

I MINA'TRENTAI KUÁTTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
RESOLUTION STATUS

| Resolution No. | Sponsor | Title | Date Intro | Date of Presentation | Date Adopted | Date Referred | Referred to | PUBLIC HEARING DATE | DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED | NOTES |
|----------------|---|--|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| 242-34 (COR) | Fernando Esteves Telena Cruz Nelson William M. Castro | Relative to requesting that Congresswoman Bordallo and members of Congress seek an alternate source of funding for War Reparations due the people of Guam. | 9/21/17 5:17 p.m. | | | | | | | |

I MINA'TRENTAI KUÁTTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
2017 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 242-34 (COR)

Introduced by:

Fernando Barcinas Esteves F.B.E.
Telena C. Nelson
William M. Castro

Relative to requesting that Congresswoman Bordallo and members of Congress seek an alternate source of funding for War Reparations due the people of Guam.

2017 SEP 21 PM 5:17
F.M.M.

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

3 **WHEREAS**, more than seventy years have passed since the Japanese
4 occupation of Guam during World War II, a 32-month period where Chamorro people
5 suffered greatly as the United States and Japan turned their island home into a
6 battlefield. In the intervening years, as other communities in the Pacific and the
7 United States have been compensated and recognized for their suffering, the
8 Chamorro people of Guam have not; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Guam is an unincorporated territory of the United States of
10 America wherein the government of the United States of America has full discretion
11 to negotiate all international affairs that affect Guam and its people without consent of
12 the governed; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the United States administering in its capacity as the colonial
14 power signed the Treat of Peace with Japan in 1951 on behalf of the Chamorro people
15 who were egregiously affected by Japanese occupation. Pursuant to Article XIV of the

1 Treat of Peace with Japan, Japan was released of any obligations of reparations owed
2 to the people of Guam for atrocities and hardships inflicted; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in December 2016, the island received notification that war
4 reparations passed by the US Congress. Elation of the news was quickly soured when
5 details of how reparations would be provided were provided. While the proposed law
6 would compensate the families of those who died in Guam during World War II and
7 those living survivors who experienced various atrocities, Section 30 monies were
8 identified as the funding source; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Section 30 monies are made of up the taxes from US Federal
10 employees and retirees living on Guam. Pursuant to the Organic Act of Guam they are
11 earmarked specifically to be given to the Government of Guam. In essence under the
12 proposed law for war reparations, compensation for what Chamorro war survivors
13 suffered would come from monies already earmarked for Guam to receive. The use of
14 Section 30 funds, rather than a separate funding source turns what a long-awaited
15 resolution to a tragic era of Guam's history, into a potential insult, summarily
16 providing that Guam will be paying its own reparations; and

17 **WHEREAS**, this central problem overshadows other disconcerting aspects of
18 war reparations as it currently exists inclusive, but not limited to the vagueness of
19 Section 30 funding thresholds, eligibility of World War II occupation survivors, the
20 lack of compensation for surviving family members of those who would have been
21 eligible, an understanding that atrocities committed during Japanese occupation has
22 caused generational problems for the Chamorro people, the fact that 5% of all war
23 reparations if being paid to an office of the US State Department, and that the
24 administering office conducted no outreach to the community. These issues threaten to
25 make what was intended as a solemn process of recognition and healing in an effort to
26 achieve closure, into something that cruelly reminds us of our second-class status and

1 the continued colonization of our island. In this way, despite the passage of war
2 reparations, this issue, the decolonization of Guam, and others, remain emblematic of
3 the need to change Guam's political status to one where our concerns and our suffrage
4 both historical and present are taken serious; now, therefore, be it

5 **RESOLVED**, *I Mina' Trentai Kuåttro Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
6 on behalf of people of Guam request that the Honorable Congresswoman Madeleine
7 Z. Bordallo and members of Congress seek an alternate source of funding in the Fiscal
8 Year 2018 Budget for war reparations owed to the Chamorro people of Guam; and be
9 it further

10 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
11 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
12 the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Congresswoman Madeleine Z.
13 Bordallo and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI KUÅTTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE ____ DAY OF ____ 2017.

BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ
Speaker

RÉGINE BISCOE LEE
Legislative Secretary