

GUAM ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE



Response from Jenei Aguon, Democrat

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Q1 Spearfishing is a popular sport on Guam and around the Pacific. Spearfishing is often considered an "eco-friendly" alternative to commercial fishing due to the low by-catch, and it does not cause pollution or damage to the reef like many commercial fishing operations. However, SCUBA spearfishing has been scientifically demonstrated to be harmful to fish populations on coral reefs. SCUBA spearfishers can decimate populations of large fish on a reef, leaving only small fish, which do not have the same ecological function or reproductive potential as larger fish. This problem is worse at night, when the fish are sleeping and easy to kill. SCUBA spearfishing has already been banned in many places, including the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, West Hawaii, American Samoa, most of the Caribbean and Europe, and even the Middle East, and more bans are being proposed in several U.S. states. Guam needs a SCUBA spearfishing ban to help protect what is left of our fragile reef fish populations. What will you do as a senator of the 35th Guam legislature to help protect Guam's coral reefs from SCUBA spearfishing?

I will author a bill that bans spearfishing with SCUBA gear.

Q2 Guam has a serious trash problem. In December 2010, Guam legislature passed Public Law 30-221, "Guam Beverage Container Recycling Act." Eight years later, this law has not been implemented. Bottle deposit systems have been demonstrated to be effective in reducing litter and increasing recycling. Research shows that beverage containers account for 40-60% of all litter, and deposits reduce this litter by 70-80%. A 5¢ refundable deposit on each and every bottle and can on Guam would reduce the amount of trash on our island and provide funding for more environmental protection. What will you do as a senator of the 35th Guam legislature to implement Public Law 30-221?

I will author an amendment to Public Law 30-221 to hasten implementation of a bottle deposit on Guam.

Q3 As tourism continues to grow, development of hotels, malls, streets and sidewalks increases the amount of land covered by cement and asphalt. Existing rules and regulations are not sufficient to prevent stormwater runoff from reaching the shoreline. Given the multiple development violations and development that is not in compliance with stormwater management, how would you handle penalties for non-compliance for existing structures?

I will author a bill to mandate the Guam Environmental Protection Agency, or other agency, to issue fines and penalties if developers fail to comply with all requirements and conditions stipulated in the documents that allowed the issuance of a building permit.

Q4 Sea level rise is occurring and is expected to continue well beyond the end of the century. Scientists estimate that sea level on Guam will increase by at least 1 meter (approximately 3 feet) by the end of the century and by approximately 1 foot by mid-century. This increase will exacerbate coastal erosion, coastal inundation during storm and surf events, and degradation of the coastal infrastructure. What will you do as a senator of the 35th Guam Legislature to address the threat of sea level rise and its potential impacts to the public sector of Guam?

I will author a bill requiring all Government of Guam agencies that are/will be affected by sea level rise to ensure that the issue is addressed in development plans and that an annual progress report is provided to the legislature.

Q5 The Layon Sanitary Landfill solved the problem of the Ordot Dump, but it created an island of trash. Many Guam families live in houses surrounded by their own waste because they cannot afford the fees charged for disposal by the Guam Solid Waste Authority. Boonie roads in the jungle become illegal dumpsites for the same reason. Often, these are access roads to private residences or tourist areas, making illegal dumping, not just unsightly, but a public health hazard as well. What will you do to make it possible for the poor to responsibly deal with their solid waste?

I will author a bill to make trash service free for all people living at the poverty level as defined by current Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Q6 Legislation is necessary but often falls short in enforcement. There are laws regulating fishing in the marine preserves, wildland arson, and littering/dumping. Yet the preserves are fished anyway, hunters that burn are never caught, and littering/dumping remains rampant. There are currently nine conservation officers (only five in-the-field) on Guam to cover an around the clock operation. How will you ensure that Guam is properly protected?

I will author a bill requiring the Department of Agriculture to hire, and replace as needed, the 20 Conservation Officers necessary to protect Guam's natural resources.

Q7 Litekyan or Ritidian, also known as Northwest Field, was proposed as the best site to build a firing range for Marines to train. While this choice allows the military to 'stay in its footprint', concerns raised by residents include restricted access to areas demarcated by the Surface Danger Zone for 9 months out of the year. This would affect fishers who travel to off-shore fishing sites, as well as residents for whom the area holds deep spiritual significance. Further, original landowners and their descendants still maintain deep connections to land taken by the military for little compensation after WWII. Residents have also voiced environmental concerns such as toxic contamination of the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer, noise that could be harmful to fruit bats and sea turtles, the destruction of high quality limestone forest, and transplantation of fragile host plants that support the largest population of the endangered Eight Spot Butterfly. If elected, what would you do to address these concerns?

I will author a bill to call for a moratorium on the firing range.

Q8 Erosion on Guam has significant negative impacts on our natural resources and is commonly the result of wildfires and off-roading. In badland areas, wildfires and off-roading have removed native trees and vegetation that have complex root systems. These complex root systems were effective at holding soil during rain events. When rain events carry soil into the ocean, this prevents adequate sunlight from reaching corals and they bleach and die. This is the major cause of the extensive damage on our southern reefs. Most off-roading occurs on private land, which is usually considered off-limits to legislative control. However, when private land is located in savannah or coastal areas adjacent to rivers or streams that can deliver sediment to coral reefs, erosion created by off-roading becomes a public environmental issue because it affects sustenance fishing, recreation and the economy. It is comparable to creating an illegal dumpsite on your own land – a dump site is no longer a private issue when it becomes a public health issue. Further, off-roading, whether it occurs on public or private land, is completely unregulated. Attempts to mitigate damage to land and coral reefs by planting trees are often negated by fires that are intentionally set and difficult to extinguish. What will you do, as a senator of the 35th Guam Legislature, to specifically address man-made causes of erosion?

I will author legislation that seeks to control off-roading in areas vulnerable to erosion, on public or private land, and identify tourism funds, or other funds, to plant trees to restore damaged land and enforce prohibiting off-roading in these vulnerable areas.

Q9 If elected, what environmental laws would you recommend repealing?

There are a couple laws that I want to look into. Which ones, I haven't really decided on what to focus on. But laws affecting coral reefs and erosion is something that I am passionate about because of my participation in various outreaches that pertain to those same issues.

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Response from Cel Babauta, Democrat

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I will author a bill that bans spearfishing with SCUBA gear.

Comment:

I will certainly move to author legislation to prohibit SCUBA spearfishing in Guam because of at least the following reasons: 1. If we do not stop SCUBA spearfishing, Guam will eventually lose valuable fishing habitat and coral reefs that future generations will not be able to enjoy during their lifetime. 2. It is not the traditional cultural practice that Chamorros are accustomed to when fishing. 3. I believe it is unethical way of fishing.

Q2 Guam has a serious trash problem. In December 2010, Guam legislature passed Public Law 30-221, "Guam Beverage Container Recycling Act." Eight years later, this law has not been implemented. Bottle deposit systems have been demonstrated to be effective in reducing litter and increasing recycling. Research shows that beverage containers account for 40-60% of all litter, and deposits reduce this litter by 70-80%. A 5¢ refundable deposit on each and every bottle and can on Guam would reduce the amount of trash on our island and provide funding for more environmental protection. What will you do as a senator of the 35th Guam legislature to implement Public Law 30-221?

I will author an amendment to Public Law 30-221 to hasten implementation of a bottle deposit on Guam.

Comment:

I believe that an amendment to the law must be initiated that encompasses a Implementation Plan of Action achievable milestones and estimated completion dates so that government leaders and the people of Guam will eventually realize that progress is being made. Guam EPA must be mandated to provide a quarterly report to the legislature and the executive branch specifying the progress or lack of progress regarding the Implementation Plan. Should any of the milestones not be accomplished, Guam EPA must explain the limiting factors that are preventing Guam EPA from successfully completing such milestone and what measure should be undertaken to make progress.

Q3 As tourism continues to grow, development of hotels, malls, streets and sidewalks increases the amount of land covered by cement and asphalt. Existing rules and regulations are not sufficient to prevent stormwater run-off from reaching the shoreline. Given the multiple development violations and development that is not in compliance with stormwater management, how would you handle penalties for non-compliance for existing structures?

I will author a bill to mandate the Guam Environmental Protection Agency, or other agency, to issue fines and penalties if developers fail to comply with all requirements and conditions stipulated in the documents that allowed the issuance of a building permit.

Comment:

Contractors must be in compliant with existing laws relative to construction of hotels, sidewalks, streets, drainage systems, and accommodations for persons with disabilities. On the other hand, government building inspectors must ensure that prevailing laws are being followed. I would work with the Guam Contractors Association and other stakeholders in reviewing existing statutes to see if there is a need to make changes to such laws. Nonetheless, failure of the contractor to comply and government inspector to require corrective actions will not only require fines but also jail time if found guilty in a court of law.

Q4 Sea level rise is occurring and is expected to continue well beyond the end of the century. Scientists estimate that sea level on Guam will increase by at least 1 meter (approximately 3 feet) by the end of the century and by approximately 1 foot by mid-century. This increase will exacerbate coastal erosion, coastal inundation during storm and surf events, and degradation of the coastal infrastructure. What will you do as a senator of the 35th Guam Legislature to address the threat of sea level rise and its potential impacts to the public sector of Guam?

I will author a bill requiring all Government of Guam agencies that are/will be affected by sea level rise to ensure that the issue is addressed in development plans and that an annual progress report is provided to the legislature.

Comment:

I will introduce legislation that will put together a working group consisting of Army Corps of Engineers scientists, relevant government agencies/departments to develop a plan that will address the problem of coastal erosion. The group will be required list the resources that are needed to prevent erosion. Will also require the local and federal governments to both address any funding requirements that are needed to remedy the erosion problems.

Q5 The Layon Sanitary Landfill solved the problem of the Ordot Dump, but it created an island of trash. Many Guam families live in houses surrounded by their own waste because they cannot afford the fees charged for disposal by the Guam Solid Waste Authority. Boonie roads in the jungle become illegal dumpsites for the same reason. Often, these are access roads to private residences or tourist areas, making illegal dumping, not just unsightly, but a public health hazard as well. What will you do to make it possible for the poor to responsibly deal with their solid waste?

I will author a bill to make trash service free for all people living at the poverty level as defined by current Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Comment:

I will work with fellow senators, mayors, and stakeholders to develop a plan to have people living in poverty level help in village clean-up and beautification efforts and in return make trash service free for such target population. After a plan is created, I will then sponsor legislation that will make trash service free.

Q6 Legislation is necessary but often falls short in enforcement. There are laws regulating fishing in the marine preserves, wildland arson, and littering/dumping. Yet the preserves are fished anyway, hunters that burn are never caught, and littering/dumping remains rampant. There are currently nine conservation officers (only five in-the-field) on Guam to cover an around the clock operation. How will you ensure that Guam is properly protected?

I will author a bill requiring the Department of Agriculture to hire, and replace as needed, the 20 Conservation Officers necessary to protect Guam's natural resources.

Comment:

I will author legislation to make funding available to hire the correct number of Conservation Officers in protecting Guam's natural resources and making sure that island is environmentally safe and cleaned. Dedicate efforts to identify funding sources such as grants, licensing, fines, non-profit groups, local and possibly federal funds.

Q7 Litekyan or Ritidian, also known as Northwest Field, was proposed as the best site to build a firing range for Marines to train. While this choice allows the military to 'stay in its footprint', concerns raised by residents include restricted access to areas demarcated by the Surface Danger Zone for 9 months out of the year. This would affect fishers who travel to off-shore fishing sites, as well as residents for whom the area holds deep spiritual significance. Further, original landowners and their descendants still maintain deep connections to land taken by the military for little compensation after WWII. Residents have also voiced environmental concerns such as toxic contamination of the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer, noise that could be harmful to fruit bats and sea turtles, the destruction of high quality limestone forest, and transplantation of fragile host plants that support the largest population of the endangered Eight Spot Butterfly. If elected, what would you do to address these concerns?

I will co-sponsor a bill that calls for a moratorium on the firing range

Comment:

I will initiate an Implementation Working Group and ensure that the proper environmental review processes are done to ensure that the environmental, social, economic and political concerns of the local community and the military are effectively addressed.

Q8 Erosion on Guam has significant negative impacts on our natural resources and is commonly the result of wildfires and off-roading. In badland areas, wildfires and off-roading have removed native trees and vegetation that have complex root systems. These complex root systems were effective at holding soil during rain events. When rain events carry soil into the ocean, this prevents adequate sunlight from reaching corals and they bleach and die. This is the major cause of the extensive damage on our southern reefs. Most off-roading occurs on private land, which is usually considered off-limits to legislative control. However, when private land is located in savannah or coastal areas adjacent to rivers or streams that can deliver sediment to coral reefs, erosion created by off-roading becomes a public environmental issue because it affects sustenance fishing, recreation and the economy. It is comparable to creating an illegal dumpsite on your own land – a dump site is no longer a private issue when it becomes a public health issue. Further, off-roading, whether it occurs on public or private land, is completely unregulated. Attempts to mitigate damage to land and coral reefs by planting trees are often negated by fires that are intentionally set and difficult to extinguish. What will you do, as a senator of the 35th Guam Legislature, to specifically address man-made causes of erosion?

I will author legislation that seeks to control off-roading in areas vulnerable to erosion, on public or private land, and identify tourism funds, or other funds, to plant trees to restore damaged land and enforce prohibiting off-roading in these vulnerable areas.

Comment:

Introduce legislation that will both address the natural resources of the island as well as the recreational needs of off-roaders.

Q9 If elected, what environmental laws would you recommend repealing?

I would work with Guam EPA to review laws that are pertinent to the social, economic, and environmental welfare of the people of Guam to determine which if any are no longer relevant to the needs of the island.

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Response from Senator Regine Biscoe Lee, Democrat

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Q1 Spearfishing is a popular sport on Guam and around the Pacific. Spearfishing is often considered an "ecofriendly" alternative to commercial fishing due to the low by-catch, and it does not cause pollution or damage to the reef like many commercial fishing operations. However, SCUBA spearfishing has been scientifically demonstrated to be harmful to fish populations on coral reefs. SCUBA spearfishers can decimate populations of large fish on a reef, leaving only small fish, which do not have the same ecological function or reproductive potential as larger fish. This problem is worse at night, when the fish are sleeping and easy to kill. SCUBA spearfishing has already been banned in many places, including the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, West Hawaii, American Samoa, most of the Caribbean and Europe, and even the Middle East, and more bans are being proposed in several U.S. states. Guam needs a SCUBA spearfishing ban to help protect what is left of our fragile reef fish populations. What will you do as a senator of the 35th Guam legislature to help protect Guam's coral reefs from SCUBA spearfishing?

I will co-sponsor a bill that bans spearfishing with SCUBA gear

Comment: I support ending this practice on Guam. Scuba spear fishing poses a clear and present danger to our reefs, oceans, fish stocks, and tourism economy.

Q2 Guam has a serious trash problem. In December 2010, Guam legislature passed Public Law 30-221, "Guam Beverage Container Recycling Act." Eight years later, this law has not been implemented. Bottle deposit systems have been demonstrated to be effective in reducing litter and increasing recycling. Research shows that beverage containers account for 40-60% of all litter, and deposits reduce this litter by 70-80%. A 5¢ refundable deposit on each and every bottle and can on Guam would reduce the amount of trash on our island and provide funding for more environmental protection. What will you do as a senator of the 35th Guam legislature to implement Public Law 30-221?

I will co-author an amendment to hasten implementation

Q3 As tourism continues to grow, development of hotels, malls, streets and sidewalks increases the amount of land covered by cement and asphalt. Existing rules and regulations are not sufficient to prevent stormwater runoff from reaching the shoreline. Given the multiple development violations and development that is not in compliance with stormwater management, how would you handle penalties for non-compliance for existing structures?

I will co-author a bill to mandate the Guam Environmental Protection Agency, or other agency, to issue fines and penalties if developers fail to comply with all requirements and conditions stipulated in the documents that allowed the issuance of a building permit.

Comment: A review of the bill's specific language as well as discussion with relevant stakeholders precedes my support.

Q4 Sea level rise is occurring and is expected to continue well beyond the end of the century. Scientists estimate that sea level on Guam will increase by at least 1 meter (approximately 3 feet) by the end of the century and by approximately 1 foot by mid-century. This increase will exacerbate coastal erosion, coastal inundation during storm and surf events, and degradation of the coastal infrastructure. What will you do as a senator of the 35th Guam Legislature to address the threat of sea level rise and its potential impacts to the public sector of Guam?

I will co-sponsor a bill requiring all Government of Guam agencies that are/will be affected by sea level rise to ensure that the issue is addressed in development plans and that an annual progress report is provided to the legislature.

Q5 The Layon Sanitary Landfill solved the problem of the Ordot Dump, but it created an island of trash. Many Guam families live in houses surrounded by their own waste because they cannot afford the fees charged for disposal by the Guam Solid Waste Authority. Boonie roads in the jungle become illegal dumpsites for the same reason. Often, these are access roads to private residences or tourist areas, making illegal dumping, not just unsightly, but a public health hazard as well. What will you do to make it possible for the poor to responsibly deal with their solid waste?

I will vote for a bill to make trash service free for all people living at the poverty level as defined by current Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Q6 Legislation is necessary but often falls short in enforcement. There are laws regulating fishing in the marine preserves, wildland arson, and littering/dumping. Yet the preserves are fished anyway, hunters that burn are never caught, and littering/dumping remains rampant. There are currently nine conservation officers (only five in-the-field) on Guam to cover an around the clock operation. How will you ensure that Guam is properly protected?

I will co-sponsor a bill requiring the Department of Agriculture to hire, and replace as needed, the 20 Conservation Officers necessary to protect Guam's natural resources.

Comment: Provided funding is available

Q7 Litekyan or Ritidian, also known as Northwest Field, was proposed as the best site to build a firing range for Marines to train. While this choice allows the military to 'stay in its footprint', concerns raised by residents include restricted access to areas demarcated by the Surface Danger Zone for 9 months out of the year. This would affect fishers who travel to off-shore fishing sites, as well as residents for whom the area holds deep spiritual significance. Further, original landowners and their descendants still maintain deep connections to land taken by the military for little compensation after WWII. Residents have also voiced environmental concerns such as toxic contamination of the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer, noise that could be harmful to fruit bats and sea turtles, the destruction of high quality limestone forest, and transplantation of fragile host plants that support the largest population of the endangered Eight Spot Butterfly. If elected, what would you do to address these concerns?

I will co-sponsor a bill that calls for a moratorium on the firing range.

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I will vote for legislation that seeks to control off-roading in areas vulnerable to erosion, on public or private land, and identify tourism funds, or other funds, to plant trees to restore damaged land and enforce prohibiting off-roading in these vulnerable areas.

Comment: A review of the bill's specific language as well as discussion with relevant stakeholders precedes my support.

Q9 If elected, what environmental laws would you recommend repealing?

While there aren't specific statutes I would presently repeal, there are a number of environmental laws worth updating. We need stricter enforcement and stronger deterrence for criminal arson activity on Guam. Last year, we had nearly 400 fires, leaving nearly 3% of our island's area scorched. In addition to endangering the lives of our People, fires further contribute to erosion and the formation of badlands. I look forward to working with stakeholders and community experts on this issue as well as soliciting their recommendations for further updates and potential repeals.

GUAM ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE



Response from Lasia Casil, Democrat

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I will author a bill that bans spearfishing with SCUBA gear.

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I will co-author an amendment to Public Law 30-221 to hasten implementation of a bottle deposit on Guam.

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I will author legislation that seeks to control off-roading in areas vulnerable to erosion, on public or private land, and identify tourism funds, or other funds, to plant trees to restore damaged land and enforce prohibiting off-roading in these vulnerable areas.

Q9 If elected, what environmental laws would you recommend repealing?

I decline to answer at this time, however, given my position as co-Founder and Chairwoman of Save Southern Guam, a non-profit organization with the mission to preserve the environment and coastal beauty of southern Guam, identifying and updating outdated laws and implementing new laws that will protect, promote and preserve our natural resources is a very high priority for should I be elected Senator.

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Response from James Moylan, Republican

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I decline to answer at this time.

Comment:

While the argument above definitely warrants the support of any legislation that bans spear fishing with SCUBA gear, I am really open to learning more about this issue (this really is the first time this issue/question has been brought to my attention this election season). I was originally leaning towards selecting Option C (I will vote for.....), but without understanding the arguments on both sides of the issue, it would be unfair to make a decision. Hence my response is to decline to answer at this point until I am fully educated on the matter.

Q2 Guam has a serious trash problem. In December 2010, Guam legislature passed Public Law 30-221, "Guam Beverage Container Recycling Act." Eight years later, this law has not been implemented. Bottle deposit systems have been demonstrated to be effective in reducing litter and increasing recycling. Research shows that beverage containers account for 40-60% of all litter, and deposits reduce this litter by 70-80%. A 5¢ refundable deposit on each and every bottle and can on Guam would reduce the amount of trash on our island and provide funding for more environmental protection. What will you do as a senator of the 35th Guam legislature to implement Public Law 30-221?

I will author an amendment to Public Law 30-221 to hasten implementation of a bottle deposit on Guam.

Comment:

There are a number of laws that have yet to be implemented, and part of my platform is to find ways to get critical laws enforced. Both community benefitting and revenue generating opportunities are being missed.

Q3 As tourism continues to grow, development of hotels, malls, streets and sidewalks increases the amount of land covered by cement and asphalt. Existing rules and regulations are not sufficient to prevent stormwater runoff from reaching the shoreline. Given the multiple development violations and development that is not in compliance with stormwater management, how would you handle penalties for non-compliance for existing structures?

I will vote for a bill to mandate the Guam Environmental Protection Agency, or other agency, to issue fines and penalties if developers fail to comply with all requirements and conditions stipulated in the documents that allowed the issuance of a building permit.

Q4 Sea level rise is occurring and is expected to continue well beyond the end of the century. Scientists estimate that sea level on Guam will increase by at least 1 meter (approximately 3 feet) by the end of the century and by approximately 1 foot by mid-century. This increase will exacerbate coastal erosion, coastal inundation during storm and surf events, and degradation of the coastal infrastructure. What will you do as a senator of the 35th Guam Legislature to address the threat of sea level rise and its potential impacts to the public sector of Guam?

I will vote for a bill requiring all Government of Guam agencies that are/will be affected by sea level rise to ensure that the issue is addressed in development plans and that an annual progress report is provided to the legislature.

Q5 The Layon Sanitary Landfill solved the problem of the Ordot Dump, but it created an island of trash. Many Guam families live in houses surrounded by their own waste because they cannot afford the fees charged for disposal by the Guam Solid Waste Authority. Boonie roads in the jungle become illegal dumpsites for the same reason. Often, these are access roads to private residences or tourist areas, making illegal dumping, not just unsightly, but a public health hazard as well. What will you do to make it possible for the poor to responsibly deal with their solid waste?

I will author a bill to make trash service free for all people living at the poverty level as defined by current Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Comment:

The issue of identifying a funding source for waiving solid waste fees for those in poverty levels is in my platform. As noted in the question, this would help reduce the littering issues we currently face. There are other ways we can tackle this issue as well. In terms of funding, I am researching special funds of the government, to see where we can identify monies, as I don't support increasing any regressive tax.

Q6 Legislation is necessary but often falls short in enforcement. There are laws regulating fishing in the marine preserves, wildland arson, and littering/dumping. Yet the preserves are fished anyway, hunters that burn are never caught, and littering/dumping remains rampant. There are currently nine conservation officers (only five in-the-field) on Guam to cover an around the clock operation. How will you ensure that Guam is properly protected?

I decline to answer at this time.

Comment:

While I don't disagree with the needed enforcement, I would like to research this issue greater, as well as identify opportunities for lateral transfers.

Q7 Litekyan or Ritidian, also known as Northwest Field, was proposed as the best site to build a firing range for Marines to train. While this choice allows the military to 'stay in its footprint', concerns raised by residents include restricted access to areas demarcated by the Surface Danger Zone for 9 months out of the year. This would affect fishers who travel to off-shore fishing sites, as well as residents for whom the area holds deep spiritual significance. Further, original landowners and their descendants still maintain deep connections to land taken by the military for little compensation after WWII. Residents have also voiced environmental concerns such as toxic contamination of the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer, noise that could be harmful to fruit bats and sea turtles, the destruction of high quality limestone forest, and transplantation of fragile host plants that support the largest population of the endangered Eight Spot Butterfly. If elected, what would you do to address these concerns?

I decline to answer at this time.

Comment:

I support a responsible military buildup, one that does not adversely impact cultural, historic or environmental aspects, as well as one that displays respect. My question on this question is, "does the legislature have the binding authority to issue a moratorium on the firing range?"

Q8 Erosion on Guam has significant negative impacts on our natural resources and is commonly the result of wildfires and off-roading. In badland areas, wildfires and off-roading have removed native trees and vegetation that have complex root systems. These complex root systems were effective at holding soil during rain events. When rain events carry soil into the ocean, this prevents adequate sunlight from reaching corals and they bleach and die. This is the major cause of the extensive damage on our southern reefs. Most off-roading occurs on private land, which is usually considered off-limits to legislative control. However, when private land is located in savannah or coastal areas adjacent to rivers or streams that can deliver sediment to coral reefs, erosion created by off-roading becomes a public environmental issue because it affects sustenance fishing, recreation and the economy. It is comparable to creating an illegal dumpsite on your own land – a dump site is no longer a private issue when it becomes a public health issue. Further, off-roading, whether it occurs on public or private land, is completely unregulated. Attempts to mitigate damage to land and coral reefs by planting trees are often negated by fires that are intentionally set and difficult to extinguish. What will you do, as a senator of the 35th Guam Legislature, to specifically address man-made causes of erosion?

I will vote for legislation that seeks to control off-roading in areas vulnerable to erosion, on public or private land, and identify tourism funds, or other funds, to plant trees to restore damaged land and enforce prohibiting off-roading in these vulnerable areas.

Q9 If elected, what environmental laws would you recommend repealing?

My campaign has revolved around two areas, 1). Creating a business-friendly environment which helps economic and small business growth opportunities, and 2). Addressing the enforcement of existing laws from collections of taxes, implementation of mandates and essentially efficiently in the government. While I have not signaled out a specific environmental law that I would like to repeal, I am open to reviewing which laws are not being enforced and why. Secondly, how do we improve on the regulation so that it serves its purpose. We also need to look at smoothing lateral transfer policies from agencies to increase the number of individuals in regulatory and revenue generating positions, without increasing government positions.

GUAM ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE



Response from Tina Muna Barnes, Democrat

Page 1

Q1 Spearfishing is a popular sport on Guam and around the Pacific. Spearfishing is often considered an "eco-friendly" alternative to commercial fishing due to the low by-catch, and it does not cause pollution or damage to the reef like many commercial fishing operations. However, SCUBA spearfishing has been scientifically demonstrated to be harmful to fish populations on coral reefs. SCUBA spearfishers can decimate populations of large fish on a reef, leaving only small fish, which do not have the same ecological function or reproductive potential as larger fish. This problem is worse at night, when the fish are sleeping and easy to kill. SCUBA spearfishing has already been banned in many places, including the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, West Hawaii, American Samoa, most of the Caribbean and Europe, and even the Middle East, and more bans are being proposed in several U.S. states. Guam needs a SCUBA spearfishing ban to help protect what is left of our fragile reef fish populations. What will you do as a senator of the 35th Guam legislature to help protect Guam's coral reefs from SCUBA spearfishing?

I will co-sponsor a bill that bans spearfishing with SCUBA gear.

Q2 Guam has a serious trash problem. In December 2010, Guam legislature passed Public Law 30-221, "Guam Beverage Container Recycling Act." Eight years later, this law has not been implemented. Bottle deposit systems have been demonstrated to be effective in reducing litter and increasing recycling. Research shows that beverage containers account for 40-60% of all litter, and deposits reduce this litter by 70-80%. A 5¢ refundable deposit on each and every bottle and can on Guam would reduce the amount of trash on our island and provide funding for more environmental protection. What will you do as a senator of the 35th Guam legislature to implement Public Law 30-221?

I will author an amendment to Public Law 30-221 to hasten implementation of a bottle deposit on Guam.

Comment:

I am the original author of the "Bottle Bill"

Q3 As tourism continues to grow, development of hotels, malls, streets and sidewalks increases the amount of land covered by cement and asphalt. Existing rules and regulations are not sufficient to prevent stormwater runoff from reaching the shoreline. Given the multiple development violations and development that is not in compliance with stormwater management, how would you handle penalties for non-compliance for existing structures?

I will author a bill to mandate the Guam Environmental Protection Agency, or other agency, to issue fines and penalties if developers fail to comply with all requirements and conditions stipulated in the documents that allowed the issuance of a building permit.

Q4 Sea level rise is occurring and is expected to continue well beyond the end of the century. Scientists estimate that sea level on Guam will increase by at least 1 meter (approximately 3 feet) by the end of the century and by approximately 1 foot by mid-century. This increase will exacerbate coastal erosion, coastal inundation during storm and surf events, and degradation of the coastal infrastructure. What will you do as a senator of the 35th Guam Legislature to address the threat of sea level rise and its potential impacts to the public sector of Guam?

I will author a bill requiring all Government of Guam agencies that are/will be affected by sea level rise to ensure that the issue is addressed in development plans and that an annual progress report is provided to the legislature.

Q5 The Layon Sanitary Landfill solved the problem of the Ordot Dump, but it created an island of trash. Many Guam families live in houses surrounded by their own waste because they cannot afford the fees charged for disposal by the Guam Solid Waste Authority. Boonie roads in the jungle become illegal dumpsites for the same reason. Often, these are access roads to private residences or tourist areas, making illegal dumping, not just unsightly, but a public health hazard as well. What will you do to make it possible for the poor to responsibly deal with their solid waste?

I will co-sponsor a bill to make trash service free for all people living at the poverty level as defined by current Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Q6 Legislation is necessary but often falls short in enforcement. There are laws regulating fishing in the marine preserves, wildland arson, and littering/dumping. Yet the preserves are fished anyway, hunters that burn are never caught, and littering/dumping remains rampant. There are currently nine conservation officers (only five in-the-field) on Guam to cover an around the clock operation. How will you ensure that Guam is properly protected?

I will author a bill requiring the Department of Agriculture to hire, and replace as needed, the 20 Conservation Officers necessary to protect Guam's natural resources.

Q7 Litekyan or Ritidian, also known as Northwest Field, was proposed as the best site to build a firing range for Marines to train. While this choice allows the military to 'stay in its footprint', concerns raised by residents include restricted access to areas demarcated by the Surface Danger Zone for 9 months out of the year. This would affect fishers who travel to off-shore fishing sites, as well as residents for whom the area holds deep spiritual significance. Further, original landowners and their descendants still maintain deep connections to land taken by the military for little compensation after WWII. Residents have also voiced environmental concerns such as toxic contamination of the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer, noise that could be harmful to fruit bats and sea turtles, the destruction of high quality limestone forest, and transplantation of fragile host plants that support the largest population of the endangered Eight Spot Butterfly. If elected, what would you do to address these concerns?

I will co-sponsor a bill that calls for a moratorium on the firing range

Q8 Erosion on Guam has significant negative impacts on our natural resources and is commonly the result of wildfires and off-roading. In badland areas, wildfires and off-roading have removed native trees and vegetation that have complex root systems. These complex root systems were effective at holding soil during rain events. When rain events carry soil into the ocean, this prevents adequate sunlight from reaching corals and they bleach and die. This is the major cause of the extensive damage on our southern reefs. Most off-roading occurs on private land, which is usually considered off-limits to legislative control. However, when private land is located in savannah or coastal areas adjacent to rivers or streams that can deliver sediment to coral reefs, erosion created by off-roading becomes a public environmental issue because it affects sustenance fishing, recreation and the economy. It is comparable to creating an illegal dumpsite on your own land – a dump site is no longer a private issue when it becomes a public health issue. Further, off-roading, whether it occurs on public or private land, is completely unregulated. Attempts to mitigate damage to land and coral reefs by planting trees are often negated by fires that are intentionally set and difficult to extinguish. What will you do, as a senator of the 35th Guam Legislature, to specifically address man-made causes of erosion?

I will vote for legislation that seeks to control off-roading in areas vulnerable to erosion, on public or private land, and identify tourism funds, or other funds, to plant trees to restore damaged land and enforce prohibiting off-roading in these vulnerable areas.

Q9 If elected, what environmental laws would you recommend repealing?

I'd have to revisit some existing provisions on incinerators.

GUAM ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE



Response from Sabina Perez, Democrat

Page 1

Q1 Spearfishing is a popular sport on Guam and around the Pacific. Spearfishing is often considered an "eco-friendly" alternative to commercial fishing due to the low by-catch, and it does not cause pollution or damage to the reef like many commercial fishing operations. However, SCUBA spearfishing has been scientifically demonstrated to be harmful to fish populations on coral reefs. SCUBA spearfishers can decimate populations of large fish on a reef, leaving only small fish, which do not have the same ecological function or reproductive potential as larger fish. This problem is worse at night, when the fish are sleeping and easy to kill. SCUBA spearfishing has already been banned in many places, including the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, West Hawaii, American Samoa, most of the Caribbean and Europe, and even the Middle East, and more bans are being proposed in several U.S. states. Guam needs a SCUBA spearfishing ban to help protect what is left of our fragile reef fish populations. What will you do as a senator of the 35th Guam legislature to help protect Guam's coral reefs from SCUBA spearfishing?

I will author a bill that bans spearfishing with SCUBA gear.

Q2 Guam has a serious trash problem. In December 2010, Guam legislature passed Public Law 30-221, "Guam Beverage Container Recycling Act." Eight years later, this law has not been implemented. Bottle deposit systems have been demonstrated to be effective in reducing litter and increasing recycling. Research shows that beverage containers account for 40-60% of all litter, and deposits reduce this litter by 70-80%. A 5¢ refundable deposit on each and every bottle and can on Guam would reduce the amount of trash on our island and provide funding for more environmental protection. What will you do as a senator of the 35th Guam legislature to implement Public Law 30-221?

I will author an amendment to Public Law 30-221 to hasten implementation of a bottle deposit on Guam.

Q3 As tourism continues to grow, development of hotels, malls, streets and sidewalks increases the amount of land covered by cement and asphalt. Existing rules and regulations are not sufficient to prevent stormwater run-off from reaching the shoreline. Given the multiple development violations and development that is not in compliance with stormwater management, how would you handle penalties for non-compliance for existing structures?

I will vote for a bill to mandate the Guam Environmental Protection Agency, or other agency, to issue fines and penalties if developers fail to comply with all requirements and conditions stipulated in the documents that allowed the issuance of a building permit.

Comment:

I would re-assess EPA's fee and penalty structure and the history of the development(s) at issue. I believe that a larger and more far-reaching overhaul is needed in our environmental laws.

Q4 Sea level rise is occurring and is expected to continue well beyond the end of the century. Scientists estimate that sea level on Guam will increase by at least 1 meter (approximately 3 feet) by the end of the century and by approximately 1 foot by mid-century. This increase will exacerbate coastal erosion, coastal inundation during storm and surf events, and degradation of the coastal infrastructure. What will you do as a senator of the 35th Guam Legislature to address the threat of sea level rise and its potential impacts to the public sector of Guam?

I will vote for a bill requiring all Government of Guam agencies that are/will be affected by sea level rise to ensure that the issue is addressed in development plans and that an annual progress report is provided to the legislature.

Comment:

It would be more effective to have a sustainability coordinator to assess the impacts of climate change on Government of Guam agencies and how to address them.

Q5 The Layon Sanitary Landfill solved the problem of the Ordot Dump, but it created an island of trash. Many Guam families live in houses surrounded by their own waste because they cannot afford the fees charged for disposal by the Guam Solid Waste Authority. Boonie roads in the jungle become illegal dumpsites for the same reason. Often, these are access roads to private residences or tourist areas, making illegal dumping, not just unsightly, but a public health hazard as well. What will you do to make it possible for the poor to responsibly deal with their solid waste?

I will vote for a bill to make trash service free for all people living at the poverty level as defined by current Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Comment:

It is important to ensure the fiscal health of our utilities, thus I would be cautious in waiving the fee in its totality. I would be open to reduced fees dependent upon community service towards diverting waste-stream by increased composting, recycling and up-cycling.

Q6 Legislation is necessary but often falls short in enforcement. There are laws regulating fishing in the marine preserves, wildland arson, and littering/dumping. Yet the preserves are fished anyway, hunters that burn are never caught, and littering/dumping remains rampant. There are currently nine conservation officers (only five in-the-field) on Guam to cover an around the clock operation. How will you ensure that Guam is properly protected?

I will author a bill requiring the Department of Agriculture to hire, and replace as needed, the 20 Conservation Officers necessary to protect Guam's natural resources.

Comment:

Enforcement should be coupled with educational outreach and community involvement. It may be beneficial to also create positions that combine a conservation and historic preservation.

Q7 Litekyan or Ritidian, also known as Northwest Field, was proposed as the best site to build a firing range for Marines to train. While this choice allows the military to 'stay in its footprint', concerns raised by residents include restricted access to areas demarcated by the Surface Danger Zone for 9 months out of the year. This would affect fishers who travel to off-shore fishing sites, as well as residents for whom the area holds deep spiritual significance. Further, original landowners and their descendants still maintain deep connections to land taken by the military for little compensation after WWII. Residents have also voiced environmental concerns such as toxic contamination of the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer, noise that could be harmful to fruit bats and sea turtles, the destruction of high quality limestone forest, and transplantation of fragile host plants that support the largest population of the endangered Eight Spot Butterfly. If elected, what would you do to address these concerns?

I will author a bill to call for a moratorium on the firing range.

Comment: :

There are legal nuances that need to be researched regarding the best approach to take (bill, substantive resolution, lawsuit, etc..).

Q8 Erosion on Guam has significant negative impacts on our natural resources and is commonly the result of wildfires and off-roading. In badland areas, wildfires and off-roading have removed native trees and vegetation that have complex root systems. These complex root systems were effective at holding soil during rain events. When rain events carry soil into the ocean, this prevents adequate sunlight from reaching corals and they bleach and die. This is the major cause of the extensive damage on our southern reefs. Most off-roading occurs on private land, which is usually considered off-limits to legislative control. However, when private land is located in savannah or coastal areas adjacent to rivers or streams that can deliver sediment to coral reefs, erosion created by off-roading becomes a public environmental issue because it affects sustenance fishing, recreation and the economy. It is comparable to creating an illegal dumpsite on your own land – a dump site is no longer a private issue when it becomes a public health issue. Further, off-roading, whether it occurs on public or private land, is completely unregulated. Attempts to mitigate damage to land and coral reefs by planting trees are often negated by fires that are intentionally set and difficult to extinguish. What will you do, as a senator of the 35th Guam Legislature, to specifically address man-made causes of erosion?

I will vote for legislation that seeks to control off-roading in areas vulnerable to erosion, on public or private land, and identify tourism funds, or other funds, to plant trees to restore damaged land and enforce prohibiting off-roading in these vulnerable areas.

Q9 If elected, what environmental laws would you recommend repealing?

More research is needed.

GUAM ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE

**Response from Adolpho Palacios, Democrat**

Page 1

Q1 Spearfishing is a popular sport on Guam and around the Pacific. Spearfishing is often considered an "eco-friendly" alternative to commercial fishing due to the low by-catch, and it does not cause pollution or damage to the reef like many commercial fishing operations. However, SCUBA spearfishing has been scientifically demonstrated to be harmful to fish populations on coral reefs. SCUBA spearfishers can decimate populations of large fish on a reef, leaving only small fish, which do not have the same ecological function or reproductive potential as larger fish. This problem is worse at night, when the fish are sleeping and easy to kill. SCUBA spearfishing has already been banned in many places, including the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, West Hawaii, American Samoa, most of the Caribbean and Europe, and even the Middle East, and more bans are being proposed in several U.S. states. Guam needs a SCUBA spearfishing ban to help protect what is left of our fragile reef fish populations. What will you do as a senator of the 35th Guam legislature to help protect Guam's coral reefs from SCUBA spearfishing?

I will vote for a bill that bans spearfishing with SCUBA gear.

Q2 Guam has a serious trash problem. In December 2010, Guam legislature passed Public Law 30-221, "Guam Beverage Container Recycling Act." Eight years later, this law has not been implemented. Bottle deposit systems have been demonstrated to be effective in reducing litter and increasing recycling. Research shows that beverage containers account for 40-60% of all litter, and deposits reduce this litter by 70-80%. A 5¢ refundable deposit on each and every bottle and can on Guam would reduce the amount of trash on our island and provide funding for more environmental protection. What will you do as a senator of the 35th Guam legislature to implement Public Law 30-221?

I will not vote for an amendment to Public Law 30-221 to hasten implementation of a bottle deposit on Guam. I decline to answer at this time.

Q3 As tourism continues to grow, development of hotels, malls, streets and sidewalks increases the amount of land covered by cement and asphalt. Existing rules and regulations are not sufficient to prevent stormwater runoff from reaching the shoreline. Given the multiple development violations and development that is not in compliance with stormwater management, how would you handle penalties for non-compliance for existing structures?

I will vote for a bill to mandate the Guam Environmental Protection Agency, or other agency, to issue fines and penalties if developers fail to comply with all requirements and conditions stipulated in the documents that allowed the issuance of a building permit.

Comment :

I will add provision to withhold issuance of occupancy permit and deferral of GPA connection until full compliance of conditions is met

Q4 Sea level rise is occurring and is expected to continue well beyond the end of the century. Scientists estimate that sea level on Guam will increase by at least 1 meter (approximately 3 feet) by the end of the century and by approximately 1 foot by mid-century. This increase will exacerbate coastal erosion, coastal inundation during storm and surf events, and degradation of the coastal infrastructure. What will you do as a senator of the 35th Guam Legislature to address the threat of sea level rise and its potential impacts to the public sector of Guam?

I will vote for a bill requiring all Government of Guam agencies that are/will be affected by sea level rise to ensure that the issue is addressed in development plans and that an annual progress report is provided to the legislature.

Q5 The Layon Sanitary Landfill solved the problem of the Ordot Dump, but it created an island of trash. Many Guam families live in houses surrounded by their own waste because they cannot afford the fees charged for disposal by the Guam Solid Waste Authority. Boonie roads in the jungle become illegal dumpsites for the same reason. Often, these are access roads to private residences or tourist areas, making illegal dumping, not just unsightly, but a public health hazard as well. What will you do to make it possible for the poor to responsibly deal with their solid waste?

I will vote for a bill to make trash service free for all people living at the poverty level as defined by current Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Q6 Legislation is necessary but often falls short in enforcement. There are laws regulating fishing in the marine preserves, wildland arson, and littering/dumping. Yet the preserves are fished anyway, hunters that burn are never caught, and littering/dumping remains rampant. There are currently nine conservation officers (only five in-the-field) on Guam to cover an around the clock operation. How will you ensure that Guam is properly protected?

I will author a bill requiring the Department of Agriculture to hire, and replace as needed, the 20 Conservation Officers necessary to protect Guam's natural resources.

Q7 Litekyan or Ritidian, also known as Northwest Field, was proposed as the best site to build a firing range for Marines to train. While this choice allows the military to 'stay in its footprint', concerns raised by residents include restricted access to areas demarcated by the Surface Danger Zone for 9 months out of the year. This would affect fishers who travel to off-shore fishing sites, as well as residents for whom the area holds deep spiritual significance. Further, original landowners and their descendants still maintain deep connections to land taken by the military for little compensation after WWII. Residents have also voiced environmental concerns such as toxic contamination of the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer, noise that could be harmful to fruit bats and sea turtles, the destruction of high quality limestone forest, and transplantation of fragile host plants that support the largest population of the endangered Eight Spot Butterfly. If elected, what would you do to address these concerns?

I decline to answer at this time.

Q8 Erosion on Guam has significant negative impacts on our natural resources and is commonly the result of wildfires and off-roading. In badland areas, wildfires and off-roading have removed native trees and vegetation that have complex root systems. These complex root systems were effective at holding soil during rain events. When rain events carry soil into the ocean, this prevents adequate sunlight from reaching corals and they bleach and die. This is the major cause of the extensive damage on our southern reefs. Most off-roading occurs on private land, which is usually considered off-limits to legislative control. However, when private land is located in savannah or coastal areas adjacent to rivers or streams that can deliver sediment to coral reefs, erosion created by off-roading becomes a public environmental issue because it affects sustenance fishing, recreation and the economy. It is comparable to creating an illegal dumpsite on your own land – a dump site is no longer a private issue when it becomes a public health issue. Further, off-roading, whether it occurs on public or private land, is completely unregulated. Attempts to mitigate damage to land and coral reefs by planting trees are often negated by fires that are intentionally set and difficult to extinguish. What will you do, as a senator of the 35th Guam Legislature, to specifically address man-made causes of erosion?

I will vote for legislation that seeks to control off-roading in areas vulnerable to erosion, on public or private land, and identify tourism funds, or other funds, to plant trees to restore damaged land and enforce prohibiting off-roading in these vulnerable areas.

Q9 If elected, what environmental laws would you recommend repealing?

Not enough information to offer a comment

GUAM ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE



Response from Michelle Taitano, Republican

Page 1

Q1 Spearfishing is a popular sport on Guam and around the Pacific. Spearfishing is often considered an "eco-friendly" alternative to commercial fishing due to the low by-catch, and it does not cause pollution or damage to the reef like many commercial fishing operations. However, SCUBA spearfishing has been scientifically demonstrated to be harmful to fish populations on coral reefs. SCUBA spearfishers can decimate populations of large fish on a reef, leaving only small fish, which do not have the same ecological function or reproductive potential as larger fish. This problem is worse at night, when the fish are sleeping and easy to kill. SCUBA spearfishing has already been banned in many places, including the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, West Hawaii, American Samoa, most of the Caribbean and Europe, and even the Middle East, and more bans are being proposed in several U.S. states. Guam needs a SCUBA spearfishing ban to help protect what is left of our fragile reef fish populations. What will you do as a senator of the 35th Guam legislature to help protect Guam's coral reefs from SCUBA spearfishing?

I will author a bill that bans spearfishing with SCUBA gear.

Q2 Guam has a serious trash problem. In December 2010, Guam legislature passed Public Law 30-221, "Guam Beverage Container Recycling Act." Eight years later, this law has not been implemented. Bottle deposit systems have been demonstrated to be effective in reducing litter and increasing recycling. Research shows that beverage containers account for 40-60% of all litter, and deposits reduce this litter by 70-80%. A 5¢ refundable deposit on each and every bottle and can on Guam would reduce the amount of trash on our island and provide funding for more environmental protection. What will you do as a senator of the 35th Guam legislature to implement Public Law 30-221?

I will co-author an amendment to Public Law 30-221 to hasten implementation of a bottle deposit on Guam.

Q3 As tourism continues to grow, development of hotels, malls, streets and sidewalks increases the amount of land covered by cement and asphalt. Existing rules and regulations are not sufficient to prevent stormwater runoff from reaching the shoreline. Given the multiple development violations and development that is not in compliance with stormwater management, how would you handle penalties for non-compliance for existing structures?

I will co-author a bill to mandate the Guam Environmental Protection Agency, or other agency, to issue fines and penalties if developers fail to comply with all requirements and conditions stipulated in the documents that allowed the issuance of a building permit.

Q4 Sea level rise is occurring and is expected to continue well beyond the end of the century. Scientists estimate that sea level on Guam will increase by at least 1 meter (approximately 3 feet) by the end of the century and by approximately 1 foot by mid-century. This increase will exacerbate coastal erosion, coastal inundation during storm and surf events, and degradation of the coastal infrastructure. What will you do as a senator of the 35th Guam Legislature to address the threat of sea level rise and its potential impacts to the public sector of Guam?

I will co-sponsor a bill requiring all Government of Guam agencies that are/will be affected by sea level rise to ensure that the issue is addressed in development plans and that an annual progress report is provided to the legislature.

Q5 The Layon Sanitary Landfill solved the problem of the Ordot Dump, but it created an island of trash. Many Guam families live in houses surrounded by their own waste because they cannot afford the fees charged for disposal by the Guam Solid Waste Authority. Boonie roads in the jungle become illegal dumpsites for the same reason. Often, these are access roads to private residences or tourist areas, making illegal dumping, not just unsightly, but a public health hazard as well. What will you do to make it possible for the poor to responsibly deal with their solid waste?

I will co-sponsor a bill to make trash service free for all people living at the poverty level as defined by current Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Comment:

Responsible assessments need to occur first, and have those receiving free trash services to have at least partial participation in receiving such service.

Q6 Legislation is necessary but often falls short in enforcement. There are laws regulating fishing in the marine preserves, wildland arson, and littering/dumping. Yet the preserves are fished anyway, hunters that burn are never caught, and littering/dumping remains rampant. There are currently nine conservation officers (only five in-the-field) on Guam to cover an around the clock operation. How will you ensure that Guam is properly protected?

I will co-sponsor a bill requiring the Department of Agriculture to hire, and replace as needed, the 20 Conservation Officers necessary to protect Guam's natural resources.

Comment:

We really need to assess the current policy, update as necessary and support with COs.

Q7 Litekyan or Ritidian, also known as Northwest Field, was proposed as the best site to build a firing range for Marines to train. While this choice allows the military to 'stay in its footprint', concerns raised by residents include restricted access to areas demarcated by the Surface Danger Zone for 9 months out of the year. This would affect fishers who travel to off-shore fishing sites, as well as residents for whom the area holds deep spiritual significance. Further, original landowners and their descendants still maintain deep connections to land taken by the military for little compensation after WWII. Residents have also voiced environmental concerns such as toxic contamination of the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer, noise that could be harmful to fruit bats and sea turtles, the destruction of high quality limestone forest, and transplantation of fragile host plants that support the largest population of the endangered Eight Spot Butterfly. If elected, what would you do to address these concerns?

I will co-sponsor a bill that calls for a moratorium on the firing range

Comment:

We need to protect Guam.

Q8 Erosion on Guam has significant negative impacts on our natural resources and is commonly the result of wildfires and off-roading. In badland areas, wildfires and off-roading have removed native trees and vegetation that have complex root systems. These complex root systems were effective at holding soil during rain events. When rain events carry soil into the ocean, this prevents adequate sunlight from reaching corals and they bleach and die. This is the major cause of the extensive damage on our southern reefs. Most off-roading occurs on private land, which is usually considered off-limits to legislative control. However, when private land is located in savannah or coastal areas adjacent to rivers or streams that can deliver sediment to coral reefs, erosion created by off-roading becomes a public environmental issue because it affects sustenance fishing, recreation and the economy. It is comparable to creating an illegal dumpsite on your own land – a dump site is no longer a private issue when it becomes a public health issue. Further, off-roading, whether it occurs on public or private land, is completely unregulated. Attempts to mitigate damage to land and coral reefs by planting trees are often negated by fires that are intentionally set and difficult to extinguish. What will you do, as a senator of the 35th Guam Legislature, to specifically address man-made causes of erosion?

I will co-author legislation that seeks to control off-roading in areas vulnerable to erosion, on public or private land, and identify tourism funds, or other funds, to plant trees to restore damaged land and enforce prohibiting off-roading in these vulnerable areas.

Q9 If elected, what environmental laws would you recommend repealing?

The one that matters most. Let's work together and prioritize which one(s) would be least suited for Guam's environment.