

I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
2012 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 330-31 (LS)

As amended by the Author.

Introduced by:

R. J. Respicio
T. C. Ada
Judith P. Guthertz, DPA
V. Anthony Ada
F. F. Blas, Jr.
B. J.F. Cruz
Chris M. Dueñas
Sam Mabini, Ph.D.
T. R. Muña Barnes
Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr.
v. c. pangelinan
Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.
M. Silva Tajeron
Aline A. Yamashita, Ph.D.
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

Relative to requesting that the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo advocate for an adjustment of the schedule of fees charged by the U.S. Consulate in the Republic of the Philippines for B-1 and B-2 visas; and to also formally make the same request of the U.S. Department of State; and to encourage the Department of State to adopt standardized policies relative to the issuance of B-1 and B-2 visas with all nations with which the United States maintains a security agreement, such as that which exists between the United States and the Republic of the Philippines.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN***
2 ***GUÁHAN*:**

3 **WHEREAS, each year, thousands of non-immigrant visa requests are**
4 **submitted to the United States Embassy in Manila, Republic of the Philippines,**

1 including those for B-1 and B-2 visas, which categories include persons traveling as
2 tourists, for medical reasons, for business purposes, and for those wishing to visit
3 ailing family members; and

4 **WHEREAS**, under the current procedures, a fee payment of ₱6,000 (\$140.00)
5 is required from each applicant, regardless of whether the visa request is approved or
6 denied; and

7 **WHEREAS**, this is a significant cost for the people of many nations such as the
8 Philippines, where the average wage is less than Seven Dollars (\$7.00) per day, and
9 appears to be more punitive than necessary when considering that the Philippines is
10 among our country's staunchest allies; and

11 **WHEREAS**, given the strict standards for visa approval and the high denial
12 rate for visa applications from residents of the Philippines, the number of applicants
13 who are required to pay the application fee in spite of being denied a visa is likely to
14 be in the thousands; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the One Hundred Forty Dollars (\$140.00) fee may seem
16 inconsequential by the standards of the U.S. Government, but it does represent nearly
17 a month's wages for the average citizen of the Philippines, and is a considerable
18 financial penalty; and

19 **WHEREAS**, a more compassionate policy that would limit charges to only
20 approved visas would reflect well on the image of the United States and relations with
21 the people of the Philippines; and

22 **WHEREAS**, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* also finds that if the United States
23 Department of State were to adopt standardized policies relative to the issuance of B-1
24 and B-2 visas with all nations for which the United States maintains a security
25 agreement, such as the agreement which currently exists with the Republic of the

1 Philippines, such sensible, consistent policy would be beneficial for all parties
2 involved; now therefore, be it

3 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
4 on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request that the Honorable Madeleine Z.
5 Bordallo, Congresswoman from Guam, advocate with the United States Department
6 of State for a fee schedule adjustment for applications for B-1 and B-2 visas for
7 citizens of the Philippines, so that a fee is applied only for the issuance of approved
8 visas; and be it further

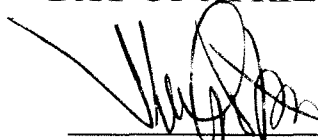
9 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
10 on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request that the Congresswoman from
11 Guam also advocate with the United States Department of State for the adoption of
12 standardized policies relative to the issuance of B-1 and B-2 visas for all nations with
13 which the United States maintains a security agreement, such as that which currently
14 exists with the Republic of the Philippines; and be it further

15 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to,
16 the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the
17 Honorable Harry K. Thomas, Jr., United States Ambassador to the Republic of the
18 Philippines; to the Honorable Bayani V. Mangibin, Philippine Consul General for
19 Guam; to the Honorable Albert F. Del Rosario, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the
20 Republic of the Philippines; to the Honorable Jose L. Cuisia, Jr., Republic of the
21 Philippines Ambassador to the United States; to the Honorable Hillary Rodham
22 Clinton, Secretary of State of the United States of America; to the Honorable
23 Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam Delegate to the United States Congress; and to the
24 Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN* ON THE 27TH DAY OF APRIL 2012.



JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker



TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary