



## **Financial Highlights**

### **Guam Tourist Attraction Fund Financial Audit**

#### **Fiscal Year 2024**

September 16, 2025

Hagåtña, Guam – The Office of Public Accountability (OPA) has released the financial statements, report on compliance and internal control, and auditor's communication with those charged with governance of the Government of Guam (GovGuam) Tourist Attraction Fund (TAF) for fiscal year (FY) 2024.

An independent audit of TAF's financial statements conducted by Ernst & Young LLP (EY) rendered an unmodified (clean) opinion and identified no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies.

Established to support various recreational projects and tourist activities, TAF is funded primarily through revenues derived from Hotel Occupancy Taxes (HOT) collected by the visitor industry. TAF consists of three governmental funds: (1) Tourist Attraction Special Revenue Fund, (2) Capital Projects Fund, and (3) Debt Service Fund. The Tourist Attraction Special Revenue Fund accounts for an excise tax that is levied and imposed on transient occupants of a room or rooms in a hotel, lodging house, or similar facility in Guam. The Capital Projects Fund accounts for the construction of capital improvement projects from bond proceeds. The Debt Service Fund accounts for funds required by the bond indenture to redeem the bond principal and pay bond interest as it becomes due.

#### **Increase in Revenues and Expenditures**

Total combined revenues increased by \$3.8 million (M) (or 12%) from \$30.2M in FY 2023 to \$33.9M in FY 2024. This growth was largely due to the increase in inbound tourism.

Total combined expenditures rose by \$11.1M (or 45%) from \$24.7M in FY 2023 to \$35.8M in FY 2024. The increase was due to a \$9.5M increase in payments to the Guam Visitors Bureau and a \$1.7M increase in Capital Projects spending from \$739 thousand (K) in FY 2023 to \$2.5M in FY 2024, offset by a \$23.1K decrease in General Government spending, from \$36.4K in FY 2023 to \$13.3K in FY 2024.

In FY 2024, the Tourist Attraction Fund recorded no expenditures under the categories of Individual and Collective Rights, Economic Development, and Protection of Life and Property, representing a decrease from FY 2023 when TAF expended \$86.8K for Individual and Collective Rights, \$9.4K for Economic Development, and \$2.4K for Protection of Life and Property.

#### **\$1.8M Decrease in Fund Balance**

At FY 2024 year-end, fund balances were: \$896K in the Special Revenue Fund, \$3.9M in the Capital Projects Fund, and \$7.5M in the Debt Service Fund. TAF's combined fund balance

decreased by \$1.8M (or -13%), from \$14.1M in FY 2023 to \$12.2M in FY 2024.

### **HOT Revenue Bonds: Series 2021A**

The Debt Service Fund accounts for the principal and interest due on the HOT Revenue Bonds, 2021 Series A, wherein these funds are restricted for (1) capital projects associated with the new Guam Museum and certain other related projects that benefit Guam's tourism industry, and (2) future debt service. In FY 2024, TAF paid \$2.9M in interest on these bonds.

### **Tourism Outlook**

In FY 2024, Guam witnessed a rise in visitor arrivals, increasing from 602,594 in FY 2023 to 752,479 – a 25% growth from the prior year. Tourism remains a key pillar of Guam's economy, prompting the Guam Visitors Bureau to implement its Tourism Recovery Plan to address the significant decline in arrivals and work toward restoring market share. The plan emphasizes destination improvement, aiming to position Guam as a world-class destination that highlights safety, natural beauty, and cultural heritage.

For more information, see the Management's Discussion and Analysis in the full audit report at [www.opaguam.org](http://www.opaguam.org).