

***I MINA 'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2009 (FIRST) Regular Session**

Bill No. 113 (COR)

Introduced by:

Tina Rose Muna Barnes  
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**AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE *I MAGA'LAHI*, THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM TO INVEST GOVERNMENT OF GUAM RESOURCES OUTSIDE THE TERRITORY FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A LODGING FACILITY FOR THE USE OF RESIDENTS OF GUAM, TO BE CALLED "*SAGAN I CONSOLACION TAOTAO GUAHAN*" AND TO ADD SUBSECTION (G) AND (E) TO §4103 OF 12 GCA CHAPTER 4**

1 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2 **Section 1. Legislative findings and intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan***

3 finds a large number of our residents are referred by our local physicians to seek further  
4 medical testing and treatments off-island, primarily to the Republic of the Philippines, the  
5 U.S. State of Hawaii and California. Although, our medical community on Guam  
6 Continues to make great stride in improving the services and facilities that are offered to  
7 our people, many times specialized care and facilities not available on Guam are required  
8 to care for our people. It is estimated that over 350 Guam residents travel to the  
9 Philippines per month to seek medical care at either St. Luke's Medical Center, Asian  
10 Hospital, Medical City, or Makati Medical Center. The Philippines is approximately 1,597  
11 miles from Guam and a 3.5 hour flight. Aside from its proximity, it is also financially  
12 feasible to travel to the Philippines due to the higher value of the US Dollar versus the  
13 Philippine Pesos.

1 Most health insurance plans cover a yearly physical examinations to its insured in the  
2 amount of about \$250. A \$250 health examination in a Philippine hospital covers an  
3 extensive medical exam, which includes blood works, x-rays, ultra-sounds, upper  
4 respiratory checks, cardio vascular screening and other intensive health checks. For this  
5 reason, many of our Guamanian brothers and sisters choose to travel to the Philippines to  
6 seek medical attention. *I Liheslatura* further finds that for Guamanians who are ordered  
7 by local doctors to seek treatment off-island, the Philippines is the only option available  
8 to them due to insufficient financial ability to travel elsewhere such as the US Mainland  
9 or Hawaii. It is in cases such as these that our Guamanian residents are left with no other  
10 choice but to travel the shorter distance and less costly airfare to the Philippines. *I*  
11 *Liheslatura* finds that residents who do travel to Manila, especially the “first timers” are  
12 lost and not properly guided. Many times traveling families on a medical evacuation are  
13 under an extreme amount of stress in caring for their sick loved ones. *I Liheslatura* finds  
14 that at the very least, these families should be able to have access to a comfortable, safe,  
15 reliable, and most especially affordable lodging facility. *I Liheslatura* finds that the  
16 present housing/hotel facilities that are frequented by Guamanians who seek medical care  
17 at either St. Luke’s Medical Hospital, Asian Hospital, or Makati Medical Clinic are  
18 inconvenient and lack the homely setting required for families under duress and a time of  
19 crisis. It is the intent of *I Liheslatura Guahan* to purchase and/or lease real estate  
20 property in the Republic of the Philippines for the establishment of a housing/lodging  
21 facility for the primary use of residents from Guam. It is the intent of *I Liheslatura* to  
22 name this facility the “SAGAN I CONSOLACION TAOTAO GUAHAN”. *I Liheslatura*  
23 intends this facility to be a non-profit organization supervised and regulated by the

1 government of Guam or its appointed representative. In order to offset costs, it is the  
2 intent of *I Liheslatura* to require all offices operated in the Philippines either directly by  
3 the government of Guam or a third party private company contracted by the government  
4 of Guam to lease office space at this building. *I Liheslaturan Guahan* further intends that  
5 all employees, officers, Board of Directors, the Governor and Lt. Governor, Senators,  
6 Mayors, and all individuals traveling to the Philippines on government of Guam funds  
7 utilize “*SAGAN I CONSOLACION TAOTAO GUAHAN*” as their primary lodging facility.  
8 In order to facilitate the reality of this bold initiative that will once and for all ensure our  
9 Guamanian brothers and sisters receive every support from the government in times of a  
10 medical crisis, it is *I Liheslatura Guahan*’s intention to utilize portions of the Guam  
11 Housing Corporations (GHC) \$12 Million surplus funds that the Office of the Public  
12 Auditor (OPA) has recently uncovered. It is also the intention of *I Liheslaturan Guahan*  
13 that the Guam Housing Corporation be directed as the lead government of Guam entity to  
14 carry out the mandate of this Act. The GHC shall be guided by other successful programs  
15 similar to this concept, such as the Ronald McDonald House.

16           **Section 2. A new subsection (g) and (e) of 12 GCA §4103 of**  
17 **Chapter 4 is hereby added to read:**

18           “(g) To expend Guam Housing Corporation funds to invest in the Republic of  
19 the Philippines to either purchase or lease real estate property for the purpose of operating  
20 a serviced lodging facility for the use of residents of Guam, primarily residents who are  
21 seeking medical treatment.”

22           “(e) To directly operate or put out for public bid the day to day operation of a  
23 comfortable, safe, reliable, and affordable serviced lodging facility in the Republic of the  
24 Philippines that will primarily cater to Guam residents and families who are  
25 seeking medical care or treatment at a Philippine medical hospital.

1                   **Section 2. Authorization.** Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, *I*  
2                   *Maga'lahaen Guahan*, the Governor of Guam is hereby authorized to identify real  
3                   estate property, either a vacate land or existing building and to negotiate a lease or  
4                   outright purchase of that property in the Republic of the Philippines. This real estate  
5                   property is to be located within the Metro Manila area and be utilized for the  
6                   purposes of housing a lodging facility that will primarily be used to house families  
7                   from Guam to stay together and be in close distance to their treatment hospital. *I*  
8                   *Maga'lahaen Guahan* shall direct the Guam Housing Corporation (GHC) to upon  
9                   enactment of this Act begin the process of acquiring such real estate property,  
10                  inclusive of gathering the requirements that are needed for a foreign government to  
11                  purchase real estate in the Philippines. *I Maga'lahaen Guahan* is hereby authorized to  
12                  expend not more than Ten Percent (10%) of the Twelve Million Dollar (\$12 Million)  
13                  surplus as identified by the OPA for the project.

14                  **Section 3. Special Requirement.** Any and all individuals  
15                  traveling to the Philippines on government of Guam paid funds, including funds paid  
16                  for by any autonomous agency and require lodging, shall patronize “*SAGAN I*  
17                  *CONSOLACION TAOTAO GUAHAN*”. Should the facility not have room  
18                  availability for intended period requested, then the government of Guam funded  
19                  traveler shall request a certification from the General Manager of the facility attesting  
20                  to the non-availability. No government of Guam funds shall be expended on any hotel,  
21                  motel, serviced apartments, or any other lodging facility in the Republic of the  
22                  Philippines unless accompanied by said certification.