



Office of Senator James C. Moylan

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

For Immediate Release: Senators seek the support of Congressman San Nicolas in addressing several Healthcare issues

April 15, 2019

Resolution 98-35 was introduced today by a bi-partisan group of senators, seeking the support of Congressman Michael San Nicolas, in addressing Guam's healthcare issues with respective federal authorities. The resolution, which was introduced by Senator James Moylan, and co-sponsored by Senator Amanda Shelton, Senator Therese Terlaje, and Speaker Tina Muna-Barnes seeks to address seven areas of concern, and are listed as follows:

- 1. Guam Memorial Hospital reimbursement rates and fee schedules.**
- 2. Medicaid matching for Guam.**
- 3. Cancer assistance grants for Guam.**
- 4. Individual health insurance subsidies.**
- 5. Modernizing the Communications of the healthcare system.**
- 6. High costs of prescription drugs.**
- 7. Out of hospital procedures.**

“After several discussions with healthcare professionals on island, we have identified several concerns that require the Congressman’s support in reaching federal partners and beginning or enhancing the dialogue on healthcare issues plaguing our island,” said Senator Moylan. “We certainly hope this resolution creates a check list on healthcare issues that need to be prioritized from a federal perspective,” Senator Moylan added.

Resolution 98-35 not only addresses the concerns, but identifies some recommendations to pursue the issue even further.

“The cost of medicine should be the last thing on the minds of our families fighting cancer. With all the families affected by cancer in our community, we need to provide relief to our people on the price of cancer related prescriptions. Additionally, we must utilize federal grants available to study the cause of such high rates of cancer on our island,” said Senator Amanda Shelton.

Resolution 98-35 also addresses issues such as the island's healthcare technology and communications, the rising costs of prescription drugs, as well as the limited availability of limited specialized care providers.

“The limited healthcare technology and communications on island certainly needs modernization”, said Senator Therese Terlaje. *“We need to seek special technical grants to help update our healthcare infrastructure to yield better systems,”* she added.

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“With the cost of prescription drugs reaching unaffordable amounts, we need to seek a special exemption for the island to obtain the medication from neighboring countries”, said Speaker Barnes. “One of the hindrances in the cost of medication is shipping from the mainland, thus this exemption may help many pockets, while providing the care to our residents.”

“With Guam’s unique geographical location, it is recommended to work with the Department of Interior to appoint an ombudsman or liaison to work with CMS to help bridge many of our healthcare concerns. We hope to get the support of the Congressman, and while we understand that this check list will take some time, we need to begin somewhere,” said Senator Moylan.

END OF RELEASE

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