



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

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

For Immediate Release:

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### **MEASURES TO ADDRESS EFFICIENCY AND TRANSPARENCY WITH LEGISLATION INTRODUCED**

*Hagatna* - Senator James C. Moylan introduced Rules Resolutions 218-35, 219-35 and 220-35 earlier today, with the intent of amending language in the Legislature's Standing Rules to address timelines for committee reports, public hearings and the referral of bills. The Standing Rules represent the procedures that govern the actions of the Guam Legislature.

The objectives of the resolutions introduced, if adopted, would accomplish the following:

#### **RESOLUTION 218-35:**

Resolution 218-35 would establish a timeline of fifteen (15) working days from a Public Hearing for a Standing Committee to complete and submit a committee report on legislation that was heard. It would further require the Committee on Rules, in conjunction with the Legislative Clerks office, to upload the report within three (3) days from submittal on the Legislature's website. A bill can only be advanced to the session agenda once a committee report is complete, and hence with the present rules, bills can experience a slow demise in a committee.

#### **RESOLUTION 219-35:**

Resolution 219-35 would require a timeline of ninety (90) days from the introduction of a bill for a Standing Committee to schedule a public hearing. Presently, the rules require one hundred eighty (180) days. The resolution further authorizes the bill's sponsor to schedule a public hearing if the standing committee fails to schedule one in the required timeline. Considering that a two year term is relatively short, bills can remain stagnant in committees for too long of a period, which defy the opportunity for public opinion. Unless overruled, all bills require a public hearing prior for consideration to be placed on a session agenda.

#### **RESOLUTION 220-35:**

Resolution 220-35 would establish a timeline of ten (10) days for the Committee of Rules to refer a bill to a Standing Committee, as presently there are no timelines in place. While it a standard policy for legislation to secure a fiscal note from the Office of Finance and Budget or attain a legal review, these additions should not deny the opportunity for legislation to be advanced so that a Standing Committee can schedule a public hearing.

*“Every bill introduced involves concerns of stakeholders, discussions, research, time, costs, meetings with stakeholders and constituents, and so much more. When the legislation is not afforded an efficient means of channeling through the legislative process, or is denied a public hearing, the ones being adversely impacted are not just the primary sponsors of the bill, but the stakeholders and constituents who have shared their concerns. Because of either unnecessary reasons or even due to politics, it is they who become victims of an injustice,”* stated Senator Moylan. *“These resolutions don’t mandate that all bills make the session floor, but rather it promotes efficiency, transparency, and opportunity for public opinion, and all in a timely manner.”*

Senator Moylan has emphasized while it is a standard policy for lawmaking bodies to institute the distinction between those in the majority versus those in the minority, when it comes to how measures are advanced in a legislature, the reality that he would like to stress is that **“the people of Guam vote based on bi-partisan leadership and not party politics.”**

*“I am not one to state that the resolutions I have introduced are the golden eggs to addressing our many problems, but unless the measures are afforded public hearings or a fair discussion on the legislative floor, they will not be given the opportunity to attain necessary amendments to make them more effective,”* Senator Moylan added.

Senator Moylan has noted that even if these resolutions fail, he looks forward to working with his colleagues on advancing the many bills he has introduced since Day 1, that either generate new revenue, enhance public safety measures, promote small business entrepreneurship, reduce government spending, or address the cost of living and over regulation.

END OF RELEASE