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Chairperson

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, and Procurement

I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN

35TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

PRESS RELEASE

Senator Perez Introduces Two Bills to Promote Electric Vehicles on Guam

Guam, April 12, 2019 – On Thursday, Senator Sabina Perez introduced two bills to promote electric vehicles on Guam. Co-sponsoring the bills are Speaker Muña Barnes and Senator Lee.

Currently, Guam law provides individuals with a 10% rebate (up to \$3000) on an electric vehicle bought on Guam. Bill 84-35 extends this rebate to local businesses and non-profit organizations, and allows them to use the rebate on up to three electric cars. “An electric four-door car on Guam costs under \$35k, has a range of 225 miles, and can be charged overnight on regular outlets,” said Senator Perez. “Electric vehicles are ideal for many businesses,” she added. The bill also adopts rules and regulations necessary to implement the program.

Bill 85-35 establishes an electric vehicle purchasing preference for GovGuam. Once enacted, the law requires GovGuam to purchase an electric vehicle whenever available, provided it meets the needs of the government and is within 10% of the price of a similarly performing non-electric vehicle. “Electric vehicles are better for the environment, and cheaper to operate,” said Senator Perez. “Electric vehicles also require significantly less maintenance, which has been a struggle for GovGuam,” she added. The bill allows for careful exemptions should a vehicle not meet size, range or other performance requirements of the government. “This mandate will likely only affect small vehicle purchases in the near-term. But as the cost of electric buses and larger vehicles drop in the future, this law will incentivize their procurement for GovGuam,” said Senator Perez.

While Bill 84-35 focuses on electric vehicle use by private enterprise, Bill 85-35 focuses on prioritizing electric vehicle purchases for the government of Guam. “In tandem, these bills promote electric vehicles in both the private sector and our local government,” said Senator Perez. “This is a multi-pronged approach to reducing our island’s dependence on oil,” she added.

“Guam’s biggest export is cash. We send hundreds of millions of dollars off-island every year to purchase oil and gas,” said Senator Perez. “It’s true that much of our power currently comes from oil. However, power plants are three times more efficient at burning oil than gas-powered cars. And GPA is increasingly using renewables to power our grid. Electric vehicles will help keep more money on-island,” she said.

“This is the right thing to do for our economy and our environment,” added Senator Perez.

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