



Vice-Chairman, Committee on Education, Public Safety and the Arts • Vicechairman, Committee on Emergency Response, Military and Veteran Affairs, Border Safety and Mayors Council • Member, Committee on Rules • Member, Committee on Maritime Transportation, Air Transportation, Parks, Tourism, Higher Education and the Advancement of Women, Youth, and Senior Citizens

Senator Dueñas Urges Senator Perez to Fulfill Legislative Responsibilities: “The amendment was ready to be done!”

June 18, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Hagåtña, Guam) - Senator Perez has stalled the progress of [Bill 175-37](#) by holding it in her committee, citing disagreements with Section 7 of the bill. This action is not only a disservice to the legislative process but also to our constituents who expect us as elected officials to act in a timely and responsible manner.

NEWS	BUSINESS	FORUM	ISLAND LIFE	SPORTS	THE GLOBE	SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES
<p>The Guam Daily Post spoke with Perez Thursday morning before the rules committee met that day.</p> <p>“The issue is basically Section 7 (of the bill). That's the problematic part. Everything else of the bill is pretty much in line with (Guam) EPA's recommendations. In fact they drafted ... everything but Section 7,” Perez said.</p>						

The full article is available on The Guam Daily Post Website [1].

As a committee chair, Senator Perez has the authority and the responsibility to propose amendments during her committee’s deliberations. This is the appropriate forum for a committee to address specific concerns and make necessary changes to legislation. By opting not to amend the bill in committee due to fears that the amendments might be reversed on the floor, Senator Perez is neglecting her duty to facilitate thorough debate and discussion among her colleagues.

The legislative process is designed to include rigorous debate and the opportunity for all senators to voice their opinions and propose amendments. It is not acceptable for a bill to be held back because of *speculative* outcomes on the floor. Every senator has a role to play in debating the merits of any bill and its amendments throughout the legislative process.

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Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas
I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 37th Guam Legislature

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Committee Actions

Public Hearings

Upon referral of a bill, a committee conducts a public hearing. Public hearing notices are transmitted five (5) working days prior and forty-eight (48) hours prior to the date and time of the public hearing. A committee hears oral testimonies at the public hearing, as well as receive written testimonies.

Bill Amendments or Substitutions

While a bill is in committee, the committee is allowed to make the necessary amendments or substitutions to the bill.

Reporting out a Bill for consideration to place on Agenda

A committee circulates for committee vote a report on the bill that consists of testimonies from the public hearing, as well as the findings and recommendations of the committee. Committee members votes to either TO DO PASS, TO NOT PASS, TO REPORT OUT ONLY, TO ABSTAIN, or TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE. In accordance with the Standing Rules, bills are not to be placed on the Session Agenda without the necessary number of votes to PASS or REPORT OUT.

Committee reports are submitted to the Committee on Rules for review. Once committee reports are deemed filed by the Committee on Rules, the reported bill is available for placement on the Session Agenda.

Committee on Rules meets to set Session Agenda

The Committee on Rules meets to decide which bills are to be placed on the Session Agenda for debate by the Members of I Liheslatura.

For more information, visit the Guam Legislatures website [2].

Senator Duenas has committed to leading the charge to ensure that Bill 175-37, including the amendment to maintain a limit of four units per acre, is properly debated and advanced.

“The decision to address an amendment after the bill was introduced was made clear, and there is no justifiable reason for further delays,” said Dueñas.

“I urge Senator Perez to stop portraying herself as a victim of the legislative process and to fulfill her duties as a committee chair. The people we serve deserve a government that functions effectively and transparently, and it is incumbent upon all of us to ensure that this happens. It is time for Senator Perez to do her job and allow us to move forward on this important piece of legislation. Let’s work together to uphold the integrity of our legislative process and meet the expectations of our constituents!” added Dueñas.

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1. Full Article:
https://www.postguam.com/news/local/senators-speak-on-environmental-concerns-as-bill-175-makes-session-agenda/article_04ad0cc8-2a04-11ef-82c0-c73ae9157e61.html
2. Legislative Process:
<https://guamlegislature.com/index/the-legislative-process/>

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