## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-5301

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## MOYLAN MEETS WITH THE FEMA ADMINISTRATOR TO DISCUSS GUAM'S INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCY

(Washington, D.C.) Late last week, Delegate James Moylan met with Ms. Deanne Criswell, Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), at her office in Washington, D.C. The discussions revolved around Guam's infrastructure resiliency and primarily around H.R. 6478, the *Typhoon Mawar Reconstruction Act* introduced by Delegate Moylan last year.

If enacted, the measure would provide the FEMA Administrator with various authorities, including directing any Federal agency to provide the resources to provide long term repair and/or replacement assistance for power generation and transmission, water and communication infrastructure, and hospital facilities, which were adversely affected by Typhoon Mawar. The legislation further removes any cost sharing by the local government.

"Our team worked closely with FEMA on H.R. 6478, and engaged DOD in the process, and we are ecstatic to get support for the measure from the FEMA Administrator and her team. This legislation would certainly address many of Guam's public infrastructure woes, including the hardening of our power grid while saving the local government millions of dollars through the removal of cost sharing. It is also focused on stability, and not just band-aid solutions," stated Delegate Moylan. "The Administrator has directed her congressional team to work with our office to help navigate the measure through the various committees and staff. H.R. 6478 is one of our priorities, and we will be looking at various approaches to help the legislation advance, including possibly proposing the language in the NDAA as an amendment," added Delegate Moylan.

Also discussed during the meeting was the consideration of seeking FEMA's assistance with providing temporary classrooms for the students and faculty of Simon Sanchez High School (SSHS), who are currently utilizing John F. Kennedy High School (JFKHS) as part of a double session. Prior to the meeting with the Administrator, Delegate Moylan met with members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (US ACE), who were open to assisting with the engineering if funding options, such as what FEMA could authorize, were available.

"Shortly after the meeting, our office was advised by the Director of FEMA's Public Assistance Division, who participated in the earlier discussions with the Administrator, that he had reached out to the Regional Administrator, who will be discussing the issue with the Federal Coordinating office on Guam to evaluate options. Our office will continue to work with FEMA, US ACE, and other federal partners to seek out short term solutions for the SSHS students and faculty, as the government constructs a new high school," stated Delegate Moylan. "I appreciate

the discussions and the support of the FEMA Administrator and her team. While these fixes go through a process and will take some time, we are glad that things are in motion," added Delegate Moylan.

During the discussion, Administrator Criswell also directed her congressional team to coordinate with Delegate Moylan's office to work towards establishing a Guam Energy Resiliency Fund, which would mirror the Puerto Rico Energy Resiliency Fund, established a few years ago. This would represent another long-standing issue for Guam, which needs to be prioritized for the inevitable created by Mother Nature.

END OF STATEMENT