


I MINA'TRENTAI TRES NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2015 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 86 -33 (LS)

Introduced by:

B. J.F. Cruz 

2015 APR 27 AM 9:27 

AN ACT TO PLACE THE GOVERNOR MANUEL F. L. GUERRERO BUILDING IN THE GUAM REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the Manuel F. L. Guerrero Building (MFLG Building) is located in the Municipality of Hagåtña on Block 28 on lot number 423-REM, and is currently under the control and supervision of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* pursuant to § 79601, Chapter 79, Title 21 of the Guam Code Annotated. The MFLG Building is located on government property fronting Aspinall Avenue and is bounded on the north by Chalan Santo Papa Juan Pablo Dos and on the south by West O'Brien Drive. Adjacent to the building at the rear is the Plaza de España complex, which is on the Guam and National Register for Historic Places. Situated on a leveled lot in the unincorporated territory of Guam's Capitol District, the MFLG Building is home to Guam's rich Organic Act-era history, from the 1960's to the present, also known as the Quasi Self-Governing Period of the historic context of the property.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan further finds that during the *I Mina'Bente na Liheslaturan Guåhan* in 1989, Public Law 20-102, which named the former administration building the "Governor Manuel F.L. Guerrero Building", was introduced as Bill No. 424 (COR) by then-Senators Carl T. C. Gutierrez, Ted S.

1 Nelson, and Joe T. San Agustin and signed and enacted by then-Governor Joseph
2 F. Ada. Pursuant to § 79601, Chapter 79, Title 21 of the Guam Code Annotated,
3 the Guam Capitol District is comprised of the grounds and structures of the old
4 Guam Congress Building, United States Post Office, Skinner Plaza, the Plaza de
5 España and the MFLG Building.

6 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that the MFLG Building is identified on
7 the Guam Historic Resources Division’s Guam Historic Properties Inventory as
8 site number 66-01-1014 and is registered as “GOV GUAM ADMIN BLDG.”
9 Helen Higman-Leidman, Historical Consultant, recorded the documentation of the
10 building in the Guam Register of Historic Places Inventory Data Form on May 25,
11 1979.

12 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that the distinguished physical history
13 of the MFLG Building include the design of the first section of the building by
14 Earnest H. Hara, American Institute of Architects of Honolulu; and the
15 construction, from 1958 to 1961 by Raber-Keef Construction under the
16 administration of the United States Navy and the auspices of President Dwight D.
17 Eisenhower and President John F. Kennedy. The second section of the MFLG
18 Building was built in July 1965 as an addition constructed for the Guam
19 Department of Education offices, authorized by President Lyndon B. Johnson,
20 resulting in an L-shaped complex boasting 53,000 square feet of office space. The
21 MFLG Building currently consists of two structures that are set approximately
22 perpendicular to each other and are linked by a ground-level walk and second-level
23 bridge that scribes a quarter-circle curve connecting the exterior circulation
24 corridors serving each building. The reinforced concrete and concrete masonry
25 building has a ten-foot wide extension circulation corridor partially enclosed on the
26 upper floor by a perforated screen block wall. The walkway on the lower level is

1 unenclosed and bordered by landscaping while the second level bridge articulates
2 the complex by a scalloped canopy roof.

3 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that the historical significance of the
4 MFLG Building is unquestionable, irrefutable and undeniable. It was in this
5 building that the Chamorro leaders of Guam heralded in a new age of political,
6 economic and social prosperity for the people and the government of Guam. The
7 American form of democracy adapted for Guam created a very different path for
8 our history as compared to Guam’s counterparts of Puerto Rico, American Virgin
9 Islands and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The United States’
10 administration of Guam began in 1898 with half a century of martial law and
11 decades of appointed military and civilian governors, during which the people of
12 Guam were relegated as mere wards of the United States. During both the Spanish
13 and United States Navy military colonial administrations, the government of Guam
14 operated under the authority of a military governor appointed by the colonial
15 administrators. The early United States Naval governmental system operated under
16 military rule with the naval governor as the supreme legislative, executive and
17 judicial authority.

18 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that after decades of requests and
19 petitions culminating in the notable “walk out” by the Guam Congress in 1949, the
20 people of Guam and their Chamorro civilian leaders’ desire for a civil government
21 and the recognition of their civil rights were finally achieved. Nearly fifty years of
22 United States Naval administration ended on September 7, 1949, when President
23 Harry S. Truman signed United States Presidential Executive Order 10077
24 transferring the administration of Guam from the Secretary of the Navy to the
25 Secretary of the Interior. Almost a year later, President Truman signed the Organic
26 Act of Guam into law on August 1, 1950.

1 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that the Organic Act of Guam conveyed
2 upon the people of Guam certain rights and protections under the United States
3 Constitution and established a civil government on Guam with three branches of
4 government. It provided the people of the island their first elected legislature under
5 United States administration and established the executive branch of government.

6 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that historically significant individuals
7 and events made the MFLG Building not only a symbol of Guam's humble
8 political beginnings and historic upbringing subsequent to the enactment of the
9 Organic Act of Guam, but also, more recently, as the official government office the
10 Guam Department of Education, the island's largest agency, and the Department of
11 Administration. History tells us that the MFLG Building was the place where
12 Governor Manuel Flores Leon Guerrero, who was first appointed by President
13 John F. Kennedy and subsequently by President Lyndon B. Johnson, served as the
14 first Chamorro Governor of Guam for more than four years from March 1963 to
15 July 1969; where the last appointed and first elected Governor of Guam Carlos
16 Camacho presided and shepherded the people of Guam through the beginnings of
17 the tourism industry on Guam from 1969 to 1974, opening the doors of the island
18 to our current 1.3 million annual visitors; where Governor Ricardo J. Bordallo,
19 who served from 1975 to 1978, overcame unprecedented devastation and led the
20 island through Super Typhoon Pamela and established the foundations for future
21 disaster relief and recovery; and where Governor Paul M. Calvo, whose term ran
22 from 1979 to 1982, welcomed the unparalleled growth of Guam through increased
23 tourism. The rich history of the MFLG Building, which includes the noteworthy
24 individuals and leaders of Guam's post-Organic Act history, also involves the
25 signing of the hundreds of bills into public law by those governors who from their
26 humble offices within the MFLG Building established the entire government of
27 Guam departments and agencies, numerous fiscal year budget acts funding

1 government services for and on behalf of the people of Guam, and the innumerable
2 boards and commissions that have established the foundation of local government.
3 All these laws were enacted, created and conceived in the hallowed halls of this
4 august monument of our historic past.

5 Therefore, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, as the government of Guam entity that
6 has control and supervision of the MFLG Building, intends that the Governor
7 Manuel F. L. Guerrero Building be placed on the Guam Register for Historic
8 Places pursuant to its historic significance and value to the people of Guam.

9 **Section 2. Governor Manuel F. L. Guerrero Building to be Placed on**
10 **the Guam Register of Historic Places.** Notwithstanding any other provision of
11 law, rule, regulation, policy or procedure, the Governor Manuel F. L. Guerrero
12 Building, situated in the municipality of Hagåtña, *shall* be placed on the Guam
13 Register of Historic Places that was established pursuant to § 76506, Chapter 76,
14 Title 21 of the Guam Code Annotated.

15 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Act *shall* be effective upon enactment.

16 **Section 4. Severability.** *If* any provision of this Act or its application to any
17 person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity *shall not* affect other
18 provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without the invalid
19 provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act is severable.