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Chairperson
Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, and Procurement
I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
35TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

PRESS RELEASE

Senator Perez Raises Concerns Over the Rise in Animal Cruelty Incidents

Guam, September 23, 2020: Senator Perez issues the following statement regarding the recent animal cruelty acts.

“I am deeply bothered by recent reports of animal cruelty. I continue to strongly advocate for adoption of the PAWS Act, Bill 185-35. Pending final guidance from the Office of the Attorney General, who is currently reviewing the bill to ensure local courts will effectively and fairly apply the language, I will push for the adoption of this crucial bill.

We must update our laws to reflect the standards of care and compassion our people value. By enshrining into our statutes a holistic approach to protecting animals, holding abusers accountable, and providing for their rehabilitation, we can protect our island's long-standing values of *inafa'maolek* and cultivate a strong and peaceful community.

Make no mistake - violence is violence. One day it may be directed at an animal, another day toward a child or domestic partner. Studies show a staggeringly high correlation between animal cruelty and domestic violence, child abuse, and elder abuse. We must address this violence in order to protect the most vulnerable amongst us and help our community heal.”

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