











I Mina'trentai Sais Na Lihelaturan Guåhan
BILL STATUS

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	FISCAL NOTES	NOTES
214-36 (COR)	Amanda L. Shelton Joe S. San Agustin Tina Rose Muña Barnes Telena Cruz Nelson Mary Camacho Torres Jose "Pedro" Terlaje James C. Moylan Clynton E. Ridgell Sabina Flores Perez V. Anthony Ada	AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$25,000,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP), AS ESTABLISHED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-25; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP) ACT OF 2021."	10/15/21 11:12 a.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2021 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No.214-36 (COR)

Introduced by:

Amanda L. Shelton 
Joe S. San Agustin 
Tina Rose Muña Barnes 
Telena Cruz Nelson 
Mary Camacho Torres 
Jose "Pedo" Terlaje 
James C. Moylan 
Clynton E. Ridgell 
Sabina Flores Perez 
V. Anthony Ada 

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$25,000,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP), AS ESTABLISHED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-25; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "LOCAL EMPLOYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP) ACT OF 2021."

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 that businesses in Guam were adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. A
4 study on the impact of COVID-19 on Guam residents and businesses conducted by
5 the University of Guam (UOG) Regional Center for Public Policy cites that private
6 businesses and their contribution to our island economy fell, with revenue

1 performance and businesses expenses dropping by sixty-six percent (66%) and
2 eighty-one percent (81%), respectively, between 2017 and 2020. In addition, twenty-
3 five percent (25%) of businesses surveyed in 2020 were temporarily or permanently
4 closed.

5 *I Liheslatura* further finds that these adverse impacts were felt more by some
6 economic sectors than others. The same UOG study found that Guam's tourism
7 sector experienced the most difficulty, with businesses in this sector
8 underperforming by thirty-two percent (32%). Within the tourism sector, seven
9 percent (7%) of businesses permanently closed and some businesses resorted to
10 employee furloughs or permanent layoffs.

11 *I Liheslatura* further finds that the COVID-19 public health crisis and
12 resulting economic crisis have created a variety of challenges for small businesses
13 in Guam. The island's economic recovery relies upon the capacity of businesses to
14 bounce back, and it is incumbent upon the government to provide critical assistance
15 to businesses adversely impacted by the pandemic, facilitating the urgent
16 deployment of capital and support to help these organizations not just to persevere,
17 but recover on solid footing.

18 *I Liheslatura* further finds that the federal Pandemic Unemployment
19 Assistance (PUA) program ended on September 4, 2021, leaving many of Guam's
20 workers without an employment safety net. In considering an assistance program for
21 businesses in Guam, *I Liheslatura* notes that such a program should ultimately help
22 businesses to re-hire previously furloughed employees or hire new workers from the
23 current unemployment pool.

24 Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to appropriate Twenty-
25 five Million Dollars (\$25,000,000) to the Department of Administration for the
26 Local Employers' Assistance Program (LEAP), as established by Executive Order
27 2021-25.

1 **Section 2. Appropriation.** The sum of Twenty-five Million Dollars
2 (\$25,000,000) from the General Fund is hereby appropriated to the Department of
3 Administration for the Local Employers' Assistance Program (LEAP), as
4 established by Executive Order 2021-025, or as amended thereafter.

5 **Section 3. Reporting.** The Department of Administration and the Guam
6 Economic Development Authority shall submit a report to the Speaker of *I*
7 *Lihselaturan Guåhan*, which shall include the cumulative amount of payments made
8 under the Local Employers' Assistance Program (LEAP) and the total administrative
9 costs to facilitate the Program.

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