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## **Governor Asks Guam Supreme Court to Weigh In on Attorney General's Duties to Agencies**

Hagåtña, Guam - On March 14, 2024, Governor Lou Leon Guerrero filed a Request for Declaratory Judgment in the Supreme Court of Guam, asking the high court to decide whether or not the Attorney General may withdraw from representing agencies, an Organic Act role, on the basis that the representation might conflict with the public prosecutor role delegated to him under Guam law. The Governor also asks the Court to determine whether the Attorney General is required to implement routine ethics protocols attorneys use in conflicts, including conflict walls or the appointment of independent conflicts counsel.

Two weeks ago, Attorney General Douglas B. Moylan abandoned his duty to provide legal services to Executive Branch agencies, which he believes conflicts with his investigations and prosecutions of agency officials. AG Moylan's withdrawal from agency representation has left many of our agencies without legal advice in procurements and contracts and without legal representation in court.

Governor Leon Guerrero is asking the Court if agencies may now hire their own lawyers, and whether the Office of the Attorney General, which is funded in part to support these agencies, should be required to pay for the attorneys that agencies will have to hire to do the Attorney General's job.

The Governor believes an expeditious decision from the Court will provide the answers our agencies need to keep vital services and contracts going in service to our community. Millions of federal dollars and numerous government programs and services are at stake, including the Adult Day Care program, therapeutic medication for the vulnerable, maintenance and repairs of public infrastructure, mold mitigation, HVAC installation, and procurement of a new electronic health records system for the Guam Memorial Hospital, RFP's for indispensable services including group homes, community rehabilitation programs, respite care, and personal care attendant services, and the hiring of a construction manager to initiate the construction of Simon Sanchez High School.

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