

**SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO**  
**MAJORITY LEADER**

**CHAIRPERSON**

COMMITTEE ON RULES; FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN AFFAIRS;  
HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES, ELECTION REFORM, AND CAPITOL DISTRICT



*I Mina'trentai Tres na Libeslaturan Guåhan*  
**THIRTY-THIRD GUAM LEGISLATURE**

April 20, 2015

**An Open Letter to Public School Educators from Senator Rory Respicio:**

**Dear Sir or Madam:**

*Buenas yan Hafa Adai!* I am taking this opportunity, courtesy of the Guam Federation of Teachers (GFT) Union to communicate with you about Bill 69-33, which is relative to the Guam Public School System's use of Easter and Christmas breaks as make-up days in the school calendar.

Bill 69-33 creates an avenue for the educators, students and the families of students to influence the process of how makeup days are scheduled.

I am in communication with Superintendent Jon Fernandez, and other education officials, and even participated in a GDOE Board work session on the issue. We are working together on amending this bill to recognize instructional minutes in factoring instructional days. This further demonstrates my continued willingness to work with educational officials, as well as the recognition that Bill 69-33 provides for more authority for the GDOE Board and Superintendent relative to this issue. Moreover, the GDOE Board committed to hold another work session in the coming weeks with the GFT, teachers, students and parents of these students to get their input on the proposed legislation. I will also attend this work session, so I can receive the feedback first-hand.

Bill 69-33 gives voice to the concerns of many educators, students and families of students that there be more regularity in the process of establishing makeup days. School districts across the country routinely factor in makeup days in cases where snow or other forms of inclement weather force school closures. There are also other means to reaching the 180-day instructional days required by law, without necessarily requiring that this time be physically made up in the classroom. This bill will NOT increase the total number of instructional days.

Bill 69-33 is being crafted with Superintendent Fernandez and members of the school board. I am seeking this effort in collaboration with education officials, the union, teachers, students and parents of these students. And, I remain committed to working with you on a solution that promotes regularity in the process of setting makeup days while leaving broad latitude with the school board and the Superintendent for its implementation.

I thank the GFT for facilitating this communication between us, and I look forward to your feedback. Please contact me at 472-7679, or by email at [roryforguam@gmail.com](mailto:roryforguam@gmail.com). Looking forward to hearing from you. *Si Yu'os Ma'ase!*

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rory J. Respicio".

**Rory J. Respicio**