

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN

2024 (SECOND) Regular Session

VOTING RECORD

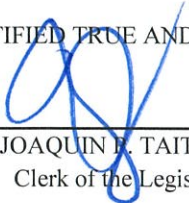
Bill No. 273-37 (COR) As amended by the Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics, Research, and Planning; and further amended on the Floor.	Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco Legislative Session Hall					
	Guam Congress Building July 10, 2024					

NAME	Aye	Nay	Not Voting/ Abstained	Out During Roll Call	Absent	Excused
Senator Chris Barnett	✓					
Senator Frank Blas, Jr.	✓					
Senator Joanne Brown	✓					
Senator Christopher M. Dueñas	✓					
Senator Thomas J. Fisher	✓	I				
Senator Jesse A. Lujan	✓					
Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes	✓					
Senator William A. Parkinson	✓					
Senator Sabina Flores Perez					✓	✓
Senator Roy A. B. Quinata	✓					
Senator Joe S. San Agustin	✓					
Senator Dwayne T. D. San Nicolas	✓					
Senator Amanda L. Shelton	✓					
Senator Telo T. Taitague	✓					
Speaker Therese M. Terlaje	✓					

TOTAL

14	0			1	1
Aye	Nay	Not	Out	Absent	Excused
		Voting/ Abstained	During Roll Call		

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT:


 JOAQUIN E. TAITAGUE
 Clerk of the Legislature

I = Pass

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2024 (SECOND) Regular Session

Bill No. 273-37 (COR)

As amended by the Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics, Research, and Planning; and further amended on the Floor.

*

Introduced by:

Sabina Flores Perez
Therese M. Terlaje
Chris Barnett
Joanne M. Brown
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Telo T. Taitague
Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas

AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW § 14104(p) TO ARTICLE 1 OF CHAPTER 14, DIVISION 1, TITLE 12, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE GUAM WATERWORKS AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH A CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO PROMOTE WATER CONSERVATION AND TO FACILITATE REPAIRS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY.

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 that the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) plays a significant role in precipitation
4 and water availability for Guam. A prolonged El Niño event from 1991 to 1995
5 resulted in the island’s water system’s inability to meet demands during abnormally
6 dry spells. The historical trend is that drought conditions usually follow the wettest
7 year. 2023 was one of the wettest years; and WERI testified, if historical trends

1 continue, that Guam is expected to experience a dry spell, if not drought conditions,
2 in the future.

3 *I Liheslatura* further finds that the importance of repairing or replacing
4 leaking pipes is critical to protecting our water resource from depletion, especially
5 during periods of drought. Additionally, the delayed discovery of and response to
6 water leaks on private property of residents can impact the availability of our water
7 resource, pose economic hardships for some low-income households, and add to
8 non-revenue water loss, which consequently leads to financial loss to the Guam
9 Waterworks Authority (GWA).

10 *I Liheslatura* further finds that assisting residents who have economic
11 difficulty in addressing water leaks on private property and facilitating efficient use
12 of water would mitigate these economic hardships and conserve our water resources.
13 Additionally, reducing water waste on the private property side is an important
14 measure in water resource management, a responsibility of all the residents of Guam,
15 and one which both *I Liheslatura* and GWA support in the interest of the ratepayers
16 of Guam.

17 *I Liheslatura* finds that enabling GWA to enhance its customer assistance
18 initiatives to facilitate leak detection, leak repair, and water conservation activities
19 for low-income customers is essential to the public welfare. Such measures should
20 include access with the consent of the property owner to detect and address leaky
21 pipes in a timely manner, conduct water conservation inspections and assessments,
22 and assist with the procurement and use of water conserving fixtures. Customer
23 assistance initiatives are being implemented in other jurisdictions across the nation
24 in alignment with the water utility industry's recommendations, and these measures
25 will aid GWA's implementation of a customer assistance program for low-income
26 households that supports affordable access to clean drinking water, facilitates water
27 conservation education, and promotes the protection of our water resource.

1 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, therefore, intends to authorize GWA to assist
2 residential customers through the establishment of an enhanced Customer
3 Assistance Program which, among other things, allows GWA to work with low-
4 income customers to address water leaks on private property in a timely manner in
5 order to ensure access to clean drinking water for all, significantly reduce water loss
6 and associated costs to the ratepayer, and protect our precious water resources.

7 **Section 2.** A new § 14104(p) is *added* to Article 1 of Chapter 14, Division
8 1, Title 12, Guam Code Annotated, to read:

9 “(p) Customer Assistance Program.

10 (1) The Guam Waterworks Authority shall establish a Water and
11 Sewer Assistance Fund for the purpose of providing financial assistance and
12 incentives to residential customers.

13 (2) The Guam Waterworks Authority shall establish a Customer
14 Assistance Program (CAP), pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated
15 through the Administrative Adjudication Law (Chapter 9, Title 5, Guam Code
16 Annotated) to provide financial and other assistance to eligible ratepayers that
17 shall be funded through grants and/or Legislative appropriation deposited into
18 the Water and Sewer Assistance Fund. Ratepayer revenue shall not be used
19 by GWA to fund the CAP program without the express prior approval of the
20 PUC.

21 (3) The Guam Waterworks Authority shall establish income
22 eligibility standards for a residential class ratepayer to receive financial
23 assistance under this Subsection that also includes providing discounts or
24 credits for hard-to-reach low-income customers and/or their landlords.

25 (4) Financial assistance provided under this Subsection shall
26 include:

27 (A) a volumetric discount for water and wastewater services;

- (B) leak detection and repair services;
- (C) supplemental bill assistance for hardship; and
- (D) the reduction or waiver of fees, including late fees.

(5) Other assistance provided under this Subsection shall include:

- (A) water conservation inspection and assessment services;
- (B) rebates or discounts for the use of water conserving fixtures; and
- (C) education and information on water conservation practices and resource management.

(6) The Guam Waterworks Authority shall submit an annual report to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* on the CAP program's performance, including the number of beneficiaries, the amount of assistance provided, and an assessment of the program's impact on water conservation and financial relief for low-income households.”

Section 3. Promulgation of Rules and Regulations. The Guam Waterworks Authority shall promulgate rules and regulations within six (6) months after the enactment of this Act.

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

Section 5. Effective Date. This Act shall be effective upon enactment.