



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

38th Guam Legislature | *I Mindrentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guáhan*

April 4, 2025

The Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Maga'ha'gan Guáhan
Executive Chambers, Ricardo J. Bordallo Complex
513 West Marine Corps Drive
Adelup, Guam 96910

Dear Governor Leon Guerrero:

Häfa Adai! This letter is to share with you that I am gravely concerned about the ability of the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) to effectively manage federal funds.

The recent decision by the U.S. Department Education to move up the liquidation deadline for unexpended American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, and information I received yesterday from the Guam Education Board regarding the management of federal funds issued to the Guam Department of Education point to a financial crisis at GDOE which if not mitigated soon will adversely impact the safety, health, and education of our students, their teachers and support staff across Guam's forty-one public schools.

According to GDOE, the agency's current unliquidated ARPA balance is approximately \$125 million out of an original allocation of \$239 million. GDOE leadership has reported that ARPA-funded projects are currently active and approximately 40% complete.

Recognizing the urgency of the situation before us, I respectfully urge your office to issue an Executive Order that would prioritize an assessment of all federal funds issued to GDOE and to deploy financial and grants management personnel from other Executive Branch agencies to provide GDOE with technical assistance which is necessary to preserve federal resources for their intended use. Suggested agencies could include, but is not limited to, the Guam State Clearinghouse, Bureau of Budget and Management Research, and the Department of Administration.

Governor Leon Guerrero, I am certain that we both share a desire to prevent the financial crisis at GDOE from further affecting our island school children and their families from Yigo to Maesso because of a failure by our local education department to properly administer critical federal assistance including COVID-19 pandemic recovery funding it received four years ago.

As decision makers we must use every resource at our disposal to prevent the GDOE crisis from getting worse than it already is at this point. If not addressed, this emergency threatens the financial solvency of the Government of Guam and our collective ability to deliver critical public services now and in the fiscal years going forward.

Sincerely,

SHAWN GUMATAOTAO

Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

cc: Senators, 38th Guam Legislature

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