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<td>261-32 (COR)</td>
<td>Aline A. Yamashita, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Relative to requesting that Guam be considered a State by the United States Department of Labor for the purpose of participating in the federally-funded Unemployment Insurance Program for Ex-Servicemembers.</td>
<td>10/23/2013 3:04 p.m.</td>
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Resolution No. 261-32 (COR)

Introduced by: Aline A. Yamashita, PhD

Relative to requesting that Guam be considered a State by the United States Department of Labor for the purpose of participating in the federally-funded Unemployment Insurance Program for Ex-Servicemembers.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I MINA'TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATUREUAN GUåHAH:

WHEREAS, the Guam soldier, as part of the United States military service, has bravely served and contributed to every war endeavor from World War II to today’s Operation Enduring Freedom as part of the national effort to preserve the peace and the rights, and to protect the liberties and the freedoms that we avail ourselves of today as citizens of the great nation of the United States of America; and
WHEREAS, while we are proud that throughout generations the Guam soldier, sailor, marine and airman, national guardmember and reservist has continually and repeatedly been recognized for outstanding service during and in respective military duties and that nationally Guam maintains the highest enlistment statistics per capita, we are also equally humbled by the fact that we have the highest loss per capita of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in service of our great nation to ensure that all United States citizens are afforded the rights, liberties, freedom and opportunities that are bestowed upon us as citizens of this great country; and

WHEREAS, to add to our island territory’s pride in our legacy of soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines who have served us both locally and nationally as part of our country’s active military service in past wars and in times of conflict when our military servicemembers were deployed to preserve peace and stability in order to ensure regional as well as national security taking part of efforts in distant foreign counties, and
WHEREAS, the most recent Guam National Guard regiment to have been sent to war in support of Operation Enduring Freedom is one of the largest; totaling about six-hundred (600) citizen soldiers from the Guam Army National Guard and the Guam Air National Guard, and of the total it is disconcerting and shocking that nearly half of our servicemembers will be unemployed upon returning home during the first few months of 2014 after diligently and loyally working to protect and maintain the peace, rights, liberties, opportunities and freedoms afforded to all United States of America citizens who live in Guam and throughout the fifty (50) states and US territories and possessions; and

WHEREAS, out of the Guam population of about one hundred sixty thousand (160,000 people) as per the 2010 US Census, our veterans account for about more than approximately eight thousand (8,000) or, according to figures provided in May 2013 by the Office of Veterans’ Affairs, possibly more than thirteen thousand (13,000), and it is plausible to argue that this number will only increase when our proud national guardmembers return at the beginning of next year in January 2014; and
WHEREAS, Guam’s unemployment rate has increased from 11.8 percent in March 2012 to 13.3 percent in March 2013—and coupled with the national unemployment rates of 8.2 percent and 7.6 percent for the same times, according to the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics—there is an undeniable need to address the social welfare of our people in finding employment to assist them in making ends meet and supporting the needs of their families as well as to continue to grow the island’s economy; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Eddie Baza Calvo, I Maga Laken Guahan, Governor of Guam, has in recognition of the high unemployment rate of the island’s returning soldiers and airman, launched this year the “Operation Keep Your Guard Up” employment initiative intended to help deployed Guam servicemembers return home to a community with opportunities ready to assist them in successfully finding gainful employment; and

WHEREAS, Governor Calvo has publicly stated that "I made that promise that while they are out there in harm’s way protecting our lives
and our lifestyle; our ability to reach our full potential, that we would work
hard here in the community to make it a better island so when they do
come back, it'd be better off than when they left. That is our continued
commitment. Now we also have to focus on them;" and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Labor, in recognition of
hardships that our loyal military veterans face when returning to the
homeland relative to employment, established a program to help our
veterans get back on their economic feet in the form of the “Unemployed
Compensation for Ex-Servicemembers” program; and

WHEREAS, according to the official website of the United States
Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration the
Unemployment Compensation for Ex-servicemembers (UCX) program
provides benefits for eligible ex-military personnel and former members of
the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
and U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps and the
program is administered by the States as agents of the Federal government;
and those who qualify include those who were on active duty with a
branch of the U.S. military, been separated under honorable conditions

with no payroll deduction from servicemembers’ wages for unemployment

insurance protection and the benefits are paid for by the various branches

of the military, NOAA or USPHS; and

WHEREAS, all the contiguous fifty (50) states of the United States of

America, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia and

The United States Virgin Islands are identified as “States” for the purpose

of participating in the “Unemployed Compensation for Ex-

Servicemembers” program; which, by federal law, certain members of the

U.S. military receive Unemployment Compensation based on their active

duty service, receiving weekly income as they look for employment; now,

therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that I Minat Trentai Dos Na Lihesluran Guåhan, on behalf

of the people of Guam does hereby, request that Guam be considered a

State by the United States Department of Labor for the purpose of

participating in the federally-funded Unemployment Insurance Program

for Ex-Servicemembers; now therefore, be it
RESOLVED, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attests to, the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to The Honorable Barack H. Obama, President of the United States of America; The Honorable Carl Levin, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services; The Honorable Bernard “Bernie” Sanders, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs; The Honorable Thomas “Tom” Harkin, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions; The Honorable Howard “Buck” McKeon, Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Armed Services; The Honorable Jeff Miller, Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs; The Honorable John Kline, Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce; The Honorable Thomas E. Perez, U.S. Secretary of Labor; The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki, U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs; the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam Delegate to the U.S. Congress; Mr. Cel J.R. Aguigui, Mr. Larry C. Cruz and Mr. Frank D. Blas, Founders of the National Organization for Chamorro Veterans in America; Mr. Bill Cundiff,
Chairman, Guam Veterans' Commission; Mr. Jay Rojas, liaison,
Washington D.C. Office of the Governor of Guam; and to The Honorable
Eddie Baza Calvo, I Maga’lahen Guåhan.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON
RULES OF I MINA’TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON
THE ___ DAY OF __________ 2013.

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

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Secretary of the Legislature