

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

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GDM

Resolution No. 174-30 (LS)

Introduced by:

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

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 I MINA' TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN  
2 GUÅHAN:

3 WHEREAS, the Guam Legislature building, originally known as the  
4 "Guam Congress Building," was constructed in 1947 by the United States  
5 Navy as part of the island's post-war rebuilding efforts, with the intent of  
6 serving as the home of the House of Council and the House of Assembly of  
7 the Guam Congress; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the building was completed on July 8, 1948, and on July  
2 21, 1948, was presented to the people of Guam by Rear Admiral Charles A.  
3 Pownall, Naval Governor of Guam; and

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

7           **WHEREAS**, the Guam Congress Building was the site of the famous  
8 “walkout” by Congress members in March of 1949, eventually leading to  
9 action by the United States Congress and President Harry S. Truman to  
10 enact the Organic Act of Guam and grant the people of Guam American  
11 citizenship; and

12           **WHEREAS**, the unicameral Guam Legislature, created by the  
13 Organic Act to replace the Guam Congress, took over what has come to be  
14 known as the Guam Legislature Building, beginning its first term of service  
15 in January 1951; and

16           **WHEREAS**, a string of natural disasters over the ensuing four  
17 decades, combined with a lack of funding needed to properly modernize  
18 the building for contemporary use, reduced the functionality and safety of  
19 the Guam Legislature Building, requiring the relocation of the Legislature  
20 in 1990; and

21           **WHEREAS**, the historic Guam Legislature Building was added to the  
22 listing of the National Register of Historic Places on February 1, 2007 as  
23 Item No. 66-01-1102; and

24           **WHEREAS**, during the almost twenty years since moving from its  
25 home, *I Liheslatura* has been spending nearly half a million dollars a year in

1 rental fees for various buildings in order to conduct legislative business,  
2 including sessions, public hearings, and meetings, and to provide office  
3 space for the senators and central office staff; and

4 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Rule XVII Section 17.11.05 of *I Mina' Trenta*  
5 *na Liheslaturan Guåhan Otden Areklamento* (The Thirtieth Guam Legislature  
6 Standing Rules), the Committee on Rules, on behalf of *I Mina' Trenta na*  
7 *Liheslaturan Guåhan*, has begun efforts to restore and properly modernize  
8 the building for contemporary use, with the financial and technical  
9 assistance of the Guam Preservation Trust; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Trust is mandated to restore and rebuild island  
11 structures that are reflective of our island's history, culture, and people;  
12 and the objective of the restoration of the Guam Legislature Building is to  
13 preserve its historic value by returning the structure as much as possible to  
14 its original state, while still conforming with modern codes, laws,  
15 mandates, functions and uses; and

16 **WHEREAS**, funding has been identified within the Trust to restore  
17 the building to its original footprint - to include the existing west side  
18 Session Hall, the existing east side Council Chamber, the south side  
19 Speaker's wing (which must be reconstructed), and the north side wing  
20 (which must be reconstructed); and

21 **WHEREAS**, it is the intent of *I Mina' Trenta na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, to  
22 adequately house certain offices within the revitalized Guam Legislature  
23 Building, including certain portions of central operations, as well as offices  
24 for the Speaker, Vice-Speaker, Legislative Secretary, and Committee on  
25 Rules Chair, as an integral part of the restoration process; and

1           **WHEREAS**, in order to accomplish this goal, a second floor and  
2 wider footprint, comprising an area of approximately 9,200 square feet, is  
3 proposed to be included in the construction of the north side wing, and is  
4 hereinafter referred to as the “north wing modification,” and the Trust has  
5 agreed that the north wing modification can be constructed concurrently  
6 with the reconstruction of the original structure; and

7           **WHEREAS**, funds for the construction of the north wing  
8 modification have yet to be identified, however the possibility exists that *I*  
9 *Liheslatura* may be able to fund the construction of the north wing  
10 modification through savings realized by moving a portion of central  
11 operations, as well as several senatorial offices into the Guam Legislature  
12 Building; and

13           **WHEREAS**, such savings, combined with rental income from other  
14 properties managed by *I Liheslatura*, may provide the funding needed to  
15 modernize the building and provide a permanent home adequate to meet  
16 the modern needs of *I Liheslatura*; now, therefore, be it

17           **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina' Trenta na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, on behalf of  
18 the people of Guam, does hereby commit to, and shall seek, the necessary  
19 funding for the planning, design, and construction necessary to refurbish,  
20 restore, and properly modernize the Guam Legislature Building; and be it  
21 further

22           **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker does hereby certify, and the Legislative  
23 Secretary attests to, the adoption hereof; and that copies of the same be  
24 hereafter transmitted to Mr. Joseph E. Quinata, Chief Program Officer,  
25 Guam Preservation Trust; Mr. Michael Blas Makio, AIA, Board Chairman,

- 1 Guam Preservation Trust; and Mr. Vince P. Arriola, Executive Director, *I*
- 2 *Mina' Trenta na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, and Felix P. Camacho, *I Magalahren*
- 3 *Guahan*.