



## OFFICE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

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### **OPA Employees Complete Ethics in Government Training**

*Pursuant to P.L. 36-25, All GovGuam Employees Mandated to Undergo Ethics Training*

Hagåtña, Guam – On Monday, August 16, 2021, Public Auditor Benjamin J.F. Cruz submitted the Guam Office of Public Accountability’s *Ethics Training Compliance Report Pursuant to 4 GCA § 15409 (c) and 15410 (d)* to the Guam Ethics Commission. Pursuant to Public Law 36-25, **ALL** government of Guam employees are required to attend an ethics in government program, of which topics to be discussed include Guam statutes concerning ethics, procurement laws and regulations, and fiduciary responsibility, to name a few.

The report, required by Public Law 36-25, includes a list of employees by name, job title, and date of completion of the ethics program. All Guam OPA employees, including the Public Auditor, are now compliant with P.L. 36-25. The training was hosted by the University of Guam’s Global Learning & Engagement and facilitated by local attorney, Vincent Camacho, online on July 27, 2021. Training costs were funded by OPA’s technical assistance grant with the Department of Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs.

It was in April 2021, when Public Auditor Cruz submitted [testimony on Bill -94-36](#), which later became Public Law 36-25. In his testimony, Cruz espoused the benefits of including all government employees in the ethics in government training program, including:

- Fostering a more satisfying and productive working environment for employees;
- Building and sustaining your entity’s reputation;
- Maintaining the trust of employees;
- Providing ethical guidance and resources for employees prior to making difficult decisions;
- Aligning the work efforts of staff with the agency’s broader mission and vision; and
- Recruiting and retaining top quality people.

*“We believe that if an employee, and not just the agency head or oversight board, is informed and educated on their ethical responsibilities, it not only ensures government integrity within the work place, but also gains trust from the people we serve,”* Cruz concluded, in his testimony on this bill.

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