



*Mary A.Y. Okada
President*

Congresswoman Donna Christiansen
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources &
Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs
U.S. Congress
Washington D.C. 20515

Hafa Adai Congresswoman Christensen and members of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs,

Greetings from the Island of Guam! It is indeed an honor to be here this afternoon, to provide testimony for the subcommittee in “Identifying labor solutions for the Guam military build-up.”

Over a year ago, the Guam Community College (GCC) submitted written testimony to the subcommittee panel on Insular Affairs relative to the college’s role in preparing Guam for the U.S. military buildup. After submitting such testimony, we were then fortunate to provide a campus visit to Congresswoman Donna Christiansen and Guam’s U.S. Delegate, Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo. During the Congressional Delegates visit to our campus, we were able to show first-hand GCC’s current capacity and our ability to grow our facilities to meet the workforce development needs of Guam.

Since then, the Guam Community College has immersed itself with several discussions and activities with organizations such as the Joint Guam Program Office and various subcommittees of the Civilian Military Task Force. In addition to these two important organizations, we are working closely with Guam’s business industry as well as our local government agencies to ensure that the Guam Community College is able to do its part to provide a well-trained and educated workforce to meet the island’s expanding needs. The college continues to solidify our partnership with the Guam Contractors’ Association (GCA) in preparing the workforce for Guam’s construction boom. Both GCA and GCC are looking at the future growth of the island’s construction business and have plans to recruit students beginning with our middle school students to learn what true opportunities are available in the construction fields. This recruitment and education of our program opportunities plays a pivotal role in ensuring the future of our workforce. But our efforts must not stop there. We are committed to joining forces to educate our residents on the available opportunities this build up will bring.

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In addition to preparing for Guam's construction boom, as Guam's only community college that offers comprehensive programs that lead to an associate degree or certificate in over 50 specified fields of study, we are continuously identifying the changes needed to current curriculum and anticipating the establishment of new programs. With the increase of business partners that will rely on skilled workers, the college will continue to be responsive to their needs and the requirements of our growing community. Recipients of these training programs are widespread, meeting the demands of our civilian as well as military communities.

As participants of the Interagency Group on Insular Areas' (IGIA), the college has been successful in identifying and obtaining additional resources to support many of the programs. For instance, the college recently received a College Access Grant that will provide educational opportunities for at-risk low income students. This will help strengthen our commitment in providing information and services to students for entry into postsecondary education.

A few weeks ago, the college broke ground on the construction of a new Allied Health Center that will provide the necessary classroom space for our Allied Health Programs, while augmenting laboratory space for our Science Programs as well. This new project will help to address health education for our island. The new center will provide an additional 24,000 square feet of classroom, laboratory, and office space to the college. This is the first step in increasing our capacity at the college. With the completion of this building, the college will pursue other health occupation programs.

Most recently, the college obtained another construction grant to support learning resources for our students. The resources are critical to continued increases in enrollment and retention of current students.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input and to be a part of the solution that addresses Guam's labor shortage. The Guam Community College continues to be available to participate and become an active member of the IGIA's working committee that will allow GCC to assist the IGIA meet the goals and objectives outlined to address labor issues as a result of Guam's unprecedented growth.

We thank the committee for providing Guam Community College with the opportunity to provide this testimony. We remain confident that through the collaborative efforts of the Federal Government, the Government of Guam, the private sector, and the people of Guam—we can make this massive endeavor a success for Micronesia. As a unified voice for Guam, we continue to support Governor Camacho's contention that what benefits the U.S. Military must benefit every man, woman and child who calls Guam home.

Chairwoman Christiansen and members of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, we invite you to witness the growth of the Guam Community College. I invite you to visit our

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campus whenever possible, to see the dedication and commitment that we have made to ensure the success of our island. If there is any assistance or support the Guam Community College can provide your committee, please feel free in letting me know. I commit to you our ability to serve as a part of the solution in addressing Guam's labor shortage as a result of Guam's impending military buildup. We look forward to working with you and members of your subcommittee in developing a wholesome plan that will benefit all shareholders—more importantly the citizens of Guam and Micronesia.

Again, on behalf of the Guam Community College Board of Trustees, Board of Governors, faculty, staff, administrators, but most especially our students. un Dangkolu na Si Yu'os Ma'ase for providing the Guam Community College with this opportunity to provide our testimony to the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs. We look forward to working with you for the benefit of our people and the continued success of our students.

Senseramente,

/s/ Mary A.Y. Okada
President

cc: Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo
GCC Board of Trustees