



November 5, 2025

The Honorable Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada
Chairperson, Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture, Parks, and Infrastructure
38th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada,

On behalf of the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), I would like to provide this letter of support regarding Guam Bill No. 127-38, "An Act to Add a New §28112(d) of Chapter 28, Title 11, Guam Code Annotated, Relative to Strengthening the Department of Public Health and Social Services' Inspection Capacity to Protect the Health of Our People."

NEHA represents more than 7,600 government, private, academic, and uniformed services sector environmental public health professionals in the U.S., its territories, and internationally. This workforce represents the second largest constituency of the existing public health workforce, second only to nursing. NEHA is the profession's strongest advocate for excellence in the practice of environmental public health. We deliver on our mission to build, sustain, and empower an effective environmental public health workforce.

This workforce ensures the health, safety, and security of the public in the most intimate and potentially vulnerable aspects of our lives: daycare, schools, swimming pools, restaurants, grocery stores, farmers markets, long-term care facilities, among many others. As such, improving environmental health capacity is central to the interests of our members.

I commend the legislature's introduction of Bill 127-38, which aims to establish a stable and predictable funding stream for the inspection, laboratory, and enforcement activities of the Division of Environmental Health within the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services. The legislature's findings in this bill rightly recognize that the workload of the Division of Environmental Health has grown dramatically. Globalization, e-commerce, and increasing import volumes mean that more consumer goods are entering the island's market. The 286% increase in suspected violative imports cited in this legislation is not just a statistic—it represents real potential for harm to Guam's families, children, and visitors.

The proposed funding will enhance Guam's capacity to regulate the importation, distribution, and sale of unapproved consumer goods and strengthen its ability to address environmental health concerns.

Bill 127-38, which allocates 20% of Use Tax revenue to the Environmental Health Revolving Fund, would provide essential resources to DEH. This investment will not only protect Guam from unsafe products but also build resilience against public health threats.


The proposed allocation of 20% of Use Tax revenues is a smart, forward-thinking investment that will treat environmental health as a foundational element of public health, and not an afterthought. The approach embodied in Bill 127-38 aligns with national best practices that call for:

- Dedicated revenue streams for environmental health enforcement and laboratories
- Integration of inspection and surveillance data with federal partners such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration
- Workforce development investments to recruit and retain trained sanitarians and inspectors

NEHA fully supports the goals of this legislation. We urge the legislature to pass Bill No. 127-38 to ensure that the Division of Environmental Health has the resources it needs to protect every resident and visitor on Guam.

We stand ready to assist the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services and Liheslaturan Guåhan in strengthening the environmental health capacity in Guam.

Sincerely,



David T. Dyjack, DrPH, CIH
Chief Executive Officer

