



COMMITTEE ON RULES

I Mina'trentai Unu na Libeslaturan Guåhan • The 31st Guam Legislature
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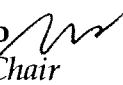
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Aline A. Yamashita
ASST. MINORITY LEADER

Senator
Christopher M. Duenas

April 19, 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: Patricia C. Santos
Clerk of the Legislature

From: Senator Rory J. Respicio 
Majority Leader & Rules Chair

Subject: Supplement to Committee Report
Bill No. 415-31 (COR)

Hafa Adai!

Transmitted herewith is a memo from Speaker Judith T. Won Pat, Chairperson, Committee on Education and Public Library, forwarding additional testimony on Bill No. 415.

Please include this memo and the attachment as a "Supplement" to the Committee Report on Bill No. 415-31 (COR).

Please make the appropriate indication in your records; and forward to MIS for posting on our website. I also request that the same be forwarded to all Senators of *I Mina'trentai Unu na Liheslaturan Guåhan*.

Si Yu'os ma'åse'!

2012 APR 20 AM 8:30



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Supplement to the Committee Report on Bill No. 415-31 (COR)

"AN ACT TO SUPPORT WOMEN AND SAVE CHILDREN, BY ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 94 TO TITLE 10 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, WHICH MAY BE CITED AS THE ACTO PARA MA SAPOTTE I FAMA'LAO'AN YAN PARA MA SATBA I FAMAGU'ON."

*NOTE: The original Committee Report on
Bill No. 415-31 (COR)
was filed on March 12, 2012.



I Mina'trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Senator Vicente (ben) Cabrera Pangelinan (D)

April 18, 2012

MEMORANDUM

Chairman
Committee on Appropriations,
Taxation, Public Debt, Banking,
Insurance, Retirement, and
Land

To: Senator Rory Respicio
Chairman
Committee on Rules

Vice Chairman
Committee on Education

From: Speaker Judith Won Pat, Ph.D.
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations, Taxation, Public Debt, Banking,
Insurance, Retirement, and Land

Member
Committee on Rules,
Federal, Foreign &
Micronesia Affairs and
Human & Natural
Resources

Re: Testimony on Bill 415-31

Member
Committee on
Municipal Affairs,
Tourism, Housing, and
Recreation

Håfa Adai Senator Respicio,

Attached is a copy of a testimony for Bill 415-31, which was received after the committee report was already filed.

I hereby request that the following testimony be included in Bill 415-31 Committee report:

Dr. Lilli Ann Perez, Project Kariñu

Member
Committee on the Guam
Military Buildup and
Homeland Security

Si Yu'os Ma'ase.



Member
Committee on Health and
Human Services, Senior
Citizens, Economic
Development, and Election
Reform

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April 11, 2012

Honorable Vicente C. Pangelinan
Senator & Chairman
Committee on Appropriation, Taxation, Public Debt,
Banking, Insurance, Retirement and Land

I Mina'trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guahan
Suite 101 Quan Building
324 W. Soledad Ave.
Hagatna, Guam 96910



Testimony: **Bill No. 415-31** “An Act to Support Women and Save Children, by adding a New Chapter 94 to Title 10 of the Guam Code Annotated, which may be cited as the *Acto Para Ma Sapotte I Fama'lao'on Yan Para Ma Satba I Famagu'on.*”

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Chairman Pangelinan and Committee Members,

Thank you for including my testimony primarily in support of Bill 415. I would like to emphasize my concern for the infants and toddlers who will be affected by this legislation. The basis of my testimony is their emotional and social well being as I am writing in my capacity as a clinician, a mother, a grandmother and daughter of Guam.

I would like to suggest that instead of creating yet another program, why not use our limited resources to continue funding existing programs whose clients are these ‘very young’. I am speaking specifically of Project Kariñu, a fairly new program for young children, birth through five years of age who have a diagnosable mental disorder, or are at imminent risk for developing these disorders.

Current data indicate that between 5% to 26% of the national population, from birth to five years of age, are estimated to have an early childhood emotional / behavioral disorder.¹ That

¹ Brauner & Stephens in Public Health Reports, Pp. 303 – 310; May – June 2006.

is one in every twenty young children! Guam's estimated population, birth to four years of age, is 16,000. These translate into approximately 4,160 very young children with an early childhood emotional / behavioral disorder.² (emphasis added)

Project Kariñu is housed in the Department of Public Health and Social Services. Why 'Public Health' and not 'Mental Health'? Well, most people cannot imagine a very young child with a social or emotional problem. A pediatrician or pediatric nurse, on the other hand, is most likely to notice unusual behavior that might signal something other than a medical issue.

Project Kariñu started working with this extremely vulnerable population on June 1, 2010. At the time, we estimated serving about 60 clients in our first year. As we approach the end of our first year, we have served nearly 130 young children. Many are the clients referenced in Mr. Gillan's testimony – those children in our child welfare system.

Project Kariñu uses a System of Care approach in its service delivery. The 'System of Care' concept is not new to members of this legislative body. Back in 2000, Bill 399 (COR), was signed into law as P.L. 25-141. It was "An act to add Chapter 93 to Division 4, Part 2 of Title 10 of Guam Code Annotated, relative to creating the **Guam System of Care Council for Children** with serious emotional disturbance, and to appropriate \$75,000.00 for such purposes.

It states, Guam's system of care shall promote partnerships between the child, family and service providers from the initiation of services and thereafter. The partnerships with the child and family necessarily *require effective collaboration with the child and family among and between public and private providers of services with other appropriate stakeholders in the community (emphasis added).*

The Guam System of Care Council worked diligently and seven years later, on October 2, 2007, \$750,000 was appropriated for the operations of the Child Mental Health Initiative Program, ***I Famagu'on-ta System of Care***, to support children and adolescents under twenty-two years of age who are diagnosed with a serious emotional disturbance. Bill 174 (EC) was signed into law as Public Law 29-19. It is described as, "An Act making appropriations for the operations of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of the Government of Guam for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, making other appropriations, and enacting miscellaneous and administration provisions."

Nearly a year later, on July 7, 2008, additional funds were allocated to support formalizing personnel within *I Famagu'on-ta*. Bill 302 (EC), "An Act to amend Section 85(b) of Chapter IV of Public Law 29-19 (passed just the year before), relative to allowing the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse to expend government funds for classified and unclassified positions within the Child Mental Health Initiative program, *I Famagu'on-ta System of Care*, was signed into law as P.L. 29-86.

² 2000 Census Data Projections.

Yet another year later, on January 15, 2009, Guam's Early Childhood System of Care, Project Kariñu, was formalized. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' [DHHS], Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA] awarded Guam a six-year grant. For more detail refer to Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) No.: 93.104 (RFA) No. SM-09-002 Cooperative Agreement.


To make a short story even shorter, the project got off to a late start and currently needs the support of the local government to continue. Uncle Sam is no longer about the dole; he is now about the toll – specifically, a joint fiscal venture between the local and federal governments.

I propose funding be used to support the services provided by Project Kariñu as this program currently services the very young population most affected by the proposed legislation. The System of Care approach seems the most logical in its service design and inclusion of service delivery partners. A Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Collaboration and Participation was established on January 14, 2009. The MOU collaborators include the following twenty entities:

- Office of the Governor
- Attorney General of Guam
- Guam Legislature
- DPHSS
- DMHSA
- DISID
- GPSS
- GMHA
- Guam's Positive Parents Together (GPPT)
- Guam's Identifies Families Terrific Strengths (GIFTS)
- Guam System of Care Council
- UOG CEDDERS
- UOG Family Support 360 Program
- Guam Community College
- Guam Judiciary
- Department of Labor
- Mayors Council of Guam
- DYA
- Guam's Model Child Care Centers

In closing, I implore this legislature to support the services of Project Kariñu in lieu of establishing another program that duplicates existing services. In addition to partnerships with the noted collaborators, Project Kariñu's personnel have the skills and expertise to effectively engage and support this young population, as well as to provide the counseling services to mother's contemplating abortion.

I have provided three pages of words, words that do not do justice to the potential lifelong impact on these very young children's ability to function as children, as youth, and one day as parents themselves.


Lilli Ann Perez, PhD
IMF-049; LCSW 3640; RPT-S 801

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Project Kariñu, BNFHS
Dept. of Public Health & Social Services
Phone: (671)478-5414
E-mail < lilli.perez@dphss.guam.gov >