













*I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN*  
RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
54-36 (COR)	Tina Rose Muña Barnes Amanda L. Shelton Frank Blas Jr. Clynton E. Ridgell Jose "Pedro" Terlaje Joe S. San Agustin V. Anthony Ada Mary Camacho Torres Christopher M. Dueñas Therese M. Terlaje Sabina Flores Perez Telena Cruz Nelson	Relative to respectfully petitioning the united states congress to enact legislation removing the filing deadline for the guam world war ii loyalty recognition act claims program.	3/31/21 4:06 p.m.							

***I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN***  
**2021 (FIRST) Regular Session**

**Resolution No. 54-36 (COR)**

Introduced by:

Tina Rose Muña Barnes   
Amanda L. Shelton   
Frank F. Blas, Jr.   
Clynton E. Ridgell   
Jose "PEDO" Terlaje   
Joe S. San Agustin   
V. Anthony Ada   
Mary Camacho Torres   
Christopher M. Duenas   
Therese M. Terlaje   
Sabina F. Perez   
Telena Cruz Nelson 

**RELATIVE TO RESPECTFULLY PETITIONING THE  
UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT  
LEGISLATION REMOVING THE FILING DEADLINE  
FOR THE GUAM WORLD WAR II LOYALTY  
RECOGNITION ACT CLAIMS PROGRAM.**

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF *I***  
2 ***MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN:***

3 **WHEREAS**, on December 8, 1947, the Imperial Japanese military invaded  
4 and occupied Guam for nearly three (3) years. During these years, approximately  
5 twenty thousand (20,000) people suffered and were subjected to death, rape, severe  
6 personal injury, personal injury, forced labor, forced march, or internment; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the United States Congress passed the Guam Meritorious  
8 Claims Act on November 15, 1945 and was signed by President Harry S. Truman as  
9 Public Law 79-224. This Act authorized the Secretary of the Navy to grant

1 immediate relief to the resident of Guam by adjudicating and settling claims for  
2 property damage, death, or personal injury; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 1947, Dr. Ernest M. Hopkins chaired a committee appointed  
4 to evaluate the U.S. Navy’s execution of the Guam Meritorious Claims Act. The  
5 “Hopkins Report” generated by the committee determined that the implementation  
6 of the Guam Meritorious Claims Act was not sufficient and payments for claims  
7 were slow. The Hopkins Report recommended to Congress that changes were  
8 necessary; however, Congress failed to adopt any recommendations in future war  
9 claims legislation passed by it; and

10 **WHEREAS**, on December 23, 2016, nearly seventy-two (72) years after the  
11 passage of the Guam Meritorious Claims Act, the Guam World War II Loyalty  
12 Recognition Act was signed into law as U.S. Public Law 144-328. On June 20,  
13 2017, the Commission’s Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act Claims  
14 Program began; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act authorizes the  
16 Foreign Claims Settlement Commission to accept and adjudicate claims. Section  
17 1705(B) of Public Law 144-328 gives the authority of the Foreign Claims Settlement  
18 Commission to publish a notice of the deadline for filing a claim in the Federal  
19 Register, newspaper, radio and television media in Guam; and

20 **WHEREAS**, following the implementation of the Guam World War II  
21 Loyalty Recognition Act Claims Program, claimants were given one (1) year to file.  
22 The deadline to file a claim was on June 20, 2018. Since the June 20, 2018 deadline,  
23 over seven hundred remaining survivors of Guam’s wartime occupation and their  
24 descendants have signed a petition urging Congress to amend the Guam World War  
25 II Loyalty Recognition Act to remove the deadline to file their claim; and

26 **WHEREAS**, under the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017, the  
27 Guam World War II Claims Fund, also known as “Claims Fund”, was established as

1 a special fund by the Secretary of the Treasury for the payments of claims. Deposits  
2 collected under Section 30 over the 2014 threshold are to be made into the Claims  
3 Fund with deductions for administrative expenses; and

4 **WHEREAS** an amount equal to five percent (5%) of such amounts are  
5 reimbursed to the Federal Government for administrative expenses incurred by the  
6 Foreign Claims Settlement Commission and the Department of the Treasury; and

7 **WHEREAS**, while the Government of Guam has demonstrated through the  
8 Passage of Public Law 35-61 its intent and desire to pay out World War II claims as  
9 expeditiously as possible, it lacks the statutory ability to single-handedly adjudicate  
10 claims not filed within the one-year filing period as the Government of Guam does  
11 not have access to records that are in the possession of the Foreign Claims Settlement  
12 Commission and the Pentagon; and

13 **WHEREAS**, our islands' leaders have an obligation to depict stronger,  
14 vigorous, and persistent representation for our *mānamko*'. The horrendous  
15 occurrences our greatest generation involuntarily overcame cannot be fixed by a  
16 dollar amount. There is no deadline for healing from trauma nor is it reasonable for  
17 our *mānamko*' to pay any more than they have already. The amounts deposited in  
18 the "Claims Fund" should be appropriated to our *mānamko*' and only our *mānamko*';  
19 now, therefore be it

20 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Sais Na*  
21 *Lihselaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Lihselaturan Guåhan* and the  
22 people of Guam, respectfully urge the United States Congress to enact legislation  
23 removing any filing deadline for survivors of World War II on Guam to file a claim;  
24 and be it further

25 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Sais Na*  
26 *Lihselaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Lihselaturan Guåhan* and the  
27 people of Guam, affirm the need for Congress to enact legislation repealing the

1 provisions of the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act deducting from the  
2 Guam War II Claims Fund an amount equal to five percent (5%) for administrative  
3 costs; and be it further

4 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on  
5 Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that  
6 copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Congressman Michael F.Q. San  
7 Nicolas, Guam’s Delegate to Congress; Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the United  
8 States House of Representatives; Senator Patrick Leahy, President Pro Tempore of  
9 the United States Senate; Representative Adam Smith, Chairman of the House  
10 Armed Services Committee; Senator Jack Reed, Chairman of the Senate Armed  
11 Services Committee; President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States  
12 of America; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga’hågan Guåhan*

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF  
I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE \_\_\_\_\_ DAY  
OF \_\_\_\_\_ 2021.**

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**THERESE M. TERLAJE**  
Speaker

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**TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES**  
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

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**AMANDA L. SHELTON**  
Legislative Secretary