



**SENATOR DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ, JR.**

FEB 10 2016

Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

Speaker

I Mina'Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

155 Hesler Place

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

VIA: *JRC*  
The Honorable Rory J. Respicio  
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

RE: Committee Report – The Executive Appointment of Mr. Jon J. Rojas as the Administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority.

2016 FEB 10 11:05  
*[Handwritten signature]*

Dear Speaker Won Pat:

Transmitted herewith, for your consideration, is the Confirmation Report on **The Executive Appointment of Mr. Jon J. Rojas as the Administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority** as was referred to the Committee on Health, Economic Development, Homeland Security and Senior Citizens. Confirmation hearing was conducted on January 7, 2016.

Committee votes are as follows:

  8   TO CONFIRM  
\_\_\_\_\_ NOT TO CONFIRM  
\_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN  
\_\_\_\_\_ TO REPORT OUT ONLY  
\_\_\_\_\_ TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE

Senseramente,

**Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.**  
Chairman

Attachments




**SENATOR DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ, JR.**

February 9, 2016

MEMORANDUM

**To: ALL MEMBERS**  
Committee on Health, Economic Development, Homeland Security and Senior Citizens.

**From: Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.**   
Committee Chairperson

**Subject: Committee Report on The Executive Appointment of Mr. Jon J. Rojas as the Administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority.**

Transmitted herewith, for your consideration, is the **Committee Report on The Executive Appointment of Mr. Jon J. Rojas as the Administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority.**

This report includes the following:

- Committee Voting Sheet
- Committee Report Narrative/Digest
- Copy of Appointment packet
- Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet
- Copies of Submitted Testimony and Supporting Documents
- Copy of COR Referral
- Notices of Public Hearing (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>)
- Copy of the Public Hearing Agenda
- Related News Articles (Public hearing publication of public notice)

Please take the appropriate action on the attached voting sheet. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!*

Attachments



SENATOR DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

**COMMITTEE REPORT  
ON**

**The Executive Appointment of Mr.  
Jon J. Rojas as the Administrator of  
the Guam Economic Development  
Authority.**



SENATOR DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

COMMITTEE VOTING SHEET

The Executive Appointment of Mr. Jon J. Rojas as the Administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority.

	SIGNATURE	TO CONFIRM	NOT TO CONFIRM	ABSTAIN	REPORT OUT ONLY	PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE
DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ, Jr. Chairman		✓ 2/9/14				
V. ANTHONY ADA Vice Chairman						
BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ		✓				
RORY J. RESPICIO						
TINA ROSE MUNA BARNES		✓				
THOMAS C. ADA		✓				
FRANK B. AGUON, Jr. 2/10/14		✓				
NERISSA B. UNDERWOOD		✓				
THOMAS A. MORRISON		✓				
BRANT T. MCCREADIE		✓ 2/10/14				
FRANK F. BLAS, Jr.						



## SENATOR DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

### COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

#### I. OVERVIEW

The Committee on Health, Economic Development, Homeland Security and Senior Citizens convened a public hearing on **Thursday, January 7, 2016 at 10am** in *I Liheslatura's* Public Hearing Room.

Among the items on the agenda was the consideration of the appointment of **Mr. Jon J. Rojas as the Administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority** and whose appointment history is as follows:

- Appointed by Governor Edward J.B. Calvo on November 24, 2015.
- Appointment packet forwarded to *I Liheslatura* on November 25, 2015.
- Appointment packet forwarded to this committee for public consideration on December 2, 2015.

#### Public Notice Requirements

Notices were disseminated via electronic-mail to all senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on **Tuesday, December 29, 2015** (5-Day Notice), and again on **Monday, January 4, 2016** (48-Hour Notice).

#### Senators Present

Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.	Chairperson
Senator Tony V. Ada	Vice-Chair
Senator Frank B. Aguon, Jr.	Member
Senator Tina Rose Muna Barnes	Member
Senator Benjamin J.F. Cruz	Member
Senator Tommy Morrison	Member
Senator Thomas C. Ada	Member
Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas	

#### II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The Public Hearing was Called-to-Order at 10:02AM.

**Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.:** The committee only has one (1) item on the agenda, which is the executive appointment of Mr. Jon J. Rojas as the Administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority. I'd like to acknowledge my Vice-Chairman for the Committee Senator



## SENATOR DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

Tony V. Ada, Senator Tina Rose Muna Barnes, Senator Frank Blas Aguon, Jr., and Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas, thank you for joining us this morning. We have a sign-in sheet and if I call your name, you wish to provide oral testimony I invite you to please come forward. We have here Mr. Monte Mesa who checked marked the oral testimony column, so please if you can join us up front, the others here who indicated all signed-in in favor of the appointment and written testimony will be forthcoming. The committee did receive written testimony from Mr. Ernesto "Jun" Espaldon and also from Mr. Noel Enriquez and that will be included in the committee report and whatever else we receive after this hearing today, we'll ensure that it's placed into the committee report. Mr. David John and Mr. George Chiu if you can please call you forward to testify.

(Recognized Mr. Monte Mesa)

**Mr. Monte Mesa:** Good morning Mr. Chairman. My name is Monte Mesa and good morning to the committee members as well. I'm here today to support the nomination of Jon J. Rojas for the Director of GEDA. I've known Jon for the last five (5) years of working with him through the Chamber of Commerce and I see him very responsible and responsive also result oriented and I think that young people like Jon today coming back to the island and taking the opportunity to step up and become a leader of a very important agency that we have for the Guam Economic Development. I encourage that and I see that Jon can feel the responsibilities as well as take the initiative to lead the agency to the next level and I'm here to extend my support again and I ask that the committee consider his nomination and approve him to be the GEDA Administrator, thank you.

**Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.:** Thank you very much Mr. Mesa.

(Recognized Mr. George Chiu)

**Mr. George Chiu:** Good morning Chairman Rodriguez, Senators. My name is George Chiu, I'm a member and board of directors of GEDA and I'm here to testify in support on the confirmation for Jon J. Rojas as the Executive Administrator for GEDA. I've only met Jon about a year and a half ago in Washington D.C. when I attended the Invest USA conference, I found him to be intelligent and very organized and most important of all he was living in D.C. and he's willing to come back to Guam. So I think that's a huge plus just to reiterate what Monte said I think Guam needs a lot of our young Guamanians living in the United States to come back home and Jon is one of them who's willing to give up living in D.C., in fact I just came back from D.C. yesterday morning, it's a beautiful city. I don't know why anybody would want to leave D.C. and move back and even during the winter time and Jon is willing to do that and again, short of saying it's



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a great position for him at GEDA but his willingness to leave and come back to Guam and actually live and work here I think it's a very positive attribute, so I urge the committee to approve his confirmation, thank you.

**Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.:** (Recognized Mr. David John)

**Mr. David John:** Good morning, my name is David John, I'm the director over at the Guam Economic Development Authority, and I'm also here to testify or give support for Jon J. Rojas, for the Director of Guam Economic Development Authority. I first started working with Jon J. Rojas when I was Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, he and Nate back here were starting the Guam Young Professionals and every task that we've assigned Jon along the way, if we've give him, get to this level he'd take it to this level and everything that I've seen along the way is just professional career, he seems to exceed what is asked of him he's very well organized, good communicator, I think he's perfect for the job. I want to make sure that I'm whole heartedly in support of Mr. Jon J. Rojas for the Director of the Guam Economic Development Authority. Thank you.

**Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.:** Thank you very much Mr. John. Any other Senators have any questions for this panel? If not, I just want to thank you very much for your testimony this morning.

Before I call Mr. Rojas, is there anyone else that wishes to provide oral testimony? If not, I'll go ahead and call Mr. Rojas.

(Recognized Mr. Jon J. Rojas)

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** Good morning Senators.

**Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.:** Good morning. First of all, congratulations on your appointment and I want to give you the opportunity to read your prepared statement and then after that we'll open up the questions if there's any from this panel.

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** Absolutely. Thank you.

(Read Written Testimony)

**Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.:** Thank you very much again Jon, I want to again congratulate you and thank your family and friends that are here, especially the GEDA folks who are behind you and I'm very pleased that the Governor has selected you and of course the board



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has affirmed that your selection as the Executive Director, Administrator of GEDA, it's a very important agency. An Agency that I'm proud to be able to work with for the past few years, I'm also pleased that the Governor saw a young individual like you. I think we're the same age and I see young leaders that we see here, Nate, Natalia, Regine, Mark as well that have really demonstrated that it's our generations that's going to take us into the future with of course the wisdom and the advice of our elders, so I'm very happy but you had testified about going back to basics. I think that's very important as well, with GEDA there are a lot of program initiatives that are ready in place that I believe need to be attended to, need to be able to give that extra focus on and so I'm happy that you'll be able to provide that sense of leadership on your end there.

(Recognized Vice-Chairman, Senator Tony V. Ada)

**Senator Tony V. Ada:** Thank you Mr. Chair, Good morning Mr. Rojas. Congratulations on your appointment and thank you for accepting the position to be the Administrator for the Guam Economic Development Authority. What else can I say, the Chairman took it all and I'm glad that you decided to come back home, that was probably a decision that was a difficult one to make and a lot of times we always say that, bigger and better opportunities out there in the mainland but I think our bigger and better opportunities are right here in our island and when our young talent comes back home and when I say young I'm talking about you and I and we come back home and we actually want to be a part of our island a part of our community to make it a better place to live, work and enjoy. I thank you for that and I look forward to voting on your confirmation and you have my full support. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** Thank you.

**Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.:** (Recognized Senator Tina Rose Muna Barnes)

**Senator Tina Rose Muna Barnes:** Si Yu'os Ma'ase Mr. Chair and to all of you here. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment and ask a question to this handsome gentleman here. I need to disclose for the record Mr. Chair that I have known Mr. Jon J. Rojas all his life and I'd like to thank our family for being here, his dad uncle Johnny, auntie Josephine, uncle Oscar, uncle Sonny, Dr. Duenas and my sister and I say that because family has always been a very intricate part of his life growing up. He's always shown the upmost respect to family and always engaged no matter what the function was, he was always there to help when he was on Guam. So you can tell that we're very closely related and that we grew up together. I want to say that for a long time, Jon was off-island and the opportunities for them were great but he always wanted to come home but I do have a question to ask you. You do have my support but there was





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something that has been created through legislation has been accepted and signed into law by our Governor that is the Public Law on the Guam Film Office, I know that GEDA is the caretaker of this new legislation and I really would like to just ask you about your thoughts and your vision on how would you showcase Guam to the rest of the world especially now that Guam truly has the Guam Film Office Commission that's under your purview?

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** Actually yes you're absolutely right with the Public Law that created the Guam Film Office under the purview of GEDA. What we have actually done within our business development team is actually dedicated to resource specifically looking into the opportunity for Film and other entertainment industries to be attracted to the island. We have this individual who has come over and was a proud member of the coordinating committee for the Guam International Film Festival. We do have this perfect opportunity and this film office, should it be established or as it is establishing finance, it would be a great opportunity to assist us into promoting Guam. Promote us as an investment of choice. Looking at us as a destination, the opportunity for everyone to grow and that's really what we're really trying to look at when we start to look at new industries. There are some industries that we are also taking a look at but film is definitely one of them as it is now required by statute as well.

**Senator Tina Rose Muna Barnes:** Thank you Mr. Chair and so glad that he's shared his perspective on his thoughts on that I look forward in the very near future that we see a blue-print truly set out to continue to showcase and promote Guam to the rest of the world, all of us in this room know that our island does main, I guess heartbeat of the economic industry of tourism and this is one way that we can add new resources to our island and bring the expertise without expending what we have here knowing that we do have a lot of creativity, a lot of expertise here that relates to the film industry and that we can tap into that networking and bridging our experts to those from the rest of the world and the film festival has been very successful in the last five (5) years and I'd like to see GEDA promote and tap into that market. Thank you, Si Yu'os Ma'ase Mr. Chair and I want to say for the record, uncle Johnny he has my full support and I will make sure and ask that the committee had at least signed off and get it into next week's session floor.

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** Thank you Senator.

**Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.:** (Recognized Senator Frank Blas Aguon, Jr.)



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**Senator Frank Blas Aguon, Jr.:** Thank you very much Mr. Chairman and I believe Jon, much has been said in regards to your statements and coming back home but I just want to share with our people that over the last two (2) years you have been serving the people of Guam at the Governor's Office in Washington D.C. so your coming back and you're extending yourself even more assuming this particular responsibility as the Administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority. There are a couple of comments that you shared with us, (1) as you came off the block and you shared that you had a desire to work more actively with the committee and I have a certain appreciation for that because as we look at our economy, we look at continuing to grow the tourism industry, we look at the impending military buildup. There are other facets of this economy that we also need to concentrate on and you were I believe if I'm not mistaken you were at the ribbon cutting for the Speaker Pangelinan Farmer's Cooperative market and that in and of itself is one additional step in supporting our agriculture industry and I certainly hope that from your perspective assuming that helm that there will be additional emphasis in support our farmers in ways in giving them a hand up, not necessarily a hand out but a hand up so that we can continue to grow our agriculture industry and also simultaneously our aquaculture industry because those to have facets of our economy that I'm sure we can continue to increase and lessen our dependents on imports. There's another statement that you made, let me just close with two (2) additional points; (1) You have an excellent team at GEDA, not only your management team and not only your staff but also your board of directors and I certainly look to your for not only for reaching out to them and getting their expertise and leaning on them and giving them that opportunity to shine as you move this particular agency forward and finally you closed out with this will be a combination of my experience and Jon, the two of you, between you and the Chairman, you allotted to your young age I certainly that this is certainly not the combination of your experience in serving the people of Guam because there's a lot more that you can continue to provide in terms of public service or even for the private sector. I commend you and I thank you very much for owning up to this particular extension of assistance and support by the Governor and I look forward to your contribution and you have my full support. Thank you Jon.

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** Thank you Senator.

**Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.:** Thank you very much Senator Aguon. I want to Recognize Senator Morrison who joined us and also Vice-Speaker Cruz and Senator Thomas C. Ada, thank you.

(Recognized Senator Tommy A. Morrison)



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**Senator Tommy A. Morrison:** Thank you Mr. Chair and Jon, my sister and my brother-in-law and many of those members of this Guam society really miss you out there. I just wanted to note that this morning. I thank those that came here to support you and that's a great team behind you and I just look forward to your leadership at GEDA. Of course, you've seen some of the recent news that's been taken place in our southern communities and some proposed developments and some things that have also come about through some research and seeing what other legislatures and their visions they had for the southern end of the island and I just ask if you could look and I've even spoke with Senator Taijeron about this briefly but to look at Public Law 19-34 that calls for a southern development plan and we do have a northern and central land use plan that guides many of these developmental process, however, I think because it's good to see investors are looking down south and we do need to look at economic opportunities on our communities down south to maintain the populations in the south as we're seeing there is a huge migration either north or off-island. So we want to ensure that through the southern development plan in any type of development in the future that there is a process to guide this, I just don't want to see us or any of my colleagues in a position to backpedal on any initiative that is good for Guam and not having a process for it, I do want to see the south grow in a good way. However, we just don't have any guidance for it and I know there is the Land Use commission, however there is a missing component that guides the Land Use Commission and how we grow the south. So if you could look at that and working with your team because GEDA is also a part of that measure, BSP Land Use Commission, Land Management, and hopefully we can assist you or assist GEDA and many of the partners and how we could get this plan moving forward. So I look forward to working with you and the GEDA team, thank you.

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** Thank you Senator. When we start talking about economic development, what the general public seems to forget is, it's a very broad topic and economic development can happen in a few different ways. Being an island our natural resources are very limited and we must protect what we have as far as the culture, the land, the water to kind of go from there and I don't think any Guamanians are going to argue with that point. But when we start to look at economic development, we also have to think about sustainable development and responsible development and I can guarantee you the team that's going to be working at GEDA once we start to look at that is going to take that into consideration because there's no way that we're going to want to destroy any of the natural resources that we have, because that's really the largest economic drive that the island has to offer. So we'll definitely take a look at Public Law 19-34. I'm not really familiar with it at this point but we will look at what opportunities do lay in these other regions. Thank you.



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**Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.:** Thank you very much Senator.  
(Recognized Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas)

**Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas:** Thank you Mr. Chair, just two (2) topics that I wanted to talk about Jon. The first is the qualifying certificates, one of the concerns that I've been observing is that as we issue out qualifying certificates and we abate certain taxes, particularly gross receipt taxes and property taxes, those two (2) revenue sources, the way money flows is the gross receipt taxes come in and a percentage goes into the pharmaceutical fund which is supposed to go to GMH. Now we know GMH is having financial problems and then we have the property taxes that go into the territorial educational facilities fund and that goes to fund education and we know that our educational facilities have financial problems. So what's your vision on handling the increase in QC interest, particularly in the hotel industry with respect to abating those two (2) particular taxes because if we abate those taxes we basically foregoing revenue into two (2) areas that are in desperate need of it? So what's your vision with respect to QC's and those abatements of GRT and property taxes?

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** From the stand point of qualifying certificates specifically for hotels and this particular instance, there is a statute that drives those specials QC's, specifically for hotels which actually defines what goes into what. So unfortunately GEDA doesn't really have a position on what we can do on those abatements but again as we start to take a look at any type of development there really has to be a balance and if you crunch the numbers for the number of hotel rooms that we're looking for in these qualifying certificates it is going to have an impact on both GRT as well as the property tax but it's going to be an impact that we should be able to manage going forward.

**Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas:** I don't know, for me I'm just concerned because the revenue realities of GMH and DOE, they need every penny they can get and I constantly find myself working with the Vice-Speaker and I'm the chair on revenue, I'm responsible for what's supposed to be coming in and so when I see these abatements happening to these particular revenue streams I know that the target for QC's is a ten (10%) percent abatement for the applicant and that ten (10%) percent is made up of a combination of a different tax category, GRT income taxes, corporate income taxes, but one (1) area that's never touched or talked about is the hotel occupancy taxes. So what happen is a QC will come in for a hotel and they'll abate every single tax except for the hotel occupancy tax which also just so happens to be ten (10%) percent and so what happens is the tourist attraction fund gets fully funded but then everything else does not get the funding that it needs and then when we look at the revenue realities of the



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government we can see it pretty plainly. The tourist attraction fund is over flowing with money while the general fund, the hospital, the schools are starved. And so I guess what I would like to leave you with to contemplate as GEDA Director is the fact that our economic development doesn't just need more hotel rooms or more jobs, It needs a fully funded hospital and it needs a fully funded education system. Perhaps we could work together in the future and you can come back and give us some ideas on how we can either grow those revenue streams or figure out how we can probably reconfigure the formula on how to come up with that 10% aggregate abatement on the QC's that might also include some give and take from the hotel occupancy tax that way we're able to get more funding into education and into the hospital. So I'd like to work with you on that.

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** Absolutely.

**Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas:** The second thing was public debt. I'm also the chair for public debt. I'm not a big fan of borrowing, I like to try and make sure that we're saving money when we go out into the bond market for lower interest rates. Do you have any plans with respect to the increase debt capacity that we now have as a result of the property re-evaluations?

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** With the amount of debt that we actually have as far as our debt ceiling is concerned so the net value of what is remaining for borrowing is actually in the area of about Three-hundred-seventy-million (\$370,000,000) dollars. Of the Three-hundred-seventy-million (\$370,000,000) dollars, there are actually already Two-hundred-forty-six-million (\$246,000,000) dollars I believe that has been appropriated by the legislature for us to be able to go out and bond it. I don't foresee us going out to ask the administration or the legislature to see if there might be other opportunities unless it's an opportunity for us to be able to save money on the amounts that we're going to owe in the future. Again, it's that responsible financing that we also have to take a look at. There are some projects that we do have currently on the books for us to be able to go out for financing. For instances, the Guam Water Works bond for capital improvement projects is going out. The DOE fund to be able to look at repairs, that's going to be going out this year and there are also some other things like the Garvey bond for instance which has been approved by the legislature that I believe DPW is looking at from Federal highways. Fortunately the Garvey bond itself doesn't actually have an impact on our debt ceiling but point is not to actually borrow up to the debt ceiling but to be responsible so that we do have some available for a rainy day once that does happen.



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**Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas:** I know the Garvey bonds don't affect the debt ceiling and then also the agency bonds don't because those are revenue bonds.

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** Correct.

**Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas:** So of the Two-hundred-forty-million-dollars (\$240,000,000) dollars, I know that a One-hundred-million (\$100,000,000) dollars is for Simon Sanchez and that is going to impact our debt ceiling. So of the remaining One-hundred-forty-million (\$140,000,000) dollars.

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** Actually, those One-hundred-million (\$100,000,000) dollars is going to be a leasing program.

**Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas:** It's a municipal lease. Do you happen to have a breakdown of that Two-hundred-forty-million (\$240,000,000) dollars that's already been authorized?

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** Absolutely, I can send that to you if necessary. I believe I did send it to you, did you not receive it?

**Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas:** I have not received it yet.

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** I'll resend it.

**Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas:** Okay, because one of the things that's top of mind for everybody and what we need to do is reconcile this with the Garvey bond plans but all of us here get calls about the roads all the time and if there's anyone thing that we should be funding with public debt is fixing our infrastructure particularly our roads. I'd like to also work with you on identifying those Garvey fund projects and then looking at where that Two-hundred-forty-million (\$240,000,000) dollars is already committed on the public debt side and seeing if it really is the highest and best use of that debt given the infrastructure realities of our road system plus that being factored into the military buildup, you know the additional traffic that we're going to have to be dealing with on that end, the state of Marine Drive and all those other affected road ways, I was really disappointed that the military buildup, the impact study said that traffic was not going to be affected and I really think it's going to be. So I think the Government is going to have to work together and I think GEDA is going to be a key partner in making sure that we address our road conditions. I look forward to working with you on all those things.



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**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** Thank you Senator.

**Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.:** Thank you.

(Recognized Senator Thomas C. Ada)

**Senator Thomas C. Ada:** Thank you. Good morning Jon. I just want to make sure that I would ask you to become fairly familiar with Public Law 33-95, that has to deal with the Chamorro Land Trust lands being authorized to be leased out commercially and the implantation of that law, GEDA plays a very important role, in fact I believe there's existing memorandums of agreement between GEDA and the Chamorro Land Trust and the Ancestral Lands Commission and so in order for those two (2) programs, The Chamorro Land Trust and the Ancestral Lands Commission to be able to succeed, the ability of GEDA to act as those agencies real-estate broker and manager, it's going to be very key and so hopefully before the end of the summer, they would have gone through the process of actually identifying the lands that can be commercially leased out and I hope that GEDA and I think GEDA's land division certainly has done a very good job in dealing with those two (2) entities but the success of those two (2) programs, The Chamorro Land Trust program is about forty (40) years old and hasn't really gone as far as it should, so I think GEDA plays a very key role and I will be looking closely at that. And so I have a lot of confidence that you'll be able to stay on top of that and you have good people in that division also. I do have just one question and that is, I was just looking at your nomination packet, could you account for the seven (7) year gap between the time that you've finished college and your first job.

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** Yes I can. Sorry there were only a few places in this that I can actually take a look at. Once I finished college I was actually working for a company in California. I ended up moving to California working for a temporary agency and then was brought in by that temporary agency to actually take care of the personnel hiring for "Packard Bell and EC." Going by dates I believe that was the year 95'-97' and then from 97' to the end of 98' I was actually hired by a client which is a technical systems integration company, that company was "MicroAge," going from there they moved me to Boston in the mist of that I was actually supposed to take care of their east-coast recruitment but they had some financial issues so I ended up working at an investment banker at a securities processing firm, the name of that was "Investors Bank and Trust" and they were actually acquired by state street bank. What we did from that aspect is a very small company. About twelve-hundred (1,200) employees and in three (3) years we grew into forty-five-hundred (4,500) so that was pretty interesting. Probably if you had to ask me, it was one (1) of my favorite jobs from there. That was up until year 2002 where I was taken on by



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a Federal contract to actually hire the entire top seven (7) for the Transportation Security Administration and then travelled around the country to hire the TSA screening agents for some of the largest airports around the country and I think that actually closes that gap from there.

**Senator Thomas C. Ada:** So it might be appropriate to provide that supplemental information to the committee. (Inaudible). And then you indicated there was a block there in the packet regarding publications and presentations and you had put down various, can you maybe just kind of indicate probably one (1) that sticks out in your mind?

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** I think what probably sticks out in my mind the most is a presentation and a publication that Director John had actually mentioned. The Guam Young Professionals and the Guam Chamber of Commerce have actually gotten together to take a look at what a strategic plan would look like for the island from a private sector standpoint. We actually call that the blue print for progress. So the Chamber of Commerce actually created this framework which was presented to both the chamber as well as the winning victor of that election which was actually Governor Calvo, to give Governor Calvo as well as the public leadership the idea about what both The Young Professionals as well as the business community had in what they were taking a look at what their future was to be. This blueprint for progress as the Guam Young Professionals published and look at economic drivers and indicators safety for energy and infrastructure, what infrastructure projects, what transportation options would be available and if you'd like I can actually get a copy of that.

**Senator Thomas C. Ada:** No that's probably sufficient. That was a lot more informative than various and finally my final question is, do you have any aspirations for elective office in 2016?

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** Actually I can firmly say that answer is no. I do believe also that I'm prohibited by many hats being a board nominee in this position as well at least.

**Senator Thomas C. Ada:** Thank you very much and thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.:** Thank you very much Senator.  
(Recognized Vice-Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz)

**Vice-Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz:** Thank you very much. Mr. Rojas, you mentioned the blueprint that the young professionals put together, Is GEDA responsible or the underwriting





## SENATOR DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

department for the imagine Guam? Is that being funded by GEDA funds or is that funded elsewhere?

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** The imagine Guam program is a collaboration between all of the agencies of the Government of Guam. So there are some funds that GEDA has committed that amount I do not know but there are also funds that have been committed from both the airport and the Guam Visitors Bureau as well, as well as some other agencies, but I don't have those details at this time.

**Vice-Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz:** Could you provide us the amount what GEDA is providing to this and for what purposes?

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** Yes, absolutely.

**Vice-Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz:** And the other thing I was wondering about. Did you have a chance to look at your budget? I know you've only been here for less than three (3) weeks and I was just wondering whether or not with all your personnel background, your HR background, whether or not you foresee any re-alignment or is it too heavy, do you have enough funds to carry yourself forward, are there things that you don't believe that the GEDA that you'd like to head up can and should be doing, have you any ideas on those?

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** Well, speaking from a cabinet member perspective, we would always like more people to do more things but we will do what we can do be able to remain within budget that our board approved, especially from a salary standpoint and a full time employee standpoint. Again I have this vision of GEDA actually, one actually going back to basics but also having the opportunity to be able to do more to promote Guam as an investment opportunity and that is going to take more funds, however it's something that's a plan that hasn't really come in fruition and it's also something that will work in collaboration with all of the stakeholders involved to be able to make it manageable as well. But at this time the answer is no.

**Vice-Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz:** So all the programs that you're currently operating in GEDA, the MOA's that you have with various agencies, you believe that those fulfill the mandate of the Guam Economic Development Administration and you're comfortable with keeping within your purview or is there anything that you would like to pass off to some other agencies so that you can focus more on promoting business as opposed to being a real-estate agent?



## SENATOR DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** Understood, from being a real-estate agent, I don't think that we can really do anything about that because of our real property division and that is really where we get the bulk of our operating expenses are far as the rents that we do collect from the two (2) areas that we do manage. So I believe what we'd like to do is especially keep the real property division and managing the leases on the properties as well including the Chamorro Land Trust and Ancestral Land Divisions and Spanish Crown Lands. There are some areas that I think we would love to be able to kind of divvy up to other divisions, for one thing GEDA has been responsible for the HOT Bond projects, just to be able to manage the funds that have been collected through the bond that did go out for the hotel occupancy tax. A case in point would be for instance the well known Tumon flooding situation. The question did come up, why is GEDA involved with flooding in Tumon when it's a storm water issue but because it's HOT bond funds that are actually funding that project, that's GEDA's involvement and once that does happen and we expend all of the funds that have actually been sold from the HOT bond then GEDA can actually move on and have the proper agency take care of it.

**Vice-Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz:** As the Author of the HOT bond I too were surprised that the responsibility was seated to GEDA. I thought that GVB in and of itself could've and should've been better, I mean they could of oversee it themselves but the percentage that you got, I'm sure it didn't hurt the operating budget for GEDA so it was nice but I'm just trying to get to your operations, more specifically trying to figure out what are your operating finances are like right now.

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** As far as the balances?

**Vice-Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz:** Yes.

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** At the moment I don't have that information right now, not at the top of my head I'm sorry.

**Vice-Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz:** Okay, are you aware whether or not that you'll be able to get through the fiscal year with your current and be able to move forward?

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** Yes and that's actually something our administrative services and the board have taken a look at and scrutinize as well.



## SENATOR DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

**Vice-Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz:** And going back to the rentals. If you could look at your collections there I'm sure you might be able to, I mean when my staff went through it we were shock at some of the outstanding that are still not collected and why some of that hasn't been. So if you could get back to me on where you're at with that.

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** Most definitely.

**Vice-Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz:** And whether or not you should have some kind of escalation provision because I know like the building you're currently in, I was shocked when we had the hearing a couple of months ago with Department of Land Management and I realized that we were paying more for one (1) month of rent for Land than the full year of rental than we get for the underlying properties and I'm just wondering when and if GEDA is going to stop and say there are pieces of property that forty (40) years ago might have been nice to rent out or lease out at pennies on the dollar but in today's market and especially when we are paying literally almost a million a month into that building but getting less than six (6) figures for the entire year, it's appalling.

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** That's understood and I believe that is one (1) of the reasons why the Department of Land Management is looking at moving out of the current building and into their new building that is actually another project that is going to be funded by financing. But it's definitely the bigger picture that we need to look at.

**Vice-Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz:** There's lots of land under the purview of GEDA that the lease might have been understandable in 1970 when nobody wanted to be here but.

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** Today has a lot higher value.

**Vice-Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz:** Yes and whether or not the leases should provide for some kind of re-evaluation or an escalation or some kind of renegotiation to better serve and the money goes back to you guys and then you don't have to borrow in order to get your commission to keep your operation.

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** Correct. Actually if I could work with your staff to kind of identify what they've already identified I think that would be something that our real property division would actually like to take a look at, at least to be able to get your input and go from there.



## SENATOR DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

**Vice-Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz:** Alright and so the budget for GEDA is secure?

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** Yes.

**Vice-Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz:** Okay thank you.

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** Thank you.

**Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.:** Great thank you very much, is there anything else you'd like to add Jon?

**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** No I'd like to just add one (1) more thank you to the committee for actually hearing this confirmation. I look forward from hearing from you and I hope that I do have your support and I would like to thank you the board, the Governor, the GEDA team as well as my family for being here so thank you very much.

**Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.:** Great thank you very much and the public is still invited to provide written testimony until such time and the committee closes the report and issues it out to the full body, they can do it through email or through delivery here at the Legislature at my office.

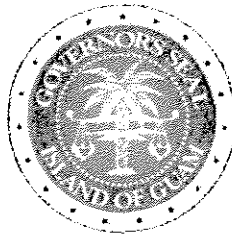
**Mr. Jon J. Rojas:** Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Adjourned at 10:50 A.M.**

### III. FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee on Health and Human Services, Economic Development, Homeland Security and Senior Citizens hereby reports on the appointment of **Mr. Jon J. Rojas as the Administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority** with the recommendation to

CONFIRM.



EDDIE BAZA CALVO  
Governor  
RAY TENORIO  
Lieutenant Governor

*Office of the Governor of Guam*

NOV 25 2015

Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.  
Speaker  
*I Mina'trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
155 Hesler Street  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Madame Speaker:

By virtue of the authority vested in me pursuant to the Organic Act of Guam and the local laws applicable to the following position, I am pleased to transmit the following appointment and supporting documents for:

APPOINTEE: Jon J. Rojas  
POSITION: Administrator, Guam Economic Development Authority  
TERM LENGTH: **To serve at the pleasure of the Governor**

The appointment is subject to the consent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*. Please schedule a hearing at your earliest convenience.

*Senseramente,*

EDDIE BAZA CALVO

2015 NOV 25 10 10 AM  
CR

33-15-1127

Office of the Speaker  
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

date: 12/01/15  
time: 10:10 AM  
received By: DR



**GEDA**  
GUAM ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

*Aturidad Inadilanton Ikunumihan Guahan*

EDWARD J. B. CALVO  
GOVERNOR OF GUAM  
I MAGA' LAHEN GUAHAN  
RAYMOND S. TENORIO  
LT. GOVERNOR OF GUAM  
I SEGUNDO NA MAGA' LAHEN GUAHAN  
MANA SELVA TAJERON  
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR  
ADMINISTRADOR PARA PA'GO

November 19, 2015

**The Honorable Edward J. B. Calvo**  
**Governor of Guam**  
513 West Marine Corps Drive  
Ricardo J Bordallo Complex  
Hagatna, Guam 96910

*Hafa Adai Governor Calvo,*

The Guam Economic Development Authority Board of Directors hereby nominates Mr. Jon James Rojas to serve as the GEDA Administrator.

The board believes Mr. Rojas is qualified and is confident in his abilities to lead the agency.

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse!*

Edward J. Calvo  
Chairman, GEDA Board of Directors



EDDIE BAZA CALVO  
*Governor*

RAY TENORIO  
*Lieutenant Governor*

*Office of the Governor of Guam*

NOV 24 2015

Mr. Jon I. Rojas  
[REDACTED]

**Re: Appointment as Administrator, Guam Economic Development Authority**

Dear Mr. Rojas:

Thank you for your commitment to serve the people of Guam. The Calvo-Tenorio administration continues to face unprecedented challenges, both near and long-term. The task ahead of us will require the collective efforts of the best minds who have the courage to make tough decisions for the good of all our people. Pursuant to my authority under the Organic Act of Guam, I hereby appoint you to serve in the Calvo-Tenorio administration as:

**Administrator, Guam Economic Development Authority**

This appointment is subject to the consent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*. Pending the consent of, and confirmation of this appointment by, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, you are hereby appointed to serve as Administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority in an acting capacity.


This appointment is effective Monday, November 30, 2015. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the Governor at 472-8931.


*Senseramente,*


  
EDDIE BAZA CALVO


P.O. Box 7950 • Hagåtña, Guam 96932

TEL: (671) 472-8931 • FAX: (671) 472-4826 • [gov.rrmot.guam.gov](http://gov.rrmot.guam.gov) • [calendar.guam.gov](http://calendar.guam.gov)

 Eddie Baza Calvo

 Department of Education

 Department of Health

 Department of Justice



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
GUAM

### Agency Director/General Manager Nomination Information

The following information is required for submission to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guahan* in accordance with Title 4, Guam Code Annotated Section 2103:

#### NOMINEE INFORMATION

Last Name **Rojas** First **Jon** M.I. **J** Date **11/22/15**

Address

City

Phone

Position to which Appointment is Made **Administrator, Guam Economic Development Authority**

Are you a citizen of the United States? YES  NO  If no, are you authorized to work in the U.S.? YES  NO

#### EDUCATION

High School	<b>St John's School</b>	City/State	<b>Tumon, Guam</b>
From	<b>1976</b>	To	<b>1991</b>
		Did you graduate?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Degree <b>Diploma</b>
College	<b>Boston University</b>	City/State	<b>Boston, MA</b>
From	<b>1991</b>	To	<b>1995</b>
		Did you graduate?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Degree <b>French/Literature</b>



**EDUCATION**

Graduate School			City/State		
From	To	Did you graduate?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Degree

Other Degree			City/State		
From	To	Did you graduate?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Degree

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

(1) Present Employer	Office of the Governor	Position	Special Assistant to the Governor
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Address	Washington, DC	Dates Held	Jun 2013 - Nov 2015
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(2) Previous Employer	Department of Public Works	Position	Deputy Director
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Address	Tumon, Guam	Dates Held	Jan 2013 - Jun 2013
---------	-------------	------------	---------------------

(3) Previous Employer	SEIGuam	Position	Executive Vice President
-----------------------	---------	----------	--------------------------

Address	Hagatna, Guam	Dates Held	June 2005 - Dec 2012
---------	---------------	------------	----------------------

(4) Previous Employer	The McGraw Hill Companies	Position	Talent Acquisition
-----------------------	---------------------------	----------	--------------------

Address	New York, NY	Dates Held	Oct 2003 - June 2005
---------	--------------	------------	----------------------

(5) Previous Employer	Spherion	Position	EOD Specialist
-----------------------	----------	----------	----------------

Address	Alpharetta, GA/New York NY	Dates Held	Jan 2002 - Jan 2005
---------	----------------------------	------------	---------------------

**PRIOR GOVERNMENT OF GUAM SERVICE**

Agency	Hagatna Restoration and Redevel.	Phone	475-4278
--------	----------------------------------	-------	----------

Address	PO Box 2950 Hagatna
---------	---------------------

Job Title	Vice Chairman	From: 2011	To: 2013
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**PRIOR GOVERNMENT OF GUAM SERVICE**

Agency Phone

Address

Job Title From: To

**PRIOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE (EXCLUDING GOVERNMENT OF GUAM)**

Agency Phone

Address

Job Title From: To

Agency Phone

Address

Job Title From: To

**TRAINING**

Institute/Seminars/On-the-Job Training: Date

**AWARDS**

List all educational, professional, civic awards, and recognition for public service:

**PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT**

List involvement on a local/national/international level, list organization, activities participated in, offices held.

Guam Chamber of Commerce, Board of Director 2010 - 2014  
Guam Young Professionals, Chairman and Steering Committee 2009 - 2013

**COMMUNITY / CIVIC INVOLVEMENT**

List organizations, activities, participated in, offices held

Buy Local Movement, Co-Founder  
Guam First Commission, Board of Directors, 2012 - Present

**PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

List any published articles, papers delivered at professional meetings, etc.:

Various

**MILITARY SERVICE (PLEASE ATTACH FORM DD-214)**

Branch	From	To
Rank at Discharge	Type of Discharge	

**OTHER INFORMATION**

(1) Have you ever been found guilty of a felony in any court, whether within or without the United States?

YES

NO

If so, please specify in detail:

Address of the court: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Conviction: \_\_\_\_\_

Specific infraction committed: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Have you ever been declared mentally incompetent by any court, whether within or without the United States?

YES

NO

If so, please specify in detail the reasons and facts related to such declaration:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(3) Have you ever been found not guilty or not punishable in any criminal proceedings by reason of insanity?

YES

NO

(4) Have you ever been confined to a mental institution for any reason?

YES

NO

If so, please specify in why the appointing authority believes you that you are not suffering from any mental illness or affliction:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Statement of Financial Interests**  
*(Required by 4 G.C.A. § 13104.1)*

TO: Governor Eddie Baza Calvo  
Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex  
Adelup, Guam 96910

FROM: Jon J Rojas

- I have no financial interest in any business
- I do have interest(s) in the following business(es):

Name and address of business interest:	Type and amount of interest
Slotnick Enterprises, Inc.	Common Shares - 20%
P3, Guam	Sole - Proprietor - temporarily closed

Signature

11/22/2015  
Date

**AFFIDAVIT / DECLARATION UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY**

I, the undersigned, do hereby depose and say that: (1) I have read and reviewed the information contained in the attached Appointment/Nomination letter from the Governor of Guam; (2) that the matters contained in the Appointment/Nomination letter, together with all attachments thereto, are true and correct and that I am competent to testify to said matters; and (3) that this Declaration is made for the purpose of complying with the requirements of 4 G.C.A. Section 2103.5.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of Guam (4 G.C.A. Section 4308) that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signature



Date 11/22/2015



# SUPERIOR COURT OF GUAM

Guam Judicial Center • 120 West O'Brien Drive • Hagatña, Guam 96910

Telephone (671) 475-3370  
Fax (671) 472-2856

**DANIELLE T. ROSETE**  
Clerk of Courts

Name: **JON JAMES ROJAS**

SS#: [REDACTED]

## CERTIFICATE OF SEARCH

The undersigned Clerk hereby certifies the following results of a diligent search of the records of this Court:

**Criminal Cases:**

- A.  No Case Found
- B. 1. Criminal Case No.
- 2. Criminal Case No.
- 3. Criminal Case No.
- 4. Criminal Case No.
- 5. Criminal Case No.

Criminal Record: Page 1 of 1

**Civil Cases:**

- A.  No Case Found
- B. 1. Civil Case No.
- 2. Civil Case No.
- 3. Civil Case No.
- 4. Civil Case No.
- 5. Civil Case No.

Civil Record: Page 1 of 1

Request for further information may be addressed at the Records Division of the Superior Court of Guam, Guam Judicial Center, 120 West O'Brien Drive, Hagatña, Guam. Hours of operation are Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed Saturday, Sunday and local/federal holidays. Court Clearances are Non-Refundable.

Dated: 11/23/2015

**DANIELLE T. ROSETE**  
Clerk of Courts

BY: *[Signature]*  
**DAISY M. NORMAN**  
Deputy Clerk

Prepared By: **DMN**



The absence of an original Court Seal invalidates this document




Government of Guam  
**GUAM POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**RECORDS & IDENTIFICATION SECTION**  
P.O. Box 23909  
Guam Main Facility, Guam 96921



November 16, 2015

**SUBJECT: CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD**

<b>NAME:</b>	Jon James ROJAS		
<b>DATE OF BIRTH:</b>		<b>FINGERPRINT #:</b>	
	The individual has no record of criminal conviction(s) in GPD files that are subject to Guam law and rules and regulations of the Department.		

\*\*\*\*\*NOTHING FOLLOWS\*\*\*\*\*

*THIS INFORMATION MAY BE LIMITED TO A LOCAL CRIMINAL OFFENSE ONLY AND IS NOT INTENDED FOR USE FOR ANY LOCAL STATE, OR FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.*

*[Handwritten signature]*

By Direction: tlc

*[Handwritten signature]*  
**JOSEPH I. CRUZ**  
Chief of Police

The absence of an original GUAM POLICE seal invalidates this police clearance.  
REVISED 08/11/15





SENATOR DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ, Jr., Chairman  
 COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HOMELAND SECURITY & SENIOR CITIZENS  
 Mina'trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 33<sup>rd</sup> Guam Legislature

PUBLIC HEARING DATE / Thursday, January 7, 2015

10am

•The Executive Appointment of Mr. Jon J. Rojas as the Administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority.

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	AGENCY	ORAL TESTIMONY	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	IN FAVOR	OPPOSE	CONTACT NUMBERS	EMAIL ADDRESS
Joseph Yafar		N/A			X		482-5450	
Jon Rojas		GEDA	✓		✓		788-3331	
Mana Silva Taijeron		GEDA			✓		688-3033	mstaijeron@investguam.com
Angelene Guzman		GEDA			✓		687-2009	aguzman@investguam.com
Anita Enriquez		UOG		✓	✓		735-2997	abe@triton.uog.edu
MONTE MESA		GEDA	✓		✓		888-1944	monte@guam.net
Bernice Lopez		GEDA		✓	✓		486-5439	bernice94@gmail.com
Christina Garcia		GEDA			✓		482-5278	gina.garcia671@yahoo.com
Theresa Santos		"			✓		647-4332	tsantos@investguam.com
ED CAMACHO		"			✓		647-4332	ecamacho@investguam.com
JON J. ROJAS		Doc Am			✓		898-0706	
Oscar Jesus					✓		734-2282	
Josephine Jones					✓			

The Executive Appointment of Mr. Jon J. Rojas as the Administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority.



# SENATOR DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ, Jr., Chairman

## COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HOMELAND SECURITY & SENIOR CITIZENS

Mina'trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 33<sup>rd</sup> Guam Legislature

**PUBLIC HEARING DATE / Thursday, January 7, 2015**

**10am**

•The Executive Appointment of Mr. Jon J. Rojas as the Administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority.

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	AGENCY	ORAL TESTIMONY	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	IN FAVOR	OPPOSE	CONTACT NUMBERS	EMAIL ADDRESS
<i>Wangm Ong</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	Pvt		✓	✓		472-1325	
CATHERINE OASTRO	<i>[Signature]</i>	GU CHAMBER		✓	✓		472-6311	
Regine B. Lee	<i>[Signature]</i>				✓		988-4642	regineb.lee@gmail.com
NATHAN TAIMANAN	<i>[Signature]</i>				✓		488-7473	
NATALIA FAULO	<i>[Signature]</i>	GEDA			✓		<del>649-4322</del>	
Jon Junior Calvo	<i>[Signature]</i>				✓		<del>649-4322</del> 609-5662	



**SENATOR DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ, Jr., Chairman**  
**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HOMELAND SECURITY & SENIOR CITIZENS**  
*Mina'trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 33<sup>rd</sup> Guam Legislature*

**PUBLIC HEARING DATE / Thursday, January 7, 2015**

**10am**

•The Executive Appointment of Mr. Jon J. Rojas as the Administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority.

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	AGENCY	ORAL TESTIMONY	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	IN FAVOR	OPPOSE	CONTACT NUMBERS	EMAIL ADDRESS
✓ DAVID JOHN		ABC	✓		✓		687-4365	David.john@axhna
✓ GEORGE CHAN		TAN HOLDINGS	✓		✓		687-1747	GCHANJ@AOL.COM

The Executive Appointment of Mr. Jon J. Rojas as the Administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority.

Jay Rojas  
PO Box 9820  
Tamuning, Guam 96931

---

January 7, 2016

Committee Chairman on Health, Economic Development Homeland Security and Senior Citizens

*I Mina'trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guahan*

176 Sirenu Avenue, Suite 107

Tamuning, Guam 96913

Buenas yan Hafa Adai, Chairman Rodriguez and members of the Committee on Health & human Services, Heath Insurance Reform, Economic Development and Senior Citizens.

Thank you for considering me for the position Administrator for the Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA).

I would also like to thank the GEDA Board of Directors and Governor Eddie Baza Calvo for their nomination and subsequent appointment to this position.

I would also be remiss if I didn't recognize the amazing team at GEDA for guiding me through what was a seamless transition into this role as I have been serving in this acting capacity.

I look forward to the opportunity to work with them as we stimulate the economic growth of our island. I also hope that we can push for greater collaboration between GEDA and this committee to further strengthen the foundation of our economic surge.

In fact, earlier this week, the GEDA team came together and committed to each other and the people of Guam to be better. To be better in our family, better in our faith, better in our work, in our community, with our clients, our island and to ourselves.

All of this gives us some clarity in what GEDA can accomplish and offers a greater determination for each member of the GEDA team to succeed.

And while we gathered to formulate this commitment, I was asked what is my vision for GEDA. And that vision is simple. It can be summed up in three words - "Back to Basics."

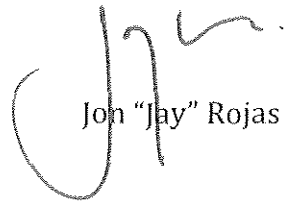
And the "Basics" for GEDA is to drive the economy. Which means attract new businesses, grow existing businesses, create more jobs, strengthen the economy and fortify the value of what makes up our island.

We are responsible for the centralized direction, control and supervision of an integrated plan for the economic development of Guam. Our mission is to develop a sound and sustainable economy through innovative programs that promote local culture, economic development, and a better quality of life.

And we can do this by discovering new opportunities, developing our existing industries, fostering the growth of small businesses, stimulating development, and implement responsible financial wellness for a secure future.

Again Senators, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to testify before this committee, and I humbly request your support for the confirmation of my appointment. I feel that this position is only natural for me and being granted the opportunity to serve as the Administrator of GEDA is the culmination of my experience.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon' followed by a stylized flourish.

Jon "Jay" Rojas

January 6, 2016

Senator Dennis Rodriguez, Jr.  
Committee Chairman on Health & Human Services, Health Insurance Reform,  
Economic Development and Senior Citizens  
*I Mina'trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guahan*  
176 Sirenu Avenue, Suite 107  
Tamuning, Guam 96913

Re: Letter of Recommendation in SUPPORT of the Appointment of Mr. Jon J Rojas as  
Administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA)

Dear Senator Rodriguez,

I'm writing to you in my capacity as a Director of the GEDA Board as I submit this testimony in favor of the nomination of Mr. Jon J Rojas as the Administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority.

I've had the pleasure of working with Mr. Rojas for the short time that he has come on board as the Acting Administrator of GEDA. Specifically in the case of the Tumon Flooding project, Mr. Rojas hit the ground running, jumped right in, and worked with the board, GEDA staff and stakeholders to come up with a reasonable and positive solution. I have also observed his participation and dialogue in a few other matters and was encouraged by his information gathering, thought process and handling.

Early on, he has demonstrated his ability to address challenges and take a leadership role in moving forward. Mr. Rojas doesn't seem afraid of hard work. He has shared with me that he is motivated and ready to take the helm of GEDA to, ultimately, serve our people. I believe he will be a great addition to our management team.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Ernesto "Jun" Espaldon  
Director, GEDA Board

January 7, 2016

The Honorable Senator Dennis Rodriguez  
Chairman  
Committee on Health, Economic Development, Homeland Security  
and Senior Citizens  
I' Mina Trentai Tres na Lehislaturan Guahan  
Agana, Guam 96910

Dear Sir,

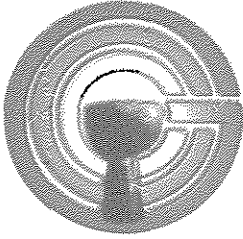
I would like to submit this letter of support for the Governor's appointee for the position Administrator, Guam Economic Development Authority, Mr. Jay Rojas.

I have known Mr. Rojas for several years and have had the opportunity to work with this individual on a number of economic development programs and projects. During this time, I found Jay to be very diligent and conscientious in the pursuit of successful outcomes regardless of how small or significant the tasks at hand. He fosters a good working relationship with his peers and encourages a spirit of cooperation and teamwork. These are valuable skillsets that every manager must possess as a leader and head of any government agency and in particular GEDA in its monumental as economic catalyst and driver for the government and people of Guam.

Mr. Jay Rojas is a young, educated Chamorro who I believe will make positive contributions to the growth of GEDA, it's employees and most importantly, toward the economic development of our island. Si Yu"os Maase.

Sincerely,

  
Henry M. Cruz  
Resident of Maina, Guam



**GUAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

January 6, 2016

THE HONORABLE DENNIS RODRIGUEZ  
*I Mina' Trentai Tres Liheslaturan Guahan*  
Chair, Committee on Health, Economic Development,  
Homeland Security and Senior Citizens  
176 Sirenu Avenue  
Tamuning, Guam 96913

**Re: Appointment of Jon J. Rojas as the Administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority**

Hafa Adai Chairman Rodriguez,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in support of the appointment of Mr. Jay Rojas as Administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority. I've had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Rojas since 2006 when he was Executive Vice President with SEIGuam. His energy, tenacity and staunch work ethic contributed to the success of SEIGuam as well as the establishment of very strong committees, programs and activities of the Guam Chamber of Commerce that are vibrant today because of his legacy.

He was the founding member of the Guam Young Professionals, which was established in 2010. Through his effective leadership, the group developed its by-laws, sub-committees and action plan that not only continues to benefit the business community today but the entire island as well, through the group's various community service and beautification efforts.

He lead the Chamber's Ad Hoc Committee in developing the Blueprint for Progress, a framework supporting commerce and economic development, which was presented to Governor Eddie Calvo in 2011. His passion to support local entrepreneurs and businesses lent to the cooperative efforts between GEDA, UOG and the Guam Chamber to develop and pave the way for the influential *Buy Local* movement.

Before becoming involved in public service, Mr. Rojas' active role in the Chamber's Executive Committee and Board of Directors helped to influence the Chamber's plan of action, as well as its development of policies and issues in support of commerce and economic growth for the island and the region.

It is for these various reasons that I highly recommend Mr. Rojas to this position. I am confident that his abilities and his institutional knowledge gained from his work in the private sector make him highly qualified to fill the role of Administrator for GEDA. Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
CATHERINE S. CASTRO  
President



Bernice Q. Torres  
P. O. Box 6680  
Tamuning, Guam 96931  
Tel. 671-686-5439

January 6, 2016

Senator Dennis Rodriguez  
33<sup>rd</sup> Guam Legislature  
Majority Whip  
Committee on Health, Economic Dev.,  
Homeland Security and Senior Citizens  
155 Hesler Place  
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Senator Rodriguez and Committee Members:

It is with great pleasure that I am writing this letter in support of Mr. Jon (Jay) Rojas confirmation for the position of Administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA). As the current Acting Administrator of GEDA, Jay distinguished himself immediately as a professional who is filled with passion, enthusiasm, and excitement. He is also extremely knowledgeable, and can be quite candid and straightforward.

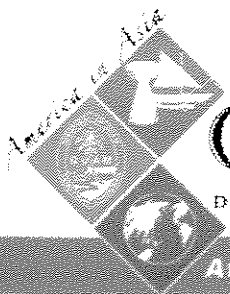
Jay has been very instrumental in helping GEDA continue the Authority's mission, particularly during this stirring period in Guam's economic growth. He is motivated and motivates others with his dedication.

Please give favorable consideration to Mr. Jon (Jay) Rojas's nomination and allow him to continue as the Administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority.

Sincerely,



Bernice Q. Torres



# GEDA

GUAM ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

EDWARD J.B. CALVO  
GOVERNOR OF GUAM  
I MAGA' LAHEN GUAHAN  
RAYMOND S. TEKORIO  
LT. GOVERNOR OF GUAM  
I SEGUNDO NA MAGA' LAHEN GUAHAN  
JAY ROJAS  
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR  
ADMINISTRADOR PARA PA'GO

Aturidad Inadilanton Ikunumihan Guahan

January 6, 2016

Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.  
Committee Chairman on Health & Human Services, Health Insurance Reform, Economic Development,  
and Senior Citizens  
*I Mina'trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guahan*  
Suite 107, 176 Surenu Avenue  
Tamuning, Guam 96931

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of Legislative Confirmation for Jay Rojas as the Administrator of the Guam  
Economic Development Authority

Hafa Adai Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

The Guam Economic Development Authority's (GEDA) Real Property Division hereby submits  
this testimony in support of the confirmation of Jay Rojas as the Administrator of GEDA.

Throughout the past few years, Mr. Rojas (Jay) has held several positions in GovGuam. Jay's  
movement was and still is a sign of capability as all of these positions held were those of leadership. His  
movement has been nothing but a testament to his ability, and willingness, to assess a wide variety of  
situations, conceptualize a bigger picture in its effects on the community and determine pathways to  
improvement. From this, it is plainly evident that challenges are the sort of things he runs towards  
rather than away from.

Over the course of the past few decades saw Jay's resume populate itself from all manner of  
leadership roles in both the public and private sector from finance, personnel, technological to  
organizational management. His experience is rooted in small business, grown through with local and  
federal government matters, and dovetailed all with the idea of building a better quality of life for his  
island home of Guam.

In the few short weeks in his Acting capacity of GEDA, Jay has made clear his intentions and  
directions for the Authority, to make Guam a "better" place: to build a "better" relationship with our  
clients, team members, our community, our island, our families and ourselves. He has made clear and  
demonstrated that he runs "200 mph" in doing all that he can to make Guam better and, we intend to  
do our best to keep up with him. With this and too much more to mention here in this testimony, GEDA,  
and particularly RPD, humbly urges your support in the confirmation of Jay Rojas as the Administrator  
for the Guam Economic Development Authority. *Si Yu'us Ma'ase'*,

LARRY TOVES  
RPD Manager

JHA'AUNIE LEON GUERRERO  
RPD Program Coordinator

/s/  
DONG CHOE  
RPD Program Coordinator

DIEGO MENDIOLA  
RPD Assistant Manager

ANTHONY ARRIOLA  
RPD Program Coordinator

  
MIKE CRUZ  
Project Director

January 5, 2016

Senator Dennis Rodriguez  
Chairman  
Committee on Health, Economic Development,  
Homeland Security and Senior Citizens  
176 Sirenu Avenue  
Tamuning, Guam 96913

RE: Letter of Recommendation in Lieu of an Oral Testimony in Support of the  
Appointment of Mr. Jay Rojas as Administrator, Guam Economic  
Development Authority (GEDA)

Dear Senator Rodriguez:

My name is Noel M. Enríquez. On behalf of myself as a private citizen and in the various positions I play throughout the community, I submit this letter of recommendation in lieu of an oral testimony in support of the appointment of Mr. Jay Rojas as the Administrator, Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA).

Mr. Jay Rojas is the right individual and the perfect person to fill the role of GEDA Administrator at this time in Guam's history, especially in light of the military build-up activities resuming, challenges in senior leadership positions in various Government of Guam agencies and managing, supporting and directing Guam's growth between the public, private and federal sector. I have known Jay personally and professionally for the past ten years and his energy, drive, decisiveness in making decisions while weighing all options and commitment to Guam and Guam's growth is second to none.

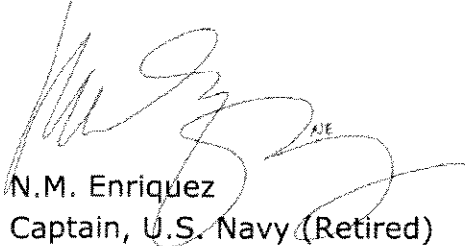
As a member of the Guam Chamber of Commerce, I watched and supported Jay's establishment of the Guam Young Professionals, giving young, under 40, businessmen and businesswomen the opportunity to work together, share their experiences and knowledge and allow young professionals to establish their own identify in growing and building a better Guam. In addition, Jay was part of the Chamber team which established and led the Education / Workforce Development Committee which provided information and data used to develop the Government of Guam's Blueprint 2020. Finally, Jay was the creator of the Buy Local movement with the Chamber.

Whether in the private sector or public sector, after returning to Guam in mid-2005, he has made Guam a priority in his life, not only giving back to the community serving as a public servant with DPW and the Governor's office and will hopefully do that again soon with GEDA, but has also looked at improving opportunities for Guam small private businesses. He established his own local small business not only hiring local staff but worked with University of Guam students to intern with the company.

His selfless attitude to provide a positive image of Guam while meeting senior public officials in Washington DC and throughout the country as the Director, Washington Office and Special Assistant to the Governor will prove to be invaluable in his position as the GEDA Administrator.

Without a doubt, Mr. Jay Rojas can and should be the next Administrator for the Guam Economic Development Authority. He has the background, experience and understands not only local but national challenges, including economic situations, on a grand scale and is an excellent position to lead GEDA now and into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N.M. Enriquez', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

N.M. Enriquez  
Captain, U.S. Navy (Retired)  
PO Box 26849  
Barrigada, Guam 96921



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM  
UNIBETSĒDĀT GUAHAN

Senior Vice President  
Academic and Student Affairs

January 6, 2016

Committee on Health, Economic Development, Homeland Security and Senior Citizens  
Senator Dennis Rodriguez, Chairman  
33<sup>rd</sup> Guam Legislature  
176 Sirenu Avenue  
Tamuning, Guam 96913

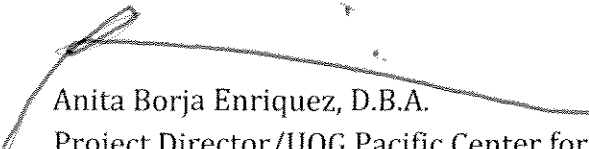
Dear Honorable Chairman Rodriguez and Members of the Committee:

*Būenas yan Håfa Adai!* This testimony comes with strong support for Jay Rojas, a nominee for the position of Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA) Administrator. I have known Mr. Rojas for approximately six years in his capacities as entrepreneur, economic development advocate, and contributor to various Guam growth initiatives.

Jay is a very sensible, strategic, and collaborative professional who is able to leverage innovative ideas and the value of people and organizations towards shared goals. I observed how he made tremendous progress with the Buy Local Guam movement, through his pioneered Guam Cash Mob and Buy Local Commitment Pledge activities, as founding Chairman of the Guam Young Professionals. His value as former Director of the Guam Chamber of Commerce was further evident through his development of a blueprint that addressed the growth of Guam's economy. He was a strong force as Vice Chairman of the Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority, and is intimately knowledgeable of the required deliverables of the Hagåtña Master Plan, a GEDA-related initiative.

Because of his strong business acumen, professional experiences, and collaborative nature, I am confident that Jay will be very effective at the helm of GEDA. I look forward to his innovative initiatives and strengthened leveraged opportunities, with the University of Guam and other key community partners, to grow our island's economy.

*Sinsaramente,*

  
Anita Borja Enriquez, D.B.A.  
Project Director/UOG Pacific Center for Economic Initiatives  
Senior Vice President, Academic and Student Affairs



# COMMITTEE ON RULES

*I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan* • The 33rd Guam Legislature

155 Hesler Place, Hagåtña, Guam 96910 • [www.guamlegislature.com](http://www.guamlegislature.com)

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MAJORITY LEADER

Senator  
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Nerissa Bretania Underwood  
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V. Anthony Ada  
MINORITY LEADER

Mary C. Torres  
MINORITY MEMBER

December 2, 2015

## MEMORANDUM

To: **Rennae Meno**  
*Clerk of the Legislature*

From: **Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz**   
*Acting Chairperson of the Committee on Rules*

Subject: **Referral of Appointment**

As the Acting Chairperson of the Committee on Rules, I am forwarding my referral of the following appointment:

**Appointee: Jon J. Rojas**  
**Position: Administrator, Guam Economic Development Authority**

For a copy of Mr. Roja's appointment packet, please visit the Guam Legislature's website at [www.guamlegislature.com](http://www.guamlegislature.com). Under the "Reports" menu select the "Messages & Communications" option and refer to:

**"Doc. 33GL-15-1127: Governor's message transmitting the appointment of Jon J. Rojas, to serve as Administrator, Guam Economic Development Authority."**

Please ensure that the subject appointment is referred, in my name, to **Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr., Chairperson of the Committee on Health, Economic Development, Homeland Security, and Senior Citizens**. I also request that the same be forwarded to all Senators of *I Mina'trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at 472-7679.

*Si Yu'os ma'åse'!*

*I Mina'Trentai Tres Na Lihelaturan Guahan*  
**Appointment Log Sheet**

M&C No.	Appointee	Position	Agency	Appt. Date	Term Length	Committee Referred	Date Referred	PH Date	CR Filed	Confirmed	Notes
33GL-15-1127	Jon J. Rojas	Administrator	Guam Economic Development Authority	11/25/15	To serve at the pleasure of the Governor	Committee on Health, Economic Development, Homeland Security, and Senior Citizens	12/02/15				



John Luces <johnluces@toduguam.com>

## FIRST NOTICE of CONFIRMATION HEARING on Thursday, January 7, 2016

1 message

Joe Mesngon <joe@toduguam.com>

Tue, Dec 29, 2015 at 2:52 PM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org

December 29, 2015

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

From: Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.

Subject: First Notice of Confirmation Hearing on January 7, 2016

Hafa Adail

The Committee on Economic Development will conduct a Confirmation Hearing on Thursday, January 7, 2016 at 10am in the Legislature's Public Hearing Room.

The Committee will accept oral and written testimony on:

### **The Executive Appointment of Mr. Jon J. Rojas as the Administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority.**

Individuals who wish to submit written testimony may address Sen. Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr., Chairman, and send via email to [senatordrodriguez@gmail.com](mailto:senatordrodriguez@gmail.com), or hand deliver to his office at 176 Serenu Avenue Suite 107 Tamuning, Guam or to the Legislature's Mailroom at 155 Hesler Place Hagatna, Guam.

Individuals who may require special assistance are asked to contact the Office of Sen. Rodriguez at 649-8638/0511 no later than 48 hours prior to the hearing.

For more information, please contact 649-8638/0511.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase'!

### **Joseph A. Q. Mesngon**

Office of Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.  
Committee on Health, Economic Development,  
Homeland Security and Senior Citizens  
*I Mina'trentai Tres Na Libeslaturan Guaban*  
33rd Guam Legislature  
176 Serenu Ave. Suite 107  
Tamuning, Guam 96931  
649-8638/0511  
[www.toduguam.com](http://www.toduguam.com)





John Luces <johnluces@toduguam.com>

## SECOND NOTICE of CONFIRMATION HEARING on Thursday, January 7, 2016

1 message

Joe Mesngon <joe@toduguam.com>

Mon, Jan 4, 2016 at 12:01 PM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org

January 4, 2016

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

From: Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.

Subject: Second Notice of Confirmation Hearing on January 7, 2016

Hafa Adai!

The Committee on Economic Development will conduct a Confirmation Hearing on Thursday, January 7, 2016 at 10am in the Legislature's Public Hearing Room.

The Committee will accept oral and written testimony on:

### **The Executive Appointment of Mr. Jon J. Rojas as the Administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority.**

Individuals who wish to submit written testimony may address Sen. Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr., Chairman, and send via email to [senatordrodriguez@gmail.com](mailto:senatordrodriguez@gmail.com), or hand deliver to his office at 176 Serenu Avenue Suite 107 Tamuning, Guam or to the Legislature's Mailroom at 155 Hesler Place Hagatna, Guam.

Individuals who may require special assistance are asked to contact the Office of Sen. Rodriguez at 649-8638/0511 no later than 48 hours prior to the hearing.

For more information, please contact 649-8638/0511.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase'!

### **Joseph A. Q. Mesngon**

Office of Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.  
Committee on Health, Economic Development,  
Homeland Security and Senior Citizens  
*I Mina'trentai Tres Na Libeslaturan Guahan*  
33rd Guam Legislature  
176 Serenu Ave. Suite 107  
Tamuning, Guam 96931  
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Public Hearing Notice Listserv  
*phnotice@guamlegislature.org (Media, All Senators, and Staff)*

Updated: December 2, 2015

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alerta.jermaine@gmail.com	cyrus@senatorada.org	jontalk@gmail.com
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Public Hearing Notice Listserv  
*phnotice@guamlegislature.org (Media, All Senators, and Staff)*

Updated: December 2, 2015

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**SENATOR DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ, JR.**

**PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA**

**Thursday, January 7, 2016      10am      Public Hearing Room, *I Liheslatura***

**I.      Call to order**

**II.     Items for public consideration:**

**10:00 A.M**

- The Executive Appointment of Mr. Jon J. Rojas as the Administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority.

**III.    Adjournment**

**Thank you for your participation in today's hearing.**