



# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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**JON J. P. FERNANDEZ**  
Superintendent of Education

June 12, 2014

Honorable Judith Won Pat, Ed.D.  
Speaker, 32<sup>nd</sup> Guam Legislature  
155 Hesler Place  
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Dear Speaker Won Pat,

I am aware that Bill 309-32 (COR), as substituted, contains a new section (b) that would direct \$6 million to the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) to renovate the George Washington High School (GWHS) campus. In addition, the language would delay the construction of any new GDOE facilities, including a gymnasium, office, warehouses and warehouse mezzanines at Tiyan.

It is my position, based on review of this language, that the language appropriating \$6 million should be provided to GDOE with more flexibility to address both our operating and facility needs. I would reiterate that the Guam Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law two appropriations acts in FY 2013 and FY 2014 that funded GDOE, in part, with non-existent revenues from the Territorial Education Facilities Fund (TEFF). Addressing the budgetary gap now would ensure that there are sufficient funds to pay employees and vendors. Renovating GWHS is important to the department, but if I cannot fully fund GWHS services and pay GWHS employees because of the TEFF shortfall, this proposed fix will not solve a critical underlying budget problem.

With regard to Tiyan, I plead with the Legislature to ensure that we are able to move forward quickly with a gymnasium and other sports facilities for our students at Tiyan High School as planned. We will be communicating with incoming students and families of Tiyan High School in the upcoming weeks, and I would like very much to be able to say that we, as community leaders and partners, are meeting the basic needs of these young people at the Tiyan campus. Delay does no one any good.

Thank you for your interest always in the welfare of our students and their families. I trust that you will assist the department in our effort to support them.

Senseramente,

  
**JON J. P. FERNANDEZ**

Cc: Chairman and Members, Guam Education Board  
Governor of Guam