

Bill 198-35 is an important bill to adopt the rules and regulations of the Recycling Revolving Fund that will promote recycling and environmental cleanup efforts and ensure the accountability of use of these funds under the regulatory expertise of Guam EPA.

[OPTIONAL: The language of the RRF in this bill is the same that went through the AAA process. The Office of the Attorney General of Guam completed their review of the proposed Rules and Regulations on June 10, 2019, and approved them as to form, constitutionality, and compliance with the Administrative Adjudication Law and Guam EPA's statutory authority. And, on July 9, 2019, the Office of the Governor approved the Rules and Regulations as to policy. The Rules and Regulations were then received by the Guam Legislature on July 12, 2019. Following consultation with Legal Counsel, I introduced Bill 198-35 to complete the adoption of these rules in a timely manner.]

Bill 198-35 authorizes the Administrator of GEPA to manage, maintain, and administer the funds deposited to the RRF through motor vehicle registration fees pursuant to Public Law 27-38, in order to fund the following priorities:

- 1st priority: removal of junk vehicles, tires, batteries, waste oil, white goods/appliances,
- 2nd priority: paper, cardboard, plastic, glass;
- 3rd priority: other recyclables as determined by the Administrator

These priorities will be addressed through programs such as the Mayor's Council of Guam Island-Wide Environmental Cleanup Program and the Recycling Industry Economic Stimulus Program.

Bill 198-35 also bookmarks future programs to aid and expand recycling efforts. These include the Guam Beverage Container Recycling Program, Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan, Green Waste Plan, Disaster Debris Management, and Zero Waste Grant Program. Following passage of this measure, I will introduce subsequent legislation with the assistance of Guam EPA to further establish these additional programs.

Bill 198-35 also enables the revolving capability of the fund, which was subject to questionable appropriations. In 2015, moratorium was recommended on the use of funds for any items outside those listed by law (10 GCA Chapter 51 Section 51303) after an audit by the Office of Public Accountability.

Bill 198-35 is an important milestone, since the creation of the Fund in 2003. To be clear, bill 198-35 does not increase fees. Rather, its purpose is to restore functionality and accountability of Recycling Revolving Funds and to increase recycling and cleanup efforts island-wide.

I should also note that this past Friday we received testimony from the Mayors' Council of Guam in support of Bill 198-35. Though the letter was submitted past the deadline for inclusion in the original Committee Report, my office is taking steps today to include it as an addendum,

and I am also distributing a copy of the letter today on the Session floor. I thank the Mayors' Council for their strong support.

I would like to especially thank staff and Board members at GEPA for their hard work and diligence in developing the Rules and Regulations for the Recycling Revolving Fund. In addition, I would like to thank the staff of the Bureau of Budget and Management Research, Bureau of Statistics and Plans, Department of Administration, Attorney General's Office, and Office of the Governor for doing their due diligence in their review of these rules per the Administrative Adjudication process.

I thank my colleagues in advance for their support on this important measure.

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Quote for COR Session PR:

Bill 198-35 is an important milestone since the creation of the Recycling Revolving Fund in 2003. This measure restores functionality and accountability to the Recycling Revolving Fund, and will increase recycling and cleanup efforts island-wide.

Bill 198-35 is the culmination of months of collaborative works. Thanks to efforts by Guam EPA, the AG's Office, the Governor's Office, and the Mayors' Council of Guam, we're now on the verge of fulfilling the promise of the Recycling Revolving Fund. With hard work and a commitment to vision, we're able to make difficult goals a reality.