



Office of
SENATOR JOANNE M. BROWN

I Mina'trentai Sais Na Libeslaturan Guåhan
THIRTY-SIXTH GUAM LEGISLATURE

Senator Brown: Convene Oversight Hearing Hold CLTC Accountable for Their Actions

"We must hold the Commission accountable for their actions and inactions, specifically the issue of forgery, but we must not stop there. We must seriously consider legislating the CHamoru Land Trust process so that current and future Commissions will be able to confidently and effectively administer the program free from corruption and special interests." Sen. Joanne Brown

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 10, 2021

(Hagåtña, GU) – In a letter to Speaker Therese Terlaje requesting for an oversight hearing of the CHamoru Land Trust program and its Commissioners, Senator Brown issues the following statement:

"The Commission has taken action to what appears to be a cover-up of what could potentially be forgery against the CHamoru Land Trust program itself. The Land Trust recipients and the People of Guam deserve answers with regards to this issue," **Senator Brown said**. "Even with the resignation of Mr. Jack Hattig III as the Land Administrator, what has not been addressed by the Commission is the issue of forgery and if other documents may have been forged by Mr. Hattig."

A Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request was made on Thursday, April 1, 2021, to Mr. John F. Reyes Jr., Chairman of the CHamoru Land Trust Commission (CLTC), by Senator Joanne Brown requesting for Land Agent Staff Reports and packets provided to the Commissioners during the February 2021 meeting. In response to Senator Brown's follow-up email requesting public records for item Nos. 2 and 4 of the FOIA, Chairman Reyes stated "only one set of Staff Report".

"Contrary to Chairman Reyes' response that 'only one set of Staff Reports' was submitted to the Commission, I am led to question that this one report by Land Agent Taleu may not have been the only report submitted by other land agents for the February 2021 Commission meeting. I am also led to question if other land agent staff reports were withheld from the Commission by the Land Administrator. I am also led to question if other land agent reports may have been altered by the former Land Administrator Jack Hattig III since 2020," **Senator Brown said**.

For more information, please contact Senator Joanne M. Brown via email:
media@senatorjoannebrown.com

-END-



Office of
SENATOR JOANNE M. BROWN

I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THIRTY-SIXTH GUAM LEGISLATURE

May 10, 2021

VIA EMAIL:

Honorable Therese M. Terlaje
Speaker, 36th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Re: Request for an Oversight Hearing of the CHamoru Land Trust Commission

Buenas yan Håfa Adai Madam Speaker:

A Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request was made on Thursday, April 1, 2021, to Mr. John F. Reyes Jr., Chairman of the CHamoru Land Trust Commission (CLTC), requesting the following:

1. A copy of the packets provided to the Commissioners during the CLTC meeting held in February 2021 to include, but not be limited to, all of the Land Agent Staff Reports.
2. A copy of the original Land Agent Staff Reports submitted for the February 2021 CLTC meeting.
3. A copy of the packets provided to the Commissioners during the CLTC meetings held for the FY 2020 to include, but not limited to, all of the Land Agent Staff Reports.
4. A copy of the original Land Agent Staff Reports for FY 2020.

Public records were provided to my office for item Nos. 1 and 3 of my request, but was non-responsive for item Nos. 2 and 4 of the same request. In response to my follow-up email requesting public records for item Nos. 2 and 4, Chairman Reyes stated,

“The CHamoru Land Trust Commission had fulfilled your request for copies of Land Agent Staff Reports submitted for the February 2021 CLTC meetings and Land Agent Staff Reports for FY 2020. **There are only one set of Staff Reports, they are drafted/edited, then released to the Commission.**”

Contrary to Chairman Reyes' response that “**only one set of Staff Reports**” was submitted to the Commission, I am led to question that this one report by Land Agent Taleu may not have been the only report submitted by other land agents for the February 2021 Commission meeting. I am also led to question if other land agent staff reports were withheld from the Commission by the Land Administrator. I am also led to question if other land agent reports may have been altered by the former Land Administrator Jack Hattig III since 2020. Even with the resignation of Mr. Jack Hattig III as the Land Administrator, what has not been addressed by the Commission is the issue of forgery and if other documents may have been forged by Mr. Hattig.

Letter to Speaker Therese M. Terlaje
requesting for an oversight hearing of the CLTC
May 10, 2021
Page 2 of 2

Madam Speaker, we recognize the significant role that the CHamoru Land Trust Commission plays in the distribution of lands among its recipients and their families. On Thursday, March 11, 2021, I had written a letter to Governor Lou Leon Guerrero to relay my concerns and request that a full official investigation be launched with public scrutiny into the corrective actions that will be taken regarding this incident of potential forgery. Unfortunately, Governor Leon Guerrero has yet to respond to my request for an official investigation and now, the Commission has taken action to what appears to be a cover-up of what could potentially be forgery against the CHamoru Land Trust program itself. The Land Trust recipients and the People of Guam deserve answers with regards to this issue.

Madam Speaker, with all the past issues of corruption and abuse that have plagued the CHamrou Land Trust program, we have a responsibility to ensure that the Land Trust is operating in the interest of its recipients. We must hold the Commission accountable for their actions and inactions, specifically the issue of forgery, but we must not stop there. We must seriously consider legislating the CHamoru Land Trust process so that current and future Commissions will be able to confidently and effectively administer the program free from corruption and special interests.

In light of all these issues that have been raised regarding the administration of the CHamoru Land Trust program, I am requesting that you call and convene an oversight hearing on the administration of the CHamoru Land Trust program to address all these concerns as soon as possible. The people of Guam expect their elected officials to act on their behalf and I know you will do your utmost to meet, if not exceed, their expectations. I look forward to your response.

Senseremente,



Joanne M. Brown

Senator

I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature