

I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
BILL STATUS

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	FISCAL NOTES	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
225-37 (COR)	Therese M. Terlaje	AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$5,000,000) TO THE GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY FOR THE 6-STEP BASE PAY INCREASE FOR NURSES.	12/27/23 1:59 p.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2023 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 225-37 (COR)

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje *TMT*

**AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF FIVE
MILLION DOLLARS (\$5,000,000) TO THE
GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY FOR
THE 6-STEP BASE PAY INCREASE FOR NURSES**

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that
3 the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) has lost a total of seventy (70)
4 nurses in 2023 primarily due to non-competitive wages in comparison to other
5 hospitals in Guåhan and nationwide counterparts.

6 *I Liheslaturan further* finds that that GMHA employed 36 travel nurses in the
7 ICU, NICU, PICU and the Telemetry Unit as of November 2023 and has spent a
8 total of \$6,218,000 for travel nurse salaries from January to November of 2023. The
9 lack of local nurses at the GMHA has resulted in the reliance of travel nurses to
10 sustain the current operations at the hospital, ultimately increasing the costs of
11 nursing personnel while still experiencing a shortage in nurses.

12 *I Liheslaturan* also finds that the lack of nurses at GMHA is detrimental to the
13 operations of the hospital and affects medical services necessary for the health and
14 safety of the people of Guåhan. It can take up to twenty-one (21) hours for an

1 inpatient bed to open up in the ER due to the nursing shortage. In the ER division,
2 one (1) nurse can be managing up to four (4) patients at a time in addition to their
3 other duties and responsibilities which can lead to personnel burn-out and a decrease
4 in quality of care for the patients at GMHA.

5 Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to provide the imperative
6 funding needed to justly compensate the hardworking nurses at the GMHA and to
7 answer the request of the hospital to assist with operational challenges.

8 **Section 2. Appropriation**

9 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the sum of Five Million Dollars
10 **(\$5,000,000)** is hereby appropriated to the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority from
11 the Fiscal Year 2024 General Fund revenues collected in excess of the adopted levels
12 indicated in Public Law 37-42 for the purposes of funding the 6-step base pay
13 increase for nurses.

14 **Section 3. Effective Date**

15 This Act shall be effective upon enactment.