

TERRITORY OF GUAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AGANA, GUAM 96910
U.S.A.

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2000- 013

RELATIVE TO DIRECTING THE GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL BOARD TO HIRE NURSES AND OTHER ESSENTIAL HOSPITAL STAFF, AND RELATIVE TO DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROCESS THE GG1 FORMS OF TEACHERS, INCLUDING RECENT GRADUATES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM, AND TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACTS OF TEACHERS REINSTATED BY CONTRACT.

WHEREAS, the Guam Memorial Hospital is experiencing a shortage of nurses and other critical staff; and

WHEREAS, the shortage of nurses and other critical staff has intolerably threatened the health and safety of people in need of emergency medical care on Guam, including the endangerment of infants and children with the recent closing of the pediatric intensive care unit; and

WHEREAS, the 25th Guam Legislature, through Public Law Numbers 25-72, 25-74, 25-98, and 25-121, has authorized the hiring of nurses, teachers, and other critical personnel, and it is vitally important to the people of Guam that the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, for the sake of the lives of the children and adults of Guam who are in need of medical care, exercise the authority granted to it by the 25th Guam Legislature and hire nurses and other critical personnel at the hospital; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education is also experiencing a shortage of teachers, leaving our children in crowded classrooms, sometimes taught by substitute teachers or school aides in school cafeterias, and leaving the hard-working teachers of our schools overworked and frustrated; and

WHEREAS, our children's education is a crucial endeavor that is one of the most fundamental services our government provides, providing an investment in this island's future and in the leaders of our future; and

WHEREAS, there is an availability of teacher applicants, including graduates from the University of Guam and those teachers willing to be reinstated through contract, and those teachers are authorized by the 25th Guam Legislature to be hired; and

WHEREAS, the shortage of nurses, critical hospital staff, and teachers has created an emergency situation that must, in all good conscience, be addressed immediately and without further hesitation or delay; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ANTONIO R. UNPINGCO, Acting Governor of Guam, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Organic Act do order:

1. The Guam Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees shall direct the Administrator of the Guam Memorial Hospital to immediately hire nurses and other essential hospital staff, notwithstanding any opinions or orders

to the contrary. The Administrator is hereby ordered to immediately begin the processing of all necessary forms, inclusive of GG-1's and/or employment contracts, to ensure the immediate filling of all essential vacancies as they exist at Guam Memorial Hospital in the areas of nursing, medical staff, patient care staff, hospital support staff, or any staff deemed necessary to ensure quality patient care. Any previous executive orders, memoranda from either the Office of the Governor or the Board of Trustees of the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, or any directives or orders by any party in the executive branch, which might in any way countermand this executive order, are hereby rescinded. The Board of Trustees of the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority and the Administrator of the Guam Memorial hospital are ordered to do whatever is necessary to ensure the immediate hiring, whether on a normal full-time or on a contractual basis, of all essential hospital staff.

2. The Board of Trustees of the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority shall segregate from incoming receipts to the Guam Memorial Hospital, as well as from payments from the Medically Indigent Program and the return to the Guam Memorial Hospital of sums paid to the Department of Revenue and Taxation by way of the tax lien, a sufficiency of money to pay for nurses and other critical positions and shall make that the first payment priority of the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority.
3. The Director of the Department of Education shall immediately process GG1 forms for all necessary new teachers, including recent graduates of the University of Guam, and shall immediately execute the contracts of teachers reinstated by contract and who are needed to address teacher shortages for the upcoming school year, notwithstanding any opinions to the contrary. Any previous executive orders, memoranda from the Office of the Governor or directives or orders, by any party in the executive branch, which might in any way countermand this executive order are hereby rescinded.

SIGNED AND PROMULGATED at Agana, Guam this 24th day of May, 2000.


ANTONIO R. UNPINGCO
Acting Governor of Guam

COUNTERSIGNED:


JOANNE M.S. BROWN
Acting Lieutenant Governor of Guam