



OFFICE OF SENATOR

Telo T. Taitague

CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations,
Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Ste. 407 DNA Building
238 Archbishop Flores St.
Hagatna, Guam 96910
(671) 989-8356
senortelot@gmail.com

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 38th Guam Legislature

March 5, 2025

The Honorable Christopher M. Dueñas
Chairperson, Committee on Finance and Government Operations
I Mina' Trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Transmitted via email: senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

RE: Inquiry Regarding the Scheduling a Public Hearing for Bill No.39-38

Håfa Adai Senator Dueñas,

I am writing to respectfully inquire about the scheduling of a public hearing for Bill No. 39-38, which I introduced on January 23, 2025, to appropriate \$10 million to the Department of Public Works (DPW) for critical village road resurfacing and repairs. The deteriorating condition of our village infrastructure poses significant safety risks to our residents, making timely consideration of this bill imperative.

However, it has come to my attention that Bill No.58-38, introduced weeks later, on February 10, 2025, seeking to appropriate funds to the University of Guam (UOG) for various operational needs, was heard ahead of Bill No.39-38, despite having been introduced at a later date.

It is concerning that a “bailout” bill was prioritized over legislation that would address the safety of our island drivers, passengers, and residents. While I recognize the university’s role in Guam’s educational and economic development, the Guam Legislature has consistently responded favorably to UOG’s requests, resulting in the university receiving substantial funding increases over the past few years. UOG received \$24.79 million in FY23, \$27.55 million in FY24, and \$34.22 million in FY25, yet the University continues to request additional funding due to shortfalls and unexpected expenditures. This raises serious concerns about fiscal management and the university’s ability to operate within its means.

Additionally, UOG received a \$6.6 million increase in FY25 while DPW was only allocated a \$500,000 increase in FY25 for road repairs – despite the fact we were told by DPW that the costs for road work is approximately \$1.8 million per mile.

Given these concerns, it is important that the Legislature critically evaluate all requests for additional funding to ensure that appropriations are utilized effectively for their intended purposes, before committing further taxpayer dollars. At the same time, we cannot continue to neglect the crumbling infrastructure that thousands of island residents depend on every single day. Potholes, eroded roads and poor road conditions, are not just inconveniences – they are direct threats to public safety and are growing financial burdens on our people who must pay out of pocket for vehicle repairs as a result of our government’s neglect.

The pressing need to address hazardous conditions of our village roads, which directly affects the safety and quality of life for our people, warrants immediate attention. Bill No.39-38 seeks to address these long-standing concerns by providing DPW with the necessary funding to carry out vital road repairs. As Senators, it is our duty to address the



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needs of our people and ensure that the public hearing process reflects the true priorities of our community with fairness and consideration.

I respectfully request that Bill No.39-38 be scheduled for a public hearing at the earliest opportunity to address these critical infrastructure concerns.

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your response.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse',

TELO T. TAITAGUE

Senator