

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2024 (SECOND) Regular Session

Bill No. 366-37 (COR)

Introduced by:

Roy A. B. Quinata 

Joe S. San Agustin 

Tina Muña Barnes 

AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW §22437.1 OF CHAPTER 22, TITLE 5 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO PROHIBITING THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FROM PASSING ON FEES CHARGED BY CREDIT CARD PROCESSORS TO COLLECT PAYMENT OF TAXES OR USE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM SERVICES AND TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF FOUR MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED AND FORTY THREE DOLLARS (\$4,710,443) TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED AND UNENCUMBERED EXCESS FY2024 GENERAL FUND REVENUES TO COVER THE ANTICIPATED FEES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025.

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 that imposing convenience fees for credit card payments when citizens engage with
4 the Government of Guam for tax payments or service usage could potentially
5 discourage the use of such payment methods, thus impacting the convenience and
6 accessibility of government services.

7 During the COVID-19 pandemic, the waiver of such fees was implemented to
8 reduce in-person transactions, contributing to health safety and streamlining the

1 payment process. This policy had significant positive outcomes, notably improved
2 government revenue collections and reduced instances of dishonored checks.

3 Recognizing the sustained benefits of this initiative, it is the intent of *I*
4 *Liheslatura* to extend the prohibition on passing credit card processing fees to the
5 citizens. By appropriating funds to cover these fees for fiscal year 2025, the
6 Legislature aims to maintain the integrity and efficacy of the government's payment
7 collection system and ensure continued ease of access for the people of Guam to
8 essential government services.

9 **Section 2.** A new §22437.1 of Chapter 22, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated,
10 is hereby *added* to read:

11 **“§22437.1 Credit Card Processor Fees Charged to Taxpayers Prohibited.**

12 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Government of Guam is
13 prohibited from charging the People of Guam any credit card processor fees to
14 collect payments of taxes or use Government of Guam Services. The Department of
15 Administration shall include in their annual budget request the appropriation needed
16 to support the costs of waiving the credit card processor fees on the People of Guam.

17 **Section 3. Appropriation to the Department of Administration:**

18 The sum of Four Million Seven Hundred Ten Thousand Four Hundred and
19 Forty-Three Dollars (\$4,710,443) is appropriated to the Department of
20 Administration from the unappropriated and unencumbered excess FY2024 General
21 Fund Revenues to cover the anticipated credit card processor fees for Fiscal Year
22 2025.

23 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment.

24 **Section 5. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
25 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity shall
26 not affect other provisions or applications of this Act which can be given effect

- 1 without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
- 2 Act are severable.