



*Office of Senator James C. Moylan*

I MINA TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN | 35TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

**APRIL 20, 2020**

**PRESS RELEASE**

## **LEGISLATION BEING INTRODUCED TO AUTHORIZE ELECTRONIC PUBLIC HEARINGS**

(Hagåtña, Guam). Senator James C. Moylan is filing legislation to encode in the Guam Code Annotated, the authorization for the Guam Legislature to conduct Public Hearings by electronic means. Because of the State of a Public Health Emergency, which was declared by Governor Lou Leon Guerrero last month, large social gatherings are now prohibited, hence the challenges that the legislative committees would have with holding traditional public hearings. Because Guam law makes such hearings mandatory, unless a measure is deemed an emergency by the Speaker, this legislation would provide electronic hearings the same effective as if the public was to participate in person at the Guam Congress Building.

The legislation would mandate no less than ten days for a public comment period, which shall be entered as part of the committee report. It would also provide the chairperson of the committee, as the presiding officer to deem whether they have the means to hold a live electronic hearing where interaction can or can't take place, and if so, time limits per participant may be imposed. All other requirements associated with the Open Government Law shall be imposed with such Public Hearings.

*“With today’s technology, this may very well be the route that future public hearings may be headed. But our goal at this point is that since social gathering policies will probably remain for several more months, public hearings for important measures should not be held back, hence the allowance of an electronic means to prioritize the safety of all participants. The work must continue.”*, added Senator Moylan. *“This past session we had 2 very contentious measures on the agenda, as well as a hazardous pay bill with many questions, all of which should have warranted a public hearing. If we experienced anything this past session, is that the community made their voices heard very loud and clear through electronic means and it was reflective in the voting outcome, thus electronic public hearings should indeed work.”*, Senator Moylan also added.

**END OF STATEMENT**

**SENATOR JAMES C. MOYLAN |**

Suite 407 DNA Building • 238 Archbishop Flores St. Hagåtña, Guam 96910 | (671) 922.MORE | (671) 979.MORE | [senatormoylan@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatormoylan@guamlegislature.org)



*Like and follow jamescmoylan*