

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR

UFISINAN I MAGA'HĀGAN GUĀHAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

Transmitted via email to: speaker@guamlegislature.org

October 16, 2023

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

Re: Bill No. 164-37 (LS) AN ACT TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY FUNDING TO THE GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

Håfa Adai Madam Speaker,

Bill No. 164-37 (LS) appropriates Thirty Million Dollars (\$30,000,000) to the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (“GMHA”) from prior fiscal year excess funds from the General Fund to pay vendor payments and perform all necessary building repairs.

Senators Jesse Lujan and Frank Blas deserve thanks for their work on Bill No. 164-37 to ensure GMHA will obtain the funds necessary to pay their outstanding vendor payables. Senator San Agustin’s work guiding this bill through the committee of the whole was critical to the passage of Bill No. 164-37. Our Administration looks to continue working closely with members of the legislature who are willing to rise above personal and political agendas to help the people of Guam in the way the senators who supported Bill No. 164-37 did.

With GMHA facing both fiscal and physical challenges, swift action is necessary to ensure our island’s only public hospital is supported and has the requisite resources to continue providing necessary services to the people of Guam. Our Administration has continuously supported GMHA. Prior to the passage of Bill No. 164-37, we committed Twenty Million (\$20,000,000) additional dollars for urgent capital improvements to GMHA’s facility from American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) funds as permitted by the U.S. Treasury’s Final Rule for the ARPA Fiscal Recovery Fund.

While Bill No. 164-37 serves as a temporary solution to the current outstanding vendor payables problem, GMHA’s financial situation demands a deeper fiscal examination. On October 13, 2023, I issued Executive Order No. 2023-12 recognizing the need for a review of GMHA’s finances and to give the hospital the support it needs. Specifically, Executive Order No. 2023-12 establishes a

To: Therese M. Terlaje, *Speaker*, 37th Guam Legislature
Fr: Joshua F. Tenorio, *Acting Governor of Guam*
Date: October 16, 2023
Re: Bill No. 164-37 (LS) nka Public Law No. 37-43

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Fiscal Review Committee consisting of subject matter experts in finance and fiscal operations from the Office of the Governor, the Department of Administration, and the Bureau of Budget and Management Research, to assess and monitor GMHA's financial policies and processes. The Committee will then make recommendations to the Governor. This will allow the Governor to assist GMHA with ensuring its future financial health, and monitor the proper expenditure of ARPA funds and legislative appropriations. Allowing GMHA the opportunity to integrate best practices into a broader strategy for financial success will ensure the continuity of services.

Further, our Administration continues to issue repeated warnings about the physical state and lifespan of GMHA. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers substantiated that the current hospital site is unable to accommodate critical expansions, lacks the capacity to accommodate substantial construction projects, and ultimately, it will be more cost-effective to construct a new facility rather than repair the current hospital in an attempt to bring it up to modern medical standards. With this in mind, we continue to pursue every means necessary to ensure our people and visitors alike have access to a healthcare facility that complies with national standards and rivals other healthcare facilities in the nation. Until then, we recognize that GMHA is Guam's only public hospital providing medical care to Guam's residents, and at this critical moment in time, we must provide GMHA with the support it needs.

For these reasons, I sign Bill No. 164-37 (LS) into law as ***Public Law No. 37-43***.

Senseramente,



JOSHUA F. TENORIO
Ákto Maga'låhen Guåhan
Acting Governor of Guam

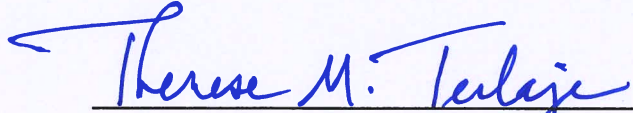
Enclosure: Bill No. 164-37 (LS) nka P.L. 37-43

cc via email: *Honorable* Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *Maga'hågan Guåhan*, Governor of Guam
Compiler of Laws

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

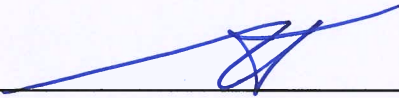
CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO *I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN*

This is to certify that **Bill No. 164-37 (LS)**, “**AN ACT TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY FUNDING TO THE GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY,**” was on the 13th day of October 2023, duly and regularly passed.



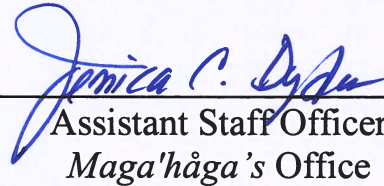
Therese M. Terlaje
Speaker

Attested:



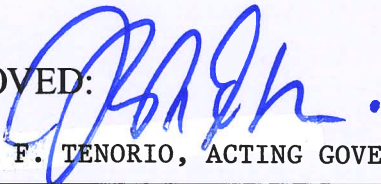
Chris Barnett
Acting Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* this 16th day of October,
2023, at 11:23 AM o'clock A.M.



Assistant Staff Officer
Maga'håga's Office

APPROVED:



JOSHUA F. TENORIO, ACTING GOVERNOR OF GUAM

Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
I Maga'hågan Guåhan

Date:

10/16/2023

Public Law No.

37-43

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

Bill No. 164-37 (LS)

As amended in the Committee of the Whole.

Introduced by:

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

**AN ACT TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY FUNDING TO
THE GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.**

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

2 **Section 1. Emergency Funding.** Notwithstanding any other provision of
3 law, all unappropriated prior fiscal year excess funds from the General Fund of at
4 least Thirty Million Dollars (\$30,000,000) shall be appropriated to the Guam
5 Memorial Hospital Authority to pay outstanding vendor payments and to perform
6 necessary repairs. All such vendor payments shall be made by the Department of
7 Administration.

8 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment.

1 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
2 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity shall not
3 affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without
4 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are
5 severable.