



Speaker Won Pat <speaker@judiwonpat.com>

Messages and Communications: to speaker re gdoe fy2014 budget concerns

Speaker Won Pat <speaker@judiwonpat.com>

Mon, Aug 18, 2014 at 3:31 PM

To: Guam Legislature Clerks Office <clerks@guamlegislature.org>

8/18/2014 8/18/2014

Department of Education Office of the Superintendent

GDOE FY2014 Budget Concerns

32-14-1957

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

Date 8-18-14
Time 3:31 PM
Received by [signature]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Taling M. Taitano <tmtaitano@gdoe.net>

Date: Mon, Aug 18, 2014 at 2:48 PM

Subject: Fwd: to speaker re gdoe fy2014 budget concerns

To: "Speaker Judi Won Pat Ed.D." <speaker@judiwonpat.com>

Cc: "Jon Fernandez (Superintendent)" <jonfernandez@gdoe.net>, Maria Roberto <mdroberto@gdoe.net>

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From: <xrx-doe@guam.net>

Date: Mon, Aug 18, 2014 at 2:19 PM

Subject: to speaker re gdoe fy2014 budget concerns

To: "tmtaitano@gdoe.net" <tmtaitano@gdoe.net>, "jonfernandez@gdoe.net" <jonfernandez@gdoe.net>

Cc: "mdroberto@gdoe.net" <mdroberto@gdoe.net>

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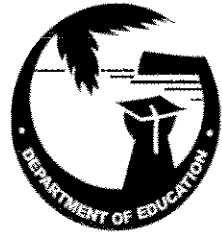
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JON J. P. FERNANDEZ
Superintendent of Education

August 18, 2014

Honorable Judith Won Pat, Ed. D.
Speaker
I Mina'trentai Dos na Liheslaturan Guahan
32nd Guam Legislature
155 Hesler Place
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Office of the Speaker
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed. D.
Date: 8-18-14
Time: 3:33 PM
Received by: [Signature]

Subject: GDOE FY2014 Budget Concerns

Dear Speaker Won Pat,

As the end of Fiscal Year 2014 quickly approaches we are seriously concerned the amount of funding made available to GDOE is insufficient to cover expenses and may critically impede our efforts to operate through September 30, 2014.

On April 30, 2014, BBMR placed \$5 million of GDOE's allotments in reserve because collections from the Territorial Facilities Fund (TEFF) may once again be insufficient to meet appropriation levels. TEFF collections last year caused an \$8.3M shortfall leaving GDOE no other recourse than to use FY2014 cash to fund FY2013 expenditures. Despite assurances that sufficient cash would be released to GDOE, throughout much of SY 2013-14, the cash impact from the TEFF has hampered GDOE's ability to make timely vendor payments. We have struggled with the suspension of trash pick-up, custodial services, and juggled utility disconnection notices. Vendors have also refused to do business with the department due to outstanding invoices. The department has been prudent in spending, streamlined operations, and even slowed the filling of vacancies throughout the year. GDOE has done its best to work within its own authority in addressing these financial needs but we are quickly reaching a point that relief can only come through the assistance of the legislative and executive branches.

In addition to the increasing pressures brought on by the difficulties in getting cash is GDOE's pending request for an additional \$5.4 million in supplemental funding for FY 2014. The supplemental appropriation would provide much needed funds for the opening of Tiyan High School, the Okkodo High School Expansion and for the shortfall in utilities.

GDOE has brought the above described concerns to the attention of the Governor and requested his assistance in providing the cash to address immediate needs, release reserve funds and identify a source of funding to replace the TEFF appropriations that may not be collected. We are looking to you, the legislative branch to approve the FY2014 supplemental budget request of \$5.4 million and to also assist the department in identifying a source of funding to address the gap left by the Fiscal Year 2013 \$8.3 million TEFF shortfall and the anticipated \$5 million shortfall in TEFF funds for Fiscal Year 2014.

It is evident that Fiscal Year 2014 has marked several great improvements in our department. We have made progress in repairs and expansion of existing schools, the opening of a new high school and the relocation of our central office staff to a safer working environment. We could not have accomplished these objectives without the support and commitment of both the Legislature and the Governor.

In closing, I am hopeful that with your leadership and the support of your colleagues in the Legislature, we can work together with the Governor to find viable solutions to GDOE's funding issues. At the end of the day, our collaborative efforts work to benefit the students. As leaders, it is our responsibility to give them the opportunities and support they deserve.

Senseramente,



JON J.P. FERNANDEZ

cc: Chairman and Members, Guam Education Board
Governor of Guam