

I MINA' TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2010 (SECOND Regular Session)

2010 APR 28 PM 2:41
MUN

Resolution No. 356 -30 (LS)

Introduced by:

R.J. Respicio
J.T. Won Pat
J.P. Guthertz
T.R. Muña Barnes
T.C. Ada

Relative to expressing the support of *I Mina' Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* (the 30th Guam Legislature) for the joint application of Continental Airlines and Continental Micronesia to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), relative to their February 16, 2010 request to provide nonstop service from their airline hub in Guam and their airline hub in New York/Newark to Japan's Haneda airport, which is the closest international airfield to Tokyo's business district.

1 *BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I MINA'*
2 *TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN*

3 WHEREAS, on December 11, 2009, after five rounds of negotiations
4 that began in May of 2009, the governments of both the United States and
5 Japan entered into a new "open skies" agreement with the intent to
6 stimulate free market competition by lifting certain restrictions on
7 international air transportation routes; and

8 WHEREAS, the concept of "open skies" is aimed at boosting
9 competition and lowering fares for consumers by capping government
10 interference in airlines' decisions about routes, capacity and pricing; and

11 WHEREAS, the United States government has been negotiating to
12 deregulate international air service, since 1979, and has reached agreement
13 on treaties that provide "open skies" with more than 90 countries around

1 the globe, including an accord with the European Community in 2007, and

2 **WHEREAS**, “open skies” agreements lift restrictions imposed by
3 governments that seek to limit which carriers can fly international routes,
4 and how often the carriers can fly, by implementing free competition across
5 borders, leading to more consumer choices and lower fares, many studies
6 confirming that airfares have declined from between 15% up to as much as
7 50% on routes between the United States and the more than 90 nations with
8 which open-skies accords have been reached; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the newly negotiated treaty with Japan will replace a
10 restrictive bilateral accord that was first agreed upon in 1952 and expanded
11 in 1998, and will open several slots for additional airlines at Haneda
12 International Airport, Tokyo’s main domestic airport; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the agreement comes on the heels of a 40% capacity
14 expansion at Haneda International Airport, which is located in close
15 proximity to Tokyo’s central business district, providing additional U.S.
16 airline industry access for the first time in over 30 years; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the December 11, 2009 agreement should lead to more
18 convenient connecting opportunities for leisure and business travelers
19 between Tokyo and Guam as well as to many additional locations
20 worldwide; and

21 **WHEREAS**, on February 16, 2010, Continental Airlines, and its
22 wholly-owned subsidiary Continental Micronesia, submitted a joint
23 application to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to
24 provide nonstop service from the carriers’ hubs in Guam and New
25 York/Newark to Haneda International Airport; and

26 **WHEREAS**, pending approval by USDOT, Continental/Continental
27 Micronesia’s proposed nonstop service to Haneda would begin in late 2010,
28 using Boeing 767-400 aircraft from Continental Micronesia’s hub at Guam’s

1 A. B. Won Pat International Airport, and Boeing 777 aircraft from
2 Continental’s New York hub at Newark Liberty International Airport; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Continental Airlines, and predecessors Continental
4 Micronesia and Air Micronesia, have been considered the “hometown
5 airlines” for all of Micronesia and Guam for many years, having been
6 created in 1968, and proving over the years to be the most reliable carrier of
7 passengers and freight within the area, as well as a good corporate citizen
8 and one of the largest employers in the region, even while many other
9 airlines have come and gone; and

10 **WHEREAS**, tourism is our island’s most important industry and by
11 far our island’s largest civilian employer, and Japan is the country from
12 which the majority of visitors to Guam originate, the route from Won Pat
13 International Airport to Haneda International Airport potentially
14 providing additional benefits for Guam, now, therefore, be it

15 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina’ Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* on behalf of
16 the people of Guam, does hereby express its full support for approval of
17 the joint application by Continental Airlines and its wholly-owned
18 subsidiary, Continental Micronesia to the United States Department of
19 Transportation (USDOT), to provide nonstop service from the carriers’
20 hubs in Guam and New York/Newark to Haneda International Airport in
21 Japan; and be it further

22 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary
23 attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter
24 transmitted to the Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary of the United States
25 Department of Transportation; to Jeff Smisek, Chairman, President and
26 Chief Executive Officer, Continental Airlines; to Charles M. Duncan,
27 President and Chief Operating Officer Continental Micronesia; to David B.

- 1 Tydingco, Chairman of the Board, Guam Visitors Bureau; and to Felix P.
- 2 Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'TRENTA NA
LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2010.**

JUDITH T. WON PAT
Speaker

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary

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