

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LI. GOVERNOR

UFISINAN I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

Transmitted via email to speaker@guamlegislature.org

August 5, 2023

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
THERESE M. TERLAJE

HONORABLE THERESE M. TERLAJE, *Speaker*
I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan
37th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

~~08~~ 05 2023

Time: 1:19 PM

Received: [Signature]

Re: **Bill No. 158-37 (LS) - AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE OPERATION OF GUAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT ARE AWAITING INSPECTION FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024**

Håfa Adai Madame Speaker,

Bill No. 159-37 (LS), Bill No. 158-37 (LS), and Bill No. 156-37 (COR) each represent an honest effort at solving the crisis that the flawed passage of Public Law No. 37-4 created and the severe damage Typhoon Mawar caused.

None of these measures is a panacea for the challenges that face our public schools, but at least the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) can meet these challenges without the unreasonable burden of an arbitrary timeline—one that changed from one legislature to the next.

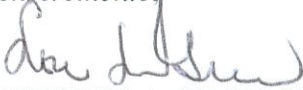
For the past several weeks, a community-wide effort engaging a myriad of organizations, government agencies, and the Guam National Guard has worked to help GDOE prepare our public schools for the opening of the school year. That effort has called on people from every walk of life. It is blind to partisanship or the last election, and most importantly, it has been focused unwaveringly on our school children.

For this reason, I thank the bipartisan efforts of Minority Leader Frank Blas, Jr. and Senator Dwayne San Nicolas. Recognizing a failure in policy and choosing to resolve it rather than lay blame demonstrates that government can come together to do good for Guam. For these reasons,

To: Therese M. Terlaje, *Speaker*, 37th Guam Legislature
Fr: Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *Governor of Guam*
Date: August 5, 2023
Re: Bill No. 158-37 (LS) nka P.L. 37-32

I sign Bill No. 159-37 (LS), Bill No. 158-37 (LS), and Bill No. 156-37 (COR) into law as **Public Law No. 37-31, Public Law No. 37-32, and Public Law No. 37-33**, respectively.

Sensereamente,



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO

Maga'hågan Guåhan
Governor of Guam

Enclosure: Bill No. 158-37 (LS), nka P.L. 37-32

cc via email: *Honorable* Joshua F. Tenorio, *Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*, Lt. Governor of Guam
Compiler of Laws

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2023 (FIRST) Regular Session

CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN

This is to certify that **Bill No. 158-37 (LS)**, "AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE OPERATION OF GUAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT ARE AWAITING INSPECTION FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024," was on the 3rd day of August 2023, duly and regularly passed.



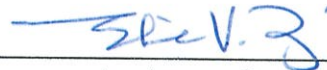
Therese M. Terlaje
Speaker

Attested:



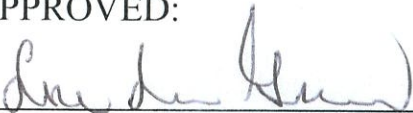
Amanda L. Shelton
Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* this 3rd day of AUGUST, 2023, at 4:34 o'clock P.M.



Assistant Staff Officer
Maga'håga's Office

APPROVED:



Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
I Maga'hågan Guåhan

Date: 8/5/2023

Public Law No. 37-32

2023-19683
RCVD AT CENTRAL FILES
AUG 8 '23 PM 4:34

Elaine Tajalle

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2023 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 158-37 (LS)

As amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

Dwayne T. D. San Nicolas
Chris Barnett
Frank Blas, Jr.
Joanne Brown
Christopher M. Dueñas
Thomas J. Fisher
Jesse A. Lujan
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
William A. Parkinson
Roy A. B. Quinata
Joe S. San Agustin
Amanda L. Shelton
Telo T. Taitague
Therese M. Terlaje

**AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE OPERATION OF GUAM
PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT ARE AWAITING INSPECTION
FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024.**

1 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM.**

2 **Section 1. Legislative Intent.** In order to address the delays in the operation
3 of Guam's public schools and to bring the students of our island back to the
4 classrooms to continue their education, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* intends to enact
5 legislation to allow the operation of public schools that are awaiting inspection for
6 the upcoming school year. Allowing the operation of Guam's public schools while
7 awaiting inspection will prevent the further delay of the school year and allow the
8 students of Guam to continue their education.

1 **Section 2. Authorization to Operate Guam Public Schools for School**
2 **Year 2023-2024.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Guam Department
3 of Education (GDOE) is hereby authorized to operate schools that are awaiting
4 inspection for School Year 2023-2024. GDOE schools that have failed inspection
5 may continue to operate at the discretion and approval of the Superintendent of
6 GDOE and the Director of Public Health and Social Services.

7 **Section 3. Reporting Requirements.**

8 (a) GDOE shall submit monthly written reports to the Speaker of *I*
9 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* detailing the status of each public school’s compliance or non-
10 compliance with Article 7 of Chapter 4, Division 1, Title 26, Guam Administrative
11 Rules and Regulations (GARR) that will result in the suspension of the sanitary
12 permit of a GDOE public school. Such report shall include, but not be limited to,
13 the proposed corrective action(s) which will be taken to avoid suspension of its
14 sanitary permit or to support GDOE’s request for a variance under Article 7, Chapter
15 4, Division 1, Title 26, GARR.

16 (b) Until such time as all GDOE public schools have obtained sanitary
17 permits required under Article 7 of Chapter 4, Division 1, Title 26, GARR, GDOE
18 shall be subject to monthly oversight hearings to report on the status of its
19 compliance or non-compliance with Article 7 of Chapter 4, Division 1, Title 26,
20 GARR.

21 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment.

22 **Section 5. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
23 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity shall not
24 affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without the
25 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are
26 severable.