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Senator Perez's Statement on the Passing of Bill 165-37 for Islandwide Trash Collection

Hagåtña, Guam – “I want to thank my colleagues for their support of Bill 165-37 that authorizes islandwide collection (IWC) for residential customers living in a building with four units or less. Curbside collection provides the convenience of weekly collections of household trash and recycling, plus two annual bulky item pickups that may include white goods, mattresses, and others.

Most, if not all, residents produce trash that will eventually be disposed of at Guam's only municipal landfill. Bill 165-37 intends to ensure waste disposal is done properly and fairly. It also provides exemptions to those contracting with permitted private haulers, self-haulers to the transfer station, and those who do not generate waste. Islandwide collection provides a solution to Guam's problem of illegal dumping that mars the beauty of our island and poses hazards to the health of our people and environment.

Bill 165-37 also authorizes a customer assistance program (CAP), in which GSWA has testified their intent for it to apply to those who also receive SNAP benefits. During the session, amendments were made to alleviate concerns of cost, such as the inclusion of self-hauling and repealing the garnishing of tax refunds.

I am committed to developing legislation to further support and subsidize families in need. Implementation of the islandwide collection will be delayed one year after rules and regulations are adopted, which will take place 6 months after enactment. The drafting of the regulations will provide opportunities for public input to ensure it works for our community. Islandwide collection is an important step forward in reclaiming our utility, and demonstrating that we as a community can sustainably run a sanitary landfill, clean up the Ordot dump, and provide a safety net for those in need,” stated Senator Perez.

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