



## OFFICE OF SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ

Chairperson

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

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guahan* • 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

### For Immediate Release

July 5, 2024

### Joint Statement on Bill No. 322-37 to Fund Wastewater Infrastructure for Parental and Decedent Lots Over Aquifer

*Hagåtña, Guam* - Senator Sabina Perez in partnership with Senator Telo Taitague, Senator Joanne Brown, Speaker Therese Terlaje, and Senator Chris Barnett introduced **Bill No. 322 -37 (LS)**, which appropriates \$15,000,000 to the Guam Waterworks Authority for the design and construction of wastewater infrastructure, with prioritization towards parental and decedent subdivisions over the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer (NGLA).

*“The NGLA provides over 80% of the island’s drinking water and is essential to our very survival. The need to protect it from irreparable harm is non-negotiable. In the wake of Bill 175, which has moved to the voting file, serious concerns have been raised about the potential increase in nitrate and PFAS contamination and the doubling of wastewater into our aquifer;”* Senator Perez said. *“It is extremely pertinent that we make other efforts to increase housing opportunities for our people, while simultaneously providing protections and mitigating the increasing contamination to the NGLA.”*

*“Important questions remain unanswered regarding the proposed wastewater treatment under discussion in the legislature. A sewer system would better protect our aquifer while allowing for construction of homes on these properties. If we are determined to push forward with the development of northern Guam despite potential risks to our clean water, this legislation will be our saving grace from the half-baked initiatives our people will surely pay for. Not only will it protect our water, but it may also reduce contaminant levels, fostering growth and development. This legislation addresses our long-neglected infrastructure and is crucial for ensuring a safer, more promising future for our island,”* said Senator Telo Taitague.

*“The allowance of increased septic systems over the NGLA is not the only or best option for affordable housing. Last week, debate was shut down on Bill 175, but the conversation on this issue must continue. Being blessed with this beautiful island comes with the responsibility to care for our environment, for our children and their children,”* said Senator Chris Barnett.

Passing Bill No. 322 -37 is a win-win that will address outdated infrastructure and ultimately support responsible housing development by expanding access to wastewater infrastructure that will protect our island’s main natural source of clean drinking water and secure it for us and our future generations.

###