

Office of the Attorney General Leevin Taitano Camacho

Attorney General of Guam

Solicitor Division

590 S. Marine Corps Drive
ITC Bldg., Ste. 802

Tamuning, Guam 96913 • USA
Tel. (671) 475-3324 Fax. (671) 472-2493

www.guamag.org

Attorneys for the Government of Guam

## RECEIVED

OFFICE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY PROCUREMENT APPEALS

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FILE NO OPA-PA: 19-005

# IN THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY PROCUREMENT APPEAL

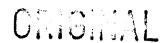
IN THE APPEAL OF:	) DOCKET NO. OPA-PA 19-005
TAKECARE INSURANCE COMPANY, INC.,	) ) REBUTTAL TO TAKECARE'S ) COMMENTS ON THE AGENCY
Appellant.	) REPORT

#### I. INTRODUCTION

COMES NOW, Purchasing Agency, the Department of Administration ("DOA"), through its counsel, and submits the rebuttal to Appellant, TakeCare Insurance Company Inc.'s ("TakeCare") comments on the agency report. DOA maintains this matter should be dismissed for lack of jurisdiction, as also articulated in DOA's Motion to Dismiss filed on June 14, 2019.

#### II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The Request for Proposal ("RFP") was published on April 1, 2019, with the requirement that offers to provide group health insurance to the Government of Guam include all private and public hospitals operating on Guam in-network coverage, as mandated by Public Law 35-2.



TakeCare filed its protest of Guam Procurement No.: DOA/HRD-RFP-GHI-20-001 with DOA on

May 3, 2019. DOA denied TakeCare's protest on May 21, 2019. TakeCare then filed an appeal

with the Office of Public Accountability ("OPA") on May 23, 2019.

These facts are undisputed by both DOA and TakeCare.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Protest is Untimely

TakeCare submitted its protest after the 14-day deadline as prescribed by 5 G.C.A. §

5425. A protest is timely if submitted within 14 days after an aggrieved offeror knew or should

have known of the facts giving rise to the protest of the method of source selection, solicitation or

award of a contract. Id.

TakeCare's protest challenges Public Law 35-2 and the inclusion of its mandate in the RFP.

TakeCare knew or should have known that the RFP requested offers to include all private and

public hospitals on Guam in-network coverage on the date of issuance which was April 1, 2019.

TakeCare argues that its protest was timely submitted on May 1, 2019, once it realized it would

not be able to contract with Guam Regional Medical City ("GRMC"). Whether TakeCare was not

able to contract with GRMC is irrelevant to the timeliness of a protest. TakeCare and any other

potential protestors should have known of the requirements of the RFP on April 1, 2019. Thus,

TakeCare's protest was well beyond the 14-day deadline.

B. Protest is Beyond the Scope of Guam's Procurement Law

TakeCare's comments to DOA's agency report are legal arguments that are beyond the

scope of Guam's procurement law and stem from failed negotiations with GRMC. TakeCare was

unable to contract with GRMC and now seeks to invalidate Public Law 35-2 through the

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Response to TakeCare's Rebuttal to Agency Report In the Appeal of: TakeCare Insurance Company, Inc. procurement process. The Government of Guam did not participate in these negotiations, and therefore, has no personal knowledge to refute or acknowledge the allegations contained in the protest. This "protest" is actually a dispute between two private parties and not within the jurisdiction of the OPA.

## IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, DOA maintains this protest is not timely and beyond the scope of the procurement process and therefore not within the OPA's jurisdiction.

Respectfully submitted this 27th day of June, 2019.

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL Leevin Taitano Camacho, Attorney General

By:

SHANNON J. TAITANO

Assistant Deputy Attorney General