



Office of Senator Thomas J. Fisher

Vice-Chairman, Committee on Infrastructure, Economic Development, Simon Sanchez High School, Disability Services, Self-Determination and Historic Preservation, Housing, Public Accountability, and the Guam Buildup • Member, Committee on Rules • Member, Committee on Education, Public Safety and the Arts • Member, Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics, Research, and Planning

Judge Denies Ignacio "Ike" C. Santos' Motion to Dismiss Case for Unlawful Certification of Overtime Payments, Senator Thomas J. Fisher Continues Legal Pursuit

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hagåtña, Guam – Tuesday, April 16, 2024 - In a significant development in the ongoing legal battle between Senator Thomas J. Fisher and Ignacio "Ike" C. Santos, the former Administrator of Federal Programs for the Department of Education, Judge Arthur R. Barcinas has denied Mr. Santos' Motion to Dismiss the case. This decision comes after months of legal proceedings following allegations of Mr. Santos' involvement in the certification of \$640,000 in unauthorized overtime compensation.

Senator Fisher, who initiated legal action against Mr. Santos on July 5, 2023, based on findings from an audit by the Office of the Public Accountability, remains resolute in his pursuit of justice. The audit uncovered discrepancies in overtime payments made to ineligible employees, leading Senator Fisher to assert that Mr. Santos had misappropriated funds intended for public school students.

In response to the court's decision, Senator Fisher stated, *"The time is now to uphold accountability and safeguard the integrity of our institutions. With each denial of dismissal, we draw nearer to uncovering the truth and ensuring justice prevails. Today's ruling reaffirms our unwavering commitment to protecting public funds and serving our students as intended."*

The legal proceedings have been marked by a series of submissions and hearings, with both parties presenting their arguments before the court. Despite attempts by Mr. Santos to challenge the sufficiency of Senator Fisher's claims through a Motion to Dismiss, the court has upheld the integrity of the case and granted Senator Fisher's Motion for Continuance to Conduct Discovery.

Senator Fisher emphasized the importance of accountability and transparency in government affairs, reaffirming his commitment to holding individuals responsible for their actions. With the court's decision to deny the Motion to Dismiss, the legal process continues, guided by principles of justice and fairness.

For more information contact Senator Fisher's Chief of Staff, Lloyd Cubacub at (671) 472-1132 or email: senatorfisher@guamlegislature.org

-End of Release-

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