.

The public is invited to provide live testimony on the agenda items via Zoom. Email [senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com](mailto:senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com) or call 472 3586 by October 7, 2021, to register with your contact information. Written testimony may also be submitted via email or to the Guam Congress Bldg; 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam. All hearings broadcast on GTA TV Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117/112.4, and the Guam Legislature YouTube.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Individuals needing assistance or accommodations can contact the Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje.

In compliance with open government law, this public notice was also published in local print media, the Guam Daily Post, on October 1, 2021 and October 6, 2021.

GUAM DAILY POST • FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021

# Why the Philippines became the worst place to be with COVID-19

## ANALYSIS

(Bloomberg) – The Philippines fell to last place in Bloomberg’s COVID-19 Resilience Ranking of the best and worst places to be amid the pandemic, capping a steady decline over the course of 2021.

The monthly snapshot – which measures where the virus is being handled the most effectively with the least social and economic upheaval – ranks 53 major economies on 12 data points related to virus containment, the economy and opening up.

The Philippines’ drop to No. 53 reflects the challenges it’s facing from the onslaught of the delta variant, which has hit Southeast Asia particularly hard amid difficulties containing the more contagious strain and slow vaccination rollouts. The region, which recently had the worst outbreak in the world, populates the September Ranking’s lowest rungs, with Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam all in the bottom five.

President Rodrigo Duterte’s government is “not surprised” that the Philippines and other Southeast Asian nations landed at the bottom of the list, as richer countries get more vaccines, spokesman Harry Roque said in a statement Wednesday. The Ranking will help give more direction to the nation’s COVID response, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said at a



**POLICE CHECK:** A member of the Philippine National Police checks the identification of motorists passing through San Juan City, Metro Manila, in the Philippines, on Aug. 6. Veejay Villafranca/Bloomberg

separate briefing, while adding that the vaccine rollout is improving.

### What pushed the Philippines to last place?

The Philippines faces a perfect storm in that it’s grappling with the more ferocious delta variant at the same time as it works with an inadequate testing regime and sees disruptions to its economy and people’s livelihoods as the pandemic continues to rage.

The country scores low on all four of our metrics related to reopening, and with a vaccine coverage rate of 20% – among the lowest of those ranked – the Philippines is engaged in one of the most stringent lockdowns of the 53. Its Flight Capacity, which measures how far air travel has gotten back to normal, is 74% below 2019 levels and the Philippines’ borders remain sealed to visitors.

On COVID-19 containment, the Phil-

ippines underperforms too. While its cases per capita over the past month are a fifth of what vaccine frontrunner Israel has seen, the Philippines had the second-worst positive test rate in the ranking, at 27% – only better than Mexico. The metric indicates the government is only testing the sickest patients and that there are likely high levels of undetected infection in the community.

The timing of delta’s arrival in the Philippines also mattered for its score this month. Setting aside Singapore’s recent surge in infections, the Philippines was the last of the Southeast Asian economies ranked to start seeing its delta wave ebb, reaching a peak in mid-September. In comparison, Indonesia and Malaysia – placed last in the Ranking in July and August respectively – hit their peaks in the corresponding month.

Meanwhile, the outbreak has

extracted large economic and social costs, as shown in metrics related to quality of life. Community mobility remains 29% below a pre-pandemic benchmark, and the economy is forecast to grow 4.5% this year, less than estimated before delta’s spread. The Philippines also has weaker health-care infrastructure compared to other ranked places, and a lower Human Development Index score to cushion the virus hit.

Infections in the Philippines remain elevated as the delta variant continues to spread, bringing cases throughout the course of the pandemic to more than 2.5 million as of Tuesday – among the highest in the region.

The most significant impediment to the Philippines’ response has been its limited access to vaccines. The country has used a disparate range of shots to try and ramp up the rollout: The Philippines’ handling of the pandemic was also hampered by a 1991 law that made city, town and village leaders responsible for the health system. Without uniform guidance, village-level health teams often follow rules set by mayors or chieftains, resulting in a fragmented response to COVID-19.

Even as one in every four tests turns out positive, tracing and testing remain slow in the Philippines, as local officials are in charge. Hospitals are understaffed and low on beds, forcing patients to queue. Although borders are closed to most foreigners, migrant workers can return, straining quarantine facilities.

Lingering lockdowns to quell the persistently high infections pushed the Philippines’ economy back into contraction in the second quarter from the previous three months.

**Guam Memorial Hospital Authority**  
**Aturidät Espetät Mimuriät Guåhan**  
 850 Gov. Carlos Camacho Road  
 Tamuning, Guam 96913

INVITATION FOR BID

**GMHA IFB No. 014-2021 Removal and Replacement of Air Handling Units in Various Areas**  
**Submission Due:** 08:30 a.m. CST, Monday, October 18, 2021 in the Materials Management Department  
**Opening Time:** 09:00 a.m. CST, Monday, October 18, 2021 in the GMHA Daniel Webb Conference Room

**\*\* A Site Visit for assessment is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 06, 2021 at the Guam Memorial Hospital. All Covid-19 precautions must be followed. All bidders are requested to be present. All questions must be submitted in writing no later than Monday, October 11, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. CST.**

All bids must be sealed, submitted in duplicate and received by the Materials Management Department by the due date of October 18, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. CST. Bidding documents are available until the submission date at the same department for a non-refundable fee of \$20.00 per set, or can be downloaded from the GMHA website. Funding is made available via Office of the Honorable Governor of Guam and the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, Grant/Cooperative Agreement No. D15AP00046, Project Title: Guam-CIP-2015-5.

All interested firms must register with the GMHA Materials Management Department to participate in the bid. Please call (671) 647-2165 to register, or register online at [www.gmha.org](http://www.gmha.org). Registration is required to ensure that all Amendments or Notices are communicated to all bidders throughout the bid process. GMHA shall not be liable for failure to provide notice to any party that did not register contact information with GMHA.

For more information, please visit our public information page at [www.gmha.org](http://www.gmha.org).

/s/ Lillian Perez-Posadas, RN, MN  
 Hospital Administrator/CEO

This advertisement was paid for with GMHA Operational funds.

**SPEAKER THERESE M. TERLAJE**  
*Committee on Health, Land, Justice & Culture*  
*I Mima'trental Sats na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARINGS- FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2021

**8:00 AM:**

- **APPOINTMENT HEARING:** Lina NB McDaniel, to serve as a Member, Guam Parole Board. Term length: Four (4) years: May 26, 2021 to May 25, 2025.

**9:00 AM:**

- **INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING:** DPHSS ON FINANCIAL RESOURCES, HEALTH CARE, AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR FOSTER CARE PARENTS. INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN BEING A FOSTER PARENT ARE ENCOURAGED TO WATCH THE BROADCAST.
- **BILL NO. 41-36 (COR)** – Therese M. Terlaje – AN ACT TO AMEND §4210 OF CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES AND REPORTS FOR ADOPTIONS.
- **BILL NO. 179-36 (LS)** – Telo T. Taitague / Sabina Flores Perez / Joanne Brown / Therese M. Terlaje – AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 13510 TO ARTICLE 5, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REQUIRING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE LICENSURE OF ADOPTION AGENCIES.

**2:30 PM**

- **APPOINTMENT HEARING:** Veronica M. Salas, to serve as a Member, KOSAS Board of Advisors. Term length: Four (4) years: August 27, 2018 to August 26, 2022.
- **APPOINTMENT HEARING:** Shawn M. Mendiola to serve as Member (Manhoben Representative), KOSAS Board of Advisors. Term length: Four (4) years: August 16, 2019 to August 15, 2023.

Email [senatorterlaje@guam.gov](mailto:senatorterlaje@guam.gov) or call 472-3586 by **October 7, 2021** to register to provide virtual testimony on the agenda items. Written testimony can also be submitted via email or to the Guam Congress Bldg. 163 Orlan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam. All hearings broadcast on GTA TV Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117/112.4, and the Guam Legislature YouTube. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Individuals needing assistance or accommodations can contact the Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje. This Ad was paid with Legislature Funds.



Speaker Therese M. Terlaje &lt;senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com&gt;

## SECOND NOTICE of Virtual Public Hearing – Friday, October 8, 2021

18 messages

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje &lt;senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com&gt;

Wed, Oct 6, 2021 at 6:51 AM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org

Cc: Guam MIS &lt;mis@guamlegislature.org&gt;, Audio / Video &lt;av@guamlegislature.org&gt;, Tom Unsiog &lt;sgtarms@guamlegislature.org&gt;

Bcc: Office of Senator Shelton Guam Legislature <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Sabina Perez <office@senatorperez.org>, Office of Senator Moylan Guam Legislature <officeofsenatormoylan@guamlegislature.org>, "Honorable Frank F. Blas Jr." <office@senatorfrankblas.com>, Desk Editor <deskeditor@postguam.com>, mindy@postguam.com, The Post Editor in Chief <editor@postguam.com>, Oyaol Ngirairiki <managingeditor@postguam.com>, haidee@postguam.com, John Oconnor <john@postguam.com>, reporters@postguam.com, rlimtiaco@guampdn.com, Rindraty Limtiaco <slimtiaco@guampdn.com>, Guam PDN <news@guampdn.com>, Jerick Sablan <jpsablan@guampdn.com>, life@guampdn.com, dmgeorge@guampdn.com, Mar-Vic Cagurangan <publisher@pacificislandtimes.com>, Pacific Island Times <pacificislandtimes@gmail.com>, Maureen Maratita <publisher@glimpsesofofguam.com>, bryan@mvariety.com, emmanuel@mvariety.com, junhan@mvariety.com, guam@pstripes.osd.mil, carlsonc@pstripes.osd.mil, mabuhaynews@yahoo.com, editor@saipantribune.com, Bruce Hill <pacificjournalist@gmail.com>, Jason Salas <jason@kuam.com>, Sabrina Salas Matanane <sabrina@kuam.com>, Chris Malafunkshun Barnett <Chris@kuam.com>, Nestor Licanto <nestor@kuam.com>, reporters@kuam.com, K57 <news@k57.com>, Patti Rodriguez <parroyo@spbgum.com>, pattiontheradio@yahoo.com, Sorensen Pacific Broadcasting <news@spbgum.com>, raygibsonshow@gmail.com, manasilva626@yahoo.com, KISH <ktstokish@gmail.com>, Manuel Cruz <cruzma812@gmail.com>, Troy Torres <troy@kanditnews.com>, Maria Louella Losinio <louella.losinio@gmail.com>, "Mayors' Council of Guam - Admin." <mcogadmin@teleguam.net>, "Mayor Paul M. McDonald" <mayor.mcdonald671@gmail.com>, agatmayor@yahoo.com, agatvice.chrisfejeran@yahoo.com, "Mayor Frankie A. Salas" <asanmainamayor@gmail.com>, June Blas <mayorbarrigada@gmail.com>, Jessie Bautista <jessie.bautista007@gmail.com>, Jessy Gogue <ocp.mayor@gmail.com>, MELISSA SAVARES <melissa.savares@gmail.com>, "Vice Mayor Peter John S. Benavente" <onedededo@gmail.com>, hagatnamayor@hotmail.com, Mayor Anthony Chargualaf <inalahanmayor@gmail.com>, Allan Ungacta <mayorallan.ungacta@yahoo.com>, Vice Mayor Kevin AN Delgado <mangilao.vicemayor@gmail.com>, mayorernestc@yahoo.com, mtmmayorpaco17@gmail.com, Jesse Alig <jesse.alig@pitiguam.com>, Dale Alvarez <daleealvarez@gmail.com>, Robert Hofmann <guammayor@gmail.com>, rudy iriarte <rudyiriarte@gmail.com>, Mayor Taitague <talofomayor@gmail.com>, "Mayor Louise C. Rivera" <Mayorlcrivera.tatuha@gmail.com>, "Vice Mayor Albert M. Toves" <atoves.tatuha@gmail.com>, Umatac Mayor <umatacmo@gmail.com>, "Mayor Anthony P. Sanchez" <ymayortony@gmail.com>, "Vice Mayor Loreto V. Leones" <lloretoleones@gmail.com>, "Mayor Bill A. Quenga" <yonamayor2020@gmail.com>, jolene@postguam.com, Phil Leon Guerrero <phil@postguam.com>, Gerry Partido <gerrypartido@gmail.com>, gerry@spbgum.com, Damen Borja <damen@spbgum.com>, tlamorena@gmail.com, jsantotoma@guampdn.com, "Taitano, Joseph" <JTaitano@guampdn.com>, Melvin Won Pat Borja <melvin.borja@guam.gov>, Michael Bevacqua <michael.bevacqua@dca.guam.gov>, Joseph Meno [REDACTED]@gmail.com, Don Rubinstein [REDACTED]@gmail.com, "Arthur U. San Agustin" <arthur.sanagustin@dphss.guam.gov>, "Terry G. Aguon" <Terry.Aguon@dphss.guam.gov>, "Laureal B. Villagomez" <Laureal.Villagomez@dphss.guam.gov>, [REDACTED]@gmail.com, jqlizama@guam.net, [REDACTED]@gmail.com, [REDACTED]@gmail.com, Leona Young <leona.young@dca.guam.gov>, June Borja [REDACTED]@gmail.com

October 6, 2021

### MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

From: Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, Chairperson  
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

Subject: **SECOND NOTICE of Virtual Public Hearing – Friday, October 8, 2021**

*Buenas yan Håfa Adai,*

Please be advised that the Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture will convene a virtual public hearing, using the Legislature’s virtual Zoom platform on **Friday, October 8, 2021, beginning at 8:00 a.m.**, for the following agenda items:

**8:00 AM:**

- **APPOINTMENT HEARING:** Lina NB McDaniel, to serve as a Member, Guam Parole Board. Term length: Four (4) years; May 26, 2021 to May 25, 2025. Appointment packet link: [https://www.guamlegislature.com/36th\\_Guam\\_Legislature/Mess\\_Comms\\_36th/Doc.%20No.%2036GL-21-1050.pdf](https://www.guamlegislature.com/36th_Guam_Legislature/Mess_Comms_36th/Doc.%20No.%2036GL-21-1050.pdf)

**9:00 AM:**

- **INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING:** DPHSS ON FINANCIAL RESOURCES, HEALTH CARE, AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR FOSTER CARE PARENTS. INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN BEING A FOSTER PARENT ARE ENCOURAGED TO WATCH THE BROADCAST.
- **BILL NO. 41-36 (COR)**- Therese M. Terlaje- AN ACT TO AMEND §4210 OF CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES AND REPORTS FOR ADOPTIONS. Bill Link: [https://www.guamlegislature.com/36th\\_Guam\\_Legislature/Bills\\_Introduced\\_36th/Bill%20No.%2041-36%20\(COR\).pdf](https://www.guamlegislature.com/36th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_36th/Bill%20No.%2041-36%20(COR).pdf)
- **BILL NO. 179-36 (LS)**- Telo T. Taitague / Sabina Flores Perez / Joanne Brown / Therese M. Terlaje- AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 13510 TO ARTICLE 5, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REQUIRING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE LICENSURE OF ADOPTION AGENCIES. Bill Link: [http://www.guamlegislature.com/36th\\_Guam\\_Legislature/Bills\\_Introduced\\_36th/Bill%20No.%20179-36%20\(LS\).pdf](http://www.guamlegislature.com/36th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_36th/Bill%20No.%20179-36%20(LS).pdf)

**2:30 PM**

- **APPOINTMENT HEARING:** Veronica M. Salas, to serve as a Member, KOSAS Board of Advisors. Term length: Four (4) years; August 27, 2018 to August 26, 2022. Appointment Packet link: [https://www.guamlegislature.com/36th\\_Guam\\_Legislature/Mess\\_Comms\\_36th/Doc.%20No.%2036GL-21-1025.pdf](https://www.guamlegislature.com/36th_Guam_Legislature/Mess_Comms_36th/Doc.%20No.%2036GL-21-1025.pdf)
- **APPOINTMENT HEARING:** Shawn M. Mendiola to serve as Member (Manhoben Representative), KOSAS Board of Advisors. Term length: Four (4) years; August 16, 2019 to August 15, 2023. Appointment Packet link: <https://guamlegislature.com/index/messages-and->

communications/

The public is invited to provide live testimony on the agenda items via Zoom. Email [senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com](mailto:senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com) or call 472-3586 by October 7, 2021, to register with your contact information. Written testimony may also be submitted via email or to the Guam Congress Bldg; 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam. All hearings broadcast on GTA TV Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117/112.4, and the Guam Legislature YouTube.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Individuals needing assistance or accommodations can contact the Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje.

In compliance with open government law, this public notice was also published in local print media, the Guam Daily Post, on October 1, 2021 and October 6, 2021.

## Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

*I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

36th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T: (671) 472-3586 F: (671) 989-3590 Email: [senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com](mailto:senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com)

website: [www.senatorterlaje.com](http://www.senatorterlaje.com)

Electronic Privacy Notice: This e-mail and any attachment(s), contains information that is, or may be, covered by electronic communications privacy laws and legal privileges, and is also confidential and proprietary in nature. If you are not the intended recipient, please be advised that you are legally prohibited from retaining, using, copying, distributing, or otherwise disclosing the information in this e-mail or any attachment in any manner. Instead, please reply to the sender that you have received this communication in error, and then immediately delete it. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



**SECOND NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARINGS- October 8, 2021\_TMT.pdf**

938K

Mail Delivery Subsystem <mailer-daemon@googlemail.com>

To: [senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com](mailto:senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com)

Wed, Oct 6, 2021 at 6:51 AM



### Message blocked

Your message to [deskeditor@postguam.com](mailto:deskeditor@postguam.com) has been blocked. See technical details below for more information.



Office of the Speaker  
**THERESE M. TERLAJE**

*I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* 36th Guam Legislature  
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

October 6, 2021

**MEMORANDUM**

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

From: Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, Chairperson <sup>TMT</sup>  
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

Subject: **SECOND NOTICE of Virtual Public Hearing Friday, October 8, 2021**

*Buenas yan Håfa Adai,*

Please be advised that the Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture will convene a virtual public hearing, using the Legislature's virtual Zoom platform on **Friday, October 8, 2021, beginning at 8:00 a.m.** for the following agenda items:

**8:00 AM:**

- **APPOINTMENT HEARING:** Lina NB McDaniel, to serve as a Member, Guam Parole Board. Term length: Four (4) years; May 26, 2021 to May 25, 2025.

**9:00 AM:**

- **INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING:** DPHSS ON FINANCIAL RESOURCES, HEALTH CARE, AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR FOSTER CARE PARENTS. INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN BEING A FOSTER PARENT ARE ENCOURAGED TO WATCH THE BROADCAST.
- **BILL NO. 41-36 (COR)** - Therese M. Terlaje- AN ACT TO AMEND §4210 OF CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES AND REPORTS FOR ADOPTIONS.
- **BILL NO. 179-36 (LS)** - Telo T. Taitague / Sabina Flores Perez / Joanne Brown / Therese M. Terlaje- AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 13510 TO ARTICLE 5, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 472-3586 | Fax: (671) 969-3590 | Email: [senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com](mailto:senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com) | [www.senatorterlaje.com](http://www.senatorterlaje.com)

*\*For transmittal of official Messages & Communications to the Guam Legislature to be distributed to all Senators, please send to: [speaker@guamlegislature.org](mailto:speaker@guamlegislature.org)*

**REQUIRING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE LICENSURE OF  
ADOPTION AGENCIES.**

**2:30 PM**

- **APPOINTMENT HEARING:** Veronica M. Salas, to serve as a Member, KOSAS Board of Advisors. Term length: Four (4) years; August 27, 2018 to August 26, 2022.
- **APPOINTMENT HEARING:** Shawn M. Mendiola to serve as Member (Manhoben Representative), KOSAS Board of Advisors. Term length: Four (4) years; August 16, 2019 to August 15, 2023.

The public is invited to provide live testimony on the agenda items via Zoom. Email [senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com](mailto:senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com) or call 472 3586 by October 7, 2021, to register with your contact information. Written testimony may also be submitted via email or to the Guam Congress Bldg; 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam. All hearings broadcast on GTA TV Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117/112.4, and the Guam Legislature YouTube.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Individuals needing assistance or accommodations can contact the Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje.



6

LOCAL

Pss! Haha? You're in the Local section of the Post – the news that concerns you the most. Do you have a news tip? Feel free to email editor@postguam.com.

GUAM DAILY POST • WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2021

# Youths support, pose questions on bill allowing GDOE to issue Guam IDs

By Jolene Toves  
jolene@postguam.com

Island youths took over the public hearing on Bill 163-36, which would designate Guam public high schools as sites for students to apply for a Guam I.D.

Those who testified on Tuesday were generally in favor of the bill but also came with questions.

First to testify in support was the Island Board of Governing Students Chairwoman Sophia Nochefranca who wanted more information regarding the Guam Department of Education employee who, according to the bill, would pick up the Guam ID.

"If personnel of the GDOE, are employed for these processes, will offices or areas of the school be designated to these workers and the overall sites for Guam IDs outside of (Department of Revenue and Taxation)," she asked.

"It is not specified who is employed for handling these confidential documents, which are essential to a citizen's future and security."

George Washington High school student Kayla Trinidad, who also is a member of the student organization, had similar questions.

"Is this person certified to handle such sensitive information and are they provided the equipment to do

such a job," Trinidad said.

Nochefranca also raised concerns on the possibility of identity theft.

"Students will have the responsibility of bringing their important legal documents, (carrying them) among the student population," she said.

It also raises the question of who would be held responsible: "Will the school or student population, or just the student take accountability for these risks and issues, if the situation occurs."

Although senators did not have the answers to the questions, the bill's author Sen. James Moylan assured the teens that the details of the process would be put together by

GDOE and DRT.

"What I can say is really your points will be answered when this agreement comes forth within 60 days of the bill's passage with Department of Education and Department of Revenue and Taxation before any of this starts, but they have at least a couple of months to put it together and your instructors are excited for this to happen because they really want their students to have their diploma and have their Guam ID," Moylan said.

## Parent responsibility

IBOGS Vice Chairwoman Grace Dela Cruz wanted to know what the process would mean for parents.

"Since the bill states that parents will be relieved of advising their children, does that mean that they can just sign off on the application or would they have to still be present during the submission or any of the following steps even if it was at the school grounds," Dela Cruz questioned.

# Majority of students surveyed concerned about impact of online learning on mental health

By Jolene Toves  
jolene@postguam.com

Just over 83% of more than 1,300 high school students surveyed were concerned about mental health while attending classes online, according to a survey conducted by the Governor's Youth Advisory Council.

"It's a combination of everything. School has been such a vital part of our lives for years now, and removing us from the classroom environment strips us of such important aspects of our teenage years," said Governor's Youth Advisory

Council member Reagan Budasi.

She said socialization is a key component in developing a well-rounded citizen but with distance education peer interaction is limited.

"Feelings of loneliness are very common with distance learning, and it's difficult to interact with friends when you can't physically be together," Budasi said. "It's also more difficult to reach out and find healthy ways to cope. When you aren't surrounded by peers who you know you can rely on, it's easy to slip into bad coping habits, and you start to feel hesitant when you ask for help."

She believes the pandemic impacted the way youths process and deal with their mental and social well-being.


Over the course of the last two-and-a-half school years, thousands of Guam public and private school students had to attend classes online after the pandemic forced school closures. The governor first shut down schools, and with it in-person learning, in March 2020.

"Having to deal with COVID-19 on top of academic stressors has been and still is extremely challenging. I was struggling with my poor social health for


the first few weeks of the pandemic, as there was no social interaction whatsoever," YAC chairperson and Southern High School student, Cheyenne Ahn said. "Especially now with limitations in sports and extracurricular activities, there are not many ways for us students to adequately cope with our stress."

Although GDOE does provide social and emotional wellness resources, Ahn believes students lack information about support programs/services out there.

"This past school year, GDOE, as well as, each of the public schools, failed to provide sufficient coping strategies for struggling students. We, as students, felt that our mental and social well-being was certainly not GDOE's top priority," Ahn said.



**SPEAKER THERESE M. TERLAJE**  
Committee on Health, Land, Justice & Culture  
*I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan*



**NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARINGS- FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2021**

**8:00 AM:**

- **APPOINTMENT HEARING:** Lina NB McDaniel, to serve as a Member, Guam Parole Board. Term length: Four (4) years; May 26, 2021 to May 25, 2025.

**9:00 AM:**

- **INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING:** DPSS ON FINANCIAL RESOURCES, HEALTH CARE, AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR FOSTER CARE PARENTS. INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN BEING A FOSTER PARENT ARE ENCOURAGED TO WATCH THE BROADCAST.
- **BILL NO. 41-36 (COR)** - Therese M. Terlaje- AN ACT TO AMEND §421 OF CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES AND REPORTS FOR ADOPTIONS.
- **BILL NO. 179-36 (LS)** - Telo T. Taitague / Sabina Flores Perez / Joanne Brown / Therese M. Terlaje- AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 13510 TO ARTICLE 5, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REQUIRING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE LICENSURE OF ADOPTION AGENCIES.

**2:30 PM**

- **APPOINTMENT HEARING:** Veronica M. Salas, to serve as a Member, KOSAS Board of Advisors. Term length: Four (4) years; August 27, 2018 to August 26, 2022.
- **APPOINTMENT HEARING:** Shawn M. Mendiola to serve as Member (Manhoben Representative), KOSAS Board of Advisors. Term length: Four (4) years; August 16, 2019 to August 15, 2023.

Email [senatorterlaje@guam.com](mailto:senatorterlaje@guam.com) or call 472-3586 by **October 7, 2021** to register to provide virtual testimony on the agenda items. Written testimony can also be submitted via email or to the Guam Congress Bldg. 163 Oshan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam. All hearings broadcast on GTA TV Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117/112.4, and the Guam Legislature YouTube. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Individuals needing assistance or accommodations can contact the Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje. This Ad was paid with Legislature Funds.



**PUBLIC NOTICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Guam Visitors Bureau will hold a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors on **Thursday, October 14, at 1:30 p.m. in the GVB's main conference room and by Teleconference- via GoToMeeting**. The Board of Directors will discuss the following:

**AGENDA:** Call to Order • Roll Call • Approval of Minutes • Reports • Old Business • New Business • Executive Session • Announcements • Adjournment  
\*Detailed agenda is available at <https://www.guamvisitorsbureau.com/>

To attend the teleconference meeting via GoToMeeting, download the app on any of your devices at <http://global.gotomeeting.com/install/606222565> and be ready when your first meeting starts.

Join us  
<https://www.gotomeet.me/GUAMVISITORSBUREAU/gv-board-meeting>

To dial by phone  
(Toll-Free): 1 877 309 2073  
Access Code: **606-222-565**

Individuals requiring special accommodations or information are requested to contact GVB at 646-5278 for assistance.  
This ad is paid for by the Guam Visitors Bureau

GUAM VISITORS BUREAU | SETSIBISID BISITAN GUÅHAN  
401 Pale San Vitores Road | Tumon, Guam 96913 | (671) 646-5278 | (671) 646-8861 fax  
[guamvisitorsbureau.com](http://guamvisitorsbureau.com) | [visitguam.com](http://visitguam.com) | [info@visitguam.com](http://info@visitguam.com)





Speaker Therese M. Terlaje &lt;senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com&gt;

---

**Invitation to Virtual Public Hearings- Friday, October 8, 2021**

2 messages

---

**Speaker Therese M. Terlaje** <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com> Thu, Sep 30, 2021 at 1:58 PM  
To: "Arthur U. San Agustin" <arthur.sanagustin@dphss.guam.gov>, "Terry G. Aguon" <Terry.Aguon@dphss.guam.gov>  
Cc: "Laureal B. Villagomez" <Laureal.Villagomez@dphss.guam.gov>

September 30, 2021

**Transmitted via Electronic Mail:**

Arthur San Agustin, Director  
Department of Public Health & Social Services  
[arthur.sanagustin@dphss.guam.gov](mailto:arthur.sanagustin@dphss.guam.gov)

Terry G. Aguon, Deputy Director  
Department of Public Health & Social Services  
[Terry.Aguon@dphss.guam.gov](mailto:Terry.Aguon@dphss.guam.gov)

**SUBJECT: Invitation to Virtual Public Hearings - Friday, October 8, 2021**

*Hafa Adai* Director San Agustin and Deputy Director Aguon:

The Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture has set virtual public hearings on **Friday, October 8, 2021, at 9:00 am** utilizing the Legislature's Zoom meeting platform, on the following agenda items:

- **INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING with DPHSS** on Financial Resources, Health Care, and Legal Assistance for Foster Care Parents.
- **BILL NO. 41-36 (COR)** - Therese M. Terlaje- AN ACT TO AMEND §4210 OF CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES AND REPORTS FOR ADOPTIONS. Bill Link: [https://www.guamlegislature.com/36th\\_Guam\\_Legislature/Bills\\_Introduced\\_36th/Bill%20No.%2041-36%20\(COR\).pdf](https://www.guamlegislature.com/36th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_36th/Bill%20No.%2041-36%20(COR).pdf)
- **BILL NO. 179-36 (LS)** - Telo T. Taitague / Sabina Flores Perez / Joanne Brown / Therese M. Terlaje- AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 13510 TO ARTICLE 5, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REQUIRING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE LICENSURE OF ADOPTION AGENCIES. Bill Link: [http://www.guamlegislature.com/36th\\_Guam\\_Legislature/Bills\\_Introduced\\_36th/Bill%20No.%20179-36%20\(LS\).pdf](http://www.guamlegislature.com/36th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_36th/Bill%20No.%20179-36%20(LS).pdf)

For the Informational Briefing, we kindly request your attendance to provide general information relative to financial and health care resources and legal assistance available for foster care parents. We have encouraged individuals interested in becoming foster parents to watch the broadcast.

We also request your feedback on Bill No. 41 and Bill No. 179. Please respond with confirmation of agency personnel who will be present. Should you not be able to attend the bill hearings, please submit written testimony to the Committee prior to the hearing. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse',*

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Attachment: Copy of Bill No. 41-36 (COR) and Bill No. 179-36 (LS)

## **Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje**

Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

*I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

36th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T: (671) 472-3586 F: (671) 989-3590 Email: [senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com](mailto:senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com)

website: [www.senatorterlaje.com](http://www.senatorterlaje.com)

Electronic Privacy Notice: This e-mail and any attachment(s), contains information that is, or may be, covered by electronic communications privacy laws and legal privileges, and is also confidential and proprietary in nature. If you are not the intended recipient, please be advised that you are legally prohibited from retaining, using, copying, distributing, or otherwise disclosing the information in this e-mail or any attachment in any manner. Instead, please reply to the sender that you have received this communication in error, and then immediately delete it. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

---

### 3 attachments



**Bill No. 41-36 (COR).pdf**

816K



**Bill No. 179-36 (LS).pdf**

1334K



**October 8, 2021 Virtual Public Hearing Invitation\_DPHSS\_TMT.pdf**

406K

---

**Arthur U. San Agustin** <Arthur.SanAgustin@dphss.guam.gov>

Thu, Sep 30, 2021 at 5:53 PM

To: "Speaker Therese M. Terlaje" <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Cc: "Laureal B. Villagomez" <Laureal.Villagomez@dphss.guam.gov>, "Terry G. Aguon" <Terry.Aguon@dphss.guam.gov>, Laurent Duenas <Laurent.Duenas@dphss.guam.gov>, "Theresa L. Arcangel" <Theresa.Arcangel@dphss.guam.gov>, Chima Mbakwem <Chima.Mbakwem@dphss.guam.gov>, "Tommy C. Taitague" <Tommy.Taitague@dphss.guam.gov>, "Arleen U. Pierce" <Arleen.Pierce@dphss.guam.gov>

Buenas Speaker Terlaje:

Acknowledging receipt of invitation to virtual Public Hearings on Friday, October 8, 2021.

1. Informational Briefing: Financial Resources, Health Care and Legal Assistance for Foster Care Parents
2. Bill 41-36 (COR)
3. Bill 179-36 (COR)

Regards,

**Arthur U. San Agustin, MHR**

Director

Department of Public Health & Social Services

155 Hesler Place

Hagatna, Guam 96910

Email: [arthur.sanagustin@dphss.guam.gov](mailto:arthur.sanagustin@dphss.guam.gov)

---

**From:** Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <[senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com](mailto:senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 30, 2021 1:58 PM

**To:** Arthur U. San Agustin; Terry G. Aguon

**Cc:** Laoreal B. Villagomez

**Subject:** Invitation to Virtual Public Hearings- Friday, October 8, 2021

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the Government's Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

[Quoted text hidden]



# Office of the Speaker **THERESE M. TERLAJE**

*I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* | 36th Guam Legislature  
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

September 30, 2021

**Transmitted via Electronic Mail:**

Arthur San Agustin, Director  
Department of Public Health & Social Services  
[arthur.sanagustin@dphss.guam.gov](mailto:arthur.sanagustin@dphss.guam.gov)

Terry G. Aguon, Deputy Director  
Department of Public Health & Social Services  
[Terry.Aguon@dphss.guam.gov](mailto:Terry.Aguon@dphss.guam.gov)

**SUBJECT: Invitation to Virtual Public Hearings - Friday, October 8, 2021**

*Hafa Adai* Director San Agustin and Deputy Director Aguon:

The Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture has set virtual public hearings on **Friday, October 8, 2021, at 9:00 am** utilizing the Legislature's Zoom meeting platform, on the following agenda items:

- **INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING with DPHSS** on Financial Resources, Health Care, and Legal Assistance for Foster Care Parents.
- **BILL NO. 41-36 (COR)** - Therese M. Terlaje- AN ACT TO AMEND §4210 OF CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES AND REPORTS FOR ADOPTIONS.
- **BILL NO. 179-36 (LS)** - Telo T. Taitague / Sabina Flores Perez / Joanne Brown / Therese M. Terlaje- AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 13510 TO ARTICLE 5, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REQUIRING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE LICENSURE OF ADOPTION AGENCIES.

For the Informational Briefing, we kindly request your attendance to provide general information relative to financial and health care resources and legal assistance available for foster care parents. We have encouraged individuals interested in becoming foster parents to watch the broadcast.

We also request your feedback on Bill No. 41 and Bill No. 179. Please respond with confirmation of agency personnel who will be present. Should you not be able to attend the bill hearings, please submit written testimony to the Committee prior to the hearing. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse',*

  
Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Attachment: Copy of Bill No. 41-36 (COR) and Bill No. 179-36 (LS)

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 472-3586 | Fax: (671) 969-3590 | Email: [senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com](mailto:senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com) | [www.senatorterlaje.com](http://www.senatorterlaje.com)

*\*For transmittal of official Messages & Communications to the Guam Legislature to be distributed to all Senators,  
please send to: [speaker@guamlegislature.org](mailto:speaker@guamlegislature.org)*



I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature  
**Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje**

Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

**Date:** **Friday, October 08, 2021**

**Time:** **9:00 AM**

**VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING: BILL NO. 41-36 (COR) - Therese M. Terlaje- AN ACT TO AMEND §4210 OF CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES AND REPORTS FOR ADOPTIONS.**

	NAME	ADDRESS	CONTACT NO.	E-MAIL	Type of Testimony		Support	
					WRITTEN	ORAL	Yes	No
1	Lori Boss, Executive Director, Ohala Adoptions		671-688-HOPE (4673)	contact@ohalaadoptions.org	x	x		
2	Traci Andersen, Associate Director, Ohala Adoptions				x	x		
3	Terry Aguon, Deputy Director, DPHSS							
4	Maefe Muyco, Social Services Supervisor I, DPHSS							
5	Corrine Buendicho, Acting HSP Administrator, DYA							
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								



# Office of the Speaker **THERESE M. TERLAJE**

*I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guahan* | 36th Guam Legislature  
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

## VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

**Friday, October 8, 2021**

### 8:00 AM:

- APPOINTMENT HEARING: Lina NB McDaniel, to serve as a Member, Guam Parole Board. Term length: Four (4) years; May 26, 2021 to May 25, 2025. Appointment packet link: [https://www.guamlegislature.com/36th\\_Guam\\_Legislature/Mess\\_Comms\\_36th/Doc.%20No.%2036GL-21-1050.pdf](https://www.guamlegislature.com/36th_Guam_Legislature/Mess_Comms_36th/Doc.%20No.%2036GL-21-1050.pdf)

### 9:00 AM:

- INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING: DPHSS ON FINANCIAL RESOURCES, HEALTH CARE, AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR FOSTER CARE PARENTS. INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN BEING A FOSTER PARENT ARE ENCOURAGED TO WATCH THE BROADCAST.
- BILL NO. 41-36 (COR) - Therese M. Terlaje- AN ACT TO AMEND §4210 OF CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES AND REPORTS FOR ADOPTIONS. Bill  
Link: [https://www.guamlegislature.com/36th\\_Guam\\_Legislature/Bills\\_Introduced\\_36th/Bill%20No.%2041-36%20\(COR\).pdf](https://www.guamlegislature.com/36th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_36th/Bill%20No.%2041-36%20(COR).pdf)
- BILL NO. 179-36 (LS) - Telo T. Taitague / Sabina Flores Perez / Joanne Brown / Therese M. Terlaje- AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 13510 TO ARTICLE 5, CHAPTER 13, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REQUIRING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE LICENSURE OF ADOPTION AGENCIES. Bill  
Link: [http://www.guamlegislature.com/36th\\_Guam\\_Legislature/Bills\\_Introduced\\_36th/Bill%20No.%20179-36%20\(LS\).pdf](http://www.guamlegislature.com/36th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_36th/Bill%20No.%20179-36%20(LS).pdf)

### 2:30 PM

- APPOINTMENT HEARING: Veronica M. Salas, to serve as a Member, KOSAS Board of Advisors. Term length: Four (4) years; August 27, 2018 to August 26, 2022. Appointment Packet link: [https://www.guamlegislature.com/36th\\_Guam\\_Legislature/Mess\\_Comms\\_36th/Doc.%20No.%2036GL-21-1025.pdf](https://www.guamlegislature.com/36th_Guam_Legislature/Mess_Comms_36th/Doc.%20No.%2036GL-21-1025.pdf)
- APPOINTMENT HEARING: Shawn M. Mendiola to serve as Member (Manhoben Representative), KOSAS Board of Advisors. Term length: Four (4) years; August 16, 2019 to August 15, 2023. Appointment Packet link: <https://guamlegislature.com/index/messages-and-communications/>

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 472-3586 | Fax: (671) 969-3590 | Email: [senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com](mailto:senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com) | [www.senatorterlaje.com](http://www.senatorterlaje.com)

*\*For transmittal of official Messages & Communications to the Guam Legislature to be distributed to all Senators, please send to: [speaker@guamlegislature.org](mailto:speaker@guamlegislature.org)*



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO  
GOVERNOR, MAGA'HAGA'

JOSHUA F. TENORIO  
LT. GOVERNOR, SIGUNDO MAGA'LÁHI

GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
DIPATTAMENTON SALUT PUPBLEKO YAN SETBISION SUSIAT



ARTHUR U. SAN AGUSTIN, MHR  
DIRECTOR

LAURENT SF DUENAS, MPH, BSN  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TERRY G. AGUON  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

October 8, 2021

**TESTIMONY ON BILL 41-36**

Buenas yan Hafa Adai, Honorable Therese M. Terlaje, Speaker of the 36<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature and the Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in this Informational Briefing as it pertains to the Financial and Health Care Resources and Legal Assistance for Foster Care Parents. In addition, thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony in support of **Bill No. 41-36 (COR)** - Therese M. Terlaje – *AN ACT TO AMEND §4210 OF CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES AND REPORTS FOR ADOPTIONS.*

My name is Terry G. Aguon, Deputy Director of the Department of Public Health and Social Services overseeing the Division of Public Welfare (DPW) and Division of Senior Citizens (DSC) and in support of the Department's efforts to mitigate the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The need to protect Guam's most vulnerable population, our Children and our Manamko' includes their placement in a loving and secure home environment. Regardless if it is temporary or long term foster placement, or the need to place a child in an adoptive home, both are governed by the fact that these children deserve an efficient well thought-out social study (family and home evaluation study) that supports positive outcomes for a successful placement.

As a previous employee of the Department of Public Health and Social Services assigned to the Bureau of Social Services Administration (BOSSA), Child Protective Services Unit (CPS), I'm reminded of the many challenges that this bureau faces on a daily basis regarding the number of referrals and the heinous complexity of child abuse and neglect cases referred for investigation.

Through Executive Order 2021-02, relative to declaring an emergency regarding the operational state of Child Protective Services, advances have been made to onboard qualified workers to address these challenges. However, there is still much work to be done in order to address the demands placed on this bureau to include the Home Evaluation and Placement Service Section Unit (HEPS).

As the unit tasked to conduct social studies for the purpose of aiding the court in making decisions regarding Foster Placement, Adoption and Custody, it is imperative that this unit have the resources needed to complete this critical mission. HEPS currently consist of five staff which



---

includes the unit's supervisor (Social Services Supervisor I), three Social Worker III's, and one Licensing Officer.

This small unit under BOSSA is responsible for the licensing of all group homes to include Sanctuary Inc. (Male Shelter, Female Shelter and Sagan Na'Homlo Residential Treatment Facility) and Catholic Social Service's Alee Shelter II which collectively houses 48 children and youth. In addition, the program is responsible for the licensing of Family Foster Homes which currently totals 41. The overall number of children in foster care as of October 5, 2021, is 474 children to include relative placement, Child Protective Services (court concurred) approved homes and homes undergoing licensure.

Bill No. 41-36 (COR) may provide a path which will allow BOSSA to enter into an agreement with individuals or organizations that have a current business license for the purpose of conducting Social Studies and/or Reports for Adoption. In addition, this bill or a similar one may also allow for additional assistance in the form of social studies for the licensing of Family Foster Homes.

Although intended for different purposes, an adoption social study and a social study for the licensing of a foster home share key areas of interest. The study itself reflects a series of personal interviews that help answer questions as to whether the adoptive family can provide for the basic needs of the child, the social interaction of the adoptive family with their community, future securities, and family relationships to include extended family members. Many of these same questions are addressed in Home Studies conducted for the purpose of foster placement.

I am confident that Bill No. 41-36 (COR) will be a tool for BOSSA to develop and one that will allow for the Department to better meet the timely deliverable of adoption studies without compromising the integrity of its content. Once more, thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of Bill No. 41- 36 (COR).

Prepared By:

  
**TERRY G. AGUON**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Concurred By:

  
**ARTHUR U. SAN AGUSTIN, MHR**  
DIRECTOR



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO  
Maga' hága'

JOSHUA F. TENORIO  
Sigundo Maga' háhi

# DIPATTAMENTON ASUNTON MANHO BEN

Department of Youth Affairs

Government of Guam

P.O. Box 23672

Barrigada, Guam 96921

Tel: (671)735-5010 Fax: (671)734-7536



MELANIE W. BRENNAN  
Direktot

KRISINDA C. AGUON  
Sigundo Direktot

October 8, 2021

**Speaker Therese M. Terlaje**  
**36<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature**  
**Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture**  
**Guam Congress Building**  
**163 Chalan Santo Papa**  
**Hagátña, Guam 96910**

**Hâfa Adai Speaker Therese Terlaje,**

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture to provide written testimony **in support of Bill 41-36 (COR) AN ACT TO AMEND §4210 OF CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES AND REPORTS FOR ADOPTIONS.**

I am the Director of the Department of Youth Affairs and I have been working with Child Protective Services since late January of this year due to Executive Order 2021-02 signed by Governor Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero and Lt. Governor Joshua Tenorio declaring a state of emergency within the Bureau of Social Services, Child Protective Services (CPS), Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), after the disclosure that over 800 referrals of child abuse and neglect had gone unaddressed by the agency.

I, alongside a team of social workers were immediately detailed to CPS to assist with operations by responding to the backlog of referrals, provide temporary but much needed manpower assistance, identify measures to improve efficiencies, implement changes to the overwhelmed child welfare system and make direct recommendations to the administration for system improvement and sustainability. Additionally, a team of bureau retirees voluntarily provide their time and expertise to assist with this emergency declaration. They have been invaluable to the progress already made at CPS.

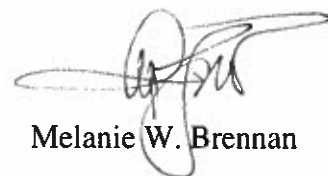
Bill 41-36 addresses one aspect of how to assist this overwhelmed agency so that bureau social workers can focus on the voluminous cases of child abuse and neglect and at the same time ensure that social studies are submitted to the court in an expeditious manner with the assistance of "qualified

private contractors, personnel from other Divisions or agencies, or qualified retired personnel of the Division” to assist with this very important and critical mandate.

The high turnover rate within this bureau has traditionally adversely impacted the Home Evaluation Placement Services (HEPS) Section’s ability to submit timely reports due to the need to shift manpower to more critical areas such as in the crisis and investigation sections. Prior to DYA’s involvement, social workers routinely requested for extensions for these comprehensive social studies and custody studies ordered by the court in private adoption or domestic cases. I was also informed that an off-island request for a home study had been denied, leaving no real options for the off-island entity.

Court ordered private adoption home and custody studies are currently ordered by the court with a mandate to submit completed social studies for adoption and custody in 45 days, unless otherwise approved by the Court. HEPS also recruits, licenses and monitors much needed foster homes as well as licenses and monitors over 40 Child Care Facilities. Given these critical responsibilities it is my recommendation that any qualified assistance to HEPS such as the passage of Bill 41-36(COR) move forward in the best interest of permanency for the children and families we serve.

Thank you again for introducing this bill and allowing my input; should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at (671)735-5001.



Melanie W. Brennan

Lori Boss at Ohala' Adoptions, statement in support of  
Senator Therese Terlaje's Bill 41-36(COR)

**AN ACT TO AMEND §4210 OF CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED,  
RELATIVE TO EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES AND REPORTS FOR ADOPTIONS.**

Madam Speaker, Vice-speaker and committee members,

As co-founder & executive director of Ohala' Adoptions, Guam's first private, non-profit domestic adoption agency, and at the request of Speaker Terlaje, I submit this testimony in support of Bill 41-36.

Our passion for child and family welfare brought us to organize this non-profit service in Guam, and we are focused on safe, healthy, and ethical placements for children, to create permanent loving homes for them. To do this, the emphasis on the home study process cannot be overlooked.

Home study reports are what a judge uses to determine whether to certify a family for adoption. The primary purpose of a home study is to ensure that each child is placed in a safe, nurturing home that is capable of providing stability and love.

**In reference to §4210 (a)** Home studies (referred to in the bill as social studies) are very involved. A comprehensive home study is a detailed report providing information regarding: a family

- their home
- their lifestyle and personal history
- motivation for adoption
- adoption preparation and readiness
- financial situation
- health and biographical information
- police and court clearances
- FBI background checks
- personal and professional references
- Physical home evaluation

During the home study process, a social worker or independent agency representative will get to know the prospective adoptive family through the collected data, letters of recommendation, home visits, and interviews. Guam law requires that all household members, regardless of age, must be included in this study. Those persons over 18 years old will need background checks. We will also be providing the family with information and resources to ensure they are prepared for the challenges of adoptive parenting.

**In reference to §4210 (b)**

At [www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov) we find the regulations for each state and territory. State laws and regulations specify the person or entity who can conduct a home study that will be accepted by the court that will hear the adoption petition.

*In most states, the department or licensed child-placing agency may be that entity. It varies state to state. For example: In 7 states, an agency or individual is qualified and approved by the health department to complete the assessment. In 10 states and the Northern Mariana Islands, a person designated by the court may conduct studies.*

Pre-approval is an important element in domestic agencies being able to conduct their own home studies, following Guam guidelines. We feel strongly about the need for home studies to be started when people apply to be adoptive parents and not require a court order to begin them. This ensures the safety and security of every child, should a placement be needed quickly, and alleviates removal of a child resulting in multiple placements. Ohala' Adoptions is capable of carrying out all components of the home study and by doing so will not add to DPHSS's workload. We have a licensed social worker on staff.

Each time a child or newborn infant moves from one home to another, they experience trauma, often resulting in Attachment Disorders. Multiple studies completed in the last three decades show that numerous placements negatively impact a child's ability to form emotional attachments and disrupts the child's ability to function behaviorally, emotionally, and developmentally.

Home studies for adoptive families are more involved than home studies for foster care parents. These adoptive parents are not receiving a stipend from Guam as foster parents do either. They assume parental responsibility for a child from the moment of placement, with the intent of permanency. Our understanding is that currently DPHSS begins an adoptive home study after a family petitions for adoption, meaning the child has already been placed in their home, possibly for many months. After placement, if a family does not meet the standards, the child must be moved. 'Pre-approval' falls in line with current adoption requirements authored by Senator Torres from Bill 108-36, where it is stated that the baby has to be taken to a pre-approved home. It is important to make this change to be consistent with the new mandates.

**In reference to §4210 (i)** All approved entities should conduct these studies to match with US standards, include all of Guam's requirements, and be audited annually by DPHSS or other appointed government entity.

We support speaker Terlaje's proposed bill 41-36 to allow independent agencies or persons to be approved in Guam to conduct these home studies. This will allow us to 'pre-approve' applicants for our own private agency adoptive family files and ensure the safety of the children being placed.

We appreciate your time and consideration of the necessity of this bill.

Lori Boss

Executive Director, Ohala' Adoptions



Statement in support of Senator Therese Terlaje's Bill 41-36(COR)

As a licensed social worker, I understand the unique demands and complexities of CPS work. CPS social workers work tirelessly to aid one of our most vulnerable populations, and they often have a very heavy caseload. Ohala' Adoptions is a dedicated non-profit willing to assist CPS and the families of Guam in providing much needed services, permanency plans, and home studies.

Developing permanency plans for children is crucial, especially for children who are displaced very early on in life. Attachment styles are formed within the first 5 years of life. Children need a secure and consistent base for developing attachment styles and exploring the world. Disrupting that secure base, having an inconsistent base, or being unable to provide that base, can have severe and lasting consequences. The consequences of being moved around from temporary home to temporary home include long term mental and physical health issues. With DPHSS and CPS unable to manage the amount of children who need assistance, room should be made for accredited adoption agencies to assist with home studies and with placing a child as soon as possible. It is imperative that home studies occur before placement to ensure the safety of the home. Ohala' Adoptions can assist with this process, providing support for CPS and creating lasting placements for children in need.

Respectfully,

Louisa Hopkins, LMSW

**Bill 41-36 (COR)** – An Act to Amend § 4210 of Chapter 4, Title 19, Guam Code Annotated, Relative to Expediting Social Studies and Reports for Adoptions.

Testimony of Traci Anderson

Ohala' Adoptions Associate Director

October 4, 2021

Hafa Adai Madam Speaker, Vice Speaker and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of Bill 41-36 and look forward to presenting testimony during the Public Hearing.

When we were first made aware of this Bill being introduced, Ohala' Adoption representatives were asked by Senator Terlaje to prepare and present testimony. We are pleased that the Bill is back on the agenda and would love to share in making the necessary changes to benefit the children and families of the island.

In reference to **Page 1, Line 5**, it is indicated that the home study is assigned at the filing of a petition for adoption. As an agency that will be working with families to meet all of the criteria required for adoption, we cannot wait until a petition is filed to perform a home study. The home study needs to be completed prior to any placement of a child into a home and family. This offers protection, security, and assurance that the home is safe and prepared to provide what is required for the care of the child.

**Page 1, Line 6** states that "the Division" be the entity that will provide the home study. We propose that the new law be in alignment with other state's regulations. According to American Adoptions, state laws and regulations specify the person or entity who can conduct a home study that the court will accept when it hears the adoption petition. In most States, the department or licensed child-placing agency may be that entity. In 12 States, a licensed social worker may conduct home studies and in 10 States and the Mariana Islands, a person designated by the court may conduct studies. In seven States, an agency or individual licensed or qualified by the department (Division) may complete the assessment of the prospective adoptive home. These guidelines would allow for licensed agencies and or social workers to complete a home study for a private adoption without putting an extra burden on the Division and DPHSS.

([https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/homestudyreqs\\_adoption.pdf](https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/homestudyreqs_adoption.pdf))

**Page 1, Lines 7 through 9** denote that "an officer of the Division", has different requirements for presenting the home study to the courts. In all fairness, when an entity outside of the Division is allowed to perform home studies, there will be written reports done without conflict of interest within the Division.

When a home study is done prior to placement, all of the pertinent safety information has been covered and the only need for recommendation (as stated on **Page 1, Lines 14 and 15**) would come from any home visits and evaluation of the family and child adjustments post placement and prior to finalization.

Whether allowed by the courts or permitted by DPHSS, the authorization of private contractors, agencies, or qualified individuals to perform home studies would enable the work to be done in an appropriate time frame. **Page 2, Lines 6 and 7**, if kept the same, would involve the Division by having any final submission to the court need timely approval through their department first.

Upon the formation of Ohala' Adoptions, we began requesting any support and information on the possibility of working with CPS to do our own home studies with an agreement through an MOU or an MOA. We offered to help them, if needed, in order to promote the ease of any adoption placement from the foster care program. This is still a measure that we would be interested in, working together like pieces of a puzzle to form the big picture of a permanent and forever family.

Ohala' Adoptions includes the Home Study in the total cost of services provided. If you are familiar with home studies from other companies and agencies, you will know that they can range from \$900 to \$3000. This service is not being offered as an extra expense in order to make money, but as a means to provide safety and security as a priority before an infant or child is placed within a home.

Minimum qualifications, as noted on **Page 2, Lines 11 through 13**, should be established and applied to any and all individuals and entities that place or assist in placement of any child. We hope that the qualifications and requirements set will be reasonably in line with the ability to meet the demands therein and ask that all agencies and individuals associated with placement of a child be monitored and held accountable for meeting said requirements.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to open communication and the opportunity to collaborate with others in Guam's child welfare programs.



**19 GCA PERSONAL RELATIONS  
CH. 4 PARENT AND CHILD**

**SOURCE:** CC §216.

**§ 4126. Same; Duty to Record.**

The parents of newly born infants shall report to the Director of Administration the name and the other required details within ten (10) days of the birth, under penalty of a fine of Two Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$2.50).

**SOURCE:** CC §217.

-----

**ARTICLE 2  
CHILDREN BY ADOPTION**

- § 4201. Purposes.
- § 4202. Definitions.
- § 4203. Who May Adopt.
- § 4204. Prerequisite to Petition.
- § 4205. Petition.
- § 4206. Consent.
- § 4207. Same: Filing.
- § 4208. Same: Withdrawal.
- § 4209. Notice: Service.
- § 4210. Social Study.
- § 4211. Residence Requirement.
- § 4212. Hearing Procedure.
- § 4213. Decree.
- § 4214. Same: Effect.
- § 4215. Withdrawal or Denial of Petition.
- § 4216. Abatement.
- § 4217. Records.
- § 4218. Invalidation.
- § 4219. Subsequent Adoption.
- § 4220. Decrees of Other Jurisdictions.
- § 4221. Special Provisions.

**NOTE:** Chapter II of Title II, Part III, Division First of the Civil Code (§§221-230; §222 as amended by P.L. 12-51 and §224 as amended by P.L. 13-66:1) were repealed by P.L. 13-133:1 and a new Chapter II was enacted in its place as §§221.1-221.21. These Sections have been placed in Title 19 by the Compiler and renumbered §§ 4201-4221, 19 GCA.

**§ 4201. Purposes.**

**19 GCA PERSONAL RELATIONS**

**CH. 4 PARENT AND CHILD**

The purpose of this Article is to protect and promote the welfare of children, natural parents and adoptive parents and thereby promote the welfare of the territory of Guam. To this end, the following basic safeguards are provided herein:

- (a) that the child is legally free for adoption;
- (b) that the natural parents' consent to the adoption or that the parent-child relationship has been terminated by judicial decree;
- (c) that the child is placed in a proposed adoptive home by the Division of Social Services except in adoptions by close relatives;
- (d) required social studies and consideration of the reports of these studies by the court prior to judgment on adoption petitions;
- (e) a period of time for the child to live within the proposed adoptive home under the guidance of the Division of Social Services;
- (f) new birth certificates following adoption decrees;
- (g) authority of the court to order temporary substitute care for children found in unsuitable homes; and
- (h) confidentiality of records.

**SOURCE:** CC §221.1 enacted by P.L. 13-133:1.

**§ 4202. Definitions.**

When used in this Article, unless the text otherwise requires:

- (a) *Court* means the Superior Court of Guam.
- (b) *Child* means a person less than eighteen (18) years of age.
- (c) *Adult* means a person eighteen (18) years of age or older.
- (d) *Legal custody* means a status created by court order embodying the following rights and responsibilities:
  - (1) the right to have the physical possession of the child;

**19 GCA PERSONAL RELATIONS**

**CH. 4 PARENT AND CHILD**

(2) the right and the duty to protect, train and discipline the child; and

(3) the responsibility to provide the child with food, shelter, education and ordinary medical care, provided that such rights and responsibilities shall be exercised subject to the powers, rights, duties and responsibilities of the guardian of the person and subject to residual parental rights and responsibilities if these have not been terminated by judicial decree.

(e) *Guardianship* of the person with respect to a child means the duty and authority to make important decisions in matters having a permanent effect on the life and development of the child, and to be concerned about the general welfare of the child. It includes but is not necessarily limited either in number or kind to:

(1) the authority to consent to marriage, to enlistment in the Armed Forces of the United States, to major medical, psychiatric and surgical treatment, to represent the minor in legal actions, and to make other decisions concerning the child of substantial legal significance;

(2) the authority and duty of reasonable visitation, except to the extent that such right of visitation has been limited by court order;

(3) the rights and responsibilities of legal custody except where legal custody has been vested in another individual or the Division of Social Services;

(4) when the parent-child relationship has been terminated by judicial decree with respect to the parent, or only living parent, the authority to consent to the adoption of the child and to make any other decision concerning the child which the child's parents could make.

(f) *Guardian ad litem* means a person appointed by the court to protect the interest of a child or an incompetent in a case before the court.

(g) *Parent* means:

19 GCA PERSONAL RELATIONS

CH. 4 PARENT AND CHILD

(1) the mother; or

(2) the father as to whom a child is legitimate; or

(3) a person as to whom a child is presumed to be a legitimate child; or

(4) an adoptive parent but such term does not include a parent as to whom the parent-child relationship has been terminated by judicial decree.

(h) *Parent-child* relationship includes all rights, privileges, duties and obligations existing between parent and child, including inheritance rights.

(i) *Residual parental rights and responsibilities* means those rights and responsibilities remaining with the parent (where there has not been termination of the parent-child relationship by judicial decree) after the transfer of legal custody and guardianship of the person, including but not necessarily limited to, the right to reasonable visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine the child's religious affiliation and the responsibility for support.

(j) *Protective supervision* means a legal status created by court order in proceedings not involving violations of law but where the legal custody of the child is subject to change, whereby the child is permitted to remain in his home under the supervision of the Division of Social Services and is subject to return to the court during the period of protective supervision.

(k) *Relative to the child within the second degree either by blood or affinity* includes stepparents, sisters, brothers, grandparents, aunts and uncles.

(l) *Division* means Division of Social Services.

SOURCE: CC §221.2 enacted by P.L. 13-133:1.

**§ 4203. Who May Adopt.**

The following persons if they are residents of the territory of Guam are eligible to adopt children:

(a) the husband and wife jointly, or either the husband or wife if the other spouse is a parent of the child;

(b) an unmarried adult;

19 GCA PERSONAL RELATIONS

CH. 4 PARENT AND CHILD

(c) a married adult who by judicial decree has been accorded the right to reside separate and apart from his or her spouse.

SOURCE: CC §221.3 enacted by P.L. 13-133:1.

**§ 4204. Prerequisite to Petition.**

Except when a petition is filed by a relative of the child within the second degree either by blood or affinity, no petition for adoption shall be entertained unless prior to the filing of the petition:

(a) a decree of termination of the parent-child relationship with respect to each living parent of the child sought to be adopted has been entered; and

(b) the child sought to be adopted has been placed for adoption with the petitioner by the Division.

SOURCE: CC §221.4 enacted by P.L. 13-133:1.

**§ 4205. Petition.**

An adoption proceeding shall be initiated by filing in duplicate with the court, a petition for adoption which is verified by the petitioner, and which specifies:

(a) the full name, age and place of residence of the petitioner, and if he is married, the place and date of the marriage, and his relationship, if any, to the child;

(b) except where the petitioner is a relative of the child within the second degree either by blood or affinity, and allegation that a decree of termination of the parent-child relationship with respect to each living parent of the child sought to be adopted has been entered and that such child was placed for adoption with the petitioner by the Division and the date of said placement;

(c) the date and place of birth of the child;

(d) the name of the child used in the proceeding, and if a change in name is desired, the new name;

(e) that it is the desire of the petitioner that the relationship of parent and child be established between him and the child;

19 GCA PERSONAL RELATIONS

CH. 4 PARENT AND CHILD

(f) a full description and statement of value of all property owned or possessed by the child;

(g) that the child is present in the territory of Guam.

SOURCE: CC §221.5 enacted by P.L. 13-133:1.

**§ 4206. Consent.**

(a) Where a petition is filed by a relative of the child within the second degree either by blood or affinity, no adoption of such child may be ordered unless the written consent to the adoption of the child by the petitioner is given by each parent of the child or if there is no parent, by the guardian of the child's person. A minor parent may consent to an adoption but his consent shall be effective only when concurred by his parents or his guardian of the person.

(b) Where a petition is filed by any other person, no adoption of a child may be ordered unless the written consent to the adoption of such child by the petitioner is given by the child's guardian of the person. Where the consent of a guardian of the child's person is required, the court may dispense with such consent only if it finds that the withholding of such consent is arbitrary and capricious. Consents shall be acknowledged before a notary public and witnessed by a representative of the court.

(c) Where the child is twelve (12) years of age or older, the adoption shall not be granted without his consent. Such consent shall be given in court or shall be in writing in such form as the court may direct.

SOURCE: CC §221.6 enacted by P.L. 13-133:1.

**§ 4207. Same: Filing.**

Written consent required by § 4206(a) shall be attached to the adoption petition. In the case of a consent by a guardian of the child's person, the guardian shall file directly with the court satisfactory evidence of his authority to consent to adoption of the child. Where the parent-child relationship has been terminated by judicial decree a certified copy of the termination decree shall be filed directly with the court by the guardian of the child's person.

SOURCE: CC §221.7 enacted by P.L. 13-133:1.

**§ 4208. Same: Withdrawal.**

**19 GCA PERSONAL RELATIONS**  
**CH. 4 PARENT AND CHILD**

Withdrawal of any consent filed in connection with a petition for adoption hereunder shall not be permitted, except that the court after notice and opportunity to be heard is given to the petitioner in the adoption proceeding, to the person seeking to withdraw consent and to the Division may, if it finds that the best interest of the child will be furthered thereby, issue a written order permitting the withdrawal of such consent. The entry of an order of adoption renders any consent irrevocable.

**SOURCE:** CC §221.8 enacted by P.L. 13-133:1.

**§ 4209. Notice: Service.**

After a petition has been filed, the court shall set the time and place for a hearing and shall cause notice thereof to be served on the petitioner and on the Division. Notice shall be given by personal service or by registered or certified mail.

**SOURCE:** CC §221.9 enacted by P.L. 13-133:1.

**§ 4210. Social Study.**

Upon the filing of a petition, the court shall direct that a social study be made by the Division and that a report in writing of such study be submitted to the court prior to the hearing, except that where the child's guardian or the person whose consent to adoption is required is an officer of the Division, it shall file with the court prior to the hearing a report of its social study. The court may order additional social studies if it deems necessary. The social study shall include the social history, the present condition of the child, the child's placement in the home of the petitioners and his adjustment therein, the suitability of such home and such other information as may be pertinent to the adoption proceeding, and the report submitted shall include a recommendation and the reasons therefore as to whether or not the petition for adoption should be granted and shall be accompanied by a verified transcript of the child's birth certificate. The purpose of the social study is to aid the court in making disposition of the petition and shall be considered by the court prior thereto.

**SOURCE:** CC §221.10 enacted by P.L. 13-133:1.

**§ 4211. Residence Requirement.**

The hearing on petition shall not be held until the child has lived twelve (12) months in the home of the petitioner under the

**19 GCA PERSONAL RELATIONS**  
**CH. 4 PARENT AND CHILD**

supervision of the Division. The twelve - month residence requirement or any part thereof may be waived by order of the court on the motion of the petitioner of the Division involved in this proceeding if the court is satisfied that the best interests of the child will be furthered thereby.

**SOURCE:** CC §221.11 enacted by P.L. 13-133:1.

**§ 4212. Hearing Procedure.**

Cases under this Article shall be heard by the court without a jury. The hearing may be conducted in an informal manner and may be adjourned from time to time. Stenographic notes or mechanical recording of the hearing shall be required as in other civil cases in the court, unless all parties waive the right to such a record and the court so orders. The petitioner, the parent who is the spouse of a petitioner and the child to be adopted shall attend unless the court orders otherwise. Only such other persons shall be admitted to the hearing as the judge shall find to have a direct interest in the case or the work of the court; provided that persons so admitted shall not disclose any information secured at the hearing which would identify an individual child or parent. In addition, the court may require the presence of witnesses (including persons making any report, study or examination which is before the court when such persons are reasonably available) deemed necessary to the disposition of the petition. The court may appoint a guardian ad litem for the child if it is deemed necessary or desirable.

The court's findings shall be based upon a preponderance of evidence provided that relevant and material information of any nature, including that contained in reports, studies or examinations, may be admitted and relied upon to the extent of its probative value. When information contained in a report, study or examination is admitted in evidence, the person making such a report, study or examination shall be subject to both direct and cross-examination when he is reasonably available.

**SOURCE:** CC §221.12 enacted by P.L. 13-133:1.

**§ 4213. Decree.**

If after the hearing and consideration of the report required by § 4210, the court is satisfied that the requirements of this Article have been met and that the adoption is in the best



**19 GCA PERSONAL RELATIONS**  
**CH. 4 PARENT AND CHILD**

interests of the child, the court shall make an order granting the adoption. The order may change the name of the child to that of the petitioner. The order of the court shall be in writing and shall recite the findings upon which such order is based. Such order shall be conclusive and binding on all persons from the date of entry. The clerk of the court shall mail a copy of every adoption decree to the Territory's Office of Vital Statistics. The procedures specified in 10 GCA §§3114 and 3115, shall be adhered to upon receipt of copy of adoption decree.

**SOURCE:** CC §221.13 enacted by P.L. 13-133:1.

**NOTE:** Reference to procedures changed by Compiler to reflect GCA numbering system.

**§ 4214. Same: Effect.**

(a) Upon entry of the decree of adoption, the relationship of parent and child and all the legal rights, privileges, duties, obligations and other legal consequences of the natural relationship of child and parent shall thereafter exist between the adopted child and the adoptive parents the same as though the child were born to the adoptive parents in lawful wedlock. The adopted child shall be entitled to inherit real and personal property from and through the adoptive parents and the adoptive parents shall be entitled to inherit real and personal property from and through the adopted child the same as though the child were born to the adoptive parents in lawful wedlock.

(b) Upon entry of the decree of adoption, the relationship of parent and child between the adopted child and the persons who were his parents just prior to the decree of adoption shall be completely severed and all the legal rights, privileges, duties, obligations and other legal consequences of the relationship shall cease to exist, including the right of inheritance, except that where the adoption is by the spouse of the child's parent, the relationship of the child to such parent shall remain unchanged by the decree of adoption.

**SOURCE:** CC §221.14 enacted by P.L. 13-133:1.

**§ 4215. Withdrawal or Denial of Petition.**

(a) In any case in which the petition is withdrawn or denied the court shall order the removal of the child from the proposed adoptive home if the court finds that such removal is in the

**19 GCA PERSONAL RELATIONS**  
**CH. 4 PARENT AND CHILD**

child's best interest. If such removal is ordered, the court shall vest temporary legal custody of the child in the Division with power to remove the child and to plan for the child's welfare and the court shall fix responsibility for temporary child support, provided, however, that where the parent-child relationship has been terminated by judicial decree, the Division or individual granted legal custody of the child by such decree shall, unless the court otherwise orders, continue to act in such capacity, and such individual or the Division shall be similarly empowered to remove the child from the proposed adoptive home. The court shall in addition certify the case to an appropriate court for such further action as may be necessary.

(b) In any cases in which the petition is withdrawn or denied and the court does not order the removal of the child, the court shall certify the case for such further action as may be necessary.

**SOURCE:** CC §221.15 enacted by P.L. 13-133:1.

**§ 4216. Abatement.**

In the event of the death of the petitioner, the proceeding shall abate and the petition for adoption shall be dismissed, but where there are two petitioners and one of the petitioners dies, the proceeding shall continue uninterrupted as if the death had not occurred.

**SOURCE:** CC §221.16 enacted by P.L. 13-133:1.

**§ 4217. Records.**

The files and records of the court in any proceeding had under this Article shall be kept in a separate locked file and shall be withheld from public inspection. Such files and records may, pursuant to rule of court or special order of the court, be opened for inspection by persons and agencies having a legitimate interest in the case and their attorneys and by other persons and agencies having a legitimate interest in the protection, welfare or treatment of the child or in research studies. As used in this Section, the words *files and records* include the court docket and entries therein, the petitions and other papers filed in any case, transcripts of testimony taken by the court, and findings, orders and decrees, and other writings filed in proceedings before the court, other than social records.

**19 GCA PERSONAL RELATIONS**

**CH. 4 PARENT AND CHILD**

Social records shall be withheld from public inspection except that information from such records may be furnished to persons and agencies having a legitimate interest in the protection, welfare and treatment of the child or in research studies, in such manner as the court determines. As used in this Section, the words *social records* include the social service records of the court, the social studies and reports of the court, the social studies and reports referred to in § 4210, and related papers, and correspondence, including medical, psychological and psychiatric studies and reports, either in the possession of the court or the Division.

No person shall be entitled to make copies of such files and records or social records or parts thereof unless the court so orders.

It shall be unlawful, except for purposes for which files and records or social records or part thereof or information therefrom have been released pursuant to this Section, or except for purposes permitted by special order of the court, and in accordance with any applicable rules of the court, for any person to disclose, receive or make use of, or authorize, knowingly permit, participate in or acquiesce in the use of any information concerning any person before the court directly or indirectly derived from the files and records or communications of the court, or social records, or acquired in the course of the performance of official duties.

Any person who shall disclose information in violation of the provisions of this Section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or imprisoned for a period not to exceed six (6) months, or both.

**SOURCE:** CC §221.17 enacted by P.L. 13-133:1.

**§ 4218. Invalidation.**

After two (2) years from the date the adoption decree is entered, any irregularity in the proceeding shall be deemed cured and the validity of the decree shall not thereafter be subject to attack on any such ground in any collateral or direct proceeding.

**SOURCE:** CC §221.18 enacted by P.L. 13-133:1.

**§ 4219. Subsequent Adoption.**

**19 GCA PERSONAL RELATIONS**  
**CH. 4 PARENT AND CHILD**

The adoption of an adopted person is authorized, and in that case, the references to the parents are to adoptive parents.

**SOURCE:** CC §221.19 enacted by P.L. 13-133:1.

**§ 4220. Decrees of Other Jurisdictions.**

Where an adoption has been judicially decreed by a court in the United States, such decree shall have the same force and effect as to matters within the jurisdiction of the territory of Guam as though it had been granted by the court.

**SOURCE:** CC §221.20 enacted by P.L. 13-133:1.

**§ 4221. Special Provisions.**

(a) In the case of a child whose admission to the United States (territory of Guam) as an eligible orphan with non-quota immigrant status pursuant to the Federal Immigration and Nationality Act is sought for the purposes of adoption in the territory of Guam, the following pre-adoption requirements shall be observed:

(1) the foster parents or parent must present to the court, a verified written application containing the information set forth in Subsection (b) of this Section, in such form as the court may prescribe for an order of pre-adoption investigation to determine whether the adoption may be in the best interests of the child.

(2) the foster parents must appear for examination before the court.

(3) the application must be accompanied by duly authenticated documentary evidence:

(i) that the child is an alien who is eligible for immigration to the United States under federal laws and regulations, as a non-quota immigrant for purposes of adoption in the Territory of Guam;

(ii) that he is an orphan because of the death or disappearance of both parents, or because of abandonment, or desertion by, or separation or loss from both parents, or who has only one parent due to the death or disappearance of, abandonment, or desertion by, or separation or loss from the other parent, and the remaining parent is incapable of providing care for

**19 GCA PERSONAL RELATIONS**

**CH. 4 PARENT AND CHILD**

such orphan and has in writing irrevocably released him for immigration and adoption, and has consented to the proposed adoption. In all cases where the orphan has no remaining parent under the circumstances set forth above, documentary evidence must be presented that the person, public authority or duly constituted agency having lawful custody of the orphan at the time of making of the application, hereunder, had in writing irrevocably released him for immigration and adoption and has consented to the proposed adoption; and

(iii) that the foster parents agree to adopt and treat the foster child as their or his own lawful child.

(4) in addition thereto such additional releases and consents as the court may in its sound discretion require.

(b) The verified written application shall contain the following information:

(1) the names and place of residence of the foster parent or parents;

(2) whether they are of full age;

(3) whether they are married or unmarried and, if married, whether they are living together as husband and wife;

(4) the name, date and place of birth of the foster child as nearly as the same can be ascertained;

(5) the religious faith of the foster parent or parents;

(6) the religious faith of the foster child and his parents as nearly as the same can be ascertained;

(7) the occupation and approximate income of the foster parent or parents, and the name by which the foster child is to be known;

(8) that no previous application has been made to any court or judge for the relief sought or if so made, the disposition of it and a statement as to whether the foster child has been previously adopted, if such fact is known to the foster parent or parents;

**19 GCA PERSONAL RELATIONS**  
**CH. 4 PARENT AND CHILD**

(9) the facts which establish that the child is an eligible orphan who would be entitled to enter the United States with non-quota immigrant status for the purpose of adoption in the territory of Guam, pursuant to the Federal law, in such case made;

(10) the circumstances whereby, and the names and addresses of the intermediaries, if any, through whom the foster parent or parents learned of the existence and eligibility of the child and the names and addresses of the person or persons, public authority or duly constituted agency in the land of the child's residence executing the written release of the child for emigration and adoption, and the consent to such adoption, the circumstances under which the release and consent were obtained, insofar as they are known to the foster parent or parents;

(11) a statement that the foster parent or parents have had no more than one petition previously approved by the Attorney General of the United States for non-quota immigration status, on behalf of an alien child who qualified under Federal law as an eligible orphan unless any such petitions have been so approved as necessary to prevent the separation of brothers and sisters or that the instant petition had been previously approved by special act of the Congress.

(c) Upon receiving the verified written application, required documentary evidence, agreement and consents, the court upon finding that the applicable provisions of this Section have been complied with and that it appears that the proposed adoption may be in the best interests of the child, shall issue an order of pre-adoption investigation hereunder. The order of pre-adoption investigation shall require that the report of such investigation be made by the Division. The caseworker shall make a written report of his investigation into the truth and accuracy of the statements in the application and where applicable, into the validity of the documentary evidence, submitted with the application, and he shall ascertain as fully as possible and incorporate in his report the various factors which may bear upon the determination of the application for adoption including, but not limited to, the following information:

**19 GCA PERSONAL RELATIONS**

**CH. 4 PARENT AND CHILD**

- (1) the marital and family status, and history, of foster parents;
- (2) the physical and mental health of the foster parents;
- (3) the property owned by and the income of the foster parents;
- (4) the compensation paid or agreed upon with respect to the placement of the child for adoption;
- (5) whether either foster parent has ever been respondent in any proceeding concerning allegedly neglected, abandoned or delinquent children;
- (6) the desirability of bringing the child into the territory of Guam for adoption;
- (7) any other facts relating the familial, social, religious, emotional and financial circumstances of the foster parents which may be relevant to a determination of suitability of the adoption.

The written report of pre-adoption investigation shall be submitted to the court within thirty (30) days after the same is directed to be made, unless for good cause shown, the court shall grant a reasonable extension of such period. The report shall be filed before the court shall issue its pre-adoption certificate that it appears that the adoption is in the best interests of the child.

(d) On the return of the pre-adoption investigation order the judge shall take proof of the facts shown by such investigation. If the court is satisfied that the adoption is in the best interests of the child, and that there has been compliance with all requirements hereof, and is satisfied that the moral and temporal interests of the child will be promoted by the adoption, it shall issue an original certificate under seal and two (2) certified copies thereof, setting forth the fact that a pre-adoption investigation has been conducted, and proof duly taken thereon, and reciting the documents and papers submitted therewith and stating that in the opinion of the court it is in compliance with all applicable laws and that it appears from such investigation that the moral and temporal interests of the child will be promoted by

**19 GCA PERSONAL RELATIONS**  
**CH. 4 PARENT AND CHILD**

the proposed adoption. The original certificate shall be filed with the clerk of the court, one (1) certified copy with the Social Services Administrator, and the foster parents shall receive the second certified copy. The fact that the foster child was born out of wedlock shall in no case appear in such certificate. The written report of pre-adoption investigation together with all other papers pertaining to the pre-adoption investigation and the original certificate shall be kept by the court as a permanent record and such papers must be sealed by the court and withheld from inspection. No person shall be allowed access to such sealed records and original certificate and any index thereof except upon an order of the court. No order for access and inspection shall be granted except on due notice to the foster parents and on good cause shown. The court may open, vacate or set aside such certificate for fraud, newly-discovered evidence or other sufficient cause.

(e) The adoption of a child who has been brought in the United States and the Territory for such purpose and placed with the foster parent or parents, shall be effected after issuance of the pre-adoption certificate, in the manner provided by this Title, excepting that:

(1) the petition shall also recite the pre-adoption proceedings; and

(2) the court may in its discretion for good cause shown, waive a subsequent investigation. In such case the order or adoption shall recite the reason for such action.

(f) In any case where there has been a failure to comply with the requirements of this Section, if applicable, no order of adoption shall be made until one (1) year after the court shall have received the petition to adopt. The court may shorten such waiting period for good cause shown, and, in such case, the order of adoption shall recite the reason for such action.

**SOURCE:** CC §221.21 enacted by P.L. 13-133:1. Subsection (a)(3)(i) as amended by P.L. 18-6:14.

-----

**ARTICLE 3**  
**TERMINATION OF THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP**



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO  
GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO  
LT. GOVERNOR

UFISINAN I MAGA'HĀGAN GUĀHAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

**Via Hand Delivery**  
**and E-mail: [speaker@guamlegislature.org](mailto:speaker@guamlegislature.org)**

January 21, 2021

**HONORABLE THERESE TERLAJE**

*Speaker*

*I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

*36<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature*

Guam Congress Building

163 Chalan Santo Papa

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

**RE: Executive Order No. 2021-02**

*Hafa Adai* Madame Speaker:

Pursuant to Public Law 34-16, transmitted herewith is the following Executive Order:

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2021-02: Relative to Declaring an  
Emergency Regarding the Operational State of the Child  
Protective Services**

Thank you.

*Senseremente,*

**SOPHIA SANTOS DIAZ**

*Legal Counsel*

Enclosure: Executive Order No. 2021-02

cc via email: *Maga'hāgan Guåhan*  
*Sigundo Maga'lāhen Guåhan*  
Hon. F. Philip Carbullido, Chief Justice of Guam  
Compiler of Law  
Central Files  
Cabinet Members



**ISLAND OF GUAM  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
HAGÁTÑA, GUAM 96932  
U.S.A.**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2021-02**

**RELATIVE TO DECLARING AN EMERGENCY REGARDING THE  
OPERATIONAL STATE OF THE CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, the Child Protective Services (“CPS”) is statutorily established within the auspices of the Department of Public Health and Social Services (“DPHSS”) as the designated government of Guam entity responsible for receiving and investigating complaints of child abuse and neglect; and

**WHEREAS**, among its statutory duties, CPS is required to commence investigations of reported allegations of child abuse or neglect within seventy-two (72) hours of their receipt; and

**WHEREAS**, in Fiscal Year 2020, CPS reported receiving 1,142 referrals, including fifty seven (57) that included allegations serious enough to warrant assignment to the CPS Crisis Intervention Unit, which is intended to address the most egregious incidents of child abuse and neglect; and

**WHEREAS**, since the declaration of a public health emergency last year in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, several portions of our community that are particularly vulnerable to the effects of the pandemic have been identified -- among them is our island’s homeless population; and

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order Nos. 2020-23 and 2020-37 reconstituted the Interagency Council for Coordinating Homeless Programs (“Council”), which is chaired by Lt. Governor Joshua F. Tenorio, and established the Office of Homelessness Assistance and Poverty Prevention; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council has met regularly throughout the duration of the public health emergency to understand and address homeless concerns in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, at its meeting on July 30, 2020, the Council received an overview of CPS services and programs where Lt. Governor Tenorio, understanding the articulated requests for additional staffing and resources, asked that CPS take advantage of tools and resources made available through legislative and administrative efforts to provide fast-track recruitment options for social workers and prioritize procurement needs for ensuring the group foster home was appropriately prepared for occupancy and operation; and

**WHEREAS**, since that July 2020 meeting, Lt. Governor Tenorio has been in in regular discussions with DPHSS leadership regarding efforts to ensure that CPS is appropriately staffed and that its referrals are properly reviewed, investigated, and resolved in timely manner and in accordance with statutory mandates; and

**WHEREAS**, in December of 2020, Lt. Governor Tenorio, DPHSS leadership and leadership from two critical CPS partners, the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center and the Department of Youth Affairs (“DYA”), reviewed data regarding outstanding CPS referrals in an effort to find methods to increase efficiencies and effectiveness and help guard against systemic failures; and

**WHEREAS**, this review has resulted in an identification of potential shortfalls of supervision and administration of CPS such that the result has been a failure to identify and therefore address, serious and significant instances of child abuse, maltreatment, and neglect; and



**ISLAND OF GUAM**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**HAGÁTÑA, GUAM 96932**  
**U.S.A.**

**WHEREAS**, a more thorough investigation is necessary to ensure that responsible personnel are identified, resource recommendations are made, and appropriate actions are taken to place CPS in the best position to fulfill its statutory responsibilities and do what it is intended to do -- that is, provide a safety net for some of the most vulnerable members of our community; and

**WHEREAS**, during the current public health emergency, DPHSS serves as the designated Public Health Authority and, as such, is the lead agency for direction and coordination of the whole-of-government response; and

**WHEREAS**, as efforts to continue mass testing and vaccination of the population continue, it is imperative that DPHSS maintain its focus on addressing the numerous issues and concerns surrounding the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, while this investigation is being conducted, the work of CPS continues and in order to ensure there are no further delays in addressing referrals made to CPS, it is appropriate for additional personnel resources to be directed to CPS.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO**, *Maga'hågan Guåhan*, Governor of Guam, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Organic Act of Guam, as amended, and the laws of Guam, do ORDER as follows:

1. A state of emergency with regard to the operations of the Child Protective Services agency within the Department of Public Health and Social Services is hereby declared.
2. The Department of Youth Affairs shall temporarily serve as administrative custodian for CPS for the duration of this emergency period. As administrative custodian, DYA shall have oversight of all CPS operations, including case and referral management, staffing and coordination, and funding and related account and financial information.
  - a. DYA shall, on a regular basis and as requested, make reports to the Director of the Department of Public Health and Social Services regarding the operations of CPS. Any decisions required under Guam law to be made by the appointing authority shall continue to be the responsibility of the Director of DPHSS.
3. The Director of Youth Affairs, or her designee, and such other employees of DYA as may be suitable and appropriate, shall be deputized to serve in additional necessary capacities with the DPHSS to ensure that confidential information related to particular CPS referrals is not disseminated outside of those legally authorized to receive the same.

**SIGNED AND PROMULGATED** at Hagåtña, Guam, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January 2021.

**LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO**  
*Maga'hågan Guåhan*  
Governor of Guam

Attested by:

**JOSHUA F. TENORIO**  
*Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*  
Lt. Governor of Guam





# Office of the Speaker **THERESE M. TERLAJE**

*I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* | 36th Guam Legislature  
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

## COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

### I. OVERVIEW

**Bill No. 41-36 (COR)** was introduced on **Monday, January 25, 2021** by Speaker Therese M. Terlaje and was subsequently referred by the Committee on Rules to the Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture on **Wednesday, January 27, 2021**.

The Committee on Health, Land, Justice, and Culture convened a virtual public hearing on **October 8, 2021, beginning at 9:00 AM** utilizing the Guam Legislature's Virtual Meeting Platform.

#### **Public Notice Requirements**

Notices for this virtual hearing were disseminated via email to all senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on **Friday, October 1, 2021**, and again on **Wednesday, October 6, 2021**. The notice was also published in the Guam Daily Post on **Friday, October 1, 2021**, and again on **Wednesday, October 6, 2021**.

#### **Senators Present:**

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, Committee Chairperson  
Senator Telo T. Taitague, Committee Member  
Senator Joanne M. Brown, Committee Member

#### **Appearing Before the Committee:**

Terry Aguon, Deputy Director, Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS)  
Corrine Buendicho, Acting HSP Administrator, DYA  
Maefe Muyco, Social Services Supervisor I, DPHSS  
Lori Boss, Executive Director, Ohala Adoptions  
Traci Anderson, Associate Director, Ohala Adoptions

#### **Written Testimony Submitted:**

Terry Aguon, Deputy Director, DPHSS  
Melanie Brennan, Director, Department of Youth Affairs

HYRBID PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2021 AT 9:00 AM

---

Lori Boss, Executive Director, Ohala Adoptions

Louisa Hopkins, Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW)

Traci Anderson, Associate Director, Ohala Adoptions

## II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The virtual public hearing was Called-to-Order at **10:43AM**. Bill No. 41-36(COR), AN ACT TO AMEND §4210 OF CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES AND REPORTS FOR ADOPTIONS, was the second item on the agenda.

**Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, Chairperson:** *Hafa Adai* and welcome back to our public hearing this morning. We will resume with our agenda items beginning with Bill No. 41-36 (COR). This bill is introduced by myself, Therese Terlaje. It is an act to amend §4210 of Chapter 4, Title 19, Guam Code Annotated, relative to expediting social studies and reports for adoptions.

As a sponsor, I would just briefly introduce the bill. This bill was introduced in January of this year upon receiving the troubling news that adoption home studies were not being conducted within the 60-day deadline to file a report to the court and that the Bureau of Social Services was continuously requesting the courts for extension. As a result, the placement of children sometimes was delayed or are just put in limbo for a while.

It was during this time that we also learned of the number of case referrals to CPS, which prompted Executive Order 2021-02, that allowed the Department of Youth Affairs to assist the Department of Public Health and Social Services with these referrals.

We understand that there is a continued ongoing recruitment for social workers for this division, for CPS and that they continue to have a shortage; however, that they continue to do ongoing hiring. It was also reported that the quest for home studies made by off island child welfare agencies to the home evaluation placement section of the Department of Public Health and Social Services, Bureau of Social Services Administration were sometimes being denied.

HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2021 AT 9:00 AM

---

These off-island agencies were seeking to place children that were in the state's custody into permanent placement with a child's family member, living on Guam before considering placement with non-family in that other state. All states require that families applying to adopt first compete a home study to determine eligibility and suitability. The home evaluation sections informed these off-island child welfare agencies that they were at the time short staffed having only two social workers, conducting studies and the priority was cases on Guam.

This is just one example of what we had heard back then. And as I said, this bill was introduced in January, but since then we have been assured by CPS and DYA, of course, the Director there, who has been working with CPS, that they have been able to hire retirees as authorized in the different budget laws—last year's budget law and this year's budget law as well, if that provision is continued to aid them in the home studies and that the home studies were since this matter was brought up, being conducted in timely manner. So, I want to commend to CPS for that.

So, we will now accept testimony from Public Health on Bill 41-36.

**Terry Aguon, Deputy Director, DPHSS:** Thank you, Senator. And I'm sorry, can you hear me?

**Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, Chairperson:** Yes. I just wanted to recognize you, the Deputy Director of the Department of Public Health, Mr. Terry Aguon.

**Terry Aguon, Deputy Director, DPHSS:** Alright, thank you, Speaker. I really appreciate it. And thank you to the team that's currently on. I didn't get a list of names, but I do want to recognize previously, Senator Telo Taitague, Senator Mary Torres.

And my understanding is that Senator Joanne Brown was also on the last call and they may still be on this call. So, *hafa adai* and good morning and good morning to all folks that are interested in the wellbeing of our children and making sure that they live long and healthy lives and in safe environments.

HYRBID PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2021 AT 9:00 AM

---

And I think that's really important. I did prepare a statement regarding Bill No. 41-36. And I will go ahead and take this moment to read it. So please bear with me. I read better without my glasses.

*(Please see attached testimony.)*

**Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, Chairperson:** *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'*, Mr. Aguon. We also have signed up to testify today. Lori Boss. Lori, please proceed.

**Lori Boss, Executive Director, Ohala Adoptions:** Good morning.

*(Please see attached testimony.)*

**Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, Chairperson:** Thank you very much. We also have signed up Tracy Anderson, Traci.

**Traci Anderson, Associate Director, Ohala Adoptions:** *Håfa Adai* and Good morning, Madam Speaker, Senators and Committee Members. All of you that are involved, excuse me, through the CPS and BOSSA services were also grateful that you can be here today. When we were first made aware of this, we were then and are still very supportive of Senator actions to help with home studies to be done in a more concise way for the services of the island.

As I look through the bill and I referenced each line and page, starting with page one line five, it's indicated that the home study is assigned at the filing of the petition for adoption. As an agency that will be working with families to meet all of the criteria required for adoption, we cannot wait until like petition is filed to perform a home study.

The home study needs to be completed prior to any placement of a child into a home and family. This offers protection, security and assurance that the home is safe and prepared to provide what is required for the care of the child. Also on page one, line six, it states that the division be the entity that will provide the home study.

HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2021 AT 9:00 AM

---

We propose that the new lobby, in alignment with other state's regulations that state laws and regulations can specify the person or entity who can conduct the home study. Laurie also stated in her statement that the courts can designate a person. The Division can license specific individuals and agencies can be determined to be licensed to provide the home study.

Moving on to page one, lines seven through nine, denotes that an "officer of the division" has different requirements for presenting the home study to the courts. If other entities are allowed to do those home studies, there will be no conflict of interest in presenting home studies for no matter what person is being looked in.

**Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, Chairperson:** I think your microphone turned off. If you could turn it back on.

**Traci Andersen, Associate Director, Ohala Adoptions:** Sorry. Where do I start? I'll just start from where I was. Thank you for letting me know. When a home study is done prior to placement, all of the pertinent safety information has been covered and the only need for recommendation would come from any home visits and evaluations of the family and childhood adjustment...

So, I'm sorry. I stuttered through there, is that if the own study is done prior to placement, then the only recommendations that would have to change is if there was something discovered during post-placement visits. Everything would be safe and secure before the child goes in and then post placement visits would follow up on that.

Whether we as an agency are allowed by courts or permitted by DPHSS, the authorization of different contractors, agencies, qualified individuals, it allows the Division to oversee the home studies, that are provided that the agency can complete the home study, turn that home study into the proper division, the proper people at the Division for acceptance and timely approval.

Upon the formation of old holla adoptions, we began requesting any support and information to be able to work with CPS, to do our own home studies with an agreement through an MOU or an MOA. With any kind of permission from public



HYRBID PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2021 AT 9:00 AM

---

health, we would be happy to do our own home studies to be able to relieve them of that extra burden, not working with private adoptions and also, if they ever needed any extra help, we could help with their workload.

At Ohala Adoptions, we include the home study in our total costs and services. It is not something that we excessively charged for. It's not something that we're looking to make money on. It is just a means to provide the safety security and the priority of the home check before the infant is placed within a home. Minimum qualifications, as noted on page two, lines 11 through 13, should be established and applied to any and all individuals and entities that place or assist in placement of any child.

We hope that the qualifications and requirements that will be reasonably in line with the ability to meet the demands they're in. And we ask that all agencies and individuals associated with placement of a child, be monitored, and held accountable for meeting the requirements. Thank you all for your time. We look forward to open communication and hopefully working together to make home studies easier to obtain. Thank you.

**Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, Chairperson:** Thank you very much. Ms. Andersen. We have other people from public health. I might have mistaken whether you were going to testify or not. So Corinne, did you want to testify or MaeFe?

**Corrine Buendicho, Acting HSP Administrator:** Yes. Speaker.

**Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, Chairperson:** State your name and position again for the record. Thank you.

**Corrine Buendicho, Acting HSP Administrator:** Yes. Good morning. My name is Corinne Buendicho and I am currently the Acting Human Service Program Administrator at this time.

*Buenas yan Hafa Adai,* Honorable Speaker Terlaje, senators, community partners and stakeholders and the Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture. Thank you for the invitation to attend this virtual public hearing. On behalf of the Department of

HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2021 AT 9:00 AM

---

Public Health and Social Services, relative to financial resources, healthcare and legal assistance for foster care parents.

Again, my name is Corinne. I was temporarily appointed to this position by Director Art San Agustin since June of this year. And I am one of the team of seven DYA employees initially reassigned by DYA Director, Melanie Brennan, to assist with a CPS state of emergency declaration back in January of this year by Governor Lou Leon Guerrero.

Before proceeding any further, I'd like to thank you all for the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of the passage of Bill No. 41-36 (COR) relative to expediting social studies and reports for adoptions.

My recent reassignment to BOSSA has been quite an eye-opener as it has allowed me to witness firsthand the challenges the social workers in the bureau have dealt with for many years, most especially lack of adequate staffing levels in all sections. For purposes of this bill, I will focus primarily on the Home Evaluation and Placement Services Section or HPS, which is comprised of the adoption and custody home study services, as well as the licensing certification unit for childcare facilities, family foster homes, and foster care in general.

They are the sole section responsible for conducting social studies and adoption custody reports ordered by the Superior Court of Guam. With only two social workers tasked out of a current staffing of five total to include the Social Service Supervisor I, this responsibility has been overwhelming.

Guam Administrative Rules and Regulations set a 45-day period to submit completed home studies unless specified in the court order. We are grateful that judges have used their discretionary authority to allow 60 days submission of reports. I believe that the passage of Bill No. 41-36 will definitely assist us as we continue to work toward onboarding additional social workers to fill critical vacancies in HPS.

HYRBID PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2021 AT 9:00 AM

---

I support the language and amendment in the bill as it allows qualified private contractors, personnel from other divisions or agencies or qualified retired personnel of the Division to step in and assist with this very important and critical mandate.

One of the most effective tools afforded to us during this CPS emergency declaration was our unlimited access to the cohort of CPS retirees. Even until today, these retirees continue to volunteer their time and provide much needed assistance, guidance, and support. I am very confident that they will be assets if the need arises to contract additional support, to ensure that the Bureau's able to keep up with its mandate to conduct tiny social study reports for adoption and custody cases.

In closing, I would like to just say that in order for the bureau to continue to administer various child welfare programs designed to protect children and strengthened families, then we will need your continued support to introduce bill similar to Bill No. 41-36 that are not only in the best interest of the children and families we serve, but that better enables us to successfully fulfill our mission.

I stand in full support the Bill No. 41-36, as it proffers support specifically to the home evaluation placement section of the bureau, as we navigate our way out of this emergency declaration described in the Executive Order 2021-02. Thank you.

**Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, Chairperson:** Thank you very much. And if you could please submit your testimony in writing, that would be very helpful when you can.

**Corrine Buendicho, Acting HSP Administrator:** Will do. Thank you.

**Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, Chairperson:** Thank you for being the Acting Administrator there in that very hard, difficult position. *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'*, Maefe did you also want to testify?

**Maefe Muyco, Social Services Supervisor I, DPHSS:** Yes, I do. Are you able to hear me? Yes. Please state your name and position again for the record. Thank you.

HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2021 AT 9:00 AM

---

**Maefe Muyco, Social Services Supervisor I, DPHSS:** My name is Maefe Muyco and I am the Social Services Supervisor for the Home Evaluation Placement Service Section here at the Bureau of Social Services Administration.

*Buenas yan Hafa Adai*, Speaker Terlaje and the Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture. Thank you for the invitation to attend this virtual public hearing and informational briefing on behalf of the Department of Public Health and Social Services, relative to financial resources, healthcare, and legal assistance for foster care parents.

My name is Maefe Muyco and I am the Social Services Supervisor for the Home Evaluation Placement Service Section here at the Bureau of Social Services Administration under the Division of Public Welfare with the Department of Public Health and Social Services. I thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony and support of the passage of Bill No. 41-36 relative to expediting social studies and reports for adoption.

As the supervisor for the HSP unit, my responsibility is to ensure that all court order adoptions and custody studies are assigned on a timely manner. As the Department has a 45-day time limit to submit completed social studies for adoption and custody, unless otherwise specified in a court order.

The court has been very generous by giving BOSSA 60 days to complete reports. Extensions may be requested by the Department if necessary. HSP also recruits license and monitors, family foster homes, as well as licensed and monitor childcare facilities. Currently, there are three Social Workers and one Social Services Licensing Officer. The licensing officer is in charge of monitoring and licensing childcare facilities in the HSP unit.

The primary duties of two of the Social Workers are completing adoption and custody study, and one Social Worker as the Foster Family Licensing Social Worker to license all our foster homes. For most of 2021, the HSP unit only had two Social Workers, and I took it upon myself to also take on cases to meet court deadlines.

HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2021 AT 9:00 AM

---

On September 2021, HSP acquire one new social worker with experience in the HSP unit. So now, I have three Social Workers and the one Social Services Licensing Officer. Adoption custody studies are intensive, and it ensures that children are placed with a family that can best meet his or her needs and to also determine what is in the child's best interests.

The HSP unit is designated to provide adoption services locally. Adoption services can generally be defined as optional means an alternative for children who do not have the opportunity for a permanent home and familial relationship with their natural parents and were in stable, nurturing permanent family ties can best be established through legalized adoption.

I believe that the passage of Bill No. 41-36 will definitely assist BOSSA. I support the language and amendment in the bill, as it allows qualified private contractors, personnel from the division or agency or qualify retired personnel of the Division to step in and assist with this very important and critical mandate. I thank you. MaeFe.

**Chairperson Therese M. Terlaje:** Thank you very much. Is Tess here? Okay. I believe that's all that have signed up to testify on this bill and I will now open it up for the panel. Senators, Senator Taitague.

**Senator Telo Taitague, Committee Member:** Thank you, Madam Chair. This question is to MaeFe or Corrine with regards to the cost that may incur by using a private sector. It was said in testimony earlier that the cost could be from 900 to 3000. If public health conducts these social studies on their own, is there a cost to the individual families from public health?

**MaeFe MUYCO, Social Services Supervisor I, DPHSS:** Currently, there is no cost to do adoptions or custody studies. We are ordered by the court to conduct these studies and we have that.

**Senator Telo Taitague, Committee Member:** Okay, thank you, MaeFe. And in case there's an overload and you have the ability which this bill will allow you to utilize the

HYRBID PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2021 AT 9:00 AM

---

private sector to do then funding is going to be required in order to do that, additional funding.

Number one... number two, in the event of a social studies or report that's conducted, if one is done let's say in the month of March and but something has delayed the process, in another perspective, getting through the courts and stuff. And nothing is finalized until like August. Does another study have to be conducted? Does it have a time? Does it die after a certain amount of time? Or any changes?

**Maefe Muyco, Social Services Supervisor I, DPHSS:** No. So, what happens is BOSSA will receive a court order custody or adoption studies from the court. They give us a deadline. Suppose I receive a court order for an adoption study today, filed by the court on October 6 and it's brought to my attention on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

From that day, the court would normally give me 60 days in the court order. It'll say that the report needs to be submitted by December 7<sup>th</sup>. And the judges have been very generous if we're not able to complete the court or custody study by December 7<sup>th</sup>, we would have to write them for an extension, but for the year 2021, we have completed, we have beat those extensions.

We've done a really good job to also include me doing some of the work itself. And what happens is there's normally a court hearing after a few weeks after our submitted report regarding the adoption or custody study.

**Senator Telo Taitague, Committee Member:** I see. Congratulations to be able to meet those deadlines. Good work on you cause this... so other than that, that's all the questions I have. Thanks so much for public health and all the hard work they're doing to try and meet those deadlines. I appreciate it. But this bill, I think of my support this legislation, because it adds that another opportunity if you're overwhelmed and like most government agencies are sometimes very much overwhelmed. This gives you an avenue. So, I appreciate the time. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, Chairperson:** Thank you, Senator Torres. You're recognized.

HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2021 AT 9:00 AM

---

**Senator Mary Camacho Torres:** I don't have any questions. I think the testimony was very thorough provided by the Department of Public Health and also by Lori Boss, Tracy Andersen. In the interest of time, I just want to thank everyone for the very informative testimony today. *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'.*

**Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, Chairperson:** *Si Yu'os Ma'åse',* Senator. I appreciate your consideration of the time. Senator Brown, you are recognized.

**Senator Joanne Brown, Committee Member:** Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I also am supportive of the legislation and certainly the opportunity to expand the other resource pool, to be able to address these type of reviews and inspections so that we can help facilitate placing these children in safe homes during a time of need. So, I support the legislation. Hope you'll consider us as your co-sponsors. With that, thank you to everyone who's testified on this legislation. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, Chairperson:** Thank you, Senator Brown. I believe that concludes the testimony on this bill. I will continue to accept the testimony for 10 days on this bill and ask that you submit it to the Guam Congress Building or to my email [senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com](mailto:senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com). I want to thank everyone who's been present today to testify and for your assistance in pointing out very specific suggestions to improve the legislation.

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse' Todus.*

The public hearing for Bill No. 41-36 (COR) was adjourned at **11:03 AM**.

### III. FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture finds that the Home Evaluation Placement Section (HEPS) of the Bureau of Social Services Administration (BOSSA) under the Division of Public Welfare, DPHSS, is responsible for adoption, custody home study services, licensing certification for childcare facilities, and foster care homes

HYRBID PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2021 AT 9:00 AM

---

and conducting social studies and adoption custody reports ordered by the Superior Court of Guam.

HEPS currently consist of five staff: the Social Services Supervisor I, three Social Worker III's and one Licensing Officer, who oversee 474 children to include relative placement, Child Protective Services (court concurred) approved homes and homes undergoing licensure.

The Governor of Guam, through Executive Order 2021-02, relative to declaring an emergency regarding the operational state of Child Protective Services, temporarily transferred CPS under the administrative custody of Department of Youth Affairs due to the backlog of over 900 referrals to CPS.

HEPS representatives have testified that DPHSS has a 45-day time limit to submit completed social studies for adoption and custody, unless otherwise specified in a court order. In addition, the court allows BOSSA extensions of 60-days to complete reports, which may be requested by the Department.

The Department of Public Health and Social Services, as well as the Department of Youth Affairs, submitted written testimony in support of the bill as it allows hiring of qualified assistance, addressing one aspect of how to assist the agency so that bureau social workers can focus on voluminous cases of child abuse and neglect and ensure that social studies are submitted to the court in a timely manner.

Ohalá' Adoptions submitted written testimony in support of the bill as it allows independent agencies or persons to be approved in Guam to conduct home studies, allowing them to 'pre-approve' applicants. They also suggested the following: (1) home studies be conducted when people apply to be adoptive parents rather than requiring a court order; (2) align with other state regulations which specify the person or entity who can conduct a home study that the court will accept when it hears the adoption petition; (3) entities outside of division be allowed to perform home studies to avoid conflict of interest within the division; (4) authorize private contractors, agencies or qualified individuals to perform home studies instead of keeping language the same, which requires approval through the Department; and (5) establish minimum



HYRBID PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2021 AT 9:00 AM

---

qualifications for all individuals and entities that place or assist in placement of a child are monitored and held accountable.

The Committee has adopted Legislative Counsel's recommendations for stylistic and technical changes to the bill and adopted the recommendation made at the public hearing to allow home studies prior to the filing of a petition for adoption in court.

The Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture hereby reports out **Bill No. 41- 36(COR) – As Amended by the Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture- Introduced by Speaker Therese M. Terlaje- "AN ACT TO AMEND §4210 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES AND REPORTS FOR ADOPTIONS,"** with the recommendation TO DO PASS.

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

**Bill No. 41-36 (COR)**

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje *Tmt*

**AN ACT TO *AMEND* §4210 OF CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19,  
GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO  
EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES AND REPORTS FOR  
ADOPTIONS.**

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

2 **Section 1.** §4210 of Chapter 4, Title 19, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby  
3 *amended* to read:

4 “ § 4210. **Social Study.**

5 (a) Upon the filing of a petition, the court shall direct that a social study be  
6 made by the Division and that a report in writing of such study be submitted to the  
7 court prior to the hearing, except that where the child's guardian or the person  
8 whose consent to adoption is required is an officer of the Division, it shall file with  
9 the court prior to the hearing a report of its social study. The court may order  
10 additional social studies if it deems necessary. The social study shall include the  
11 social history, the present condition of the child, the child's placement in the home of  
12 the petitioners and his adjustment therein, the suitability of such home and such  
13 other information as may be pertinent to the adoption proceeding, and the report  
14 submitted shall include a recommendation and the reasons therefore as to whether  
15 or not the petition for adoption should be granted and shall be accompanied by a  
16 verified transcript of the child's birth certificate. The purpose of the social study is

1 to aid the court in making disposition of the petition and shall be considered by  
2 the court prior thereto.

3 (b) In order to ensure timely social studies and reports are made to the court,  
4 the Division may authorize the social studies and reports to be done by qualified  
5 private contractors, personnel from other Divisions or agencies, or qualified retired  
6 personnel of the Division; provided that social studies and reports be submitted to  
7 the Division for review and approval prior to submission to the court. The Division,  
8 for a specified fee, may conduct or authorize social studies to aid courts in other  
9 jurisdictions in the courts' consideration of adoption of children outside of Guam  
10 by a Guam resident.

11 i. Minimum Qualifications. Private contractors, personnel from other  
12 Divisions or agencies or retired personnel shall have minimum qualifications as  
13 determined by the Division.”

14 **Section 2. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any  
15 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity *shall*  
16 *not* affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without  
17 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are  
18 severable.

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

**Bill No. 41-36(COR)**

As Amended by the Committee  
on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje

**AN ACT TO *AMEND* §4210 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 4,  
TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO  
EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES AND REPORTS FOR  
ADOPTIONS.**

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

**Section 1.** §4210 of Article 2, Chapter 4, Title 19, Guam Code Annotated,  
is hereby *amended* to read:

**“ § 4210. Social Study.**

**(a)** Upon the filing of a petition, the court shall direct that a social study be  
conducted by the Division and that a report in writing of such study be submitted to  
the court prior to the hearing, except that where the child's guardian or the person  
whose consent to adoption is required is an officer of the Division, it shall file with  
the court prior to the hearing a report of its social study. The court may order  
additional social studies if it deems necessary. Social Studies may also be made at  
the discretion of the Division prior to the filing of a petition on the request of birth  
parents, potential adoptive parents or Child Protective Services. The social study  
shall include the social history, the present condition of the child, the child's  
placement in the home of the petitioners and his adjustment therein, the suitability

1 of such home and such other information as may be pertinent to the adoption  
2 proceeding, and the report submitted shall include such information,  
3 a recommendation, and the reasons therefore as to whether or not the petition for  
4 adoption should be granted and shall be accompanied by a verified transcript of the  
5 child's birth certificate. The purpose of the social study and report is to aid the court  
6 in making disposition of the petition and shall be considered by the court prior  
7 thereto.

8 (b) In order to ensure timely social studies are conducted and reports are  
9 submitted to the court, the Division may authorize personnel from other divisions or  
10 agencies, or may procure services from private contractors or retired personnel of  
11 the Division, to conduct social studies and make reports; provided that such social  
12 studies and reports shall be submitted to the Division for review and approval prior  
13 to submission to the court. When a Guam resident files a petition for adoption in  
14 another jurisdiction, the Division may charge the Guam resident(s) a fee for social  
15 studies conducted and reports made under this Subsection.

16 (c) Minimum Qualifications. Private contractors, personnel from other  
17 Divisions or agencies, and retired personnel of the Division conducting social studies  
18 and making reports under this Section shall have minimum qualifications as  
19 determined by the Division.”

20 **Section 2. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any  
21 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity *shall*  
22 *not* affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without  
23 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are  
24 severable.

***I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2021 (FIRST) Regular Session**  
COMMITTEE MARK-UP

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

**Bill No. 41-36 (COR)**  
As Amended by the Committee  
on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

Introduced by: Therese M. Terlaje

**AN ACT TO AMEND §4210 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 4,  
TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO  
EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES AND REPORTS FOR  
ADOPTIONS.**

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

2 **Section 1.** §4210 of Article 2, Chapter 4, Title 19, Guam Code Annotated,  
3 is hereby *amended* to read:

4 “ § 4210. **Social Study.**

5 (a) Upon the filing of a petition, the court shall direct that a social study be  
6 conducted by the Division and that a report in writing of such study be submitted to  
7 the court prior to the hearing, except that where the child's guardian or the person  
8 whose consent to adoption is required is an officer of the Division, it shall file with  
9 the court prior to the hearing a report of its social study. The court may order  
10 additional social studies if it deems necessary. Social Studies may also be made at  
11 the discretion of the Division prior to the filing of a petition on the request of birth  
12 parents, potential adoptive parents or Child Protective Services. The social study  
13 shall include the social history, the present condition of the child, the child's  
14 placement in the home of the petitioners and his adjustment therein, the suitability  
15 of such home and such other information as may be pertinent to the adoption

Deleted: made

1 proceeding, and the report submitted shall include such information,  
2 a recommendation, and the reasons therefore as to whether or not the petition for  
3 adoption should be granted and shall be accompanied by a verified transcript of the  
4 child's birth certificate. The purpose of the social study and report is to aid the court  
5 in making disposition of the petition and shall be considered by the court prior  
6 thereto.

7 (b) In order to ensure timely social studies are conducted and reports are  
8 submitted to the court, the Division may authorize personnel from other divisions or  
9 agencies, or may procure services from private contractors or retired personnel of  
10 the Division, to conduct social studies and make reports; provided that such social  
11 studies and reports shall be submitted to the Division for review and approval prior  
12 to submission to the court. When a Guam resident files a petition for adoption in  
13 another jurisdiction, the Division may charge the Guam resident(s) a fee for social  
14 studies conducted and reports made under this Subsection.

15 (c) Minimum Qualifications. Private contractors, personnel from other  
16 Divisions or agencies, and retired personnel of the Division conducting social studies  
17 and making reports under this Section shall have minimum qualifications as  
18 determined by the Division.

19 **Section 2. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any  
20 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity *shall*  
21 *not* affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without  
22 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are  
23 severable.

Deleted: made

Deleted: the

Deleted: to be done by qualified private contractors, personnel from other Divisions or agencies, or qualified retired personnel of the Division

Deleted: I

Deleted: .

Deleted: a specified fee, may conduct or authorize

Deleted: to aid courts in other jurisdictions in the courts' consideration of adoption of children outside of Guam by a Guam resident.

Deleted: i.

Deleted: or



Vice Speaker

**TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES**

**CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON RULES**

*I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

GUAM CONGRESS BUILDING  
163 CHALAN SANTO PAPA  
HAGÁTÑA, GUAM 96910  
TEL 671-472-2461  
COR@GUAMLEGISLATURE.ORG

February 10, 2021

# MEMO

**To:** **Rennae Meno**  
Clerk of the Legislature

**From:** **Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes**  
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

**Re:** **Fiscal Notes**

---

*Buenas yan Håfa adai.*

Attached, please find the fiscal notes for the following bills:

**Bill No. 41-36 (COR)**  
**Bill No. 42-36 (COR)**  
**Bill No. 44-36 (COR)**  
**Bill No. 47-36 (COR)**  
**Bill No. 57-36 (COR)**

Please forward the same to Management Information Services (MIS) for posting on our website.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mary Maravilla, Committee on Rules Director at 472-2461.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.





**Bureau of Budget & Management Research  
Fiscal Note of Bill No. 41-36 (COR)**

AN ACT TO AMEND §4210 OF CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES AND REPORTS FOR ADOPTIONS.

**Department/Agency Appropriation Information**

Dept./Agency Affected: Unified Judiciary of Guam	Dept./Agency Head: Kristina L. Baird, Administrator of the Courts
Department's General Fund (GF) appropriation(s) to date:	\$29,444,760
Department's Other Fund appropriation(s) to date: Safe Streets Fund (\$100,837)	\$100,837
<b>Total Department/Agency Appropriation(s) to date:</b>	<b>\$29,545,597</b>

**Fund Source Information of Proposed Appropriation**

	General Fund:	Special Fund:	Total:
FY 2020 Unreserved Fund Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 2021 Adopted Revenues	\$0	0	0
FY 2021 Appro. (P.L. 35-99)	\$0	0	0
Sub-total:	\$0	0	0
Less appropriation in Bill	\$0	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Estimated Fiscal Impact of Bill**

	One Full Fiscal Year	For Remainder of FY 2021 (if applicable)	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
General Fund	1/	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Special Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	1/	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

- Does the bill contain "revenue generating" provisions? / / Yes / X/ No  
If Yes, see attachment
- Is amount appropriated adequate to fund the intent of the appropriation? /X/ N/A / / Yes / / No  
If no, what is the additional amount required? \$ \_\_\_\_\_ /X/ N/A
- Does the Bill establish a new program/agency? / / Yes / X/ No  
If yes, will the program duplicate existing programs/agencies? /X/ N/A / / Yes / / No  
Is there a federal mandate to establish the program/agency? / / Yes / X/ No
- Will the enactment of this Bill require new physical facilities? / / Yes / X/ No
- Was Fiscal Note coordinated with the affected dept/agency? If no, indicate reason: /X/ Yes / / No  
/X/ Requested agency comments not received by due date: Unified Judiciary of Guam / / Other:

Analyst: <u>Raymond Rieta, BMA II</u>	Date: <u>2/19/21</u>	Director: <u>Lester L. Carlson, Jr., Director</u>	Date: <u>FEB 09 2021</u>
---------------------------------------	----------------------	---	--------------------------

Notes:  
1/: See attached Comments.

**Bureau of Budget & Management Research**  
**Comments on Bill No. 41-36 (COR)**

The intent of Bill No. 41-36 is to expedite the submission of social studies and reports made by the Division of Social Services (Division) as required by the court upon the filing of an adoption petition and prior to the adoption court hearing. The social study shall include the social history, the present condition of the child, the child's placement in the home of the petitioners and his or her adjustment therein, the suitability of such home and such other information as may be pertinent to the adoption proceeding, and the report submitted shall include a recommendation and the reasons therefore as to whether or not the petition for adoption should be granted and shall be accompanied by a verified transcript of the child's birth certificate.

The Bill adds a new part (b) to §4210 authorizing the Division to allow private contractors, personnel from other Divisions or agencies, or qualified retired personnel of the Division to complete said social studies and reports. The Bill also allows the Division to conduct or authorize social studies, for a specified fee, to aid courts in other jurisdictions in the court's consideration of adoption of children outside of Guam by a Guam resident.

Based on information obtained from the American Adoptions website, the adoption home study cost can vary widely, but typically ranges from \$900 to \$3,000. The unique details of each circumstance, such as residency of adoption and type of adoption being pursued, will determine where the home study costs will fall in that range. However, absent additional information regarding previous social studies and reports relative to adoptions on Guam and the quantity of reports prepared and submitted historically, a more specific financial impact cannot be determined at this time.



**Office of the Speaker**  
**THERESE M. TERLAJE**

*I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* | 36th Guam Legislature  
 Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

**COMMITTEE VOTE SHEET**

**Bill No. 41-36 (COR), As Amended by the Committee on Health,  
 Land, Justice and Culture – “An Act to Amend §4210 of Article  
 2, Chapter 4, Title 19, Guam Code Annotated, Relative to  
 Expediting Social Studies and Reports for Adoptions.”**

	SIGNATURE	TO DO PASS	TO NOT PASS	TO REPORT OUT ONLY	TO ABSTAIN	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE
<b>Speaker Therese M. Terlaje</b> Chairperson	<i>Therese M. Terlaje</i>	✓ 10/13/21				
<b>Senator Sabina Flores Perez</b> Vice Chairperson of Health, Land and Culture	E-VOTE 10/13/21			✓		
<b>Senator Telena C. Nelson</b> Vice Chairperson of Justice						
<b>Vice Speaker Tina Muña Barnes</b> Member	E-VOTE 10/13/21	✓				
<b>Senator Joanne M. Brown</b> Member	E-VOTE 10/13/21	✓				
<b>Senator Christopher M. Dueñas</b> Member	E-VOTE 10/13/21			✓		
<b>Senator Amanda L. Shelton</b> Member	E-VOTE 10/14/21			✓		
<b>Senator Telo T. Taitague,</b> Member	E-VOTE 10/13/21	✓				
<b>Senator Jose “Pedro” Terlaje</b> Member						

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 472-3586 | Fax: (671) 969-3590 | Email: [senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com](mailto:senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com) | [www.senatorterlaje.com](http://www.senatorterlaje.com)

*\*For transmittal of official Messages & Communications to the Guam Legislature to be distributed to all Senators,  
 please send to: [speaker@guamlegislature.org](mailto:speaker@guamlegislature.org)*



Speaker Therese M. Terlaje &lt;senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com&gt;

---

**REQUEST FOR E-VOTE: Bill No. 41-36(COR), As Amended by the Committee**

7 messages

**Speaker Therese M. Terlaje** <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com> Wed, Oct 13, 2021 at 2:41 PM  
 To: Sabina Perez <sabina@senatorperez.org>, Senator Sabina Perez <office@senatorperez.org>, "Office of Senator Telen C. Nelson" <senatorcnelson@gmail.com>, Senator Telen Cruz Nelson <senatorcnelson@guamlegislature.org>, Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>, "Honorable Joanne M. Brown" <office@senatorjoannebrown.com>, Chris Duenas <senatorchrisduenas@gmail.com>, "Amanda S. Shelton" <senatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, Office of Senator Shelton Guam Legislature <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>, Senator Jose Pedro Terlaje <senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>

*Hafa Adai* Committee Members,

Please see attached Committee Report on **Bill No. 41-36 (COR) – AS AMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, LAND, JUSTICE AND CULTURE- Introduced by Speaker Therese M. Terlaje- “AN ACT TO AMEND §4210 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES AND REPORTS FOR ADOPTIONS.”**

Please indicate your preferred action from the following;

- TO DO PASS
- TO DO NOT PASS
- TO REPORT OUT ONLY
- TO ABSTAIN;
- TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE

Please submit your vote **ASAP**. Your vote will be filed with the Committee on Rules.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Respectfully,  
 Natasha Charfauros  
 Policy Analyst

**Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje**  
 Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

*I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

36th Guam Legislature


Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T: (671) 472-3586 F: (671) 989-3590 Email: [senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com](mailto:senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com)

website: [www.senatorterlaje.com](http://www.senatorterlaje.com)

---

Electronic Privacy Notice: This e-mail and any attachment(s), contains information that is, or may be, covered by electronic communications privacy laws and legal privileges, and is also confidential and proprietary in nature. If you are not the intended recipient, please be advised that you are legally prohibited from retaining, using, copying, distributing, or otherwise disclosing the information in this e-mail or any attachment in any manner. Instead, please reply to the sender that you have received this communication in error, and then immediately delete it. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

 **CR Bill No. 41-36(COR).pdf**  
7124K

**Chris Duenas** <senatorchrisduenas@gmail.com>

Wed, Oct 13, 2021 at 2:45 PM

To: "Speaker Therese M. Terlaje" <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Cc: "Amanda S. Shelton" <senatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, "Honorable Joanne M. Brown"

<office@senatorjoannebrown.com>, Office of Senator Shelton Guam Legislature

<officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, "Office of Senator Telena C. Nelson" <senatortcnelson@gmail.com>,

Sabina Perez <sabina@senatorperez.org>, Senator Jose Pedro Terlaje <senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>, Senator

Sabina Perez <office@senatorperez.org>, Senator Telena Cruz Nelson <senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org>, Senator

Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>, Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes

<senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>

To report out only.

[Quoted text hidden]

--

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse',*



**Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas**

36th Guam Legislature

*I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

(671) 989-9554 - [116 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagatna](#)

[senatorchrisduenas@gmail.com](mailto:senatorchrisduenas@gmail.com)

   @senatorduenas

This e-mail message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above and may contain confidential and privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of the information contained in this transmission is strictly PROHIBITED. If you have received this transmission in error, please immediately notify us by replying to [senatorchrisduenas@gmail.com](mailto:senatorchrisduenas@gmail.com) and delete the message immediately. Thank you very much.

**Office of Senator Sabina Perez** <office@senatorperez.org>

Wed, Oct 13, 2021 at 2:57 PM

To: "Speaker Therese M. Terlaje" <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

To report out

On Wed, Oct 13, 2021 at 2:42 PM Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

--

**Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez**

Committee on the Environment, Revenue & Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics, Research, and Planning

*I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

36th Guam Legislature

O: 194 Hernan Cortez Avenue, First Floor, Terlaje Professional Building, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

M: Guam Congress Building, [163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910](#)

T: (671) 989-2968

E: [office@senatorperez.org](mailto:office@senatorperez.org)

[www.senatorperez.org](http://www.senatorperez.org)

---

**Office of Senator Joanne M. Brown** <office@senatorjoannebrown.com>  
To: "Speaker Therese M. Terlaje" <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Wed, Oct 13, 2021 at 3:02 PM

Hafa Adai Speaker Terlaje,  
To Do Pass.

Very Respectfully,

**Joanne**

Office of Senator Joanne M. Brown | *I Mina' Trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan (36th Guam Legislature)*  
[120 Father Dueñas Avenue](#)  
Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103  
Hagåtña, Guam 96932

**Hafa Adai! Except with respect to public records exempt from disclosure by express provisions of the law, please be advised that, as an official office of the Legislative Branch of the Government of Guam, this electronic communication, is subject to the laws, rules and regulations governing the Sunshine Reform Act, and any other processes and procedures carried out in the spirit of an open and transparent government.**

On Wed, Oct 13, 2021 at 2:42 PM Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes** <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>  
To: "Speaker Therese M. Terlaje" <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Wed, Oct 13, 2021 at 3:49 PM

To do pass.

On Wed, Oct 13, 2021 at 2:42 PM Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Senator Telo Taitague** <senatortelot@gmail.com>  
To: "Speaker Therese M. Terlaje" <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Wed, Oct 13, 2021 at 9:41 PM

To do pass

***Si Yu'os Ma'åse,***

***Create a Great Day!***

*Senator Telo T. Taitague*  
36th Guam Legislature  
Suite 309 DNA Building  
[238 Archbishop Flores St.](#)  
[Hagatna, Guam 96910](#)  
Tel: (671) 989-8356  
Email: [senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com)

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Office of Senator Amanda L. Shelton** <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org> Thu, Oct 14, 2021 at 8:50 AM  
To: "Speaker Therese M. Terlaje" <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>  
Cc: Sabina Perez <sabina@senatorperez.org>, Senator Sabina Perez <office@senatorperez.org>, "Office of Senator Telena C. Nelson" <senatortcnelson@gmail.com>, Senator Telena Cruz Nelson <senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org>, Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>, "Honorable Joanne M. Brown" <office@senatorjoannebrown.com>, Chris Duenas <senatorchrisduenas@gmail.com>, "Amanda S. Shelton" <senatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>, Senator Jose Pedo Terlaje <senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>

To report out only.

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse'.*



**Office of the People • Senator Amanda L. Shelton**  
Legislative Secretary & Chairwoman, Committee on  
Air Transportation, Parks, Tourism, Higher Education,  
and the Advancement of Women, Youth, and Senior  
Citizens

**36th Guam Legislature**  
[163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910](#)  
T +1 (671) 969-2574 • (671) 989-2572  
E [officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org](mailto:officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org)

[Quoted text hidden]