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Senator – 35th Guam Legislature

*Committee on Economic Development, Agriculture, Maritime Transportation,
Power and Energy Utilities, and Emergency Response*

GUAM CANNABIS INDUSTRY ACT OF 2019 PASSED INTO LAW WITH THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (April 4, 2019 - Hagåtña, Guam) – Earlier today, Maga'håga Lou Leon Guerrero signed the Guam Cannabis Industry Act of 2019 into Public Law 35-5, legalizing and regulating adult-use cannabis. Passage of the law will create a new industry for Guam and will finally provide greater and safer access for medical cannabis consumers.

“I would like to thank my co-sponsors, Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Senators Joe S. San Agustin, Régine Biscoe Lee, Telo T. Taitague, and Jose “Pedo” Terlaje for their willingness to be bold and back a bill that will bring positive change to our island. I also thank Senators Kelly Marsh Taitano and Louise B. Muña who weighed the measure carefully over the course of deliberations before ultimately voting in favor of the passage of this bill. My colleagues and I worked very hard to keep the public engaged in this process, and before introducing the bill, I made sure to consult with various members of our community who provided informed and educated feedback as well as constructive input for drafting this bill. I also want to acknowledge that this could not have happened without the support and assistance of cannabis advocacy groups like Grassroots Guam, Guam Legal Movement, and Guam Legal Bud who have worked tirelessly over the last few years to educate the public about cannabis. And of course, this could not have happened without the support of the people of Guam who elected me into office on a platform to Make Guam Green Again!”

Senator Ridgell introduced the bill, prompting the mobilization of the community in support of this effort to advance individual freedoms, allow easier and safer access for patients, and establish a new well-regulated industry that will create new business opportunities new jobs and new revenues for the island of Guam.

“This has been and continues to be a community issue, but the fight is not over yet,” says Senator Ridgell. “I invite the public to remain focused on continuing to provide input in the development of the rules and regulations by the Cannabis Control Board for safe, adult use cannabis. My colleagues and I spent a lot of time discussing this bill, and although we may have differing opinions on the matter, I am grateful that this was an issue that was taken very seriously.”

After several days of deliberation, eight votes pushed the passage of the bill to be transmitted to Maga'håga Leon Guerrero who signed the bill into law on Thursday, April 4, 2019.