I MINA 'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN 2011 (FIRST) Regular Session

Sw Sw

Bill No. 234-31 cov

Introduced by:

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Sam Mabini, Ph.D

AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 21 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, CHAPTER 26, §66202.1 ITEM "A," RELATIVE TO INCLUDING THE GUAM DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AS AN APPROVING AGENCY AND TO BE INCLUDED ON THE APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR THE "CLEARING, GRADING AND CONSTRUCTION."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative findings and intent. I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan finds that past and growing construction developments have consequential impact on the natural environment of the island of Guam.

I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan finds that there needs to be more aggressive measures to protect and preserve the natural habitat of Guam. Also needed are improved efforts to raise awareness and instill sound practices to preserve Guam's natural and native habitat.

I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan finds regulatory and corrective measures are needed when construction negatively impact the natural and native fauna on both public and private property.

I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan finds that in order to proactively and effectively ensure the natural environment of Guam is protected and properly preserved, the Guam Department of Agriculture is included along with other permitting public agencies that authorize and approve the "Clearing, Grading and Construction" permit issued by the Building Permits and Inspection Division of the Department of Public Works

Section 2. Item (a) of §66202.1, Chapter 66, 21 Guam Code Annotated is amended to read as follows:

"§ 66202.1. Clearing and Grading Permit Required for Government Agencies.

(a) A permit for Clearing, Grading, and Construction shall be required of government, autonomous, and public entities in the same manner as private citizens.

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An application for the permit shall be submitted to the Department of Public Works by the entity who owns the property, or which is to authorize, complete, or contract for the proposed project on government land, with the approval of the following agencies indicated on the application to the Department of Public Works: Department of Land Management, Zoning Division; Department of Parks and Recreation; Guam Power Authority; Guam Environmental Protection Agency; Guam Telephone Authority; Guam Geodetic Network Survey Division; Forestry and Soil Resources Division of the Department of Agriculture; and the Department of Public Works. No fee shall be charged for government application for a permit pursuant hereto and the application shall be submitted in such form as the Building Official may prescribe. Government entities shall be subject to all other applicable provisions of this Chapter. Clearing, grading, or construction shall not begin on any government property or project in violation of this statute. Building Officials and Guam Peace Officers are authorized to issue citations to violators of this Section in accordance with the Rules and Regulations promulgated by the Department of Public Works in this regard. Officers acting in violation of this statute shall be held personally liable for all damages resulting there from, and shall be subject to a fine of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) for each offense, and may be fined up to Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) for violations after the third violation of this Section."

Section 3. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon enactment.

Section 4. Severability. If any provision of this Law or its application to any person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Law which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or applications, and to this end the provisions of this Law are severable.