

I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN

2009 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 30-159 (COR)

Introduced By:

MATT RECTOR

2009 JUL 17 AM 10:41 me

RELATIVE TO ENDORSEMENT BY THIS BODY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO THE TERRITORY OF GUAM, THE PENDING MILITARY BUILDUP UPON GUAM, AND LABOR UPON GUAM CONTAINED WITHIN THE ACT CURRENTLY KNOWN AS H.R. 2647 OR THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010 AND REQUESTING THAT SAID PROVISIONS BE ENACTED BY THE 111TH CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AS CURRENTLY WRITTEN FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE OF GUAM.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY *I Mina'Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guåhan***

2 **Whereas, Guam's workers are currently being treated like second class**
3 **citizens by being paid less than half of what their brothers and sisters in**

1 Hawaii are paid for doing the same work for the same company on a Federal
2 Contract,

3 **Whereas,** Guam's cost of living is considered the same as Hawaii's by the
4 Federal Government,

5 **Whereas,** Low wages on Federal contracts rob Guam's families of a decent
6 standard of living and Guam's economy of hundreds of Millions of Federal
7 dollars a year,

8 **Whereas,** The majority of Guam's families are desperate for good middle
9 class jobs,

10 **Whereas,** Thousands of Guam's families that have moved to the mainland
11 United States in search of a decent standard of living would love to come
12 home if there were decent middle class jobs available on Guam,

13 **Whereas,** The upcoming military buildup should benefit all of Guam's
14 families and not just an elite few,

15 **Whereas,** numerous incidents of scandals involving the abuse of Temporary
16 Foreign Workers upon Guam have demonstrated that H2-B Visa programs
17 within the territory of Guam have been severely misused in a manner that is
18 inhumane, incompatible with our morals and values, and at times an
19 appalling violation of the human rights of workers according to the standards
20 of the United States Government, the Laws of the Territory of Guam, and the
21 United Nations.

1 **Whereas,** American Tax dollars spent on American Military facilities should
2 go to Americans Workers and build American economies first and foremost,

3 **Whereas,** the People of Guam have paid a high price for their citizenship by
4 being the only Americans to ever endure occupation by a foreign power, by
5 serving in the Armed forces at an unprecedented rate, and still suffering to
6 this day from the effects of being downwind from the U.S Military Nuclear
7 tests on Bikini Atoll, and thus, at the very least, deserve the same benefits and
8 wages as every other American,

9 **Whereas,** this body recognizes that an estimated 10 billion additional Federal
10 dollars flowing into the pockets of local construction workers would result in
11 enormous benefit not only to said worker's family but to our entire economy
12 as they buy new cars, go out to eat, rent houses and apartments and spend
13 money in our local stores,

14 **Whereas,** economists estimate that every additional dollar paid to local
15 workers circulate in our economy up to ten times,

16 **Whereas,** the hundreds of Millions of dollars in tax revenue generated by
17 increased wages will provide much needed additional funding for Guam's
18 Public Health, Safety and Education,

19 **Whereas,** *I Liheslatura* recognizes that the people of Guam would
20 overwhelmingly benefit from the amendments made by Congressman Neil
21 Abercrombie (D) of Hawaii to the National Defense Authorization Act for
22 Fiscal Year 2010, currently H.R. 2647, which will increase Guam's

1 prevailing wage and provide a fair chance for all of Guam's people to benefit
2 from the pending Guam military buildup; now, therefore, be it

3 **Resolved**, that *I Mina'Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, on behalf of the
4 People of Guam, hereby formally request that the One-Hundred Eleventh
5 United States Senate, and President Barack Obama, in finalizing the act
6 currently known as H.R. 2647, the National Defense Authorization Act for
7 Fiscal Year 2010, pass into law the amendments introduced by Congressman
8 Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii, specifically sections 2833 and 2834 of Subtitle
9 (C), "Provisions Related To Guam Realignment" , TITLE XXVIII of this Act
10 as currently written in the version of this legislation passed by the United
11 States House of Representatives on June 25th, 2009, these provisions being
12 hereby recognized by this body as critical to the wellbeing of Guam's people
13 during the military buildup and critical to the future of Guam's society and
14 economy.

15 **Resolved**, that the Speaker and Chairman Speaker and the Chairman of the
16 Committee on Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to the
17 adoption hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to
18 President Barack Obama; to each and every member of the 111th United
19 States Senate; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.