

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

2012 APR - 9 AM 10:03
HLL

Resolution No. 375-31 (Cor)

Introduced by:

F. F. Blas, Jr. 

Relative to recognizing and agreeing with the desires of the Northern Mariana Islands Legislature to form the Mariana Islands Legislature Association and to establish within that entity a Mariana Islands Cooperative Initiative to explore areas of joint economic development and mutual benefit between the governments of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY I LIHESLATURAN GU HAN :**

2 **WHEREAS**, the people of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern
3 Mariana Islands (CNMI) share a common heritage, history and language, our
4 separation caused by events of history outside our control; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the unincorporated territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of
6 the Northern Mariana Islands are both strategically located in the Western Pacific
7 chain of islands known as the Mariana Islands Archipelago; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the indigenous people of Guam and the CNMI have for long
9 freely established contacts and interacted with one another before being “discovered”
10 by Westerners; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Mariana Islands that was once one was separated by
12 geopolitical necessity and strategic convenience; more importantly, Guam and the

1 CNMI proudly share the same indigenous culture, language, ethnicity, and history;
2 while at the same time, share common interests and concerns such as in the tourism
3 market, barriers to economic development in part due to the unanticipated effects of
4 federal statutes and regulations and indigenous ancestral ties; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the governments of Guam and the CNMI have the freedom and
6 power to enter into mutually beneficial agreements concerning public areas of
7 cooperation, including government and political exchange and cooperation; and

8 **WHEREAS** the members of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* recognize that the
9 Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature is desirous in establishing an
10 alliance of legislators from the Mariana Islands evident by the adoption of House Joint
11 Resolution 17-1 calling for the formation of the Mariana Islands Legislature
12 Association; now, therefore be it

13 **RESOLVED**, that the members of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* believe that now is
14 an appropriate time for the representatives of the territory of Guam and the CNMI to
15 mutually discuss and explore areas of possible cooperation for mutual benefit,
16 including but not limited to joint economic development, law enforcement assistance,
17 academic and cultural exchanges, health care facilities, personnel and governmental or
18 political exchanges and cooperation and to examine the possibility of creating a
19 formal entity for these purposes consisting of an equal number of representatives from
20 the CNMI and Guam; and be it further

21 **RESOLVED**, that *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, on behalf of the people of Guam,
22 does hereby support the discussion and formation of the Mariana Islands Legislators
23 Association (MILA); and be it further

24 **RESOLVED**, that *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* respectfully suggest the discussion of
25 a Mariana Islands Cooperative Initiative and the establishment of a sub-group within
26 the Mariana Islands Legislature Association to explore areas of joint economic

1 development and mutual benefit between the governments of Guam and the
2 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and be it further

3 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to,
4 the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the
5 Honorable Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam Delegate to the United
6 States Congress; to the Honorable Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan,
7 CNMI Delegate to the United States Congress; to the Honorable Eliceo Diaz Cabrera,
8 Speaker of the House, 17th Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature; to
9 the Honorable Paul A. Manglona, President of the Senate, 17th Northern Mariana
10 Islands Commonwealth Legislature; to the Honorable Members of the 17th
11 Commonwealth Legislature; to the Honorable Benigno R. Fitial, Governor of the
12 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and to the Honorable Edward J.B.
13 Calvo, *I Maga'lahen Guåhan*.