



Office of Senator James C. Moylan

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

JULY 18, 2022

HONORABLE LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO

GOVERNOR OF GUAM

RICARDO J. BORDALLO

GOVERNOR'S COMPLEX

HAGATNA, GUAM 96910

RE: NEED TRANSPARENCY ON THE UTILITY CREDIT PROGRAM

Dear Governor Leon Guerrero;

I do want to start off by sharing my appreciation in that you took the opportunity to not only view my social media post over the weekend, but also made the time to issue a press release. I guess moving forward, I should post my inquiries to you on Facebook instead of sending your office letters, since there seems to be a higher probability that I will see some response.

Nonetheless I am not interested in playing petty politics through politically motivated press releases, rather I would like to obtain some honest answers to my questions, which include:

- How was the CNMI Government able to use monies from American Rescue Plan (ARP) to fund a utility credit program for their residents, as they did in December 2021?
- During your State of the Island Address you indicated that the Government of Guam is not authorized to use the ARP funds for a similar program, hence your suggestion to use local funds. Do you have any documentation to substantiate this statement?
- What makes the Guam program any different than the CNMI program, particularly when it seems to mirror what they accomplished 7 months ago?

I do want to make it clear that I am definitely in favor of the intent of Bill 325-36, which is why I co-sponsored the measure. It conveys a consistent message which I have brought to your administration since this pandemic first hit, which is that we need to do more for our people. The legislation also represents the first relief program that your administration proposed which did not constitute income limitations, thus even the working class would qualify. Thank you for that. However, after doing some research, I am still not convinced in your administration's position that the federal ARP can't be utilized to fund this program.

I did take the time to review the statements made during the Public Hearing on Friday, and I am not yet confident in taking the simple words of "trust me" from your administration and committing \$25 million from local funds to execute this utility credit program, especially when \$300 million of federal funds continue to sit in the government's bank account. I am certain that some of my colleagues feel the same as I do, and I really don't want to engage into another discussion on transparency. Instead, I am simply asking for some honesty and documentation.

As a public official it would be irresponsible of me to not ask your administration to furnish documents from the US Treasury where it indicates that the ARP funds can't be used for this utility credit program, which basically mirrors what the CNMI government provided their residents in December. The Speaker has indicated that she may call for an Emergency Session



on Wednesday for the purposes of entertaining Bill 325-36, and I will be requesting to enter into a Committee as a Whole, so that we can see this evidence. I do hope that something is brought to the table so we can expedite some utility relief for island residents.

Thank you very much for your time, and if any questions arise, please feel free to contact me directly at 671-488-9098. I also would like to wish you and your administration an early Happy Liberation Day.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jimoylan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "Moylan".

James "Jim" Moylan
Senator, 36th Guam Legislature

