

For Immediate Release,

April 5, 2024

Senator Perez Bills Promoting Island Resiliency Signed Into Law

Hagåtña, Guam - On Wednesday, Governor Lou Leon Guerrero signed three bills promoting island resiliency into law.

Bill 119-37(COR), now *Public Law 37-88*, seeks to streamline and build capacity in government procurement, promote transparency and ensure the efficient use of funds with the best value in service to our community by revitalizing the Guam Procurement Advisory Council by making changes to the size and makeup of its membership. “Identifying challenges, providing solutions and sharing best practices collaboratively can transform our procurement process to meet the needs of our community in a timely and cost effective manner,” stated Senator Perez.

Bill 133-37(COR), now *Public Law 37-89*, allows tenants to fund repairs to damaged weatherheads after destructive storms, if a landlord fails to act expeditiously or to make a good faith effort to make repairs. The bill also authorizes tenants to deduct reasonable costs, not to exceed three months rent, to offset rent. In the Governor’s message, she states, “The bill will empower tenants who may be at risk for potential health and safety hazards to take action to restore power to their homes more expeditiously,” and thus “prioritizes the health and well-being of our people.”

Bill 194-37(LS), now *Public Law 37-90*, aims to hold violators of Guam’s tobacco control law more accountable through stricter penalties and increased fines in order to prevent access and protect youth from the harms of tobacco and nicotine.

Between 2018 to 2023, GBHWC and DRT issued approximately 119 citations to businesses who sold tobacco and nicotine products to minors on Guam. Records show that 15 retailers have a history of two or more violations selling to underage youth.

Limiting access through stricter penalties is an important measure in combating the epidemic of electronic cigarette use amongst our youth, approximately 1-in-3 middle and high school students who have reported current use and are prone to addiction and long lasting health effects.

“I want to thank Governor Leon Guerrero and my colleagues who recognized the importance of supporting these measures that promote a sustainable future for our community, through improving procurement in order to respond efficiently to our diverse needs and empowering people to make decisions that improve their lives and protect them,” said Senator Perez.

#####