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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

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Lt. Governor Tenorio Leads Pride Proclamation, Championing Visibility and Inclusion

Hagåtña, Guam — In a powerful celebration of identity, courage, and unity, Guam’s Lieutenant Governor Josh Tenorio, the first and only openly gay lieutenant governor in the United States, led a proclamation signing today in honor of LGBTQIA+ Pride Month. The event, hosted at the Government House, brought together members of the LGBTQIA+ community, advocates, allies, and youth for a moving and inspirational celebration. The ceremony stood as a proud counterpoint to the rising anti-LGBTQIA+ sentiment seen in other parts of the world.

“Now more than ever, it’s so much more critical for those of us who are living out, who are in the LGBTQIA+ community, to make ourselves known,” said Lt. Governor Tenorio. “The whole point of coming out is making sure that people in our workplaces, neighborhoods, families, and communities know that we’re just trying to live our lives—trying to meet our potential, provide safety, and show each other that through love and respect, we can live in a good, good place.” He added, “We are your sons and daughters, your neighbors, your coworkers. We may affiliate differently or disagree on things, but we are here to live our lives.”

Governor Lou Leon Guerrero joined in reaffirming the administration’s commitment to equality and inclusion, and added, “We’re very serious in our actions, especially in making sure that everyone is equally treated. We are really serious about making sure everyone is given the dignity and the respect that they deserve. Everyone should be respected for the identity that they have chosen. That’s our philosophy.”

The event was especially moving with the participation of youth like Angelee Pontillas, a 17-year-old recent graduate of John F. Kennedy High School, who bravely shared her story.

“So I came out with my girlfriend on my graduation day, and I told my parents, I told my entire family—and suddenly, they were actually pretty okay with it,” said Pontillas. “I didn’t need to be so scared anymore. It was like a breath of fresh air. I was so relieved. And now all my situations don’t have to be such a problem anymore. I’m now out, and I’m free as I am.”

The Leon Guerrero-Tenorio Administration continues to stand firm in its efforts to ensure that every person on Guam—regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation—can live openly, authentically, and with dignity.

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