



## OFFICE OF SENATOR JAMES "JIM" C. MOYLAN

I MINA' TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN | 35TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **SENATOR MOYLAN SURPRISED ON THE LACK OF A RESPONSE FROM ADELUP ON BILL 247-35**

Hagatna – Just this morning, the Committee on General Governmental Operations held a public hearing on several bills, to include Bill 247-35, which was introduced by Senator James Moylan. The legislation would have not only increased the authorized expenditure for a Governor from \$250,000 to \$500,000 if they were to declare an emergency, but also promoted additional transparency when such expenditures are made. However, to the surprise of Senator Moylan, no testimony, be it supportive or in opposition, was submitted by Adelup.

*“This is legislation that would provide the Governor the additional support in the event of an emergency declaration, so the need to run back to the legislature for additional funds would be minimized, but it is surprising that no comments were provided,”* stated Senator Moylan. *“The genesis of this legislation was based on the recent situation with the Department of Corrections, where we, along with many stakeholders, and the community in general, requested that an emergency declaration be made for DOC. Based on some of our discussions, we were informed that costs of such a declaration would easily exceed the present threshold, hence the decision to increase the amount to provide the Governor additional leverage versus going through the tedious legislative process,”* added Senator Moylan.

Bill 247-35 would not only increase the authorized amount for emergencies, but also mandate that a public notice be released in the event such expenditures are made to promote transparency. Further, based on comments in the Fiscal Note, provided by the Bureau of Budget and Management Research, the Guam Homeland Security/Office of Homeland Security, “should the proposed legislation not be enacted, it may potentially have negative consequences for future emergency events ....” They further reiterated that the \$250,000 threshold was enacted in 1979, and based on inflationary adjustments should be approximately \$886,000 in 2019.

Senator Moylan hopes that Adelup provides some input for the legislation in the coming days. *“We are hoping that the Governor and her team would put aside partisan beliefs, and provide some comments on the measure, as they have ten days from the public hearing to share their thoughts. Ultimately, we don’t see why any Governor would not want the additional leeway when it comes to emergency spending. With the crisis in public safety, the fire at public health, and infrastructure concerns at the hospital, we need to be prepared for potential emergencies,”* added Senator Moylan.

**END OF RELEASE**