



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

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June 3, 2022

Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Maga'Hågan Guåhan
Office of the Governor
Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex
Adelup, Guam 96910

Re: **Consideration of Additional Stimulus Funding to Help Struggling Families**

Dear Governor Leon Guerrero,

Hafa Adai! Governor Ralph DLG Torres of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands recently announced a second round of stimulus disbursements to CNMI taxpayers to the tune of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) per taxpayer. Governor Torres saw it prudent to assist households as they struggle with rising costs for gas, food, and utilities. It was further stated that the payments will help in stimulating the CNMI's economy as the recipients can only spend the money within the CNMI. I urgently request that you provide the same for our taxpayers with the money you still have with the American Rescue Plan.

Local news stories of recent have reported on the quickly rising costs for commodities and necessities in Guam. As I write this letter, I am receiving text messages and calls about the price of gasoline on the rise again and pleas for some type of assistance or intervention. Our residents need help, and you have the funding that can provide some immediate relief.

Based on information made available to the Legislature, it is my understanding that you have over Three Hundred Forty Million Dollars (\$340,000,000) still available in ARP funding. Combined with your administration's pronouncement that the current fiscal year's revenue will exceed Eighty Million Dollars (\$80,000,000), it is unconscionable that our residents cannot receive some type of relief for their rising costs. I believe that with the money you have within your discretion, One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) per taxpayer (Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) for joint filers) are amounts that can be derived from the ARP funding alone. The disbursement will be a timely and welcomed hand-up for our people of whom many are finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet.

It is recognized you have intentions to utilize the remaining ARP monies to pay for the cost of constructing a comprehensive medical campus, however, I believe that that funding is needed immediately to help families who are just one step away from financial catastrophe.

There are families that have depleted their life savings and live paycheck to paycheck because of all the things they have to buy and all the payments they have to catch up with. There are families that are praying that their car doesn't break down or that a medical emergency doesn't occur because they have no means to pay for these events should they occur. A stimulus payment, of which you have the means to provide, will help to ensure that this doesn't happen.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter and I stand ready to work with you and your administration to address any impediments that may stand in the way of providing our residents the help they need.

Most Respectfully,



FRANK F. BLAS, JR.
Senator

cc: All Senators, 36th Guam Legislature
Guam's Representative to U.S. Congress
All Mayors
All Media