



**EDDIE BAZA CALVO**  
GOVERNOR

**RAY TENORIO**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**  
**DIPATTAMENTON SALUT PUPBLEKO YAN SETBISION SUSIAT**



**JAMES W. GILLAN**  
DIRECTOR

**LEO G. CASIL**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**No. 2011-92**

The Department of Public Health and Social Services cordially invites the community to join WestCare Pacific Islands, GUAHAN Project, and Guam's Alternative Lifestyle Association (GALA) for the Annual Torchlight Ceremony at the Historic Lujan House in Hagåtña at 6PM to commemorate the 30 years of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on World AIDS Day, December 1, 2011.

This year's World AIDS Day theme, "Getting to Zero" highlights the importance of a global AIDS response through the continuation of HIV treatment and prevention efforts with three underlying goals of *Zero New Infections, Zero Discrimination, and Zero AIDS related Deaths*. According to a UNAIDS (United Nations Program on AIDS) report, "Fortunately, leaders are standing up to say that an AIDS-free generation is possible and that no child should be born with HIV and no mother should die of AIDS. The gulf between treatment and prevention has ended. Treatment is prevention." <http://www.worldaidscampaign.org/2011/11/un aids-world-aids-day-report-2011/>

In 2009, an estimated 3,300 new HIV positive cases were reported in Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) with Papua New Guinea (PNG) accounting for approximately 97% of HIV infections. Since 1985, Guam reported a total of 225 HIV cases (as of December 2010).

The STD/HIV Program of the Bureau of Communicable Disease Control, in collaboration with WestCare Pacific Islands, GUAHAN Project, and GALA, continues to work toward achieving these goals by providing free and confidential STD/HIV testing and treatment, risk-reduction counseling, and health education to the community.

For additional information, please call the Guam AIDS Hotline at 734-AIDS (2437) or contact Mr. Vince Aguon, (CDC Coordinator) at 735-7166, or Ms. Bernie Schumann (STD/HIV Program Supervisor) at 735-3604. Information may also be obtained by visiting the Prutehi Hao website at [www.prutehihao.org](http://www.prutehihao.org) or on Facebook, keyword: Prutehi Hao.

**James W. Gillan**  
Director