## I MINA' TRE NTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN 2009 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 81(coR)

Introduced by:

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Judith Won Pat, Ed.D.

AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTION (f) OF §15102, TO ADD SUBSECTION (g) TO §15205 ALL OF CHAPTER 15 OF TITLE 4 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO THE DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS.

## BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM: Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.

2009 MAR 23 PH 4: 10 12

I Liheslaturan Guåhan finds that decisions made by officials and employees of the government of Guam should be based solely on what is in the best interest of the public and that it must protect the integrity of its government by prohibiting any government official and employee from engaging in any business or transactions, from rendering services or from having contractual, financial, or personal interests, direct or indirect which are in conflict with or which would create a justifiable impression in the public of conflict or which would tend to impair independence or objectivity of judgment or action in the performance of official duties.

*I Liheslatura* further finds that the government of Guam requires disclosure of the assets and income of elected officials and certain employees so that the public may review actual and potential conflicts of interest. It is

- the intent of *I Liheslatura* to require government officials and employees to disclose financial or personal interest in any proposed matter or decision pending before him.
  - **Section 2.** Subsection (f) of §15102 of Chapter 15 of Title 4 of the Guam Code Annotated is hereby *amended* to read:
- (f) financial interest means an interest held by an individual, his or her spouse, or natural, adopted, or dependent children, parents,

  parents-in-law, siblings, or siblings-in-law which is:
  - (1) an ownership interest in a business;

- (2) a creditor interest in an insolvent business;
- (3) an employment, or prospective employment for which negotiations have begun;
- (4) an ownership interest in personal or real property;
- (5) a loan or other debtor interest; or
- (6) a directorship or officership in a business.
- **Section 3.** Subsection (g) is hereby *added* to §15205 of Chapter 15 of Title 4 of the Guam Code Annotated to read:
  - (g) All employees as defined in this section who knows or with reasonable investigation should know that the employee has a financial interest direct or indirect in any proposed legislation or in any decision pending before that employee or the agency of which the employee is a member shall not vote for or against, discuss, decide, in any way participate in considering the matter or seek to influence the votes or decisions of others on such matter.

Prior to any determination of the matter, the employee shall verbally disclose at the meeting, if any, the nature of such interest, and shall have such disclosure placed on the official records of the agency. Should an employee be absent from that meeting or a portion of that meeting, the employee is required to verbally disclose the nature of the conflict at the next attended meeting and said disclosure shall be placed on the official records of the agency. Further, the employee must complete a Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest form with the Guam Election Commission within three (3) working days upon the employee's recognition of said conflict.

The Guam Election Commission shall be the main repository for the Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest forms and shall create such form to be distributed to all departments, agencies, boards and commissions. Such form shall include, but not limited to, the name of the employee, the entity represented, and a statement of disclosure describing the matter or decision pending before the employee, and the nature and description of the conflict.