# I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN 2021 (FIRST) Regular Session VOTING RECORD

Bill No. 217-36 (LS) As substituted on the Floor.	Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco Legislative Session Hall Guam Congress Building						
	November 5, 2021						
NAME	Aye	Nay	Not Voting/ Abstained	Out During Roll Call	Absent	Excused	
Senator V. Anthony Ada	J						
Senator Frank Blas Jr.	1						
Senator Joanne Brown	J						
Senator Christopher M. Dueñas	J						
Senator James C. Moylan		J					
Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes					1	J	
Senator Telena Cruz Nelson	J		-				
Senator Sabina Flores Perez	J						
Senator Clynton E. Ridgell	J						
Senator Joe S. San Agustin					J	1	
Senator Amanda L. Shelton		1					
Senator Telo T. Taitague	J						
Senator Jose "Pedo" Terlaje	1						
Speaker Therese M. Terlaje					J	J	
Senator Mary Camacho Torres	J						
TOTAL	10	2			3	3	
	Aye	Nay	Not Voting/ Abstained	Out During Roll Call	Absent	Excused	

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT: RENNAE V. C. MANO Clerk of the begislature

I = Pass

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

#### Bill No. 217-36 (LS)

As substituted on the Floor.

\*

#### Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje Tina Rose Muña Barnes James C. Moylan Amanda L. Shelton V. Anthony Ada Frank Blas Jr. Joanne Brown Christopher M. Duenas Telena Cruz Nelson Sabina Flores Perez Clynton E. Ridgell Joe S. San Agustin Telo T. Taitague Jose "Pedo" Terlaje Mary Camacho Torres

AN ACT TO REPEAL PUBLIC LAW 36-59 AND ARTICLE 13.2 OF CHAPTER 1, DIVISION 1, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED AS ENACTED BY THE SAME; AND TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE 13.2 TO CHAPTER 1 OF DIVISION 1, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, **RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE "GUAM WORLD** WAR II RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2021" TO GREATEST COMPENSATE CLAIMS OF THE GENERATION OF GUAM FOR THE ATROCITIES SUFFERED DURING THE WORLD WAR Π **OCCUPATION OF GUAM.** 

#### **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2 Section 1. Public Law 36-59 is hereby *repealed*. Article 13.2 of Chapter 1,

3 Division 1, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, as enacted by Public Law 36-59, is

4 hereby *repealed*.

1	Section 2.	A new Article 13.2 is hereby <i>added</i> to Chapter 1 of Division 1,
2	Title 5, Guam Coo	le Annotated, to read as follows:

**"ARTICLE 13.2** 

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### **GUAM WORLD WAR II RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2021**

§ 13.201. Legislative Findings and Intent.

6 On December 8, 1941, the Imperial Japanese military invaded and occupied 7 Guam for nearly three (3) years. During the occupation, approximately twenty 8 thousand (20,000) people suffered and were subjected to death, rape, severe personal injury, personal injury, forced labor, forced march, or internment. On November 15, 9 10 1945, the United States Congress passed the Guam Meritorious Claims Act, which was signed by President Harry S. Truman as Public Law 79-224. This Act authorized 11 12 the Secretary of the Navy to grant immediate relief to the residents of Guam by 13 adjudicating and settling claims for property damage, death, or personal injury.

In 1947, Dr. Ernest M. Hopkins chaired a committee appointed to evaluate the U.S. Navy's execution of the Guam Meritorious Claims Act. The "Hopkins Report" generated by the committee determined that the implementation of the Guam Meritorious Claims Act was not sufficient and payments for claims were slow. The Hopkins Report recommended to Congress that changes were necessary; however, Congress failed to adopt any recommendations in future war claims legislation passed by it.

On December 23, 2016, nearly seventy-two (72) years after the passage of the Guam Meritorious Claims Act, the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act was signed into law as U.S. Public Law 114-328. On June 20, 2017, the Commission's Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act Claims Program began. The Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act authorizes the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission to accept and adjudicate claims. Section 1705(b)(2) of U.S. Public Law 114-328 gives the authority of the Foreign Claims Settlement 1 Commission to publish a notice of the deadline for filing a claim in the Federal 2 Register, and in newspaper, radio, and television media in Guam. Pursuant to Section 3 1705(b)(2) of U.S. Public Law 114-328, following the implementation of the Guam 4 World War II Loyalty Recognition Act Claims Program, claimants were given one (1) year to file. The deadline to file a claim was on June 20, 2018. Since the June 20, 5 6 2018 deadline, over seven hundred (700) remaining survivors of Guam's wartime 7 occupation and their descendants have signed a petition urging Congress to amend 8 the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act to remove the deadline to file their 9 claim.

While under the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017, the Guam World War II Claims Fund, also known as the "Claims Fund," was established as a special fund by the Secretary of the Treasury for the payments of claims. Deposits collected under Section 30 over the 2014 threshold are to be made into the Claims Fund with deductions for administrative expenses.

While the government of Guam has demonstrated through the passage of Public Law 35-61 its intent and desire to pay out World War II claims as expeditiously as possible, Section 1705(b)(2) of U.S. Public Law 114-328 prohibits members of the Greatest Generation who have not filed within the one (1)-year filing period from filing claims. It is the intent of the Guam World War II Reconciliation Act of 2021 to make right by these individuals as *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that it is a moral obligation to do right by our *manåmko'*.

While *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that it is the duty of the United States
Congress to correct this technical flaw, Guam's Delegate to Congress has urged *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to act independently as *I Liheslatura* can ensure that its moral
obligation to our *manåmko'* is fulfilled in a timely manner.

26 § 13.202. Implementation of the Guam World War II Reconciliation
27 Act of 2021.

1 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, within thirty (30) days of the enactment of the Guam World War II Reconciliation Act of 2021, I Maga'hågan 2 3 Guåhan shall submit to the Speaker of I Liheslaturan Guåhan an implementation 4 plan, which shall include a proposed funding source(s), for the payment of war claims under U.S. Public Law 114-328 to claimants who failed to meet the one (1)-5 6 year filing deadline under Section 1705(b)(2) of U.S. Public Law 114-328. Upon the submission of I Maga'hågan Guåhan's implementation plan, I Liheslaturan Guåhan 7 8 may adopt, reject, or amend the plan in the form of a bill. If after thirty (30) calendar 9 days, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* fails to act on the plan as submitted, the plan shall be 10 deemed adopted.

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# § 13.203. Adjudication Committee Established.

(a) At a minimum, the implementation plan required by this Act shall
incorporate the establishment of an Adjudication Committee responsible for
adjudicating, through a formal application process, war claims from individuals who
were eligible to apply for compensation pursuant to U.S. Public Law 114-328 but
were unable to submit required documents to the Foreign Claims Settlement
Commission of the United States on or before June 20, 2018.

18 The Adjudication Committee shall consist of five (5) members: (1) the 19 Executive Director of the Commission on Decolonization or their designee; (2) the 20 Governor of Guam or their designee; (3) the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* or 21 their designee; (4) the President of the Mayors Council of Guam or their designee; 22 and (5) a member of the general public appointed by the Governor of Guam. A 23 Chairperson shall be elected from among the members of the Adjudication 24 Committee.

The Adjudication Committee may establish rules and regulations, procure goods and services, and solicit personnel assistance and other administrative support from the Governor of Guam and the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* as may be necessary to effectively and efficiently administer the provisions of this Act.
 Decisions by the Adjudication Committee shall require a majority vote.

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# § 13.204. Consistency with Established Guidelines, Rules and Regulations, and Award Limits.

5 The Adjudication Committee shall adjudicate all applications submitted by 6 compensable Guam victims and survivors of compensable Guam decedents, as 7 defined by the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act enacted through U.S. 8 Public Law 114-328.

9 All rules and regulations and decisions rendered by the Adjudication 10 Committee shall be consistent with program guidance and award limits established 11 pursuant to U.S. Public Law 114-328.

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### § 13.205. Reporting Requirements.

(a) A portion of any funds authorized to effectuate the requirements of this
Act may be used by the Adjudication Committee for administrative and legal
assistance. Until the payment of all eligible war claims applications have been paid,
the Director of Administration shall submit a report every six (6) months
summarizing the number of applications which have been submitted, adjudicated,
and settled, which shall include information on all payments issued pursuant to this
Act.

20 (b) Information concerning the identity of war survivors and their 21 application for war claims shall be protected and shall not be part of the public 22 record.

# 23 § 13.206. Authorization to Deposit Funds in the Guam War Claims 24 Fund.

(a) The Guam War Claims Fund, established by Public Law 35-61, was
established to expedite the payments of adjudicated claims. As prescribed under 5
GCA § 13.101, monies reimbursed by the United States Department of Treasury for

the implementation of Public Law 35-61 shall remain in said Fund and are
 authorized to be expended for the payment of war claims under U.S. Public Law
 114-328 to claimants who missed the one (1)-year filing deadline under Section
 1705(b)(2) of U.S. Public Law 114-328.

5 Should such funds be insufficient for the implementation of the Guam (b) World War II Reconciliation Act of 2021, notwithstanding any other provision of 6 law, I Maga'hågan Guåhan is authorized to transfer such sums as may be available 7 8 to her for the purposes outlined in  $\S$  13.202 of this Article; provided, that such transfer is reported to the Speaker of I Liheslaturan Guåhan and the Office of 9 10 Finance and Budget no later than five (5) working days before the transfer is made. Said transfer report shall indicate which fund, object categories, object groups, and 11 12 agencies the funds were transferred to or from.

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§ 13.207. Effective Date. This Article shall be effective upon enactment."