

# Senator Shelly Calvo to Chair Legislative Oversight on Disability Services



From left to right: Robinette Balajadia (DYA), Corrine Buendicho (DYA), Lani Brennan (DYA), Art San Agustin (Governor's Office), Sen. Shelly Calvo, Mike Weakley (DYA), Therese Arriola (DPHSS), Peter John Camacho (DPHSS), Michelle Perez (DISID), Jermaine Alerta (GDDC), Audrey Topasna (DISID), and Reuel Drilon (DISID).

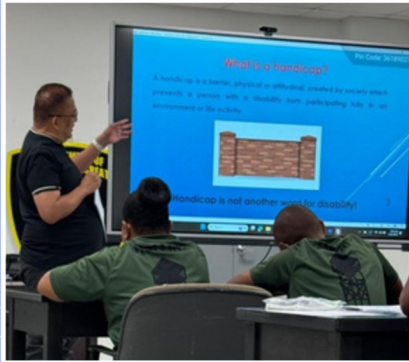
The Guam DD Council congratulates Senator Shelly V. Calvo on her election to serve in the 38th Guam Legislature. On January 10, 2025, representatives of the GDDC, the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities, the Department of Youth Affairs, and the Department of Public Health and Social Services met with the Senator to brief her on the respective agency/department. Senator Calvo will chair the Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation, and Hagåtña Restoration.

## GDDC Presentation at ACT Meeting



Autism Community Together (ACT) held its annual meeting at the Westin Resort Guam on January 18, 2025. ACT is a local support group for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families. The group allowed staff from the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council to speak in front of the group and present an informational pamphlet in search of prospective Council members. Community engagement is crucial to learning more about the issues and hearing lived experiences from individuals with disabilities and their families about their daily lives. It's one of the ways that helps all of us understand what needs to be done to address problems and find solutions that will improve the quality of life on Guam. We thank ACT for the opportunity to meet its members.



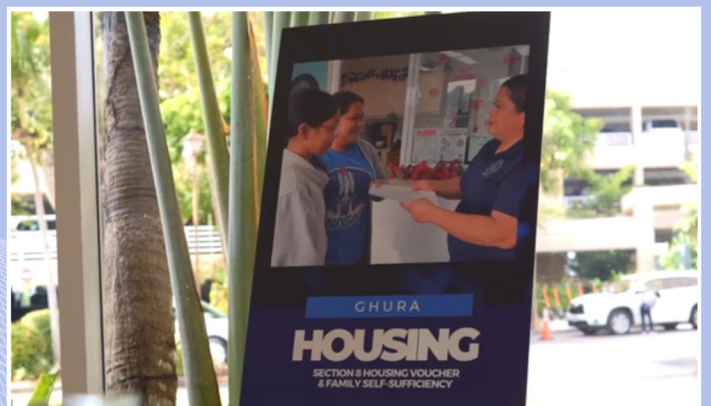


## Disability Sensitivity and Awareness Training for DOC Recruits

On January 22, 2025, nineteen Department of Corrections recruits attended a Disability Sensitivity and Awareness Training (DSAT) at the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Conference Room. Disability sensitivity and awareness refer to the understanding, respect, and support of individuals with disabilities, as well the promotion of inclusion, accessibility, and equitable treatment in the workplace and in other facets of community life. The training, which is mandated for current and prospective law enforcement officers as part of the Peace Officer Standards and Training requirements, was conducted by Council staff and is part of a series of community activities coordinated by the Guam DD Council. We extend our sincerest gratitude to DPR for the use of its facility to host the event.

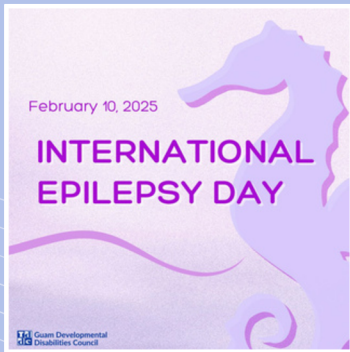
## GHURA Hosts Housing Summit

Staff of the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council, attended the housing summit hosted by the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority on January 29, 2025 at Hyatt Regency Guam. Topics included the state of housing and promoting housing policies as part of the Authority's broader vision of moving housing forward in Guam for all. Additionally, representatives from the Federal Housing Administration made a presentation on programs which they directly administer.

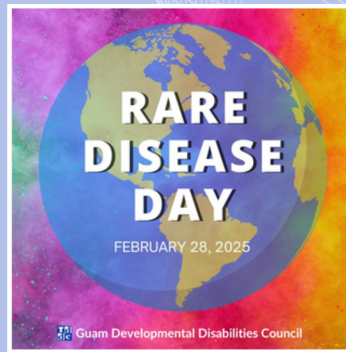




## UPCOMING OBSERVANCES AND EVENTS



**International Epilepsy Day**  
February 10, 2025



**Rare Disease Day**  
February 28, 2025



**Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**  
March

### About the Council

The Guam Developmental Disabilities Council serves as Guam's State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD). In accordance with Public Law 106-402, each state and territory is authorized to establish a Council on DD, which receives funds to carry out initiatives for systems-change, capacity building, and advocacy. Through these activities, the Council promotes the inclusion, integration, independence, and productivity of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in all areas of community life.

### FEEDBACK

We want to hear from you! Was this newsletter helpful? Is there other information that you would like to see included? Please let us know by contacting the GDDC staff via email at [guamddc@gddc.guam.gov](mailto:guamddc@gddc.guam.gov). You may also visit our website or Facebook and Instagram pages.

 [www.gddc.guam.gov](http://www.gddc.guam.gov)  
 [guamddcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/guamddcouncil) 

The Council Chronicle is a publication of the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council and is made possible by the support of the members and staff of the GDDC, the Offices of Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, our Guam Tri-Agency Partners on Developmental Disabilities (Guam Legal Services Corporation - Disability Law Center & Guam CEDDERS), our Government of Guam department/agency partners, and our various community partners.

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