



OFFICE OF SENATOR JAMES "JIM" C. MOYLAN

I MINA TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN | 35TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

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STATEMENT FROM SENATOR JAMES MOYLAN ON BILL 249-35

Just as every Senator in this legislature, I do support the promotion of programs that perpetuate our culture and promote the arts. However, I did not feel that funding a program with taxpayer dollars which would fly 100 individuals to Hawaii next year when we have so many critical needs within our community was more important. Many of these issues we face now are being addressed on deaf ears and with eyes completely shut.

Since the discussion on whether this FESTPAC trip should be funded began earlier in the year and I have received many comments and questions on what are the priorities are of our government. This trip was not one of mine. We have a public safety problem impacting our lives and a drug epidemic that is tearing apart so many families. Since the start of this year, I have expressed my concerns on the condition of many of our public parks, including the introduction of a measure that would consider a Public Private Partnership for some of them, yet both the issue and legislation are collecting dust in the halls of the legislature. Just last week I submitted a letter to Governor Leon Guerrero regarding the air conditioning in the auditorium at the Southern High School, and the need to address this problem. Imagine if we were able to fund the repair and refurbishment of the air conditioning, thousands of students would be able to benefit from programs that would help perpetuate our culture and promote the arts.

The FESTPAC Committee has had ample time to fundraise for the 2020 event, and I am rooting for them to succeed in that process. However as a lawmaker, I have to make the responsible and tough decisions when it comes to how taxpayer dollars are spent, and funding a program that is important yet not as critical as other needs is when I have to say no. Further, as we enter a new year, I do hope that as a legislature, our focus shifts to prioritizing more critical issues, as we need to listen to the community and address their concerns.