



OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR

April 13, 2009

Honorable Matt Rector
Chairman,
Committee on Labor, the Public Structure,
Public Libraries and Technology
I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
155 Hesler Place
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

**Re: Bill 65, An Act to Amend § 1900, Chapter 19, Title 1 Guam Code Annotated to
Rename the Office of the Public Auditor to the Office of Public Accountability**

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

I am pleased to support enactment of Bill 65, a measure that responds to the name change I requested in my inaugural remarks in January.

The proposed amendment would mirror the change made in 2004 when Congress changed the name of the Government Accounting Office to Government Accountability Office.

As GAO notes at its website, www.gao.gov/about/namechange.html, the change “better reflects the modern professional services organization GAO has become.”

But P.L. 108-271, 118 Stat. 811, did more than modify GAO’s name. The GAO Human Capital Reform Act also:

- Decoupled GAO from the federal employee pay system; and
- Established a compensation system that placed greater emphasis on job performance.

Respectfully, I suggest that OPA is also in need of more than a change in its name. As you consider Bill 65, I hope *I Liheslatura* will also look at the need to establish an OPA pay classification plan. I would like for it to be patterned after the plan used for the Department of Interior Office of the Inspector General staff. It is needed to protect the independence of our office and so that we may continue to perform impartially, effectively and efficiently the tasks assigned to us. This was another issue that I spoke to at my inauguration.

The precedent for using a federal model was set when *I Liheslatura* followed the Internal Revenue Service pattern for Department of Revenue and Taxation employees. The professional staff of the Attorney General also has a separate classification and Compensation Plan.

Testimony of Doris Flores Brooks
Bill 65
April 13, 2009



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At this time OPA cannot even get modest salary changes approved by the Department of Administration. As a result, the OPA is constantly losing staff. Now I have only nine employees, just half the number employed at this time two year ago. The Guam Waterworks Authority lured away my deputy, Yuka Cabrera, by offering her \$73,167 per annum. For months I had been trying to get her salary increased to that level from the \$60,528 that she was being paid. At the entry level, my office cannot compete with the salaries being offered by private enterprise. Consequently bright young accounting graduates from the University of Guam are being grabbed up by accounting firms, the federal government with its increased demand due to the military buildup and other companies in need of competent personnel in this field.

Again, please let me express my thanks that Bill 65 has been introduced and is being considered early in your session. We offer our assistance to you in any way in improving our enabling act and obtaining a separate compensation plan for OPA staff.

Senseramente,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doris Flores Brooks".

Doris Flores Brooks, C.P.A., C.G.F.M.
PUBLIC AUDITOR OF GUAM