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Chairperson

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement,
and Statistics, Research, and Planning

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Legislature Unanimously Passes Senator Perez's Zero Waste Act

Hagåtña, Guam – The Legislature on Friday unanimously passed The Guam Zero Waste Act, kickstarting localized and innovative recycling and waste management programs for our island.

Bill 284-36, introduced by Senator Sabina Flores Perez, modernizes and improves recycling programs across the island which are costly and inefficient, especially given the significant changes to the global recycling industry, since the Guam Recycling Revolving Fund was established 16 years ago.

The Guam Zero Waste Act was drafted in close collaboration with the Guam Environmental Protection Agency, and prioritizes overall waste reduction, circular use of materials, and the promotion of groundbreaking research to address the rapidly decreasing lifespan of our landfill.

“Localized solutions and investment are needed now to address global changes in recycling in order to transform our wastes into resources, reduce our ecological footprint, protect communities, and preserve resources and ecosystems, both locally and globally,” Senator Perez stated. **“Embracing zero waste sustainability, prioritizes the health of our people and environment and aids in diversifying our economy. This is part of our responsibility and cultural practice of *inafa'maolek* and is essential to restoring balance with the lands and ocean that sustain us.”**

Bill 284 enables GEPA to fund studies to research best practices for reducing and diverting different waste streams to reach 50% and 75% waste reduction by 2035 and 2045, respectively. Additionally, the legislation increases Guam EPA's capacity to promote and implement recycling and zero waste initiatives through an adaptable and long-term approach.

Senator Perez thanked the co-sponsors of Bill 284 and all her colleagues in the 36th Guam Legislature for aiding in empowering our community to make the environmental choices as stewards within our homes, schools, places of work, and broader community.

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