



JMI-EDISON

P.O. Box 6577 • Tamuning Guam 96931
Tel: (671) 646-1256 • 649-5240 Fax (671) 649-5685
Email: sales@jmiguam.com • Website: www.jmiguam.com

Statement by: Ed Ilao

The record needs to be kept clear.

On August 30, 2021, the Guam International Airport Authority decided that it would retain the services of an unlicensed off-island contractor to perform the important work of operating and maintaining the Airport's baggage conveyor system. That selection was protested through normal means by JMI-Edison, and went before the Office of Public Accountability on a procurement appeal.

Contemporaneous with that procurement appeal, JMI-Edison alerted the Guam Contractor's Licensing Board about the Airport's proposed contractor, and the CLB initiated an investigation. The CLB received arguments on the issue from both that contractor's lawyers, and ours. When the Public Auditor decided that he wanted to hear about the CLB proceedings before moving forward with the procurement appeal that was before him, JMI Edison informed the CLB investigators about that fact. Not unlike proceedings before the Superior Court and the OPA where proposed Orders or proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law are offered to assist those bodies in their decision-making process, JMI also provided through public means a draft of proposed findings and facts for the agency to adopt if it so chose.

Unfortunately, the Airport's contractor manipulated the OPA into believing that wrongdoing had occurred, and that JMI had somehow perpetrated a fraud since the CLB adopted JMI's proposed findings. That allegation was not only wrong, it stands as an insult to the hard-working men and women of the CLB team that do the unheralded work of making sure that only licensed and reputable contractors perform work for consumers on Guam. The allegation is also hurtful, since the claim of fraud is based upon the friendly use of the word "bro" in our open communications with the CLB executive director--- a fellow Guamanian of Filipino descent. Ever since my parents came to Guam and built JMI Edison into the family-oriented company I am now fortunate enough to lead, we have always held to an island friendly culture where our coworkers are *Pare*, or we respectfully refer to those we assist, or who assist us, as "*Ate*," or "*Kuya*," or yes, even "*bro*." We have even used "*brah*" with our Hawaiian friends. It is unfortunate that a foreign unlicensed billion-dollar contractor would take our island ways of speaking and use them to avoid meaningful review of its unlicensed conduct. No one should be afraid of due process, and such process should not be denied.

The OPA unfortunately dismissed the appeal without taking any evidence on my use of the word "bro", or investigating the adoption of the proposed findings by the CLB, or dealing with the merits of the fact that an unlicensed contractor is poised to continue to work at GIAA. Worse, the OPA has confused the rights that exist for licensed contractors who are subject to license removal, with the processes that apply to unlicensed contractors who attempt to perform work.



JMI-EDISON

P.O. Box 6577 • Tamuning Guam 96931
Tel: (671) 646-1256 • 649-5240 Fax (671) 649-5685
Email: sales@jmiguam.com • Website: www.jmiguam.com

Our lawyers were never provided the opportunity to correct the record. That matter will now be moving on to the Superior Court of Guam so that the OPA's gross errors can be addressed.

JMI-Edison was founded more than forty years ago as JMI Electrical & Air Conditioning by John M. Ilao, who wanted to make Guam the home for his family and provide quality products and reliability service to the people of Guam. Today, JMI is a company with proven expertise and deep experience in the procurement, installation, maintenance, and repair of a wide variety of equipment used in the industrial, healthcare, institutional, and commercial sectors. JMI specializes in working with unique, high-technology projects requiring a comprehensive understanding and application of engineering principles, such as, medical systems, industrial systems, as well as, hotel and restaurant systems.

JMI is led by its president, Mr. Eduardo R. Ilao, a professional Electrical Engineer, and a product of Guam's public high school.