



## OFFICE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

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November 9, 2023

The Honorable Joe S. San Agustin  
Chairperson, Committee on General Government Operations and Appropriations  
*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
Ran Care Bldg., CBU 230  
761 S. Marine Corps Drive  
Tamuning, Guam 96913

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF Bill No. 166-37 – AN ACT TO ADD A NEW §§ (e) TO CHAPTER 8, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO REQUIRING BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AUDIO FILES TO BE POSTED TO THE RESPECTIVE AGENCY'S WEBSITE.

Håfa adai Senator San Agustin and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Bill No. 166-37. The Guam Office of Public Accountability (OPA) supports this bill as it seeks to empower agencies with boards and commissions to post the audio recordings of their meetings on their respective websites and then provide a link to the OPA for concurrent posting.

It was in September 2012 when Public Law 31-233 required “governing Boards and Commissions of all public corporations, and departments of the Government of Guam” to provide audio recordings of each monthly Board and Commission meeting to the OPA within seven (7) calendar days after the meeting. The OPA posts audio files on its website upon receipt.

Since then, the OPA has consistently posted meeting audio files for over 70 boards and commissions. Every week, the OPA receives multiple audio files, in various formats. Some of the files can be as small as 800 megabytes and sometimes the files are so big it requires staff from the agency to burn it onto a CD or flash drive and deliver it to the OPA, which requires my staff to extract the files and download it before posting onto the OPA website. If the agency gives us a flash drive, they have to make another trip to pick it up when we are done downloading. This has caused additional work for the agency and the OPA with our limited staff resources and it also consumes valuable space on our server. Through the years, we have seen an advancement in technology. Agencies are using their websites and social media, such as YouTube and Facebook, to stream their meetings. By simply having them send the OPA the link to post, it makes everyone's life a little easier because it increases efficiency, without sacrificing openness and transparency.

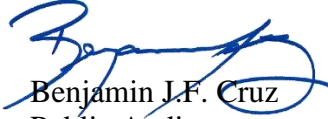
Lastly, one minor edit on lines 13 and 14 of the bill is to change Office of the Public Auditor to Office of Public Accountability.

Our office first recommended in 2016, and every year since, that the initial law be amended to require the audio files be posted on the respective agency's website and have only the link to the

audio files be posted on the OPA website. We thank Senator Joanne Brown for introducing this legislation. It is a simple change that increases efficiency in our government.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Vincent Duenas at [vduenas@guamopa.com](mailto:vduenas@guamopa.com).

Senseramente,



Benjamin J.F. Cruz  
Public Auditor

Cc: The Honorable Joanne M. Brown, Senator, 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature