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HONOLULU STAR BULLETIN

OCT 8 1975

## Guam's Government

As citizens of Hawaii lament the high cost of operating the State Legislature, there might be some consolation in observing our neighbor to the west, the island of Guam.

The unicameral legislature in that Territory pays each of its 21 "senators" an annual salary of \$24,000. The entire island of 100,000 people is smaller than Kansas City or Oklahoma City and has less than one-fourth the population of each. Those cities are run by professional city managers who make about \$35,000 a year, about the same amount paid to Guam's elected governor.

While it can be argued that Guam is an insular territory fairly new to self-government, the excesses in terms of nepotism and padded government payrolls make Hawaii look streamlined by comparison.

Now the Government of Guam has approved pari-mutuel betting at dog tracks and is seriously considering the legalization of casino gambling. What that will do to the working class on Guam, including 8,000 alien workers, is frightening to contemplate.

The small island in the Marianas (212 square miles) is inhabited by beautiful people whose patriotism exceeds that found in any state of the union. But their faith in democracy along with their innocence is being tested by administrations that have made government employes an elite class. Political leaders in Hawaii should add to the burdens on their collective conscience the fact that this State probably was a model for Guam.