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## Bond bill now with Calvo

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THE compromise \$100 million bond bill that the Legislature passed last week is now in the hands of Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo and lawmakers are urging him to

sign the bill into law.

Substituted Bill 414 was passed by a 13-1 vote on Friday and immediately transmitted to the governor.

The bill authorizes \$100 million in bonds and should clear the way for the use of these proceeds for

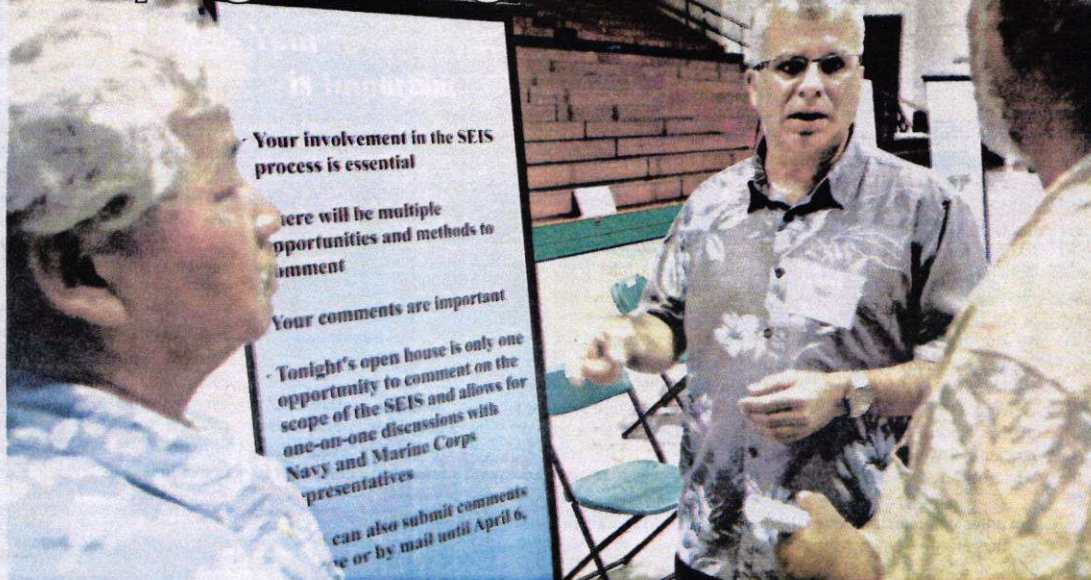
payment of income tax refunds, as requested by Calvo. It also makes good on money owed to the Retirement Fund, authorizes payment for upcoming health insurance premiums, and gives Calvo the option to use the proceeds for other purposes, such

as school repairs and the purchase of school buses, according to a press release from Sen. Rory Respicio's office.

Earlier this year, Respicio and 11 other senators sponsored another bond measure, Bill 423,

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### Scoping meeting



Dan Cecchine, Joint Guam Program Office environmental director, provides information to Frank Schacher, right, and Albert San Agustin, left, during Saturday morning's scoping meeting held at the University of Guam Field House in Mangilao. Both Schacher and San Agustin are with the Chamorro Tribe Organization. See story and additional photo on page 3. Matt Weiss / Variety

## 49 individuals named in Davis lawsuit

By Janela Buhain Carrera  
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ARNOLD "Dave" Davis has submitted the names of 49 individuals he believes may have evidence that could help him prove his plebiscite case.

Among the 49 named are Atty. Julian Aguon for the defendants;

Joseph Artero-Cameron; Michael Bevacqua; Gov. Eddie Calvo; Hope Cristobal; former governor Carl Gutierrez; Sens. Judi Guthertz, Ben Pangelinan, and Aline Yamashita; Vice Speaker Benjamin Cruz; Speaker Judi Won Pat; University of Guam President Robert Underwood; UOG professor and politi-

cal analyst Ron McNinch, and former senators Robert Klitzkie and Jesse Lujan.

According to court documents, the 49 individuals may have "discoverable information that the disclosing party may use to support its claim."

Some of the information the individuals have relate to "racial

appeals," "statements characterizing the plebiscite as having a racial character," "advocacy for official discrimination," and "the racial intent of the challenged statutes."

Davis' lawyer, Atty. J. Christian Adams, said he plans on commencing depositions later

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### INSIDE

#### MG READER POLL

Q: Should Lyndon B. Johnson Elementary School be used for a private charter school?

A: Yes

45%

B: No

55%

Total votes: 69  
As of 10 p.m. March 18

#### ENTERTAINMENT

CLOONEY  
ARRESTED IN  
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#### HEALTHY EATING

ALL FRUIT IS  
FANTASTIC ... BUT  
GUAVA IS NO. 1!  
SOME studies find a  
lower risk of cancer  
among people who eat  
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#### LISTEN

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# Independent contractor urged for Guam buildup review

By Therese Hart  
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IN REACTION to U.S. Sen. Jim Webb's concerns over what he called the "unexplained delay in contracting an independent study of U.S. security interests," Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo said Webb's statements recognizes that Senate provisions in the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act have slowed the military buildup and caused significant problems in Japan and Guam.

"Further, I appreciate that the Department is clearly reviewing the contract for an independent assessment but I would caution the Department of Defense to choose an independent contractor that we can all trust for a balanced review."

Bordallo said she was "skeptical" of some contractors that are being considered that have "a particular point of view."

During an Armed Services Committee hearing last Thursday, Webb questioned Department of Defense officials about the unexplained delay in contracting an independent study of U.S. security interests, force posture, and deployment plans in East Asia and the Pacific region.

In questioning DOD officials, Webb asked: "I remained to almost the end of this hearing because I was quite surprised, Secretary Mabus, to hear your response with respect to the



Senator Jim Webb has expressed concerns over what he called the "unexplained delay in contracting an independent study of U.S. security interests." Reuters

questions from Chairman Levin and Sen. McCain regarding the independent study for the layout from Okinawa and Guam that we had mandated. Perhaps this is just a mis-coordination because I know it is not under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Navy, but I hope what you said is not right. We have mandated by law that there would be an independent study and that they would report to the Secretary of Defense 90 days after the signing of the National Defense Authorization bill which was Dec. 31, which means that this indepen-

dent study not only was supposed to have been contracted but it is supposed to give its first report to the Secretary of Defense in about two weeks. Then the Secretary of Defense has up to 90 days after that to report to us."

## 'Un-stick'

"This is not a small thing, as you know. We are not in any way up here attempting to kill the program; we are trying to un-stick it," Webb added.

Webb said he will be visiting Japan in April and he assumed there would be "some sort" of preliminary report from this

study. "Now we are hearing that apparently there has not even been a contract. I hope we can clarify this," Webb said.

Webb said the delay in the buildup "is being misunderstood on Guam" and that the situation in Okinawa is one of probably the top two most volatile domestic political issues in Japan.

"We need to get this going. I know there are continuing talks; we follow them every day in my office. But this is a part of it and it is designed to get an independent set of eyes on this because there are so many turf battles over in

the Department of Defense, quite frankly," he added.

Webb said one of the big questions on Guam was what the Marine Corps laydown would look like.

"I had my own questions about this when I first revisited Guam a couple of years ago because they were doing a laydown that included dependent personnel — family personnel — which was driving up infrastructure and the numbers from 8,000 to potentially more than 20,000 people. We know this needs to be redone, but I cannot emphasize strongly enough how important it is that first of all, the law be obeyed and second of all that we reach an endpoint on this for the good of our strategic posture in that part of the world, and also for our relations with the Japanese and the people of Guam," Webb said.

## Study

The study was to be provided to the Defense Department by the end of this month.

The independent study was one of a series of congressional reporting requirements mandated in the Fiscal Year 2012 defense authorization bill to ensure a strong U.S. presence in the region — while reducing costs and impacts on local communities. The independent study will inform a final report that the Secretary of Defense must submit to Congress by the end of June.

## Bond bill...

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to clear away all legal obstacles so that Calvo can issue additional bonds for the purpose of paying tax refunds.

Because some senators in the Legislature believed that the current budget sets aside enough revenues to pay for tax refunds, Bill No. 414 was introduced by Sen. Ben Pangelinan to use the remaining borrowing authority for school repairs and for other purposes. But many other senators, including Respcio, strongly felt that people should not have to wait for their tax refunds because of disagreements between the Executive and Legislative branches, according to the release.

## Compromise

"This is why I worked for a compromise which gives the

governor complete authority to use the bond proceeds for refunds if he so chooses, but also gives him the option to use these bond proceeds for other purposes such as school construction, including Sen. Tom Ada's amendment to procure school buses," Respcio said.

During session, Bill 423 was incorporated into Substitute Bill No. 414.

"This action will ensure that these resources are available, so that there are no further delays in people receiving their tax refund checks," Respcio said.

Respcio went on to say that he believes paying tax refunds should be the first priority in the use of these available bond proceeds.

"I look forward to the governor's prompt action on SB-414 inasmuch as it provides the measures Gov. Calvo has stated will allow for the prompt

payment of tax refunds for this year, and again as Gov. Calvo pledged will ensure that this government pays our people their tax refunds on time."

Speaker Judi Won Pat voted in favor of the substituted version, saying that a portion of the bond fund could be used to repair and renovate Untalan Middle School so that students, faculty and staff can return to their home campus.

"I fully support our tax payers being paid their tax refunds and this bill gives the governor that authorization, but it also presents an opportunity to meet another obligation by this government, and that's to ensure that our public school children are learning in a safe environment. This bill provides for that," Won Pat said.

## Debt ceiling

Vice Speaker Benjamin J. F. Cruz voted against the measure, arguing that Guam would go

up to its maximum debt ceiling. Cruz also pointed out that Department of Defense cuts and a slower buildup could put Guam in great financial peril.

Earlier, Respcio made a motion to move the appointment of Monte Mafnas to be the Director of the Department of Land Management from the voting file and back to committee for further discussion and questions. Respcio had learned that two CLTC board members, Oscar Calvo and David Matanane, were allowed to participate in board decisions, even though their appointments had already expired.

In a letter to Respcio, Pangelinan stated that he wanted the body to have an opportunity to question Mafnas on any questionable actions that may have been taken while two board members continued acting after their terms had expired. The Legislature will resume session today at 2 p.m.

## Davis...

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this year.

Davis is challenging the Guam political status plebiscite because he claims it is unconstitutional and discriminates against non-Chamorros.

Davis claims his voting rights were violated when he tried to register for the Decolonization Registry but was denied because he is not a native inhabitant of Guam.

The Guam Decolonization Registry was created to delineate Guam residents who are entitled to vote for Guam's political status plebiscite, or self-determination.

The only individuals who can register are those who became U.S. citizens under the 1950 Organic Act of Guam and their descendants.