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

As substituted; and amended on the Floor.	Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco Legislative Session Hall Guam Congress Building October 7, 2024					
NAME	Aye	Nay	Not Voting/ Abstained	Out During Roll Call	Absent	Excused
Senator Chris Barnett	1					
Senator Frank Blas, Jr.	1					
Senator Joanne Brown	J			-		
Senator Christopher M. Dueñas	J					
Senator Thomas J. Fisher	J					
Senator Jesse A. Lujan	J					
Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes					J	J
Senator William A. Parkinson	J					
Senator Sabina Flores Perez	J					
Senator Roy A. B. Quinata	J					
Senator Joe S. San Agustin					J	J
Senator Dwayne T. D. San Nicolas	J					
Senator Amanda L. Shelton	J			,		
Senator Telo T. Taitague	J					
Speaker Therese M. Terlaje	J					
TOTAL	13	0		•	2	2
	Aye	Nay	Not Voting/ Abstained	Out During Roll Call	Absent	Excused

I = Pass

JOAQUINA TAITAGUE Clerk of the Legislature

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

Bill No. 286-37 (LS)

As substituted; and amended on the Floor.

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Introduced by:

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Therese M. Terlaje
Telo T. Taitague
Chris Barnett
Joanne M. Brown
Joe S. San Agustin
Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas
<u>Tina Rose Muña Barnes</u>

AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW § 6105(b)(3) OF ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 6, TITLE 12, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO PROVIDING FREE BUS PASSES TO THOSE WHO LACK ACCESS TO RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION.

## BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that transportation can be a barrier to accessing essential services or appearing before appointments for economically-disadvantaged individuals who cannot afford to purchase their own vehicles or afford the current costs of public transportation; and the lack of access to reliable transportation results in limited access to crucial services perpetuating cycles of poverty and hindering opportunities for economic advancement.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan further finds that the lack of reliable transportation for this population, especially those facing legal challenges including court orders and probation, creates obstacles for them in meeting their obligations such as their ability to attend court-mandated appointments, hearings, and other legal requirements.

*I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that a portion of the population that are in need face challenges in accessing essential health services and public assistance programs due to transportation barriers; and limited mobility exacerbates health disparities and restricts access to vital resources that can improve overall well-being.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan also finds that foster families, who play a pivotal role in providing stability for children in need, may also encounter difficulties in transporting foster children to essential appointments, schools, or other activities, which fundamentally limits the overall development and well-being of the children in their care.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan finds that the Guam Regional Transit Authority (GRTA) is a government entity that aims to provide reliable and affordable public transportation for the people of Guåhan. Current bus fare rates are One Dollar and Fifty Cents (\$1.50) for a single ride pass, Four Dollars (\$4.00) for a one (1)-day pass, Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) for a one (1)-week pass, and Sixty-five Dollars (\$65.00) for a one (1)-month pass. While the costs for these fares may appear affordable for some, for others who are lacking the financial means, these costs are the determining factor in whether they can access transportation for the day, week, or month.

Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to address the identified challenges of those experiencing financial hardships by mandating the Guam Regional Transit Authority (GRTA) to provide free bus passes.

**Section 2.** A new Subsection (3) is hereby *added* to § 6105(b) of Article 1, Chapter 6, Title 12, Guam Code Annotated, to read:

"(3) Provide a combination of one (1)-month and daily bus passes at no cost to agencies on an as-needed basis which the agencies shall distribute to individuals

who do not have access to reliable transportation but require transport services to avail for essential services or attend appointments.

- (A) Bus passes shall be provided to Child Protective Services (CPS), the Guam Department of Education (GDOE), the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority (GHURA), the Judiciary of Guam, or the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC) at the request of the agencies.
- (B) Bus passes shall be requested at least five (5) business days in advance to provide ample time for GRTA to prepare the requested bus passes. However, GRTA shall establish an emergency inventory of bus passes to be utilized by the agencies in the event an emergency need arises for a bus pass.
- (C) A log of bus passes distributed and other pertinent information shall be recorded by each agency and transmitted to GRTA on a monthly basis.
- (D) GRTA may distribute free bus passes directly to individuals for the purposes of availing for public assistance, medical or behavioral treatment, court or probation related needs, GHURA assistance, and GDOE appointments. GRTA shall also maintain a log of bus passes distributed for the aforementioned purposes."
- **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment.