



CARL T.C. GUTIERREZ  
GOVERNOR OF GUAM

APR 17 1998

Refer to  
Legislative Secretary

The Honorable Antonio R. Unpingco  
Speaker  
Twenty-Fourth Guam Legislature  
Guam Legislature Temporary Building  
155 Hesler Street  
Agana, Guam 96910

OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY	
ACKNOWLEDGMENT RECEIPT	
Received By	<u>[Signature]</u>
Time	<u>4:45pm</u>
Date	<u>4-17-98</u>

Dear Speaker Unpingco:

Enclosed please find a copy of Substitute Bill No. 549 (COR), "AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE GUAM POLICE DEPARTMENT'S CRIME VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE UNIT AND TO RENAME THE UNIT TO THE 'ERICA AND CHRISTINA VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE UNIT", which I have signed into law today as **Public Law No. 24-177**.

This legislation appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund for Fiscal Years 1998 and 1999 to the Crime Victim's Assistance Unit of the Guam Police Department. It also authorizes 3 new full time equivalents (FTEs) for that unit, and renames the unit to be the "Erica and Christina Crime Victims' Assistance Unit", to memorialize the short lives of Erica Misericordia Crisostomo Aquino and Christina San Nicolas, both children who were recent tragic victims of crimes committed by family members.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]  
Carl T. C. Gutierrez  
Governor of Guam

Attachment 04788

cc: The Honorable Joanne M. S. Brown  
Legislative Secretary

Office of the Speaker  
ANTONIO R. UNPINGCO  
Date: 4-17-98  
Time: 1445  
Rec'd by: [Signature]  
Print Name: Charles D.

TWENTY-FOURTH GUAM LEGISLATURE  
1998 (SECOND) Regular Session

CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO THE GOVERNOR


This is to certify that Substitute Bill No. 549 (COR), "AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE GUAM POLICE DEPARTMENT'S CRIME VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE UNIT AND TO RENAME THE UNIT TO THE "ERICA AND CHRISTINA VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE UNIT," was on the 27<sup>TH</sup> day of March, 1998, duly and regularly passed.



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ANTONIO R. UNPINGCO  
Speaker


Attested:



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MARK FORBES  
Senator and Acting Legislative  
Secretary

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This Act was received by the Governor this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1998, at  
3:30 o'clock P.M.



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Assistant Staff Officer  
Governor's Office

APPROVED:



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CARL T. C. GUTIERREZ  
Governor of Guam

Date: 4-17-98

Public Law No. 24-177

TWENTY-FOURTH GUAM LEGISLATURE  
1998 (SECOND) Regular Session

**Bill No. 549 (COR)**

As substituted by the Committee on  
Finance and Taxation and as further  
substituted on the Floor.

Introduced by:

A. C. Blaz  
C. A. Leon Guerrero  
L. Leon Guerrero  
T. C. Ada  
V. C. Pangelinan  
F. B. Aguon, Jr.  
J. M.S. Brown  
Felix P. Camacho  
Francisco P. Camacho  
M. C. Charfauros  
E. J. Cruz  
W. B.S.M. Flores  
Mark Forbes  
L. F. Kasperbauer  
A. C. Lamorena, V  
J. C. Salas  
A. L.G. Santos  
F. E. Santos  
A. R. Unpingco  
J. Won Pat-Borja

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO  
THE GUAM POLICE DEPARTMENT'S  
CRIME VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE UNIT AND  
TO RENAME THE UNIT TO THE "ERICA  
AND CHRISTINA VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE  
UNIT."

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

2            **Section 1. Short Title.**        In 1997 as a result of family violence, 6 year  
3 old *Erica Misericordia Crisostomo Aquino* and 12 year old *Christina San*  
4 *Nicolas*, became tragic victims of violent crimes. These two little girls were  
5 robbed of their young, hopeful and productive lives. They are victims of a crime  
6 that saddens and pains the family they left behind and a community trying to  
7 cope with such a horrible violence. Erica's mother, Therese Cruz Crisostomo,  
8 also fell victim to violence, which took both her and her daughter's lives in a  
9 senseless act of violence. Therese was an experienced social worker who was  
10 actively involved in the Family Violence Task Force, and spent countless hours  
11 assisting, counseling and caring for victims of family violence. *Erica* and  
12 *Christina* found shelter in the places and people whom they trusted the most –  
13 their home, their family. Unknown to them, this refuge and place they called  
14 home is the very place that violent and senseless crimes occur. While the loss of  
15 these two young lives strike at the very heart and passion of our community, the  
16 loss was even more painful and tragic to the families they left behind. We must  
17 now look forward and learn from such tragedies and how we can eliminate such  
18 senseless crimes from happening again. The Guam Legislature, in memory of  
19 Erica and Christina, two (2) very young and beautiful children of Guam, whose  
20 lives inspired all who came in contact with them, their families, friends,  
21 classmates and all of us, and to insure that the tragedies that were inflicted upon  
22 them will, hopefully, never happen again and hereby cites this Act as the "*Erica*  
23 *and Christina Victims' Assistance Act of 1998.*"

24            **Section 2. Legislative Findings and Intent.** The Guam Legislature finds

1 that the Guam Police Department is in a unique position to provide assistance to  
2 victims of crime and other traumatic incidences that may have a substantial  
3 impact on the emotional recovery of the victim and their families.

4 The Guam Legislature finds and declares that crime of violence is a serious  
5 crime against society; that there are hundreds of persons in Guam who are  
6 regularly beaten, tortured and, in some cases even killed, by criminals; that a  
7 significant number of women who are assaulted are pregnant; that victims of  
8 crime of violence come from all social and economic background and ethnic  
9 groups; and that children, even when they are not themselves physically  
10 assaulted, suffer deep and lasting emotional effects from exposure to crime of  
11 violence. It is therefore the intent of the Guam Legislature to assure the victims  
12 of crimes of violence the maximum protection from abuse the law can provide.

13 Violent crime on Guam is on the increase. During calendar year 1996,  
14 Guam experienced 15 cases of murder, 168 rapes, 107 robberies and 231  
15 aggravated assaults. Of the overall 15,760 cases reported in 1996, 523 were  
16 reports of violent crime. Specifically in 1996, 7 murders were related to domestic  
17 or family disputes.

18 While the Federal Government allocates roughly Three Hundred  
19 Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) a year to Guam under the national Crime  
20 Victims Program (Victims of Crime Act), the local government has not dedicated  
21 sufficient matching resources to law enforcement agencies to develop a truly  
22 serious response to the needs of victims of crime. This appropriation is Guam's  
23 first step at local funding.

24 **Section 3.** There is hereby authorized and appropriated the sum of Two  
25 Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) for Fiscal Years 1998 and 1999 for

1 the Guam Police Department's "Crime Victims' Assistance Unit," which shall  
2 also be authorized three (3) additional FTEs for FY98 to assist in the operation of  
3 the Unit. The funds shall be used for personnel, training, contractual services,  
4 counseling services, equipment and other required needs of the Unit to assist the  
5 Unit in meeting its mission, goals and objectives by providing vital assistance to  
6 victims of crimes of violence and their families.

7       **Section 4. Name Change.** The Guam Police Department shall  
8 rename its existing crime victims assistance unit to the, "*Erica and Christina Crime*  
9 *Victims Assistance Unit.*" There is hereby additionally authorized and  
10 appropriated the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) from the General  
11 Fund in order to effectuate the name change mandated herein, and pay for the  
12 additional costs and expenses to further the purposes of this Act.



March 26, 1998

LEGISLATIVE  
COMMITTEE  
MEMBERSHIP

Chairman  
Finance & Taxation

Vice-Chairman  
Rules,  
Government Reform  
& Federal Affairs

Education

Natural Resources

Health &  
Human Services

Tourism, Economic  
Development & Cultural  
Affairs

Judiciary,  
Public Safety &  
Consumer Protection

Transportation,  
Telecommunications, &  
Micronesian Affairs

MEMBERSHIP

Guam Finance  
Commission

Commission on Self  
Determination

The Honorable Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco  
24th Guam Legislature  
155 Hesler Street  
Agana, Guam 96910

Dear Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Finance and Taxation, to which was referred Bill  
No. 549 (COR), "

"AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE GUAM  
POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
A CRIME VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE UNIT," herein reports  
back with the recommendation TO DO PASS.

Votes of the committee members are as follows:

- To Pass
- Not To Pass
- To Place in Inactive File
- Abstained
- Off-Island
- Not Available

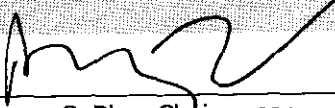
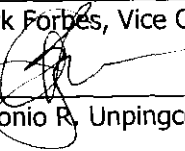
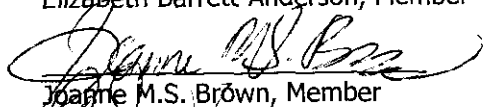
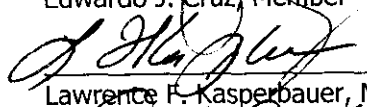
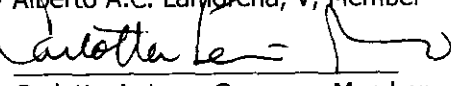

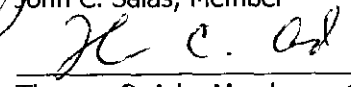
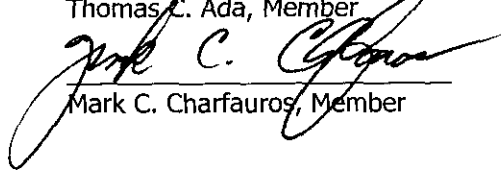
Sincerely,

Anthony C. Blaz

Attachment

*Committee on Finance and Taxation*  
*Voting Sheet on*  
*Bill No. 549*

"AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE GUAM POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CRIME VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE UNIT."

COMMITTEE MEMBER	TO PASS	NOT TO PASS	ABSTAIN	INACTIVE FILE
 Anthony C. Blaz, Chairperson	✓			
Mark Forbes, Vice Chairperson				
 Antonio R. Unpingco, Ex-Officio	✓			
Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson, Member				
 Joanne M.S. Brown, Member	✓			
Edwardo J. Cruz, Member				
 Lawrence F. Kasperbauer, Member	✓			
Alberto A.C. Lamorena, V, Member				
 Carlotta A. Leon Guerrero, Member	✓			
 John C. Salas, Member	✓			
 Thomas C. Ada, Member	✓			
 Mark C. Charfauros, Member	✓			
William B.S.M. Flores, Member				
Francis E. Santos, Member				



**Committee on Finance and Taxation**  
**Report on Bill No. 549**

"AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE GUAM POLICE DEPARTMENT  
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CRIME VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE UNIT."

**PUBLIC NOTICE:**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Standing Rules, notice of the Public Hearing on Bill No. 549 was published in the Pacific Daily News on Friday March 20 and Tuesday, March 24, 1998.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

The Committee on Finance and Taxation conducted a public hearing on Wednesday, March 25, 1998 at 9:00 AM in the Legislature's Public Hearing Room to hear testimonies on Bill No. 549.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

The hearing was called to order by the Chairperson of the Committee on Finance and Taxation, Vice Speaker Anthony C. Blaz. Committee members present were:

Senator Edwardo Cruz

Senator Lawrence Kasperbauer

Other Senators present were:

Senator Frank B. Aguon, Jr.

**PROVIDING PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON THE BILL:**

Alicia Limtiaco, A..G. Office

Josephine F. Fernandez, GPD Victims Assistance Unit

**BACKGROUND:**

Bill 549 was first conceived when Vice Speaker Blaz was informed of the plans of the Guam Police Department to set up a unit to be called “Crime Victims Assistance Unit” by reallocating certain funding within the budget of GPD to inaugurate this plan. Senator Blaz immediately pursued the plan through the drafting of Bill 549 to appropriate \$250,000 to fund the inauguration and continuing of this plan within the GPD.

At the Public Hearing, Lt. Josephine Fernandez from the GPD who was assigned to set up this unit testified in favor of Bill 549 appropriating \$250,000.

Also testifying at the Public Hearing was Alicia Limtiaco from the Attorney General Office in favor of the Bill 549 appropriating \$250,000.

**FINDINGS:**

Bill 549 (COR) is necessary for the continuing help and assistance to Crime Victims. It is the findings of the Committee on Finance and Taxation that creating the “Crime Victims Assistance Unit” is urgent and that adequate funding is vitally needed to be appropriated so that GPD will not have to reallocate any of their current budget for this vitally needed assistance service.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Committee, having conducted a sufficient hearing, does hereby

recommend to the Legislature **to do pass** **Bill 549-** "AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE GUAM POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CRIME VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE UNIT."

**24th Guam Legislature**  
**Committee on Rules, Government**  
**Reform and Federal Affairs**  
**Senator Mark Forbes, Chairman**

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**MAR 19 1998**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Chairman  
Committee on Finance and Taxation

**FROM:** Chairman  
Committee on Rules, Government Reform and Federal Affairs

**SUBJECT:** Referral- Bill No. 549

The above Bill is referred to your Committee as the principal committee. It is recommended you schedule a public hearing at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

**MARK FORBES**

Attachment

3/19/98



