



COMMITTEE ON

EDUCATION, LIBRARIES, & PUBLIC BROADCASTING

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN GUAM CONGRESS BUILDING
 I Liheslaturan Guahan
 The Guam Legislature

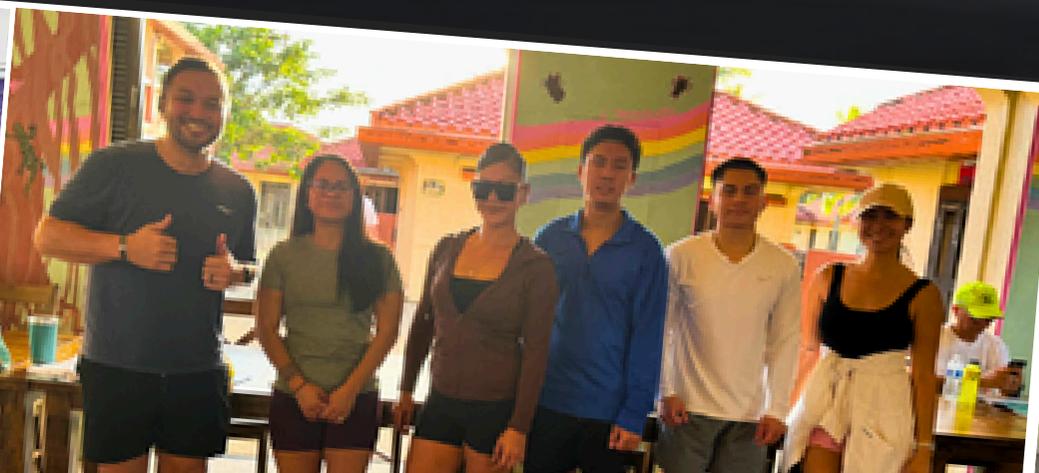
A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF SENATOR VINCENT A.V. BORJA

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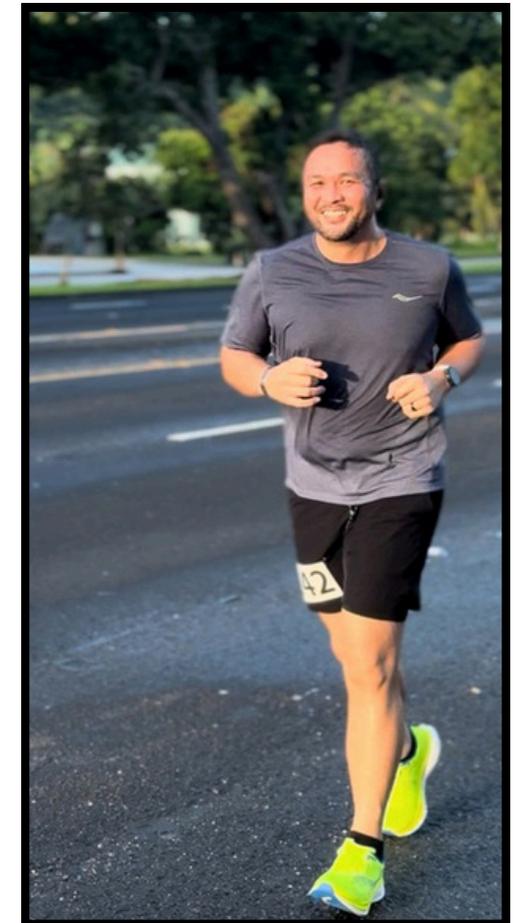
OCTOBER 2025

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

HONORING SERVICE AND RAISING AWARENESS AT THE SEE WHAT'S COOKIN' STRIDES FOR SIGHT 2K/5K

What an inspiring way to start our day! Our team was proud to participate in the See What's Cookin' Strides for Sight Sunrise 2K/5K, seeing firsthand how our island comes together to support White Cane Awareness and our blind and visually impaired community. It was incredible to witness so many people showing up strong for such an important cause—Si Yu'os Ma'åse' to everyone who joined and supported!

I also had the honor of recognizing Jackie Cabrera, founder of SEE What's Cookin', with a Legislative Certificate for her extraordinary service to Guam's blind and visually impaired community. Despite being blind herself, Jackie continues to lead with courage



and heart,
advocating for
others and

organizing the first-ever Run/Walk for White Cane and Disability Awareness Month on Guam. I am incredibly proud and inspired by her work. Thank you, Jackie, for your tireless dedication to our community and for empowering those with disabilities to live with dignity, confidence, and opportunity.

ACTIVE THREAT TRAINING: LEARNING LIFE-SAVING SKILLS TOGETHER

I want to thank Guam Homeland Security and Civil Defense, the Department of Parks and Recreation Parks Police, and our Central Office for inviting them to provide Active Shooter Informational Training for our team. Dylan, Kaleb, and Nicole attended and shared valuable takeaways: staying calm, knowing your nearest exits, basic lifesaving skills, and run-hide-or-fight strategies depending on the situation. It was a great reminder of the importance of being prepared, staying aware, and working together to keep ourselves and our community safe.



Vice Speaker Tony Ada, Senator Vince Borja, and Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes smile for a photo during the Port Authority of Guam's 50th Anniversary celebration on October 20, 2025, at the Port Administration Building.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE AT THE PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM

Congratulations to the Port Authority on 50 incredible years of excellence and service to our island and our people. Over the decades, their dedication has been a driving force behind Guam's growth, from supporting our local economy to ensuring our ports run efficiently and safely. It's inspiring to see the commitment of their team and the positive impact they continue to have on our community. I'm excited to see the progress and innovation the next fifty years will surely bring, and I'm grateful for their ongoing service to Guam.

CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF FAITH AND SERVICE

I had the privilege of joining the Knights of Columbus Archbishop Felixberto C. Flores Council No. 10752 as they marked their 35th anniversary. It was truly inspiring to celebrate not just the milestone itself, but the decades of dedication, service, and generosity that the council has contributed to our community.

The Knights of Columbus have long been a pillar of support here in Guam, offering assistance, guidance, and a steadfast commitment to faith.

Congratulations to the council on reaching this milestone, and thank you for your continued service. Your efforts make a real difference in the lives of so many on our island, and I am honored to celebrate this achievement alongside you.



HONORING 25 YEARS OF SERVICE



Senator Vince Borja, Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Justice F. Philip Carbullido, Speaker Frank Blas, Jr., Vice Speaker Tony Ada, and Senator Shawn Gumataotao smile for a photo during a Legislative Resolution presentation on October 27, 2025 in the Judicial Building Atrium in Hagatna.

I was honored to celebrate Justice F. Philip Carbullido for 25 years of dedicated service to the people of Guam. Throughout his career, Justice Carbullido has exemplified fairness, integrity, and a steadfast commitment to our community. His work has helped ensure that justice is not just a principle, but a reality for our island. Thank you, Justice Carbullido, for your decades of service and the lasting impact you've made on Guam.

GUAM AMERICAN U.S. FLAG SOJOURN CEREMONY AT GW: CELEBRATING AMERICAN SPIRIT AND GUAM'S PRIDE

On October 28th, our island proudly celebrated what it means to be American at my alma mater, George Washington High School, Guam's oldest high school, which hosted the U.S. Flag Sojourn Ceremony in honor of the 250th year anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The ceremony was deeply moving and I was especially inspired by Yaxin Liu, a student from Harvest Christian Academy, who was one of only 75 students across the United States selected for recognition for her thoughtful essay on "What does America mean to you?" During the ceremony, she shared a message that resonated with all of us: "Our island shows that being American isn't about distance, it's about heart." As a proud Army veteran, I couldn't agree more. Even though we may not live on the mainland, we express our American identity every day



Yaxin Liu, a student at Harvest Christian Academy, recites her award-winning essay on the topic, "What does America mean to you?" at the U.S. Sojourn Flag Ceremony at George Washington High School on October 28, 2025.

through service, civic participation, and our dedication to preserving our culture. Congratulations to Yaxin for representing Guam with such insight and patriotism, and thank you to GW High School for hosting a ceremony that highlighted the strength, heart, and unity of our community. Events like these remind us that no matter where we are, the American spirit thrives here in Guam.

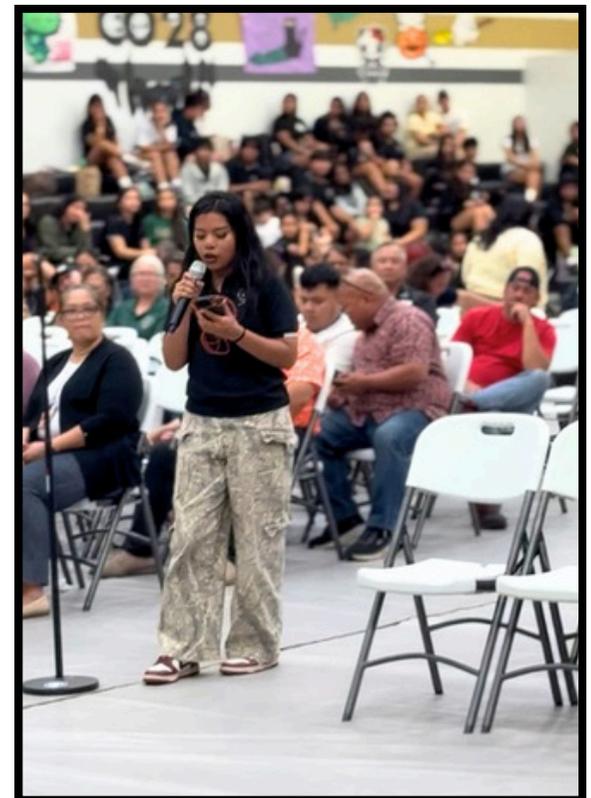


EDUCATION TOWN HALL AT TIYAN HIGH SCHOOL: GIVING THE FLOOR TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Our Education Town Hall on October 28th was a little different—and in a good way. Instead of the Board or senators doing most of the talking, we made sure students, parents, and educators had the floor to share what’s on their minds.

We heard a lot about the issues that really matter: wanting more transparency in school decisions, making sure school communities are included in those decisions, keeping school facilities safe and well-maintained, and even things like the cost of health permits for school events. It was clear how much people care about their schools and I was impressed by the turnout and the energy in the room.

Big thanks to Tiyan High School for hosting us and to everyone who came out to share their thoughts. I’m committed to working with my fellow senators and the Education Board to take these conversations and turn them into action. Together, we’ll keep moving Guam’s education forward—listening, responding, and making sure every voice is heard.



SUPPORTING OUR EDUCATORS AND STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY

I'm grateful to everyone who shared their insights during recent public hearings for Bill 199-38 and Bill 200-38. Bill 199-38, the Lifetime Teacher Certification Act, would create a lifetime teaching certificate for educators with 25 or more years of service. This measure recognizes the dedication of our most committed teachers, reduces administrative burdens, and helps retain experienced educators in the classroom. We'll continue refining the language and moving the bill forward to ensure our teachers are celebrated for their lifelong commitment to Guam's students. Bill 200-38 focuses on providing greater accountability for Guam's charter schools and would expand the authority of the Guam Academy Charter Schools Council to review and approve contracts and other binding documents before they take effect. The goal is simple: autonomy must come with accountability. I appreciate the feedback from charter school officials, council members, and other stakeholders. While there were differing views, these discussions are essential to protecting public resources while supporting the continued success of our charter schools. I'm thankful for everyone who took part in these hearings. Your insights, expertise, and commitment to education make it possible for us to strengthen our schools, honor our teachers, and ensure accountability for the benefit of all students on Guam.



SHOUTOUT TO GUAM'S OWN!

My colleagues and I are so proud of Kalyne Roberto from the University of Guam for representing our island at the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) 2025 Student Simulation Competition—and bringing home the grand prize! Her dedication, hard work, and leadership not only earned her this incredible recognition but also set an inspiring example for students and young professionals across our community. Moments like these remind us of the talent and potential thriving right here in Guam. BIBA, Kalyne! We can't wait to see what you accomplish next.



SPOOKY FUN AT PRICE ELEMENTARY'S TRUNK OR TREAT

My family, team, and I had a fantastic time at Price Elementary School's Trunk or Treat! It's always inspiring to see students, families, and staff come together to celebrate with so much energy and school spirit. From superheroes to spooky characters, the kids' costumes were full of imagination and brought smiles to everyone's faces. Events like this remind me how important it is to foster community and celebrate together. A big thank you to Price Elementary for hosting such a fun and lively event—we were thrilled to be a part of it!



TEAM-BUILDING WITH A TIKTOK TREND



Sometimes a little fun is the best way to bring a team together—and that's exactly what happened when our office tried a trending TikTok challenge! The trend involves drawing different faces on brown paper bags, putting them over your heads, and snapping photos or videos. As soon as we saw it online, we knew we had to give it a try—and it did not disappoint. It was a hilarious, creative way to showcase everyone's artistic side and have some lighthearted team-building fun! It's important to balance work and play and this project was definitely a playful one with all the gut-lauding involved!

NOVEMBER 2025

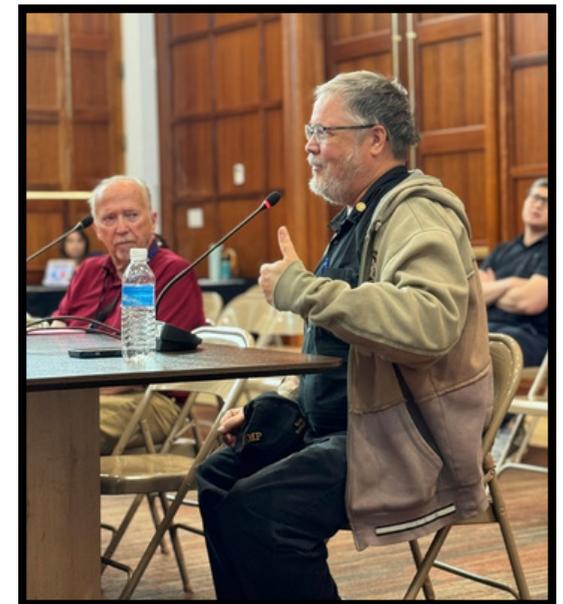
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

STRENGTHENING EDUCATION LEADERSHIP FOR GUAM'S STUDENTS

Si Yu'os Ma'åse' to everyone who testified at the public hearing on Bills 201-38 and 204-38, introduced by me. The input from the education community, the Guam Election Commission, and our island residents is essential as we work to strengthen leadership and accountability within Guam's public school system.

Bill 201-38 would extend and stagger the terms of the Guam Education Board to ensure stability, continuity, and consistent focus on long-term student outcomes. Bill 204-38 would require the Board's confirmation of Deputy Superintendent appointments, creating stronger oversight and transparency in GDOE's leadership structure.

I also thank my colleagues in the Legislature for their thoughtful participation and shared commitment to improving public education. With your guidance, we will continue building an education system that provides every student on Guam with the strong, stable leadership they deserve.



A BIG WIN FOR GUAM: THE NEW GAMMA CENTER OPENS ITS DOORS



If you haven't heard about the GAMMA Center yet, it's definitely something to be excited about. This brand-new, state-of-the-art facility is all about boosting innovation, workforce development, and industrial growth right here on Guam. It's pretty amazing to see this happening on our island. The center was made possible through a major investment by the U.S. Navy, and it really marks a big step forward in strengthening Guam's manufacturing and maritime capabilities with the goal of building a more resilient, innovative, and self-sustaining Guam.

And the best part? The GAMMA Center is going to open up real opportunities for our people. We're talking entrepreneurship, training, education, and new jobs – all designed to grow our homegrown talent and expand

Guam's high-tech capabilities for the Indo-Pacific region.

In short, this isn't just a new building. It's a launchpad for the kind of future we want to build here: one where innovation happens on Guam, careers grow on Guam, and our people lead the way.

I was very excited to be in attendance for its grand opening. More to come as this project moves forward!



ASTRO America hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the GAMMA facility on November 6, 2025 in the Pacific Industrial Park in Dededo, attended by Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lieutenant Governor Joshua Tenorio, Congressman James Moylan, and senators of the 38th Guam Legislature.

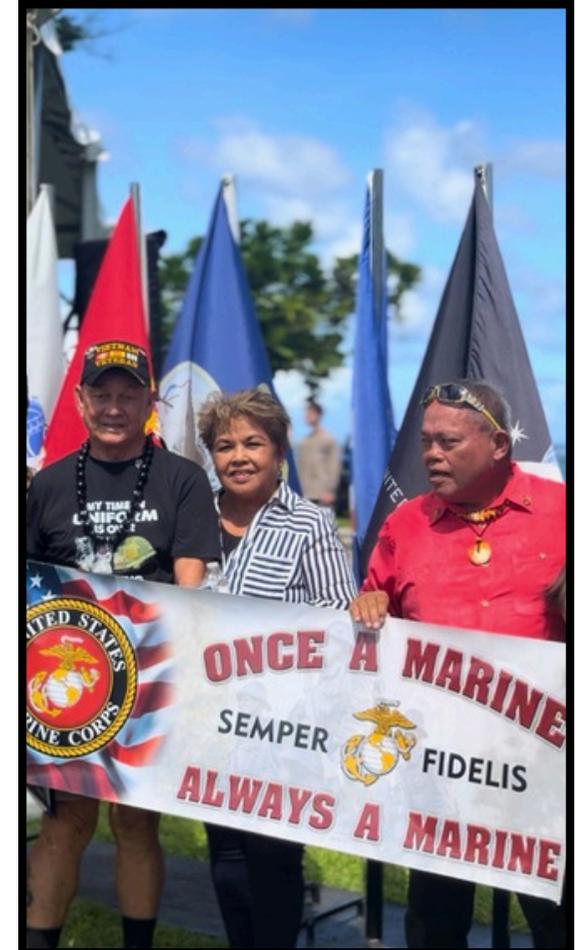
HONORING OUR VETERANS, TODAY AND EVERY DAY

I was glad to attend this year's Veterans Day Ceremony at the Governor Joseph Flores Memorial Park in Ypao. As an Army veteran, it's always meaningful to stand alongside our community—ROTC cadets, active-duty service members, Gold Star families, local leaders, and especially the veterans who continue to serve our island in so many ways.

Congratulations to our Veterans of the Year, and thank you to everyone who helped make the event come together. It was a strong reminder of why we pause each year to recognize those who have worn the uniform.

Veterans Day may come once a year, but the responsibility to honor and support our veterans never stops. Their courage, their commitment, and their loyalty to our country are part of what makes our island strong.

Biba Veterans—today and every day.



PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST

As Chairman of the Committee on Education, I held an oversight hearing with the Guam Department of Education and the Guam Education Board to check in on how we're supporting our students—especially those in Special Education (SPED).

We discussed ongoing staffing shortages, recruitment challenges, and turnover in the SPED Division. Every unfilled position affects a student who needs services, so addressing these gaps remains a priority.

GDOE provided updates on IDEA compliance and how they're working to meet the needs of students who require one-to-one support and other specialized assistance. We also reviewed facility and financial updates, acknowledging the importance of safe and functional learning environments.

I appreciate GDOE and the Board for their transparency. These conversations matter because they're about our students—and our responsibility to get it right. I'll continue pushing for stronger support and better outcomes for every child in our public schools.



NATIONAL HISTORY DAY WINNERS

I had the privilege of recognizing an exceptional group of students who represented our island at the National History Day Contest at the University of Maryland. Their hard work, creativity, and dedication truly showcased the talent we have right here on Guam.

These students took on the national theme, “Rights & Responsibilities in History,” and turned it into thoughtful, well-researched projects that demonstrated not only their academic skills but their passion for understanding the world around them. Their commitment to learning our past and using it to shape a stronger future is something our whole island can be proud of.

On behalf of the people of Guam, congratulations to our students and thank you to the educators who support them. Keep learning, keep growing, and keep making Guam proud.



THANKSGIVING SPIRIT AT THE GUAM CONGRESS BUILDING

We had an amazing time celebrating Thanksgiving at the Guam Congress Building! It was a perfect chance to gather with friends, colleagues, and community members to share fellowship, laughter, and, of course, some incredible local flavors.

The spread was absolutely delicious: roasted turkey, ham, red rice, kelaguen, lumpia, pumpkin pie, and all the classic favorites you'd expect at the best Guam-style Thanksgiving celebrations.

Events like this remind us of the joy of coming together and giving thanks—not just for the holiday, but for the people and community who make our island strong every day.

A big Si Yu'os Ma'åse' to everyone who helped make this celebration possible. It was a wonderful way to pause, enjoy great food, and celebrate the spirit of gratitude that unites us here on Guam.

Happy Thanksgiving, Guam—let's keep sharing the good vibes!



HONORING VETERANS MONTH & RECOGNIZING GY671

As a proud Army veteran, I understand how difficult the transition back to civilian life can be. The challenges many veterans face—whether emotional, financial, or physical—don't disappear when service ends. That's why the work of Got Your Six Seven One (GY671) is so important to our island.

GY671 provides support, connection, and a safe space for veterans who may feel lost or overwhelmed. Secretary Tanya Eubanks captures their purpose well: "GY671's mission is to help veterans and their families regain self-confidence, establish strong support systems, and improve their overall wellbeing both mentally and physically." President Roy Gamboa also reminds us that caring for veterans requires a united community effort. He shared, "We come across veterans of all ages and all types of situations—homelessness, substance abuse, financial crisis, mental health crisis. If you care about your veterans, the community needs to come together."

No veteran should feel alone. Reaching out for help is not a sign of weakness—it is a sign of strength. GY671 ensures that when our veterans reach out, someone is there to answer. To the team at GY671: thank you for the difference you make every day. Our veterans are stronger because of your commitment.



L-R: Got Your Six Seven One President Roy Gamboa, Secretary Tanya Eubanks, Senator Vince Borja, and Vice Speaker Tony Ada smile for a photo at the Got Your Six Seven One office at the Bell Tower in Hagatna on November 26, 2025 during a Legislative Certificate presentation in recognition of Veterans Month.

DECEMBER 2025

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

ONE GECKO, ONE HEART

As an alumnus of George Washington High School, it was an honor to join our Geckos for the Giving Tuesday Harmony March. Nothing makes me prouder than seeing our students lead with purpose, kindness, and unity.

Under the theme “One Gecko, One Heart,” our Spark Ambassadors—Haden Acfalle and Rayn Rios—brought the school together in a powerful display of community spirit. Watching students march from A-Wing to the G-Wing Courtyard, forming a heart to symbolize unity, reminded me why our youth give me so much hope. Their leadership, creativity, and enthusiasm set the tone for the entire event.

What stood out most was that the message came directly from the students: choosing peace, choosing compassion, and choosing to lift each other up. They showed that community doesn't just happen—it's something we build together.

To all the students, faculty, and supporters who made this event meaningful, thank you. Our Geckos continue to inspire our island, and I couldn't be more proud.



GDOE CHRISTMAS PARTY/SWANSON RESOLUTION



It was a pleasure to join the Guam Department of Education for their holiday celebration and to present a Legislative Resolution to outgoing Superintendent Dr. Erik Swanson in recognition of his service to our island's schools. While we gathered in the spirit of the season, the mission to strengthen our education system remains at the forefront.

As a Chairman of the Committee on Education, I remain committed to working with the Guam Education Board to address essential staffing needs, improve school facilities, and ensure a stable environment for our students and educators alike. We are grateful to Dr. Swanson and the GDOE team for their transparency and partnership as we continue our shared work to provide every student with the high-quality education they deserve.

SPENDING TIME WITH MY FELLOW GECKOS (DONATION OF STAGE CURTAIN TO PTO AND STUDENT LEADER Q&A)



It was an honor to reconnect with the Gecko community for the donation of a new stage curtain to the PTO and to engage in a productive Q&A session with our student leaders. Seeing the talent and drive of our youth firsthand reinforces why supporting our schools remains a top priority.

As we work to enhance our island's learning environments, investments in both our facilities and our future leaders are essential. I am grateful to the PTO and the student body for their partnership and for the opportunity to hear directly from the voices that will shape the future of Guam's education system.



BELL RINGING FOR SALVATION ARMY AT AGANA SHOPPING CENTER



It was a joy to join the team at the Agana Shopping Center for the Salvation Army's annual Red Kettle Campaign. There's something special about the sound of those bells that brings our community together in the spirit of giving.

Every donation made to these kettles stays right here on Guam, providing a vital safety net for our families—from food assistance to emergency services. We are incredibly grateful for the kindness of everyone who stopped by to contribute; your generosity ensures that the Salvation Army can continue its mission of "Doing the Most Good" for our island throughout the year.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



On December 13, we gathered at the Guam Veterans Cemetery for Wreaths Across America to Remember, Honor, and Teach. Placing these wreaths is a small but powerful way to ensure the legacy of our veterans is never forgotten.

Standing with our community to say their names aloud reminds us that our freedom is built on their sacrifice. We remain deeply committed to honoring Guam's heroes and supporting the families they left behind.

HONORING A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP: COMMENDING JOSEPH L.M. SANCHEZ



It was a privilege to present Resolution No. 128-38 (COR) recognizing Mr. Joseph L.M. Sanchez for his 13 years of transformative leadership as GDOE's Deputy Superintendent. As the longest-serving Deputy in the department's history, his vision was instrumental in crafting the I Chalan-ta Mo'na strategic plan and guiding our schools through the recovery of both the pandemic and Typhoon Mawar.

His commitment to raising academic standards and fostering professional growth has left an enduring mark on our education system. We are grateful for Mr. Sanchez's 25 years of service and his unwavering dedication to the success of Guam's students and educators.

CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP: DR. MARY A.Y. OKADA



We introduced Resolution No. 131-38 (COR) to congratulate Dr. Mary A.Y. Okada on her retirement after 18 years as the President and CEO of Guam Community College. As the first woman and longest-serving president in GCC's history, Dr. Okada transformed the institution into a national leader in workforce development and fiscal accountability.

From maintaining 24 consecutive years of clean audits to launching GCC's first baccalaureate program and modernizing the campus with sustainable facilities, her impact is unmatched. We are deeply grateful for her visionary service and her dedication to providing the people of Guam with pathways to success.

A GRATEFUL FAREWELL TO GDOE'S DEDICATED LEADERSHIP

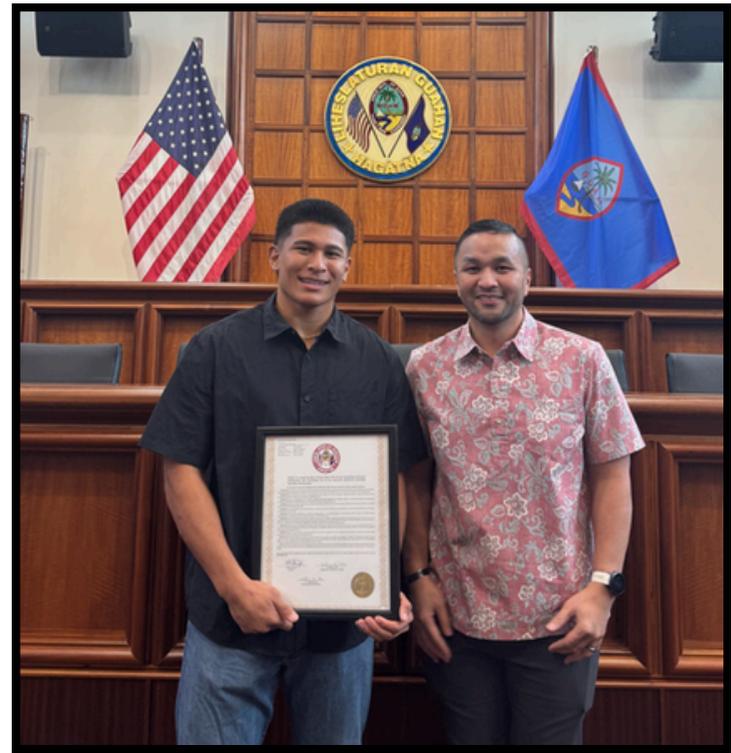


I believe steady leadership is the vital backbone of our school system. Following recent leadership transitions, our office was proud to formally recognize outgoing Deputy Superintendents Joseph L.M. Sanchez, Erika Cruz, and Tricia San Nicolas. These professionals steered Guam's largest agency through the immense challenges of pandemic recovery and Typhoon Mawar, ensuring that the mission to provide a high-quality education for our children never wavered.

I am personally grateful for the transparency and partnership these leaders extended to my committee. Their collective years of service have built a more resilient foundation for our educators and students alike. As they move on to their next chapters, we thank them for their unwavering commitment and wish them the very best in their future endeavors.

CHAMPIONSHIP SPIRIT: HONORING THE GW GECKOS AND RAYN RIOS

It was an honor to welcome the GW Geckos to the Liheslatura. Athletics do more than just build physical strength; they cultivate the discipline, teamwork, and resilience that our youth carry into their future careers and community leadership. We introduced Resolution No. 129-38 (COR) to commend the GW Geckos Football Team on their historic, undefeated 2025-2026 season. Reclaiming the ISA Football League Championship after a decade—and ending a legendary 85-game win streak along the way—demonstrates the "Purple and Gold" spirit at its finest. This victory wasn't just about the score; it was about the years of hard work by the players and coaches to restore a legacy of excellence in Mangilao.



We also recognized senior captain Rayn Rios with Resolution No. 130-38 (COR). Rayn's achievements are unprecedented: a gold-medal wrestler, rugby co-captain, and the first student-athlete to be named both Offensive and Defensive MVP in a single season. We are committed to ensuring our schools remain places where talent like Rayn's can flourish. Supporting our student-athletes means investing in the facilities and programs that allow them to compete at the highest level while staying grounded in their studies.



AHEAD LOOKING



The 38th Guam Legislature

The fourth quarter has brought both significant progress and new challenges, but my dedication to serving our community remains the driving force of my work at the Legislature. As we move forward, my focus is centered on delivering results that directly impact our students, teachers, and families.

- ★ **Strengthening the GDOE Pipeline**
- ★ **Fiscal Accountability & Federal Partnerships for Education**
- ★ **Modernizing Island's Education Infrastructure**

Your Voice Matters!

The support of our island community and my colleagues has been invaluable to my efforts and I express my deepest gratitude. I encourage you to stay involved, share your thoughts, and sign up for our email updates to receive the latest news on our initiatives.

Stay connected: www.senatorborja.com

SI YU'OS MA'ÅSE'