

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

Resolution No. 15 (COR)

As substituted by the Committee on
Rules and amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

R. J. Respicio
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.
A. B. Palacios, Sr.
Judith P. Guthertz, DPA
B. J.F. Cruz
T. R. Muña Barnes
F. B. Aguon, Jr.
T. C. Ada
F. F. Blas, Jr.
E. J.B. Calvo
J. V. Espaldon
v. c. pangelinan
M. J. Rector
Telo Taitague
Ray Tenorio

**Relative to presenting an Agenda of Priority Concerns for
Guam on federal-territorial issues for proposed action to
President Barack Obama, and to the Congress of the United
States.**

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN**
2 **GUÅHAN:**

3 **WHEREAS**, the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
4 States, has expressed his commitment to take action on a number of federal-
5 territorial issues that continue to have negative effects on Guam and its
6 people; and

7 **WHEREAS**, as the first President of color, born in Hawaii, and raised in
8 a multi-cultural Pacific island environment, our country's new Commander-
9 in-Chief has a greater understanding and respect for the myriad issues that
10 affect all of America's insular areas; and

11 **WHEREAS**, for many years, issues including, but *not limited to*, war
12 reparations for injuries and injustices that occurred during the Second World
13 War; full reimbursement for the impact of Compact citizens on the services
14 and finances of the government of Guam; and lifting the caps on federal
15 funding for Medicaid, have been left unresolved and are a continuing burden
16 on the people of Guam; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the people of Guam now have a real opportunity to achieve
18 concrete action on these issues, and many others, that *should* be formed into
19 an Agenda of Priority Concerns for Guam that sets out our priorities to be
20 officially transmitted to President Obama, and to the Congress of the United
21 States; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the Agenda of Priority Concerns for Guam are as follows:

1 (a) Recognition of the right to self-determination of the native
2 inhabitants of Guam;

3 (b) The need for a just political status, and a political status
4 plebiscite;

5 (c) Resolution of the issue of unreturned ancestral lands by way
6 of a return of lands, either the actual land involved, *or* equivalent
7 parcels;

8 (d) Implementation of War Reparations recommendations as
9 provided for in the Guam Loyalty Recognition Act;

10 (e) Necessary funding, as identified by the Guam First
11 Commission, that is needed to meet capital infrastructure obligations
12 imposed on Guam as a result of the ongoing buildup of U.S. military
13 forces, including, utilities, educational facilities and healthcare facilities;

14 (f) Inclusion in the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program
15 for the disabled, which applies to all fifty (50) States and the
16 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), but *not* to
17 Guam;

18 (g) Exemption from the Jones Act, which has an adverse impact
19 on our cost of living, and Guam being the *only* insular area fully affected
20 by this Act;

21 (h) Removal of funding caps on Medicaid and Public Assistance
22 programs mandated by the federal government;

1 (i) Full reimbursement for impact costs of the Compacts of Free
2 Association on our government resources;

3 (j) The provision of sufficient health care resources to address
4 the needs of Guam's Veterans and all of Guam's families;

5 (k) Cleanup of environmental hazards that were created *or*
6 augmented by the federal government, and environmental protections;

7 (l) Investigation and treatment of serious health problems
8 related to federal activity, including, "downwinders", those individuals
9 who resided in Guam at the time of nuclear weapons testing in the
10 Pacific;

11 (m) Full participation in the new Administration's economic
12 stimulus legislation, especially as it relates to public facilities, structures
13 and infrastructure projects and public safety facilities;

14 (n) Greater participation in federal mass transit and other public
15 transportation programs;

16 (o) Establishment of a secure Guam-only Visa Waiver program
17 for visitors, in order to foster growth in our tourism economy;

18 (p) Assistance with other economic development initiatives;

19 (q) Reimbursement of the Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC)
20 paid *or* owed to Guam tax filers by the government of Guam since the
21 inception of the program and payment of all future EITC payments
22 obligations; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the people of Guam call upon the Department of
2 Homeland Security to re-assess its current position on the exclusion of Russia
3 and the People’s Republic of China from the list of approved countries for the
4 Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program and also request a one hundred eighty
5 (180) extension of the June 1, 2009, implementation date for the revised Guam-
6 CNMI Visa Waiver Program; now, therefore, be it

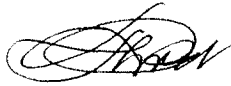
7 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina’Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on
8 behalf of the people of Guam, present this Agenda of Priority Concerns for
9 Guam to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States, who
10 has expressed his commitment to take action on a number of federal-
11 territorial issues that continue to have negative effects on Guam and its
12 people; and be it further

13 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina’Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on
14 behalf of the people of Guam, also present this Agenda of Priority Concerns
15 for Guam to the Congress of the United States; and be it further


16 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary
17 attests to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter
18 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; to
19 the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives; to the
20 Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; to the
21 Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; to the Honorable
22 Janet Napolitano, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security; to the

1 Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam Delegate to the House of
2 Representatives; to the Honorable Benigno R. Fitial, Governor of the
3 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; to the Northern Mariana
4 Islands Commonwealth Legislature; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I*
5 *Maga'lahaen Guåhan.*

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'TRENTA NA
LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 27TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2009.**



JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker



vicente c. pangelinan
Acting Legislative Secretary