



OFFICE OF SENATOR

*Telo T. Taitague*

CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations,  
Regulatory Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

Ste. 407 DNA Building  
238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
(671) 989-8356  
[senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com)

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**Taitague Applauds Teacher Pay Increase:**  
***“Investing in Our Teachers is an Investment into Safer Communities,  
Stronger Families and Happier Futures”***

Senator Telo Taitague welcomed the approval of the 2026 Educator Pay Plan, which provides a 15% market adjustment for educators in pay grades ED-1A through ED-7 and a 5% adjustment for school administrators in ED-8 through ED-11, calling the increase an important investment in Guam’s teachers, students, and public school system. The Department of Administration’s compensation review found that Guam’s educator salaries were significantly behind comparable national wages and recommended the 15% adjustment to help address recruitment and retention challenges.

“This increase is deserved, necessary, and long overdue,” Senator Taitague said. “Our teachers have continued to make their classrooms work despite staffing shortages, rising costs, and school facilities struggling with air-conditioning, maintenance, and even basic needs. Competitive pay is one of the most important things we can do to keep experienced teachers in our schools and encourage more of our own people to choose teaching as a career.”

Taitague noted that efforts to address educator compensation did not begin with the 2026 pay plan. Over multiple budget cycles, the Guam Legislature has specifically kept educator compensation within government pay reviews. The FY2020 budget authorized a government-wide classification and compensation study that expressly included positions covered by the Educator Pay Plan. That policy continued in subsequent budgets. The FY2026 budget again authorized a compensation study specifically including the Educator Pay Plan and the FY2027 budget continued the same requirement.

Taitague said the need for competitive salaries has become increasingly urgent as Guam competes with Department of Defense schools, off-island school systems, and other employers for qualified educators. At the same time, Guam must encourage more young people to enter the teaching profession and give current teachers a reason to build their careers here at home.

Taitague emphasized, however, that sustaining higher compensation requires responsible budgeting. “Approving a pay increase is one step. Making sure we can sustain it year after year is vital. We need a responsible, long-term approach that recognizes their value and gives GDOE the ability to compete for the professionals our schools need.”

Taitague thanked the Guam Federation of Teachers and Guam’s educators for continuing to advocate for competitive compensation and better working conditions. “Supporting our teachers is supporting our children. A good teacher can be the person who sees something in a child before that child sees it in themselves. They can provide stability when life at home is difficult, direction when a young person feels lost, and encouragement that changes the course of a life. If we want healthier children, safer communities, stronger families and happier futures, we cannot wait until problems reach our hospitals, courts or jails. We have to invest earlier and that means investing in our schools and the teachers who help shape our children every day.”

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For additional information regarding this press release, please contact Senator Taitague’s office at 671-989-8356. Information requests also may be sent via email to [senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com).