

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

Resolution No. 174-30 (LS)

As substituted by the Committee on Rules, Natural Resources, and Federal, Foreign and Micronesian Affairs.

Introduced by:

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

Relative to committing to, and seeking, the necessary funding for the planning, design, and construction necessary to refurbish, restore, and properly modernize the Guam Legislature Building.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I**
2 ***MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN:***

3 **WHEREAS**, in 1947, the United States Navy began construction on the
4 Guam Legislature Building, originally known as the “Guam Congress
5 Building”, as part of the island’s post-war rebuilding efforts, with the intent
6 that the building serve as the home of the House of Council and the House of
7 Assembly of the Guam Congress; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the building was completed on July 8, 1948, and on July 21,
9 1948, was presented to the people of Guam by Rear Admiral Charles A.
10 Pownall, Naval Governor of Guam; and

11 **WHEREAS**, in addition to serving as the home of the Guam Congress,
12 the building later also temporarily housed the Island District Court and the
13 Territorial Court of Guam; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Congress Building was the site of the famous
15 “walkout” by Guam Congress members in March of 1949, eventually leading
16 to action by the United States Congress and President Harry S. Truman to
17 enact the Organic Act of Guam and grant the people of Guam American
18 citizenship; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the unicameral Guam Legislature, created by the Organic
20 Act to replace the Guam Congress, took over what has come to be known, and
21 hereinafter referred to, as the Guam Legislature Building, beginning its first
22 term of service in January 1951; and

1 **WHEREAS**, a string of natural disasters over the ensuing four (4)
2 decades, combined with a lack of funding needed to properly modernize the
3 building for contemporary use, reduced the functionality and safety of the
4 Guam Legislature Building, requiring the relocation of the Legislature’s
5 offices in 1990; and

6 **WHEREAS**, having met the criteria necessary to be considered a historic
7 place, which includes historic value, political importance, cultural
8 significance, or architectural worthiness, or any combination thereof, the
9 historic Guam Legislature Building was added to the listing of the National
10 Register of Historic Places on February 1, 2007 as Item No. 66-01-1102; and

11 **WHEREAS**, during the almost twenty (20) years since moving from its
12 home, *I Liheslatura* has been spending nearly half a million dollars a year in
13 rental fees for various buildings in order to conduct legislative business,
14 including sessions, public hearings, and meetings, and to provide office space
15 for the senators and central office staff; and

16 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Rule XVII Section 17.11.05 of *I Mina’Trenta na*
17 *Liheslaturan Guåhan Otden Areklamento* (the Thirtieth Guam Legislature
18 Standing Rules), the Committee on Rules, on behalf of *I Mina’Trenta Na*
19 *Liheslaturan Guåhan*, has begun efforts to restore and properly modernize the
20 building for contemporary use, with the financial and technical assistance of
21 the Guam Preservation Trust; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the Trust is mandated to restore and rebuild island

1 structures that are reflective of our island’s history, culture, and people; and
2 the objective of the restoration of the Guam Legislature Building is to preserve
3 its historic value by returning the structure as much as possible to its original
4 state, while still conforming with modern codes, laws, mandates, functions
5 and uses; and

6 **WHEREAS**, funding has been identified within the Trust to restore the
7 building to its original footprint - to include the existing west side Session
8 Hall, the existing east side Council Chamber, the south side Speaker’s wing
9 (which must be reconstructed), and the north side wing (which also must be
10 reconstructed); and

11 **WHEREAS**, it is the intent of *I Mina’Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* to
12 adequately house certain offices within the revitalized Guam Legislature
13 Building, including certain sections of central operations, as well as offices for
14 the Speaker, Vice-Speaker, Legislative Secretary, and Committee on Rules
15 Chair, as an integral part of the restoration process; and

16 **WHEREAS**, in order to accomplish this goal, a second floor and wider
17 footprint, comprising an area of approximately eight thousand two hundred
18 (8,200) square feet, is proposed to be included in the construction of the north
19 side wing, and is hereinafter referred to as the “north wing modification,” and
20 the Trust has agreed that the “north wing modification” can be constructed
21 concurrently with the reconstruction of the original structure; and

1 **WHEREAS**, funding to construct new legislative facilities and to
2 renovate existing ones is authorized by Title 2, Guam Code Annotated, §1126,
3 as follows: “The funding for the construction, purchase, lease or other means
4 of acquisition shall be by legislative appropriation, funds currently in the
5 budget for *I Liheslatura* and appropriated for lease of the buildings in *Hagåtña*
6 now occupied by *I Liheslatura*, grant from the Department of Administration,
7 grant or loan from any agency or part of the federal or local government, a
8 loan from a private financial institution, donations or contributions, an
9 appropriate combination of said means or by any appropriate means. Leases,
10 contracts and construction contracts with private entities authorized by this
11 Section shall be entered into pursuant to the procurement laws applicable to *I*
12 *Liheslatura*.”; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Title 21, Guam Code Annotated, §79602 allows the income
14 in the Capitol District Fund received from any lease of property within the
15 Capitol District to be dedicated for the repair, restoration, renovation, or
16 refurbishment of the Guam Congress Building or other Capitol District
17 properties pursuant to a Legislative Resolution; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the construction of the “north wing modification” may be
19 financed through space rental savings realized by moving legislative central
20 operations and as well as senatorial offices, from their existing location into
21 the renovated Guam Legislature Building; and

22 **WHEREAS**, such savings, combined with rental income from other

1 properties managed by *I Liheslatura*, as well as other authorized funding
2 sources, *shall* provide the funding needed to modernize the building and
3 provide a permanent home adequate to meet the modern needs of *I*
4 *Liheslatura*; now, therefore, be it

5 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trenta Na*
6 *Liheslaturan Guåhan*, on behalf of the people of Guam, does hereby commit to
7 the necessary funding, and authorizes the Executive Director of *I Liheslatura* to
8 seek financing, for the "north wing modification," and does also authorize the
9 Guam Preservation Trust to proceed with the planning, design and
10 construction necessary to restore and properly modernize the Guam
11 Legislature Building to its original footprint - to include the existing west side
12 Session Hall, the existing east side Council Chamber, the south side Speaker's
13 wing; and be it further

14 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on
15 Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and
16 that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Mr. Michael Blas Makio,
17 AIA, Board Chairman, Guam Preservation Trust; to Mr. Joseph E. Quinata,
18 Chief Program Officer, Guam Preservation Trust; to Mr. Vincent P. Arriola,
19 Executive Director, *I Mina'Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*; and to the
20 Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahren Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THIS 8TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2009.



JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker



JUDITH P. GUTHERTZ, DPA
Acting Chairperson, Committee on Rules



TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary