



Office of Senator James C. Moylan

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN | 36TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

JULY 25, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY

(Tamuning, Guam). While I certainly commend the efforts of Senator Joe San Agustin and support the intent of his Bill 325-36, which is to provide island ratepayers with some relief with their utility bills, I am not convinced in the argument being made by Governor Lou Leon Guerrero's administration that federal relief funds can't be utilized. Since the arrival of federal COVID dollars in 2020 we have seen a consistency when it comes to their lack of transparency with how those monies are spent. Unfortunately, nothing changed during this recent Emergency Session to convince me otherwise.

There have been proven cases in recent months with both the CNMI and Hawaii where utility relief programs have been extended to their ratepayers utilizing federal funds. We have received input from Congressman Michael San Nicolas and have also researched how other jurisdictions are addressing their ARP funds. What makes Guam any different? Why are we being forced to use local funds which can be applied to address many other pressing needs such as on our uncontrollable drug epidemic. What is the Governor's true intentions in keeping over \$300 million of federal funds in the bank versus assisting the community?

My parents instilled in me the belief that "honesty is the best policy". I will support and vote YES on Bill 325-36 because it provides some relief to our people, however I can't conscientiously place my name on a measure which endorses the administration's lack of transparency. Hence, I have removed my name as a co-sponsor of the legislation. The people of Guam deserve more than just support with their utility bills; they deserve the truth.

END OF STATEMENT

