



OFFICE OF SENATOR JAMES "JIM" C. MOYLAN

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SENATOR EXPRESSES CONCERNS WITH PROPOSALS THAT INCREASE THE COST OF LIVING.

Senator James Moylan expressed his concerns with a recent proposal that would establish a tax for online purchases, which continues a recent trend of tax or fee increases which impacts the pocketbooks of island residents. Since 2018, the island has experienced increases in business privilege and liquid fuel taxes, proposals to increase fees to conduct business on island, and even a weights and measure policy that affect the landing costs of goods at our port. While in theory, an online sales tax would level a playing field for local businesses that pay retail taxes, until the government displays fiscal responsibilities in their spending habits, such proposals need to be removed from the table.

Since January, Senator Moylan has introduced measures aimed at reducing the costs of goods, including Bill 9 which would reduce the Business Privilege Tax from 5% to 4%, Bill 10, which would reduce the Liquid Fuel Tax to the pre-2018 level. Bill 71, addresses the weights and measures for heavy vehicles to ease the landing costs of goods, and Bill 133, which would reduce the filing fees for a Limited Liability Corporation, with the objective of increasing small business entrepreneurship. Unfortunately, other than Bill 71, none of the other measures have been scheduled for a public hearing.

“During the campaign season in 2018, one of the most common concerns that was raised was that the cost of living on island is relatively too high, thus I have been and will continue to be committed to focusing on ways to address that problem”, stated Senator Moylan. *“However, from budget proposals that seek to increase government spending, to measures that will further impair pocket books, we encourage the public to speak louder, and ask, rather demand, that their elected officials direct policies that address the priorities of the people, and not about growing the government”,* added Senator Moylan.

“While Bill 136 has been introduced to increase the minimum wage, a proposal which I would support, what benefit would it be for an entry level employee if we are increasing their salaries by a certain margin, but not doing anything to address the cost of living on island”, he added. As the budget process for Fiscal Year 2020 looms, Senator Moylan implores his colleagues to collaborate and find ways to drastically reduce government spending without jeopardizing public safety, education, and healthcare, so that there would be opportunities to reduce taxes. Likewise, he encourages them to find ways to stimulate the economy with new monies and to entice new industries which would create new jobs. *“It won’t be easy, but doing nothing is not an option”,* he also added.

END OF RELEASE

SENATOR JAMES C. MOYLAN |

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



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