



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

News Release

**PANGELINAN COLLABORATES WITH GDOE TO INCREASE
FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT FOR SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM**

FOR IMMEDIATE NEWS RELEASE (November 9, 2010– Hagåtña) – Senator ben pangelinan (D), Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, Taxation, Banking, Insurance, Retirement & Land, in continuing to increase funding for the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) will partner with the University of Guam (UoG) and GDOE in justifying an increase to federal reimbursement payments for the school lunch program. Currently, Guam's reimbursement is based on the average cost of preparing school lunches in the 48 states, which is lower than the cost of preparing lunches on Guam.

"It is obvious that the cost on Guam is higher than on the mainland, but during my recent visit to Washington, DC I met with Mr. Kevin Concannon, USDA Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition & Consumer Services to plead our case and we are working with UoG and GDOE to do just that", stated the Senator.

Senator pangelinan has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Office of Finance and Budget (OFB) and the GDOE and UoG. The MOU, proposed by Senator pangelinan and accepted by GDOE will provide technical assistance from OFB in crafting a cost analysis report of the local School Lunch Program, which will be provided to the GDOE and serve as the justification in seeking an increase in the federal reimbursement rate for the National School Lunch Program. The OFB will hire an intern from the UoG Accounting Internship Program to assist in the compilation of data and the report.

Senator pangelinan added, "The cost analysis report to be produced has the potential to increase the federal reimbursement for the local school lunch program. Our school children and their parents who utilize the program will be the primary beneficiaries of this effort. We are all stakeholders in the GDOE and should seek every avenue in providing as much support to them, both financial and non-financial".

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