



# Guam Memorial Hospital Authority Aturidåt Espetåt Mimuriåt Guåhan



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To: **Joint Guam Program Office Forward**  
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**Office of the Governor of Guam**  
Attn: Military Buildup Office (Mark Calvo)  
Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex  
Adelup, Guam 96910

Subject: **Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) Input / Comment on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)**

To whom it may concern, though we have no "specific" comments that cite "specific" pages of the SEIS, the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) provides the following "general" comments for your review and consideration:

The Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) currently manages Guam's only civilian acute care hospital for the people of Guam. GMHA provides this document as its response to the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) relative to the ongoing implementation of the Military Buildup for Guam; and the ongoing and future challenges that we anticipate with respect to GMHA meeting its mission "to provide quality patient care in a safe environment."

GMHA was interviewed during the DEIS development phase; and its interview comments were included in the DEIS. These comments focused upon GMHA's current and ongoing Hospital capacity challenges (both bed capacity and human resources to support those beds), which have existed for several years and well before any Military Buildup. However, the DEIS did not reflect how the Federal Government may be able to help Guam and GMHA towards properly addressing these significant challenges which will only escalate during the Buildup (e.g., additional federal funding to support further GMHA expansion efforts) and that lack of additional federal funding support for GMHA remains "status quo" to date relative to the SEIS.

After the DEIS was completed, GMHA reviewed this document and provided further comments to be included in the FEIS. Those comments focused upon the ongoing fact that GMHA was and continues to average approx. 140 acute care inpatients daily, which equates to a daily average acute care occupancy of approx. ninety percent (90%). However, GMHA believes these challenges were not properly understood, appreciated and highlighted in the FEIS. After review of the "Final Draft" SEIS, this continues to be GMHA's position.

Again, GMHA's mission is "to provide quality patient care in a safe environment." Therefore, GMHA offers the following information that we feel is critical towards understanding GMHA's challenges with respect to the Guam Community receiving quality healthcare services:

GMHA currently has only 159 acute care beds, which is approx. 1 acute care bed for every 1,000 people on Guam. The national average is approx. 2.7 acute care beds per 1,000 population. In rural locations on the U.S. mainland, the number of acute care hospital beds can be as high as 4 to 5 acute care beds per 1,000 population. As a result of Guam's normal population growth of approx. 3,000/year, Guam's population will be approx. 188,000 by 2020; and with an additional growth of 10,000 – 20,000 or so (to include active duty military, their dependents and construction workers) from the Civilian-Military Buildup, Guam's population will be approx. 200,000 + during that timeframe. We know that approx. 130 new private hospital acute care beds are slated to become operational in late CY2014 or early CY2015 with the opening of the new Guam Regional Medical City. These numbers mean that Guam should plan on having at least an additional 200 to 250 acute care beds by 2020 to account for its normal projected population growth and for the Civilian-Military Buildup, which would bring the total to approximately 500 + acute care beds needed for Guam.

On an average day, GMHA cares for approximately 140 patients. This means that GMHA is already averaging approximately 90% hospital-wide acute care occupancy on a daily basis. If this is occurring prior to the Civilian Military Buildup, then we can assure you that GMHA's resources will be further taxed when the Buildup goes into full swing.

In light of these facts and the average hospital occupancy rate, GMHA continues to implement its short-term bed capacity and staffing solutions, while it is developing its long-term bed capacity and staffing shortages.

GMHA's short-term bed capacity and staffing solutions include:

- Continue to implement its internal Patient Flow Management Plan;
- Continue to recruit and retain its Medical, Nursing and Professional Support Staff through both local and off-island human resource pools/organizations; and
- Complete its EMD and CCU/ICU Expansion Project by June of 2014.

GMHA's long-term bed capacity and staffing solutions include:

- Develop/implement its Recruitment and Retention Plan, as aligned with its Master Plan to include preparing to staff its new, hospital-based Urgent Care Center later this CY2014.
- Finance, Design and Construct a "new" 250 bed, public non-profit, acute care Hospital, which is estimated at a cost of approximately \$300M. The timeline for this long term solution is yet to be determined, as it is highly dependent upon a Strategic Joint (Local & Federal) Finance & Implementation Plan.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact the undersigned at [joseph.verga@gmha.org](mailto:joseph.verga@gmha.org) or phone (671) 647-2418.

Sincerely,



**Joseph P. Verga, MS, FACHE**  
Hospital Administrator/CEO

JK

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