



Office of the Education Suruhanu (Ombudsman)  
An Entity of the Office of the Attorney General  
126 Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex, Adelup  
P.O. Box 2950 Hagatna, Guam 96932



Telephone: (671) 475-9130 · Fax: (671) 477-4826  
Email: [educationsuruhanu@guam.gov](mailto:educationsuruhanu@guam.gov)  
Web Address: [www.guamlegislature.com](http://www.guamlegislature.com)

December 1, 2010

To: Superintendent of Education  
From: Education Suruhanu  
Subject: Fire Watch Program

Handwritten signature and date: 12/01/10  
Stamp: Honorable Speaker, Justice & Education  
36-10-1039

Buenas Dr. Bretania Underwood:

An inspection of the PC Lujan Elementary School campus occurred on November 30, 2010. During the course of the inspection, it was discovered that the Fire Watch Program was not being practiced on a regular basis since the start of 2010-2011 school year. In addition, during inspections of some of the other schools, we have noted that Fire Watch log books were not readily available, Fire Watch log books were not being properly maintained, and in one instance, the school did not have personnel to perform Fire Watch on a particular day. As you may know, GFD imposed the Fire Watch Program in the schools a few years ago as a temporary measure as a result of various school's inoperable fire alarm systems. I have also been informed that the Fire Watch Program must be performed as a condition for keeping the affected schools in operation.

In addition, P.L. 28-45 § 4 (12) (1) states that public schools are required to provide a healthful, safe, and sanitary learning environment. In order to ensure that students are in a healthful, safe, and sanitary learning environment, the school is required to comply with all applicable laws, rules, and/or regulations of the various government of Guam regulatory agencies. As such, because GFD imposed the Fire Watch Program in lieu of an inoperable fire alarm system as condition to keep the affected schools open, the Fire Watch Program must be conducted according to GFD's Fire Watch Program at all times. I have attached a copy of GFD's Fire Watch Program for your review.

I would strongly recommend that GDOE's Safety Office be responsible for ensuring that all schools are actively conducting the Fire Watch Program at all times by visiting the schools on a regular basis to review their Fire Watch log book and to ensure compliance with the Fire Watch Program procedures. In addition, the GDOE Safety Office should also contact all schools before the start of each school year as a reminder to ensure that the Fire Watch Program remains in place.

Please submit to my office in writing, GDOE's plan to ensure that the Fire Watch Program is being performed according to GFD's requirements at all relevant times.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase',

Handwritten signature of Dominic Terlaje

Dominic Terlaje

Vertical stamp: DEC 2 2010 9:36 AM

Attachment:  
GFD Fire Watch Program

cc:  
Chief of Staff, Government of Guam      Fire Chief Peredo, GFD      Honorable Speaker, 30<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature  
Chairman, GEB      Guam Attorney General  
Bruce Williams, GDOE Safety Administrator