



Office of Senator Joanne M. Brown

&

Office of Senator Telo T. Taitague

163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan · 37th Guam Legislature

Concerns of Child Predators and Abusers Employed In School System Raised; Action Demanded

"We know it takes a community to protect our children from child predators and abusers. Therefore, we count on all the stakeholders to prioritize children and to collaborate and take necessary actions to prevent and address all forms of violence and abuse of our children."

~Sen. Joanne Brown, Sen. Telo Taitague

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 05, 2023

In a letter to the chairman of the Committee on Education, Public Safety, and the Arts, Senator Joanne Brown and Senator Telo Taitague have expressed their concerns about media reports of a Guam Department of Education employee arrested for child sex-related crimes. The article was on the alleged sexual abuse of students at Upi Elementary School by a teacher charged with two counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct as a first-degree felony and two counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct as a first-degree felony. The teacher allegedly followed these children into a school bathroom and touched their private parts in recent months. Another report concerning the same teacher was filed by a "victim" in 2018.

The Republican senators demand an oversight hearing of Guam Department of Education and release the following statement:

"We are very concerned about the scale of sexual violence, sexual harassment, and child abuse in our schools, even if these incidents are from a single elementary school over the past few years," said Senator Brown. "Not only are we concerned about the media reports on child sex-related crimes in our schools, but we are also concerned about the possibility of these same crimes not being reported or underreported by the victims."

Senator Taitague added, "We demand further oversight regarding the policy, protocols, procedures, and vetting of individuals working with our children to ensure that child predators and abusers never work in our school system again."

Please see attached letter for your use. For additional information regarding this press release, please contact Senator Brown's office at 671-647-1409 or Senator Taitague's office at 671-989-8356. Information requests may be sent via email to office@senatorjoannebrown.com or senatortelot@gmail.com.

###



Office of Senator Joanne M. Brown

&

Office of Senator Telo T. Taitague

I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 37th Guam Legislature

163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

April 04, 2023

The Honorable Chris Barnett

Chairman, Committee on Education, Public Safety and the Arts

I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Sent via: malafunkshun@guamlegislature.org

Subject : Request for Oversight Hearing

Håfa Adai Chairman Barnett,

We are deeply concerned about media reports of a Guam Department of Education employee arrested for child sex-related crimes. The article was on the alleged sexual abuse of students at Upi Elementary School by a teacher ¹charged with two counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct as a first-degree felony and two counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct as a first-degree felony. The teacher allegedly followed these children into a school bathroom and touched their private parts in recent months. Another report concerning the same teacher was filed by a “victim” in 2018. Not only are we concerned about the media reports on child sex-related crimes in our schools, but we are also concerned about the possibility of these same crimes not being reported or underreported by the victims.

Previously, our media partners reported that ²a one-to-one school aide was charged with first-degree criminal sexual conduct as a first-degree felony with a special allegation of a vulnerable victim, two counts of official misconduct as misdemeanors, and harassment as a petty misdemeanor. The article stated that the “school aide was arrested after admitting to sexually abusing an 8-year-old female student in an elementary school bathroom and harassing a 7-year-old female student.” The school aide has since been convicted and listed on the Sex Offender Registry (last profile updated as of January 2019) as incarcerated for First Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct as a first-degree felony and harassment as a petty misdemeanor. In a separate case, another ³school aide was accused of pinching and pulling the hair of a 4-year-old Head Start student with disabilities, and was arrested on allegations of child abuse, assault, and official misconduct. The school aide was eventually charged with child abuse as a misdemeanor.

¹ https://www.guampdn.com/news/elementary-school-teacher-charged-with-criminal-sexual-conduct-involving-students/article_af65deb6-b4ed-11ed-8c42-53bea5aeb50.html

² https://www.postguam.com/news/local/one-to-one-aide-admits-to-sexually-abusing-student-at/article_1faea60c-4843-11e8-ac18-d396c3dc9b8b.html

³ https://www.postguam.com/news/local/school-aide-arrested-charged/article_a9ad6192-7c57-11e9-b11a-c3c7a2d0c6ee.html

We are very concerned about the scale of sexual violence, sexual harassment, and child abuse in our schools, even if these incidents are from a single elementary school over the past few years. Because of these incidents, we demand further oversight regarding the policy, protocols, procedures, and vetting of individuals working with our children. The Committee on Education, Public Safety, and the Arts must prioritize the safety of our children and ensure that child predators and abusers never work in our school system again.

We stand ready to assist in this process and await swift action to convene an oversight hearing on this critical matter.

Kindest regards,



JOANNE M. BROWN
Senator

Kindest regards,



TELO T. TAITAGUE
Senator