MINA' TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN 2013 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. ______-32 (COR)

Introduced by:

D.G. Rodriguez, Jr. 9 Michael T. Limtiaco

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TO UTILIZE ANNUAL LEAVE TO PAY DEBTS TO GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, BY ADDING A NEW §4109.6 TO CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent: *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that there are a approximately 4,469 government of Guam employees and/or employee dependants who owe the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority approximately \$6,559,196.00 for medical services rendered, as of April 15, 2013. This includes patients for which the government employee is a guarantor for the payment of medical services provided. Further, many of these employees are without the direct financial means to pay their debt for medical services received from GMHA. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* takes due note that the GMHA Administration is aggressively seeking the payment of debts due to the hospital, to include the referral of debt collection to a collection agency. Because of this collection effort, the inability of an employee to pay their debt could result in adversely affecting their credit rating, further complicating the financial situation of their families.

It is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to provide an alternative means by which employees of the government may pay their debts to the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority by voluntarily utilizing their accrued annual leave. It is also the

- intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to ensure that the employee still retains at least one hundred twenty (120) hours of annual leave for other purposes, planned or
- 3 unplanned, which may arise in the future.

- Section 2. A new §4109.6 is added to Chapter 4, Title 4, Guam Code
 Annotated, to read:
 - "\$4109.6. Conversion of Annual Leave for Payment to Guam Memorial Hospital Authority; Authorized. Upon written request, a government of Guam employee shall be authorized to utilize up to two hundred forty (240) hours of accumulated annual leave for the payment of their debt, their dependant's debt, or those debts for which the government employee is a guarantor for payment, for medical services rendered by the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA), except as otherwise provided in this Section. Funding for the accrued annual leave to be utilized for the employee's payment to GMHA shall come from the annual fiscal year budget for operations of the agency or department of the employee. The authorized amount for payment shall be transferred directly from the department or agency to GMHA and *shall* be credited towards the payment of the employee's medical debt. This Section shall apply to all employees, both classified and unclassified, of any government agency, department or instrumentality, to include autonomous agencies, who accrue annual leave.
 - (1) The Director of the Department of Administration *shall* prepare a standard form for employees to authorize the use of their accrued annual leave for payment of their debt to GMHA.
 - (2) The Administrator of Guam Memorial Hospital Authority *shall* notify all government of Guam employees with outstanding debts to GMHA of this authorization to utilize their annual leave for the payment of

- their debt to GMHA, and shall provide them with the authorization form prepared by D.O.A.
- The government employee shall not be authorized to utilize all annual leave, and *shall* retain at least one hundred twenty (120) hours of accrued leave for other purposes which may arise requiring their future use of annual leave.
- Section 3. Effective Date. This Act shall become immediately effective upon enactment.