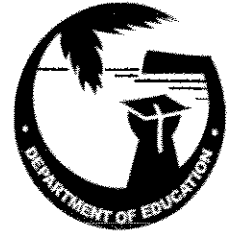




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JON J. P. FERNANDEZ  
Superintendent of Education

February 18, 2016

33-16-1380  
Office of the Speaker  
Judith E. Won Pat, Ed.D

Honorable Judith Won Pat, Ed. D.  
Speaker  
*I Mina Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
Thirty-third Guam Legislature  
155 Hesler Place  
Hagatña, Guam 96910

Date: 02-18-16  
Time: 2:37 pm  
Received By: [Signature]

**Re: Refinancing of Debt related to Guam Educational Financing Foundation (GEFF) Schools**

Hafa Adai Speaker Won Pat,

As previously requested, I ask that the savings related to the financing of the debt related to the GEFF schools be directed towards the maintenance of Guam Department of Education (GDOE) schools.

While the General Obligation 2007 Series A has provided funding for GDOE maintenance to address regulatory issues, these funds are nearly exhausted and will need to be replenished by an alternate funding stream. GDOE's annual operating budgets have been at status quo levels at best, and have not been sufficient to adequately sustain the full maintenance costs of such items as preventative maintenance for air conditioning units and fire alarm systems. The recent inspection of Simon Sanchez High School highlights the need for a dedicated funding stream for school maintenance.

We are on the negotiating team to address the proposal to infuse \$100 million for capital projects targeted at Guam public schools. Additionally, an agreement has been signed by the Governor's Office and Department of Interior (DOI) to target \$1 million a year for five years of DOI funding to address health and safety concerns identified in the DOI assessment of Guam public schools. However, these funding sources will not be made available to GDOE to perform the routine maintenance needed to protect the investment made using the Adequate Education Trust Funds. Failure to fund preventive and routine maintenance will allow the recently improved facilities to fall back to pre-investment status.

I want to thank you for your continued support of our schools. Your kind consideration is greatly appreciated.

Senseramente,

*[Signature]*  
JON J.P. FERNANDEZ

CC: Chairperson, Early Learning, Juvenile Justice, Public Education and First Generation Initiatives committee  
Chairman, Appropriations and Adjudication Committee  
Senators, Thirty-Third Guam Legislature