

Aline A. Yamashita, PhD

Senator-Elect

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November 24, 2010

The Honorable Felix P. Camacho

Governor

&

The Honorable Michael W. Cruz, MD

Lieutenant Governor

Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex, Adelup

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Governor Camacho and Lieutenant Governor Cruz,

During the campaign trail, I listened to many of our residents voice their concerns. Supports and services provided by Mental Health are high on the list.

Most recently, US District Court Judge Consuelo Marshall issued an order requiring our government to fund a plan that proposes to help our community with their mental health.

As a mom of an autistic adolescent, an educator, a taxpayer, and a senator-elect, I respectfully ask that you, as governor and lieutenant governor of our island, ask the courts to allow your leadership and the incoming leadership to become actively engaged in the improvement plan.

I respectfully request that you ask Judge Marshall for at least a month to allow the community to review the \$15.9 million plan and provide input before making the first payment of \$2 million towards the plan. The November 30, 2010 timeline for the \$2 million payment must be pushed back.

It is disconcerting that a federal team and two on-island people assigned by Judge Marshall, crafted a plan that purports to address our issues. Glaringly absent is on-island, broad stakeholder involvement which is needed to ensure ownership and sustainability towards the \$15.9 million investment. Basic elements of community-based, family-driven, child-centered, culturally responsive, and linguistic competency must be assured.

While immediate action is needed for those of us with mental health concerns, we have a responsibility to ensure that the plan has wide, thoughtful input from customers, clients, taxpayers, and professionals throughout the field.

Because this is such an important issue, I have also sent Governor-elect Edward J.B. Calvo and Lieutenant Governor-elect Ray Tenorio a letter making the same request of them, and have copied other island leadership.

Particularly during the Season of Thanksgiving, it is only fitting that we ensure that this incredible, rare investment best meets the needs of our island community who will always need a little more help and understanding.

Thank you for your time and kind attention to this matter.

Respectfully,



ALINE A. YAMASHITA, Ph.D.
SENATOR-ELECT

CC: The Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D., Speaker, 30th Guam Legislature
The Honorable Frank B. Aguon, Jr., Chairman, Committee on Economic Development,
Health & Human Services and Judiciary, 30th Guam Legislature
The Honorable Rory Respicio, Majority Leader, 30th Guam Legislature
The Honorable Frank Blas, Jr., Minority Leader, 30th Guam Legislature
The Honorable John Weisenberger, Attorney General of Guam
The Honorable Robert J. Torres, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Guam
The Honorable Alberto C. Lamorena, III, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Guam
Mr. Dennis Rodriguez, Senator-Elect
Mr. Lenny Rapadas, Attorney General – Elect