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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 for a Greener GovGuam

Guam, April 10, 2019 – On Wednesday, Senator Sabina Perez introduced two bills to improve environmental sustainability within the government of Guam.

Bill 82-35, co-sponsored with Senator Taitague, requires the government of Guam to purchase only recycled copy and office paper. While current law provides a small procurement incentive when purchasing recycled paper, in practice it hasn't proven effective in changing paper-use practices within the government. "GovGuam agencies and departments are still regularly purchasing paper with no recycled content, which prompted my drafting of Bill 82-35" said Senator Perez.

In addition to mandating the use of recycled paper, Bill 82-35 sets minimum standards for the amount of post-consumer material to be included in recycled paper, and requires that government publications be published on paper that may be easily recyclable after use. The legislation is structured in a manner to allow the Guam Environmental Protection Agency to update these and other standards as technology and costs improve over time.

Bill 81-35, co-sponsored with Senator Taitague and Senator Therese Terlaje, requires that, whenever available, Energy Star appliances be purchased by the government of Guam. "Unfortunately, Energy Star appliances are often overlooked when GovGuam is forced to choose the lowest cost option, even though these more efficient appliances are cheaper in the long-run due to energy savings," said Senator Perez. "Not only does it make cost-sense, Energy Star appliances also reduce our island's reliance on the importation of petroleum," she added.

Both bills also provide for careful exemptions in the case that cost or performance requirements are not met. "If we want the island to embrace environmental sustainability, GovGuam must first role-model best practices," said Senator Perez. "These are common sense measures that establish GovGuam as a leader in environmental stewardship," she added.

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