MAY 06 1998

The Honorable Antonio R. Unpingco
Speaker
Mina'Bente Kuåtro na Lihesluran Guåhan
Twenty-Fourth Guam Legislature
Guam Legislature Temporary Building
155 Hesler Street
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Speaker Unpingco:

Enclosed please find Bill No. 596 (COR), "AN ACT TO ADD §3201.1 AND TO REPEAL AND REENACT §80113.1, BOTH OF TITLE 10 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REESTABLISHING THE GUAM CANCER REGISTRY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES.", which I have signed into law today as Public Law No. 24-198.

Cancer is noted to be the second leading cause of death on Guam. In order to monitor this disease, a cancer registry is much needed to gather the necessary information which may lead to more effective treatments, as well as locating possible causes, of the disease. For example, it was pointed out that nasopharyngeal cavity cancer and liver cancer are extremely high on Guam.

These statistics will be gathered with the assistance of the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority and kept at the Division of Public Health, Office of Epidemiology, Department of Public Health and Social Services. This department also keeps vital statistics and is familiar with this type of record keeping. An epidemiologist will be charged with analyzing this data and making reports of the findings.

Very truly yours,

Carl T. C. Gutierrez
Governor of Guam

Attachment: copy attached for signed bill
original attached for vetoed bill

cc: The Honorable Joanne M. S. Brown
Legislative Secretary
CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO MAGA’LAHEN GUANAHAN

This is to certify that Bill No. 596 (COR), “AN ACT TO ADD §3201.1 AND TO REPEAL AND REENACT §80113.1, BOTH OF TITLE 10 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REESTABLISHING THE GUAM CANCER REGISTRY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES,” was on the 27th day of April, 1998, duly and regularly passed.

ANTONIO R. UNPINGCO
Speaker

Attested:

JOANNE M.S. BROWN
Senator and Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by I Maga’lhen Guahan this 27th day of April, 1998, at 12:15 o’clock A.M.

MURUTELLE
Assistant Staff Officer
Governor’s Office

APPROVED:

CARL T. C. GUTIERREZ
I Maga’lhen Guahan

Date: 5-6-98

Public Law No. 24-198
AN ACT TO ADD §3201.1 AND TO REPEAL AND
REENACT §80113.1, BOTH OF TITLE 10 OF THE
GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO
REESTABLISHING THE GUAM CANCER
REGISTRY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES.
BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. I Liheslaturan Guahan finds that according to the latest annual report issued by the Office of Vital Statistics, Department of Public Health and Social Services, cancer is the second leading cause of death on Guam, exceeded only by diseases of the heart. I Liheslaturan Guahan also finds that response to this threat to the health of our people can be improved. Public Law Number 17-81:4, codified as 10 GCA §80113.1, established a Guam Cancer Registry within the Laboratory Section of the Guam Memorial Hospital, and requires the registry to collect information on all cases of cancer occurring within Guam, to analyze and compare such data in appropriate ways and to annually prepare and distribute a report on their findings. Consequently, it is the intent of the I Liheslaturan Guahan to insure that the availability of timely data on the incidence of cancer on Guam is essential to the development of appropriate programs to more effectively attack this disease. Therefore, it is the intent of I Liheslaturan Guahan to remedy this situation by reestablishing the Guam Cancer Registry within the Department of Public Health and Social Services.

Section 2. Section 3201.1 is hereby added to Article 2, Chapter 3, Division 1, Part 1 of Title 10 of the Guam Code Annotated to read as follows:

“Section 3201.1. Guam Cancer Registry. (a) There is hereby established within the Department of Public Health and Social Services ('DPHSS') a Guam Cancer Registry, which shall operate under the supervision of the Division of Public Health, Office of Epidemiology
and Research, to collect information on all cases of cancer occurring within Guam, to analyze and compare such data in appropriate ways and to annually prepare and distribute a report on their findings. The Guam Epidemiologist shall be a Guam-licensed physician or a licensed veterinarian.

(b) Injunctions. In case of noncompliance with the provisions of this Act or with the rules and regulations of the program, the Director shall notify the respective licensing Board and may also notify the Attorney General of such noncompliance. The licensing Board shall notify the healthcare professional and may institute suspension of license for repeated noncompliance reported by the Director of DPHSS.

The Attorney General, upon receipt of such notification, may institute an appropriate action or proceeding at law or in equity to restrain, correct such noncompliance. For all cases of noncompliance referred to the Attorney General by the Director of DPHSS, quarterly reports shall be prepared by the Attorney General and submitted to the Director summarizing the status of actions taken to correct and comply.”

Section 3. Repeal and Reenact. Section 80113.1 of Chapter 80, Division 4, Part 2 of Title 10 of the Guam Code Annotated is hereby repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

"Section 80113.1. Cancer Data Collection. The Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (‘GMHA’) and the GMHA Medical Staff shall continue to collect information regarding cancer cases with
relevant data for the Cancer Registry as established by the Department of Public Health and Social Services. GMHA shall provide DPHSS cancer information semiannually."

Section 4. Regulations. The Director is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act in accordance with the Administrative Adjudication Law.
April 20, 1997

Honorable Antonio R. Unpingco  
Speaker  
Twenty Fourth Guam Legislature  
155 Hesler Street  
Agana, Guam 96910

VIA: Chairperson, Committee on Rules, Government Reform and Federal Affairs

Dear Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Health and Human Services, to which was referred Bill No. 596, "AN ACT TO ADD A NEW §3201.1 TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, DIVISION 1, OF TITLE 10 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO REESTABLISHING THE GUAM CANCER REGISTRY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES AND TO REPEAL AND REENACT §80113.1 OF CHAPTER 80, DIVISION 4, PART 2 OF TITLE 10 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED," has had the same under consideration and now wishes to report back the same with the recommendation to do pass as amended.

The Committee votes are as follows:


- To Do Pass
- Not to Pass
- Abstain
- Inactive File

A copy of the Committee Report and other pertinent documents are attached for your immediate reference and information.

Sincerely,

EDWARDO J. CRUZ, MD  
Chairperson

Enclosure:
Committee Health and Human Services
Vote Sheet on
Bill No. 596

AN ACT TO ADD A NEW §3201.1 TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, DIVISION 1, OF TITLE 10 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO REESTABLISHING THE GUAM CANCER REGISTRY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES AND TO REPEAL AND REENACT §80113.1 OF CHAPTER 80, DIVISION 4, PART 2 OF TITLE 10 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED.

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Committee on Health and Human Services
Report On
Bill No. 596 (COR)

AN ACT TO ADD A NEW §3201.1 TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, DIVISION 1, OF TITLE 10 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO REESTABLISHING THE GUAM CANCER REGISTRY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES AND TO REPEAL AND REENACT §80113.1 OF CHAPTER 80, DIVISION 4, PART 2 OF TITLE 10 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED.

Introduced by Senators
Edwardo J. Cruz, John C. Salas, L. F. Kasperbauer and Felix P. Camacho.

PUBLIC HEARING:

The Committee on Health and Human Services, to which was referred Bill No. 596 (COR), "AN ACT TO ADD A NEW §3201.1 TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, DIVISION 1, OF TITLE 10 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO REESTABLISHING THE GUAM CANCER REGISTRY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES AND TO REPEAL AND REENACT §80113.1 OF CHAPTER 80, DIVISION 4, PART 2 OF TITLE 10 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED," conducted a public hearing on Monday, April 6, 1998, starting 8:30 a.m., at the Legislative Public Hearing Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Edwardo J. Cruz, M. D., Chairperson of the Committee on Health and Human Services convened the hearing promptly at 8:30 a.m. Committee members and other Senators present were: John C. Salas, Vice-Chairperson, William B.S.M. Flores, Lou Leon Guerrero, Carlotta A. Leon Guerrero, Frank B. Aguon, Jr. and Sen. Francisco P. Camacho.

TESTIMONY:

Written testimony was received by the Committee from Dennis Rodriguez, Director of the Department of Public Health and Social Services. Mr. Rodriguez also informed the Committee that he has communicated with the Mr. Tyrone Taitano, Hospital Administrator, and that he will working closely with Mr. Taitano to ensure that the legislation once passed by the Legislature be enacted into law.
There being no further witnesses, the Chairperson adjourned the Committee’s hearing on Bill No. 596.

FINDINGS:

The Committee finds that:

1. According to the latest annual report from the Department’s Office of Vital Statistics, cancer is the second leading cause of death on Guam exceeded only by diseases of the heart.

2. The re-establishment of the Cancer Registry within the Department of Public Health would ensure that information on all cancer occurring within Guam would be appropriately analyzed and compared with other data received by the Registry.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee, having reviewed the testimonies presented at the public hearing, does hereby recommend to the Legislature the following: that Bill No. 596 (COR), “AN ACT TO ADD A NEW §3201.1 TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, DIVISION 1, OF TITLE 10 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO REESTABLISHING THE GUAM CANCER REGISTRY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES AND TO REPEAL AND REENACT §80113.1 OF CHAPTER 80, DIVISION 4, PART 2 OF TITLE 10 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED,” as amended, be passed.
Profile on Bill No. 596 (COR)

Brief Title: "Cancer Registry."

Date Introduced: April 2, 1998.

Main Sponsors: Senator E. J. Cruz, L. F. Kasperbauer, J. C. Salas and Felix P. Camacho.

Committee Referral: To the Committee on Health on Human Services

Public Hearing: The Committee on Health and Human Services conducted a public hearing on Bill No. 591 on Monday, April 6, 1998, starting 8:30 a.m., at the Legislative Public Hearing Room.

Official Title: AN ACT TO ADD A NEW §3201.1 TO ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, DIVISION 1, OF TITLE 10 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO REESTABLISHING THE GUAM CANCER REGISTRY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES AND TO REPEAL AND REENACT §80113.1 OF CHAPTER 80, DIVISION 4, PART 2 OF TITLE 10 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED.

Recommendation: To do pass as amended.

OVERVIEW AND INTENT:

This is a simple bill which recognizes the fact that cancer has become the second leading cause of death on Guam and that the best way to remedy this is problem is to re-establish the Cancer Registry within the Division of Public Health, Office of Epidemiology and Research.

SECTION ANALYSIS:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. Outlines the fact that cancer is the second leading cause of death on Guam, exceeded only by diseases of the heart, and that to remedy this situation the Cancer Registry be re-established within the Department of Public Health and Social Services.

Section 2. Adds a new §3201.1 to Article 2, Chapter 3, Division 1, of Title 10 of the Guam Code Annotated re-establishing the Cancer Registry within the Department of Public Health and Social Services. The Cancer Registry, shall operate under the supervision of the Division of Public Health, Office of Epidemiology and Research to collect information on all cases of cancer occurring within Guam, to analyze and compare
such data in appropriate ways and to annually prepare and distribute a report on their findings.

Section 3. Repeal and Re-enact. Section 80113.1 of Chapter 80, Division 4, Part 2 of Title 10 of the Guam Code Annotated is repealed and re-enacted to establish a Cancer Data Collection at GMH.

Section 4. Regulations. The Director is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act in accordance with the Administrative Adjudication Law.
Testimony on the Bill: "An Act to Amend Section 3201, Article 2, Chapter 3, Division 1, of Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, Relative to Reestablishing the Guam Cancer Registry Within the Department of Public Health and Social Services and to Repeal §80113.1 of Chapter 80, Division 4, Part 2 of Title 10 of the Government Code Annotated"

Good Morning Mr. Chairperson and members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Dennis G. Rodriguez and I am the Director of the Department of Public Health & Social Services. I am here to present testimony in favor of the above bill because we believe that it will help fill a long standing void in our access to information regarding cancer on Guam. Although according to the latest annual report of our Office of Vital Statistics, cancer is the second leading cause of death on Guam, until now timely data on the incidence of this disease locally has not been available. The lack of such information is particularly sad in view of the fact that several cancers, including cancer of the nasopharyngeal cavity and cancer of the liver, are apparently very high on Guam.

To remedy this situation, we support revision of the current law to reestablish the Guam Cancer Registry within the Department of Public Health and Social Services. I believe it will require minimal additional resources to establish a functioning cancer registry in our Department as the proposed new activity will fit well with other current responsibilities such as maintaining death and birth registries. In addition we currently have within our Office of Epidemiology and Research the expertise necessary to supervise the collection of this data and to assure that it is appropriately analyzed and made available to the public in a timely manner.

The Department respectfully requests revising the bill to identify the specific division and section within which the Cancer Registry will be organizationally located. We are recommending...
that this important Registry be assigned under the Chief Public Health Office and specifically within the Office of Epidemiology and Research. We believe that this organizational arrangement will ensure effective and efficient management and operation of this Registry.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ