

# Blas expresses disappointment with Obama

By Brett Kelman

Pacific Daily News  
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Another local politician has sent a letter expressing disappointment that President Barack Obama passed through Guam without leaving his plane on Saturday night.

Sen. Frank Blas Jr., R-Barrigada, the leader of the Republican minority in the Guam Legislature, sent a letter to the White House on Monday, chastising the president.

Blas said Obama could have paid respects to the family of Army Spc. Calvin Pereda, who was killed by an explosion in Afghanistan a week ago.

"Had you thought of wanting to

pay your respects to his family, as is customary throughout the Pacific, to include the island you were born and raised on, the family residence of the fallen soldier was less than two miles from the Air Force base you landed and rested at."

Pereda's parents live in the mainland, but his extended family lives in Yigo.

Air Force One refueled at Andersen Air Force Base late Saturday night, but the president's short stop on Guam contained no public statements or appearances.

Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo flew back to Washington, D.C., on Air Force One.

Gov. Eddie Calvo also has expressed disappointment the presi-

**Refueling stop:** Demonstrators hold signs urging President Barack Obama to "come meet the residents," outside Andersen Air Force Base during Air Force One's refueling stop, Saturday.

dent remained behind the fences of the air base. Demonstrators gathered outside the Andersen gate, but didn't even get a glimpse of the president's plane.

Obama is from Hawaii and while campaigning for president in 2008, he said because he's an islander, he would be "especially sensitive to the needs of the people of Guam," according to Pacific Daily News files.



Erin Thompson/Pacific Daily News/egthompson@guampdn.com

## Federal expenditures on Guam exceed \$2B

By Oyaol Ngirairiki

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Federal dollars spent or obligated to projects and personnel on Guam in fiscal 2010 reached \$2.01 billion — surpassing the prior record high of \$1.54 billion in fiscal 2003.

The amount was a part of the Federal Expenditures Report released locally yesterday by the Guam Department of Labor. It presents the annual data in a time-series format to see the trends in federal expenditures for fiscal 1997 through fiscal 2010.

### Consolidated report

Gary Hiles, the agency's chief economist, said the data was gleaned from the Consolidated Federal Funds Report, which includes amounts the U.S. gave to Guam, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands, Palau and the Feder-

ated States of Micronesia.

Hiles said the dollar figures include pay and benefits for military and federal civilian personnel — both active and retired — as well as contracts, procurement of services and various federal grants and programs.

### Civilian vs. defense

"Some interesting things that we found this year is that the non-defense expenditures — that's grants and civilian employees — last year exceeded the defense expenditures, which was fairly unusual," Hiles said. "That was because of grants, primarily the (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) grant, some of which was received in 2009."

He noted that in fiscal 2010, federal dollars sent to Guam for both non-defense and defense spending grew.

"The biggest thing that happened was the huge increase in the contractual category, largely related to defense," Hiles said.

## FEDERAL EXPENDITURES REPORT

### Key findings

- ▲ Total reported federal expenditures or obligations on Guam increased 44.2 percent, from \$1.39 billion in fiscal year 2009 to \$2.01 billion in fiscal year 2010, the latest year for which complete information on federal expenditures is available.
- ▲ Federal expenditures or obligations for defense were up 92.6 percent and non-defense spending or obligations were up 11 percent. (Federal expenditure figures include expenditures and obligations)
- ▲ Total federal expenditures on Guam increased by 42 percent, from \$1.41 billion in fiscal 2005 to \$2.01 billion in fiscal 2010. Federal expenditure totals had previously remained consistently in the \$1.25 billion to \$1.53 billion range between fiscal 2004 and fiscal 2009.
- ▲ Using the lower fiscal 2000 level as a base, total federal expenditures on Guam increased by 139 percent from fiscal 2000 to fiscal 2010.
- ▲ The highest level of federal expenditures or obligations on Guam to date was reached in fiscal 2010, substantially surpassing the prior

record high of \$1.54 billion in fiscal 2003.

- ▲ Total direct expenditures or obligations for defense have increased substantially — 127.6 percent — from \$480.1 million in fiscal 1997 to \$1.093 billion in fiscal 2010.
- ▲ Total direct expenditures or obligations for non-defense activities have increased even more substantially, by 150.7 percent, from \$366.9 million to \$919.8 million.
- ▲ The largest change from fiscal 2009 to fiscal 2010 was for procurement contracts, which increased \$446.7 million, or 146.5 percent. Salaries and wages increased by 20.5 percent.

### Fiscal 2010 spending

- ▲ Procurement contracts: \$751.6 million
- ▲ Grants: \$449.6 million
- ▲ Salaries and wages: \$376.6 million
- ▲ Retirement and disability payments for individuals: \$294.1 million
- ▲ Other direct payments for individuals: \$109.5 million
- ▲ Direct payments other than for individuals: \$31 million.

## Food stamp benefits restored

By Arvin Temkar

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All mistakenly deducted food stamp benefits have been restored, according to the Department of Public Health and Social Services.

An electronic error at the beginning of the month deducted money from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program accounts of 196 households, said Linda Susuico, chief human services administrator for the agency's Division of Public Welfare.

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It took Public Health more than two weeks to fix the error, which may have dramatically affected some families. One woman's account went from \$753 to \$24.50.

Because an overall automatic restoration couldn't be done, Public Health started manually restoring accounts late last week.

The error involved an automatic deduction system that deducts ben-

efits when a recipient is accidentally overissued, according to Public Health. Due to a processing glitch, automatic deductions were wrongly made to the accounts' food stamp benefit recipients.

Public Health issued certificates for people to take to nonprofits such as The Salvation Army as proof they receive food stamps and were in need of assistance. In a two-day period last week, eight families went to The Salvation Army for food assistance, according to Pacific Daily News files.

## ISLAND STYLE Thanksgiving

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**10:30 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

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## Pangelinan: Plebiscite not a racial issue

By Zita Y. Taitano  
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Variety News Staff

THE class action lawsuit filed in District Court claiming that the plebiscite to decide Guam's future relationship with the U.S. discriminates against non-native inhabitants is a mischaracterization and misstates the issue of race, said Sen. Ben Pangelinan, who has long been pushing for a political status plebiscite.

"The identification of the native inhabitants of Guam group was done by the U.S. Congress, and it says this is a group of people who were afforded a status based on an act of Congress which they had no say in," Pangelinan said.

"It's definitely not on point," the senator said, referring to the lawsuit.

"I'm calling upon U.S. Attorney Alicia Limtiaco and Attorney General Lenny Rapadas to defend the rights of Guam," he added.

With regard to the plebiscite, Pangelinan said "the right to self-determination is a right of every human being."

As for the claim that the

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## Plebiscite lawsuit filed



Mun Su Park, a local attorney of the Law Offices of Park and Associates, talks to the media after filing a lawsuit alleging discrimination in the planned political status plebiscite. David Castro / For Variety

By Zita Y. Taitano  
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Variety News Staff

A LAWSUIT has been filed in District Court against the Guam Election Commission (GEC), members of the GEC board and Attorney General Lenny Rapadas, alleging discrimination against individuals who are not "native inhabitants of Guam," preventing

them from voting on the decolonization plebiscite that would determine the island's future relationship with the U.S.

The complaint was filed on behalf of the plaintiff, Arnold "Dave" Davis, by local attorney Mun Su Park, of the Law Offices of Park and Associates; J. Christian Adams, of the Election Law Center PLLC in Alexandria, Va.; and Michael E.

Rosman, of the Center for Individual Rights in Washington D.C.

Named in the lawsuit are GEC board members Alice M. Taijeron, Martha C. Ruth, Joseph F. Mesa, Johnny P. Taitano, Donald I. Weakley, and former member Joshua F. Tenorio.

The lawsuit was filed after Davis, a retired U.S. Air Force officer who

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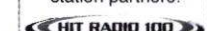
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hazards

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