Relative to Adopting Zero Waste as a guiding principle for Sustainable Materials Management and Supporting the Creation and Adoption of a Zero Waste Plan For Guam in order to preserve the Lanyon landfill for generations to come.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I MINA’ TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:

WHEREAS, I Liheslaturan Guåhan recognizes and acknowledges the clear connection between waste reduction, recycling, resource recovery and beneficial reuse issues and the need to change unsustainable consumption and production patterns while protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development; and

WHEREAS, I Liheslaturan Guåhan finds that based on recent estimates, the expected life of the landfill will be 35-40 years, with the Military as a customer and 45-50 years without the Military. The life span of the landfill can be extended only with
effective implementation of waste reduction, recycling, resource recovery and beneficial reuse programs; and

WHEREAS, Liheslaturan Guåhan recognizes that its work in establishing the Recycling Revolving Fund, Recycling Enterprise Zones at the Port Authority of Guam, and the Guam Beverage Recycling Act of 2010 were all steps towards the eventual establishing of a sustainable zero waste community for Guam; and

WHEREAS, developing and implementing a zero waste strategy should be measured, evaluated and achieved by utilizing current and accepted methodologies, such as environmental systems management and life cycle analysis, to support science based policies and operations; and

WHEREAS, Guam’s limited and valuable land resource and fragile environment must be preserved and protected. The protection of the environment, both terrestrial and aquatic, stimulation of the economy, and distribution of equity can be achieved by promoting waste reduction, recycling, resource recovery and beneficial reuse through Zero Waste practices in the public and private sectors; and

WHEREAS, the use of the term “zero waste” includes "Zero Solid Waste", "Zero Hazardous Waste", “Zero Toxics” and "Zero Emissions." The goals of “zero waste” embody the need for a closed-looped waste management system, in which waste is a sign of inefficiency and the entire concept of waste should be eliminated; and

WHEREAS, waste should be thought of as a “residual product” or simply a “potential resource” for beneficial reuse to counter the basic acceptance of waste as a normal course of events. Zero Waste strategies consider the entire life-cycle of products, processes and systems in the context of a comprehensive systems understanding of our interactions with nature and the search for inefficiencies at all stages; and

WHEREAS, Zero Waste is a community-based model that aims to eliminate or minimize landfill disposal by the application of simple solutions and sustainable materials management systems that are healthy for our people, and our island; and
WHEREAS, The Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials has endorsed developing a Zero Waste Strategy, a significant component in implementing a comprehensive (waste) materials management program for small island developing states like Guam through both regulatory and cooperative environmental governance; and

WHEREAS, Because of its mission the Solid Waste Management Authority will have the primary responsibility for implementing the Guam Zero Waste Plan and developing the outreach and educational components required to educate and inform the public; and

WHEREAS, the Guam Environmental Protection Agency and its Division of Air and Land should work collaboratively with the Solid Waste Management Authority, and the Office of the Governor to synchronize its permitting process so that it will reflect and incorporate Zero Waste principals into all of permitting and monitoring functions and systems; and

WHEREAS, Zero Waste is a critical stepping stone to other necessary steps in the effort to protect health, improve equity, and reach sustainability. Zero Waste can be linked to sustainable agriculture, permaculture, architecture, energy, industrial, economic and community development; and

WHEREAS, a Zero Waste strategy supports all three of the generally accepted goals of sustainability, that is, environmental protection as well as economic and social well-being. Environmental protection is enhanced by reducing (ideally to zero) hazardous and solid wastes to nature and by reducing the need for energy generation and hydrocarbon extraction. Economic well-being is improved by enabling organizations to identify inefficiencies in processes, products and services and thereby to find cost-saving solutions to them.
WHEREAS, Social well-being is enhanced through efficiency improvements that allow more resources to be available for all. In addition, more complete use of "wastes" may additionally create jobs in return logistics and reprocessing activities; and

WHEREAS, I Liheslaturan Guåhan finds that the concept of “sustainable materials management,” within the last several years, has increasingly captured the attention of environmental managers and the public. As recent discussions have focused on energy efficiency, resource conservation, the release of greenhouse gases, climate change and toxins, it has become increasingly clear that the way we manage and use materials, across their full life cycle, has a critical effect on the world’s environmental health; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has described the importance of how we manage materials in its report, Sustainable Materials Management: The Road Ahead (2009). In the report, EPA argued that, to ensure a sustainable society, we need to rethink how we manage materials – and indeed which materials we use by looking at the full life cycle of materials from extraction to production to use to disposal; and

WHEREAS, I Liheslaturan Guåhan is committed to protecting and enhancing environmental quality now and for future generations; and

WHEREAS, over one hundred thousand of tons of materials are generated in Guam each year by residents, businesses, organizations, and institutions, and approximately 85% of this amount is sent for landfill disposal; and

WHEREAS, the placement of materials in landfills can cause damage to human health, wastes natural resources, and irresponsibly transfers liabilities to future generations; and

WHEREAS, waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and composting are material management options that conserve resources while reducing environmental impacts; and
WHEREAS, increased recycling, permaculture and composting will increase the
cost-efficiency of local publicly supported recycling facilities and programs; and
WHEREAS, increased recycling saves energy, water, natural resources, reduces
air and water pollution, reduces the damage caused by extracting resources from the
environment, and reduces the need for landfill facilities; and
WHEREAS, a resource recovery based economy will sustain, on a per-ton basis,
up to ten times more jobs than land filling or incineration, and these jobs will be more
productive and meaningful; and
WHEREAS, increasingly, U.S. and international governments and organizations
are adopting the policy that the financial responsibility of collecting, recycling, and
disposing of materials belongs with producers and importers; and
WHEREAS, recognizing that voluntary recycling goals have not, and in all
probability cannot, achieve waste elimination; and
WHEREAS, the Zero Waste philosophy accepts that the earth’s ability to support
life is finite and that natural resources must be used in the most efficient and
sustainable way possible; and
WHEREAS, the guiding principles of Zero Waste are: managing resources
instead of waste; conserving natural resources through waste prevention and recycling;
turning discarded resources into jobs and new products instead of trash; promoting
products and materials that are durable and recyclable; and discouraging products and
materials that can only become trash after their use; and
WHEREAS, I Liheslaturan Guåhan calls for the creation and implementation of a
Guam Zero Waste Plan; and now therefore be it
RESOLVED, that the Committee on Rules of I Mina' Trentai Dos Na
Liheslaturan Guåhan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, call for the
Guam Zero Waste Plan to be designed to achieve the initial goal of increasing waste
diversion for the Government of Guam and for the island as a whole, to 60% or better
by the year 2016. The ultimate goal of the Guam Zero Waste Plan is to eliminate waste
by 2022, thereby preserving the current landfill for generations to come, before having
to spend the hundreds of millions of dollars in resources needed to build another
landfill, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on
Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that
copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the following officials: the President
of the Recycling Association of Guam, the Administrator of the Guam
Environmental Protection Agency, to the Administrator of the Air and Land
Division of the Guam Environmental Protection Agency, to the Administrator,
Operations Manager and members of the Board of the Solid Waste Management
Authority, to the Special Assistant to the Governor of Guam for the Office of the
Military Build Up, to the Western Regional Office of Economic Adjustment, of
the Department of Defense, to the Vice President of Matrix Consulting, to the
members of the Board of the Association of the State and Territorial Solid Waste
Managers, to the Administrator of Region Nine of the United States Environmental
Protection Agency, to the President of the Association of Pacific Island
Legislatures, to the Pacific Island Regional Recycling Initiative of the Council of
Micronesian Chief Executives, to the Director-General of the Secretariat of the
Pacific Regional Environment Programme, to the Office of Congresswoman
Bordallo, and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, I Maga'lahen Guåhan.
DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES
OF I MINA’ TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THIS DAY
OF JULY 2013.

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JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.  RORY J. RESPICIO
Speaker  Chairperson, Committee on Rules

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TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary