



I Mina' Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
30th GUAM LEGISLATURE
Senator vicente "ben" c. pangelinan

News Release

**FISCAL YEAR 2011 BUDGET PLAN REQUIRES
GUAM FIRE DEPARTMENT TO BILL FOR AMBULANCE SERVICES**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, HAGATÑA (August 27, 2010) – In the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Act (SBill 439-30), the Guam Fire Department is mandated to work with the Guam Memorial Hospital to determine the methodology and begin billing for ambulance services. The Committee on Appropriations, Taxation, Banking, Insurance, Retirement, and Land (Committee) has been concerned with the Guam Fire Department's inability to fully implement its existing fee schedule and collections for services rendered.

The legislative findings and intent state that, "Currently, the Guam Fire Department (GFD) works in consultation with emergency room physicians and staff of the Guam Memorial Hospital (GMH) to respond to emergencies in the community... GFD has in place an adopted fee schedule and is authorized to bill for its services, including ambulance services, which is deposited to the Fire, Life and Medical Emergency (FLAME) Fund."

Since 1993 the GFD has been afforded the authority to establish a fee schedule to bill and to collect for its services. To date, the GFD has not established a consistent collections protocol nor entered into agreements with private parties or government entities to adequately fund ambulance repair and maintenance as outlined in the FLAME Fund enabling legislation.

Senator ben pangelinan (D), Barrigada, Chairman of the Committee continues to push for an agreement where the GMH bills and collects on behalf GFD. "There is already a relationship established between GMH and GFD and GMH is billing over \$100 million dollars a year in claims, so it makes sense that the hospital be tapped as the administrator to bill for ambulance services. The GMH can take a percentage of the payments and GFD will retain the balance in the FLAME fund. It's a win-win for everyone. More importantly, this solution can be implemented immediately "pangelinan concluded.

For further information, please contact the Offices of Senator ben pangelinan at 473-4236 or email at senbenp@guam.net

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