

I MINA TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2009 (First) Regular Session

Bill No. 83 (COR)

Introduced by:

v.c. pangelinan

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE TOURIST ATTRACTION FUND TO THE GUAM COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE ERADICATION PROGRAM.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

1 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guahan* finds that
2 since the detection of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (“CRB”) on Tumon Bay in
3 September of 2007, efforts made to contain the infected area has been met with varying
4 success. The University of Guam Cooperative Extension Service created the Coconut
5 Rhinoceros Beetle Eradication Program (“Program”) and has been tasked with the
6 eradication of the CRB. Although, the Program shows signs of success, the funding
7 provided by the Legislature has not been released for use by the eradication team and has
8 greatly hindered the Program from fully accomplishing its goal. To date, the Program has
9 relied on federal grant program funds which are insufficient to accomplish its mission to
10 totally eradicate the CRB from further destroying our coconut trees.

11 *I Liheslaturan Guahan* further finds that Public Law 29-104 appropriated Two
12 Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) from Fiscal Year 2008 General Fund to the
13 Program to strengthen Guam’s eradication efforts against this invasive alien species. It is
14 crucial that the Program be provided the necessary resources to eradicate the CRB and

1 ensure that it does not further infiltrate other parts of the island. The expansion of CRBs
2 presence from Tumon to other areas of Guam is bordering on being catastrophic and must
3 be addressed if we want to save our coconut trees which represent our island's culture
4 and the icon portrayed on our seal. Any further funding delays to the Program diminishes
5 if not extinguishes the opportunity to eradicate the CRB throughout our entire island.

6 *I Liheslaturan Guahan* further finds that it would be devastating for our island
7 and our tourism industry if we allow the CRB to destroy our coconut trees. For over four
8 millennia, we have utilized the coconut tree for various purposes utilizing every part of
9 the tree, stressing the importance of protecting the coconut tree and our way of life.
10 Today, our people continue to use the coconut tree for the same purposes. The tourists
11 also enjoy the coconut trees so essential to our image of a tropical paradise.

12 *I Liheslaturan Guahan* intends to fund CRB Eradication Program through Guam's
13 Visitors Bureau Tourist Attraction Funds as it would affect the quality of Guam's tourism
14 industry.

15 **Section 2. Authorization to Expend Five Hundred Thousand Dollars**
16 **(\$500,000) from the Tourist Attraction Funds for Eradication of the Coconut**
17 **Rhinoceros Beetle.** Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) from the Tourist
18 Attraction Fund's unexpended cash surplus from Fiscal Year 2007 is hereby appropriated
19 to the University of Guam Cooperative Extension Service for the funding of the Guam
20 Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Eradication Program. This funding *shall* continue to be
21 available until expended, shall *not* be subject to *I Maga'lahi's* transfer authority, and is
22 *exempt* from the Bureau of Budget and Management Research's allotment control.

1 **Section 3. Severability.** If any of the provisions of this Act or the application
2 thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any
3 other provision or application of this Act which can be given effect without the invalid
4 provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are severable.