

I MINA' TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2009 (FIRST) Regular Session 2009 JAN 28 PM 1:48 eton

Resolution No. 15 (COR)

Introduced by:

R.J. Respicio
Judith Won Pat
Cynthia Cruz
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F. Bank B. Aguirre

Relative to presenting an Agenda of Priority
Concerns for Guam on Federal-territorial issues
for proposed action to President Barack Obama
and to the Congress of the United States.

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA' TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN
2 GUÅHAN:

3 WHEREAS, President of the United States Barack Obama has
4 expressed his commitment to take action on a number of Federal-territorial
5 issues that continue to have negative affects on Guam and its people; and

6 WHEREAS, As the first President of color, born in Hawaii and raised
7 in a multi-cultural environment, our country's new Commander-In-Chief
8 has a greater understanding and respect for the myriad issues that affect all
9 of America's insular areas; and

10 WHEREAS, for many years, issues including but not limited to
11 reparations for injuries and injustices that occurred during the Second
12 World War; full reimbursement for the impact of Compact citizens on the
13 services and finances of the Government of Guam; and lifting the caps on

1 federal funding for Medicaid, have been left unresolved and are a
2 continuing burden on the people of Guam; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the people of Guam now have a real opportunity to
4 achieve concrete action on these issues and many others that should be
5 formed into Agenda of Priority Concerns for Guam that sets out our
6 priorities to be officially transmitted to President Obama and to the
7 Congress of the United States; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the Agenda of Priority Concerns for Guam is as follows:

- 9 a) Recognition of the Chamorro right to self-determination;
- 10 b) The need for a just political status within the American system;
- 11 c) Resolution of the issue of unreturned ancestral lands;
- 12 d) Necessary funding, as identified by the Guam First Commission,
13 needed to meet capital infrastructure obligations imposed on Guam as a
14 result of the ongoing buildup of U.S. military forces;
- 15 e) Inclusion in the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program for
16 the disabled, which applies to all 50 States and the CNMI but not to Guam;
- 17 f) Exemption from the Jones Act that has an adverse impact on our
18 cost of living, and Guam is the only insular area fully affected by this act;
- 19 d) Establishment of a secure Guam-only Visa-Waiver program for
20 visitors from the Philippines and China in order to foster growth in our
21 tourism economy;

- 1 e) Implementation of War Reparations recommendations as provided
2 for in the Guam Loyalty Recognition Act;
- 3 f) Removal of funding caps on Medicaid and Public Assistance
4 programs mandated by the federal government;
- 5 g) Full reimbursement for the adverse impacts of the Compacts of
6 Free Association on our health, education, and public safety resources;
- 7 h) Necessary funding, as identified by the Guam First Commission,
8 that will be required to meet capital infrastructure obligations imposed on
9 Guam as a result of the buildup, to include but not be limited to utilities,
10 educational facilities and healthcare facilities;
- 11 i) Full participation in the new Administration's proposed economic
12 stimulus legislation, especially as it relates to public facilities, structures
13 and infrastructure projects;
- 14 j) The provision of sufficient health care resources to address the
15 needs of Guam's Veterans;
- 16 k) Cleanup of environmental hazards that were created or
17 augmented by the Federal Government and environmental protections;
- 18 l) Investigation of serious health problems related to Federal activity,
19 including "downwinders," those individuals who resided in Guam at the
20 time of nuclear weapons testing in the Pacific;
- 21 m) Greater participation in Federal mass transit and other public
22 transportation programs; and

1 n) Assistance with economic development initiatives, now, therefore,
2 be it

3 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Trente Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
4 on behalf of the people of Guam, presents this Agenda of Priority Concerns
5 for Guam to Barack Obama, President of the United States, who has
6 expressed his commitment to take action on a number of Federal-territorial
7 issues that continue to have negative affects on Guam and its people; and
8 be it further

9 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Trente Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
10 on behalf of the people of Guam, also present this Agenda of Priority
11 Concerns for Guam to the Congress of the United States; and be it further

12 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairman of the Committee on
13 Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to the adoption hereof
14 and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable
15 Barack Obama, President of the United States; to the Honorable Nancy
16 Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives; to the Honorable Robert C.
17 Byrd, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; to the Honorable Harry
18 Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; to the Honorable Madeleine Z.
19 Bordallo, Delegate to the House of Representatives; and to the Honorable
20 Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'TRENTA NA
LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE _____ DAY OF _____ 2009.

JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed. D.
Speaker

RORY J. RESPICIO
Senator and Chairperson
Committee on Rules

TINA ROSE MUÑA-BARNES
Senator and
Legislative Secretary